



UNSC  
STUDY GUIDE

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TEDMUN

20

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ANKARA  
TED ANKARA COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

**Committee: United Nations Security Council**  
**Topic: Maintaining Restraint in Situation of Myanmar**  
**President Chair: Kiyon Rezazadeh**  
**Vice Chair: Tan Değirmenci**

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## **Letter from the Secretary General**

Letter From the Secretary General

Dear participants of TEDMUN 2024, My words could not start without a quote that enlightens and motivates the whole spirit of this conference: “Peace in home, peace in world.” Although Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is known to be a great military commander and a brilliant government man, he was unique. At that time, while most of the leaders had rather aggressive views regarding the importance of International Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk knew that the future of the modern world and a future modern Türkiye must be tenant to diplomacy. It must be reminded that, our hearths and opinions lie within his words, and this conference is assembled through his enlightenment.

TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club has assembled 9 conferences since 2014, and this year we are proud to be the part of the 10th TEDMUN Conference. Becoming a part of the PDC, being an MUN’er and organizing TEDMUN at the end of the 11th grade has turned into a long-lasting tradition of every TED Ankara College member. We are proud to be a part of this long-lasting tradition and glorifying our club. The TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club has a rich history of fostering such principles, organizing conferences that serve as platforms for meaningful discourse and collaboration. As we continue this tradition with the 10th TEDMUN Conference, we stand as proud torchbearers of our club's legacy, committed to upholding the values of diplomacy, mutual respect, and cooperation.

For each of us, participating in Model United Nations represents more than just a simulation; it is an opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives, to forge connections, and to contribute to the collective pursuit of peace and prosperity. As Secretary-General, I am deeply inspired by the dedication and passion that each of you brings to this conference. I hope the best for your contributions to the Model United Nations, and I wish you to enlighten yourselves by recovering the embedded solutions in each conflict. In my opinion, your youth and perspectives will make this conference shine like the North Star in the Arctic.

As we embark on this journey together, let us remember the words of Atatürk and the legacy of TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club. Let us approach our deliberations with open minds, empathy, and a shared commitment to building a better world. I am confident that through our collective efforts, we will not only honour our advisors but also reaffirm our belief in the power of diplomacy to transcend borders and unite humanity. With warm regards,

Buğra Ermihan Secretary-General of TEDMUN 2024



## **Letter from the President Chair**

Highly esteemed executive board, distinguished guests and dear delegates,

My name is Kiyān Rezazadeh, and I will be serving as your president chair for the UNSC committee in TEDMUN'24. I am a 21-year-old 2<sup>nd</sup> year Industrial Engineering student in Atılım University. I am beyond excited to be a part of this MUN and to be discussing the Myanmar conflict. Although it might not play a large role in media such as conflicts in the Middle East, this conflict has as much history as the conflicts ongoing in the world and deserves to be debated because this is the reality of millions of people. I believe that this topic gives more insight into the political landscape within South-East Asia which is often overlooked in media. Not only is this a topic that is highly important, it is also one which holds many different sides and stories which deserve to be discussed. There is not one clear answer or a right or wrong in this topic which makes it the perfect debate topic.

As the President Chair of this committee, I have some expectations from my delegates, and I assume you would have expectations from me. There may be times where you might not be sure of something during the sessions, please communicate with me. The biggest part of a committee's success is communication and mutual understanding of each other. If you approach me with your problems or concerns, I am more than happy to help since this is my obligation as a chair. I want to ensure the committee and debates flow naturally and smoothly to make this an amazing experience for all. Every conference I attend, I want to make it special for my delegates. I want this to be an experience where you leave with not only new knowledge about MUN but life also. I do not want experiences to be treated as another conference I want my delegates to look back on it and remember it fondly. I believe besides academically, MUN is one of the greatest tools for socializing and I want to make sure my delegates get to utilize it as such as well. MUN challenges you to speak up, voice your opinion, and teaches you many things about being confident. I want to make sure that my delegates are not afraid to speak or voice their opinions. I want my delegates to be assured my committees are never a hostile environment and that they should not be afraid to speak up. Of course, there will be times when you might choke or might be in an opposite stance to another delegate but that is just how things work in the UN as well. But I believe that without challenge there is no motivation, so I want my delegates to challenge each other, I want them to strive for more. I believe with challenging ideas and discussions, the ideas that will arise will be brilliant and will be one of the best learning opportunities any delegate can experience. If you have any questions about the topic, myself, or the committee, feel free to contact me at any time and ensure to do my best to help. I look forward to seeing you and wishing you fruitful debates.

Kiyān Rezazadeh

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## **Introduction**

A major humanitarian catastrophe of this age is the Rohingya refugee issue. Since August 2017, more than 740,000 Rohingyas have been driven from their homes in Rakhine State, Myanmar. An organized effort by the Myanmar government against the Rohingya has sparked this enormous exodus. Due to being a predominantly Muslim minority ethnic group, Rohingya men, women, and children were targeted. Thousands of them were cruelly killed and traumatized through physical assaults, sexual assault, and the burning of villages.

According to a UN investigation report published in August 2018, senior military leaders in Myanmar ought to be looked into and tried for the most serious crimes against civilians allowed by international law, including genocide. The International Court of Justice received a complaint from Gambia in November 2019 alleging Myanmar of committing genocide. As a result, on January 23, 2020, a panel of 17 judges from the International Court of Justice unanimously ordered Myanmar to take all necessary precautions to stop the genocide of the existing Rohingya in Myanmar. These precautions include preventing murder and serious physical or mental harm to the Rohingya as well as protecting any evidence of potential genocide that may have already taken place. Many refugees have fled to Bangladesh as a result of the genocide of the Rohingya. With 1.1 million of the estimated 2.4 million Rohingya refugees in the world currently residing in Bangladesh and Kutupalong being acknowledged as the world's largest refugee camp, concerns are raised about how the refugees' basic needs are being met and whether there is any chance for social mobility outside of the camps through the educational programming that is offered.

This issue roots all the way back to the 1970s when the Rohingya people were targeted and murdered by government workers such as police and militia, but it was not recognized as genocide until the police and militant forces were ordered to crack down on the state of Rakhine where a majority of the Rohingya people resided in January of 2016. In 2016, the Burmese militia started a full-blown campaign directed towards the mass killing of the Rohingya people. Not only killings but the military forces would kill without cause, executions, sexual assault, and arson, just to name a few of the human rights crimes the forces committed. Very quickly, many UN agencies would name this as an ethnic cleansing putting the Myanmar government in front of the rest of the globe. Within the first two years of the conflict, over 50,000 were killed, and a further 134,000 were beaten and assaulted. This conflict has caused the biggest refugee crisis in Southeast Asia since the Vietnam War.

Before the genocide, the Rohingya people were viewed as the most oppressed minority globally as they would be denied citizenship in their own country. Not only that, but Myanmar had also passed many segregate laws towards the Rohingya people, such as denying basic care, denying education and denying healthcare to the Rohingyas residing in Myanmar. Furthermore, they could not travel freely in their own country, they were not allowed to have over two kids (not strictly enforced), and they were subjected to forced labor. The genocide would subside in



January 2017; however, by August of the same year, the genocides would pick back up and continue to this day.

## **Key Terms and definitions**

- **Rohingya People:** an ethnic group formed of Indo-Aryan majority who are predominantly Muslim that reside in the Rakhine state in Myanmar.
- **Tatmadaw:** The militant forces of the government of Myanmar that is under the control of the Ministry of Defense. The Tatmadaw is one of the most powerful entities in Myanmar as they have the authority to change the constitution, which they previously have done many times.
- **Kutupalong Refugee Camp:** the single largest refugee camp globally located in Bangladesh.
- **Ethnic Cleansing:** the act of removing or abolishing an ethnic, racial, or religious group from an area.
- **Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA):** an insurgency group formed by the people of Rohingya to combat the Tatmadaw. They are recognized as a terrorist organization according to Myanmar's anti-terrorism laws and are also recognized as a terrorist organization by Malaysia.
- **Rohingya Patriotic Front (RPF):** political organization, which was founded on September 12, 1973, for an autonomous Muslim Rohingya region.
- **Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO):** Following the departure of Muhammad Yunus, the secretary general of PRF, created the RSO which was a political and insurgency group. Their reason for creation was for larger military action against the Tatmadaw within the Rakhine State.



## **Background Information**

### **Who are the Rohingya People?**

The Rohingya are an ethnic group that is primarily Muslim and is indigenous to the region of Arakan, which is now Rakhine State in Myanmar. The Rohingya are one of the many varied ethnic and linguistic communities living in Myanmar that are not part of the Burmese majority. The precise date that the Rohingya migrated to Arakan is unknown. According to some historians, the Rohingya are descended from Indo-Aryan ethnic groups that moved to the area more than three thousand years ago. Others contend that their existence is a result of a mix of trade-oriented migratory patterns and the shifting of different ruling dynasties throughout the area from the eighth to the eighteenth centuries.

The Rohingya can be categorically identified by the census data gathered under the British colonial occupation of Arakan, which revealed the existence of an indigenous Muslim community known as the "Rooinga" who had lived there before the 1820s. As a result, there is compelling evidence that the Rohingya are native to the Arakan region and have been for many years. Some might wonder why the Rohingya are linguistically and racially distinct from the majority of Arakanese and Myanmar's people. Arakan, which was on the western frontier of Myanmar and bordered Bangladesh, is an important region to comprehend because, historically, it was not a part of what made up the dominion of ethnically Burmese communities. The geographical region of Arakan has been ruled over at various times in history by several kingdoms from Bengal, the Mughals, and various monarchs from Burma proper. The Rakhine, a Burmese ethnic group, migrated in large numbers to Arakan sometime around the year 1000 CE. Arakan was originally made up of a number of different ethnic and religious groups, but due to this huge migration, the Rakhine finally came to dominate the area, which later came to be known as Rakhine State. The region known as Rakhine State officially became a part of Burma proper, now known as Myanmar, during the colonial and post-colonial era when the nation-state was formed.

### **Pre-genocide - December 2016**

The Rohingya were one of many indigenous communities living in the Arakan region before colonialism. Although there were times when these many religious and ethnic groups clashed, they generally coexisted peacefully. This changed under British colonial control in Burma from 1824 to 1948, when the colonizers gave Muslim minorities preference over the Buddhist majority in terms of social mobility and colony management. Tensions between these religious and ethnic communities erupted as a result of this.

The Japanese invasion of Myanmar during World War II only served to heighten the already existing tensions. The Rohingya remained devoted to the British, while the majority of Buddhist Burmese sided with the Japanese. Due to the Rohingya's faithfulness during this fight, the British made promises to them regarding land and autonomy. These pledges were not kept, though, after the war. Following World War Two, tensions between the Rohingya and the



majority of Burmese grew worse as a result of what the majority of Burmese perceived as the Rohingya's contradictory allegiances. When India was divided into India and Pakistan in 1947, the Rohingya community petitioned for some of Rakhine State to be annexed by East Pakistan, which led to a rise in hostilities. When this did not happen, it was evident to the majority of Burmese that the Rohingyas' allegiance in the country with a Buddhist majority was shaky.

The Rohingyas, along with other minority ethnic groups in Rakhine, were not awarded citizenship in the 1947 Burmese Constitution. With the constitution of Burma signed, the Emergency Immigration Act of 1947 was also signed as well. This law established ethnicity-based identification cards for Burmese citizens. Alongside the Emergency Immigration Act, a Citizenship Act followed in 1948 which stated:

*“Nationals such as the Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Burman, Mon, or Rakhine or Shan ethnic groups as have settled in any of the territories included within the State as their permanent home from a period prior to 1185 B.E., 1823 A.D. are Burma citizens.”* (Burma Citizenship Law, Clause 3, 1947).

Foreign Registration Cards identifying the Rohingya as non-citizens were issued to them instead due to these laws. Additionally, according to Article 145 of the constitution from 1947, "All persons born of parents, both of whom are citizens of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, are citizens of the Union." The Emergency Immigration Act and Article 145 effectively rendered the Rohingya stateless because they were regarded as aliens in the countries where they had lived for decades. Instead, they were given National Registration Certificates, which provided them full legal and electoral rights. The Rohingya were assured that since they were recognized as one of the indigenous races of Burma, they did not need to seek citizenship credentials. From this, it may be concluded that the Rohingya were treated like any other minority group, with the prospect of a naturalization procedure in the future, despite existing conflicts between various ethnic groups in Burma. Sadly, this would never happen because Burma's political climate was severely altered by military rule.

In a coup d'état in 1962, Ne Win established military power over Burma. Under the military dictatorship, the Rohingya gradually lost their rights, but the military needed to gain political advantage in the face of the economic crisis. Hence these strong citizenship limits were put into place at that time. They thought that this could be accomplished by bringing the populace together through nativist legislation and propaganda that specifically targeted marginalized groups and promoted the idea of Buddhist identity as a prerequisite for citizenship. The Rohingya minority group suffered widespread torture and violence at the hands of the majority Buddhist Burmese population between the 1970s and 1990s as a result of the increasingly strict laws against them.

Eventually, 200,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh in 1978 as a result of Operation Dragon King which was a targeted attack by Ne Win and the Tatmadaw in Arakan (present-day Rakhine). Operation Dragon King was initialized on February 6, 1978, which started it the Sittwe District. The Rohingyas which fled to Bangladesh during this time, were taken into refugee camps set up by the Bangladeshi government with the help of Red Cross and the UN.





However, Bangladesh soon complained about the economic and social implications of hosting an overwhelming number of refugees and began talks with Burma to send the Rohingya refugees back. The UN also backed this movement which made the government of Burma allow refugees to come back. During this time, Rohingyas would make their way back somewhat forcefully because Bangladesh began to neglect the refugee camps and limit food supplies. Note that the Rohingya were again not granted citizenship into Burma due to the two acts passed in 1947 and 1948. Following these events, in 1982, an Islamist portion of Rohingya Patriotic Front (RPF) broke off into its own group known as the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) led by Muhammad Yunus, which gained support from multiple religious insurgence groups internationally following further military action within the Rakhine State.

A second wave of 250,000 fled in 1991–1992. This time, a second operation began under the name Operation Pyi Thaya (translates as Operation Clean and Beautiful Nation). This operation began as a military operation to locate and eliminate RSO as it was countering the Burmese government and gaining influence throughout the Rakhine region. In 1990, RSO was caught in the Cox's Bazar District with ammunition, rifles, RPG's and explosives. In 1991, Operation Pyi Thaya began as a counter-offensive measure. However, this operation quickly turned into a second wave of Rohingya exodus as 250,000 were forced out of the region due to the military activity in the region by April of 1992.

In both cases of exodus, the Bangladeshi government transported the majority of the Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar, where they were forced to work on lands that had previously belonged to them since the state had taken them back and confiscated them. In the end, economic issues sparked by a terrible period of military leadership led to the targeting of Rohingya. To draw attention away from the country's deepening economic difficulties, the dictatorship thought it was important to establish internal opponents. Given the aforementioned background and the fact that they were different from the majority Burmese Buddhist population in terms of race, religion, and language, the Rohingya were seen as an easy and safe target. They were also less militaristic than other communities in the Rakhine region when compared to other minorities.

On October 9, 2016, several Rohingyas attacked and murdered border police officers and targeted their posts which ARSA had taken the responsibility of. The Burmese military launched a significant crackdown in the villages of northern Rakhine State in response to the border post incidents. Numerous people were detained, and dozens of people were killed during the initial operation. 13 of the 423 Rohingyas detained by the police since October 9, 2016, were children, with the youngest being ten years old, according to a police document seen by Reuters in March 2017. The paper was corroborated by two police captains in Maungdaw, who also defended the arrests. The children were neither assaulted nor put under pressure while being questioned, according to Burmese police, who also stated that they had confessed to their alleged crimes during questioning. The youngest detainee is ten years old, while the oldest is 75 years old, with an average age of 34. As the crackdown went on, more people died. Brutalities against civilians, gang rapes, arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings, and looting were all committed.



In December 2016, hundreds of Rohingya individuals were reported to have died, and many of them fled Myanmar as refugees to seek asylum in the surrounding regions of Bangladesh. Human Rights Watch published satellite photographs from the end of November showing that security personnel had destroyed 1,250 Rohingya homes in five villages. The Burmese military has a history of committing serious human rights crimes, according to the media and human rights organizations. The Myanmar military utilized helicopter gunships to attack and kill civilians during one incident in November. Myanmar has not yet permitted access to the oppressed regions for the media or human rights organizations as of November 2016.

### **January 2017-Present**

After a video of security personnel abusing Rohingya Muslims in November 2016 was posted online, Burmese officials detained at least four police officers in January 2017. In the footage, Rohingya men and boys were kicked and batoned while being made to sit in rows with their hands behind their heads. Since the start of the crackdown, this was the first occurrence in which the administration in the area penalized its own security personnel. Three Rohingya men's remains were discovered in shallow graves in Maungdaw on January 21, 2017. They were natives who had collaborated closely with the local government, and the government assumed that Rohingya rebels had killed them in retaliation.

Seven Rohingya males from the Dapaing camp for internally displaced people were attacked with bricks on July 4, 2017, in Sittwe by a crowd of at least 100 Rakhine Buddhists, killing one and seriously wounding another. Police were accompanying the Rohingya men to the port in Sittwe to buy boats when they were attacked despite the presence of armed guards. An unarmed junior police officer who was with the Rohingya men at the time of the attack, according to a spokesman for the Burmese Ministry of Home Affairs, was present but was powerless to stop the attackers. A man was detained in connection with the attacks on July 26, 2017. Later, on July 30, 2017, bags of high-energy biscuits sent as help by the World Food Program (WFP) were found in a terrorist stronghold in Maungdaw Township's Mayu mountain range. On the premise that food assistance had been misused, the Rakhine State Government and WFP conducted an investigation. Three decapitated bodies were discovered in Rathedaung Township on July 31, 2017. According to a government official, they were killed by rebel Rohingyas. Six Mro farmers were discovered dead on August 3 in Maungdaw Township, allegedly at the hands of ARSA.

The 552nd Light Infantry Battalion army base and 24 police stations were the targets of coordinated attacks by up to 150 militants overnight, according to a report from the Myanmar government on August 25, 2017. According to the Myanmar Army, the attack started at 1:00 AM when militants using bombs, machetes, and small arms destroyed a bridge. The majority of the attacks, it continued, took place between three and four in the morning. In 25 different sites, ARSA claimed they were engaging in "defensive actions" and charged government



soldiers with raping and killing civilians. The group also asserted that the government soldiers had blockaded Rathedaung for more than two weeks, starving the Rohingya, and they were planning on the same course of action in Maungdaw.

Throughout 2018, the genocide would continue. However, it is not well documented since the Myanmar Government has been found guilty of destroying documents and evidence against the genocide. Human Rights Watch, a campaign organization, claims that entire Rohingya communities appear to have been destroyed in satellite photographs of Myanmar. The group said that at least 55 villages had been entirely destroyed, many of which had already suffered damage from arson. The military of Myanmar claims to be battling the insurgents and denies harming civilians. The burned Rohingya villages and mass graves were reportedly demolished and levelled by the Burmese military in February 2018 in an effort to remove evidence of the atrocities perpetrated. Prior to being destroyed by the Burmese military during the 2017 crackdown, these villages were inhabited by Rohingya people. Bulldozing also took place in some intact villages that had lost their Rohingya residents as a result of the military crackdown. Myanmar has restricted media access and international organizations' trips to Rakhine State ever since the event on August 25. On December 12, 2017, two Reuters reporters who had been reporting the refugee story were arrested and accused by the police of breaking a colonial rule pertaining to confidentiality from 1923. A Myanmar court rejected the two Reuters journalists' bail on February 1, 2018. The two journalists were released on May 7, 2019, along with more than 6,000 other convicts as part of a presidential pardon, and UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his worry and asked for their release.

Later on, November 11, 2019, Myanmar would be called to the ICC and ICJ by Gambia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for a court ruling of the genocide and mass murder of Muslims by the Tatmadaw. The UN demanded that Myanmar be subject to an ICC investigation. Prosecutors at the ICC are debating whether they may look into the violence in Rakhine despite the fact that the nation is not a signatory to the Rome statute and is not, therefore, subject to the court's jurisdiction. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Fortify Rights, and Save the Children all called for an ICC investigation into Myanmar in response to the UN findings. The UN stated that it was up to the international community to hold those involved accountable because of Myanmar's continuous refusal to acknowledge that genocide had occurred, and the legal impunity granted to the military. On December 11, Aung San Suu Kyi, a Burmese politician and diplomat faced the trial in the ICJ on the behalf of Myanmar. The court hearing would subsequently find Myanmar guilty of genocide, neglect of the Rohingya population which resulted in Myanmar being demanded that Myanmar takes measures to protect Rohingya's from future genocide and to keep evidence untouched and report back within 4 months to the ICJ about measures taken about the court hearing. Following the court verdict on January 23, 2020, Aung San Suu Kyi was arrested on February 1 and subsequently sentenced to 17 years in prison after admitting excessive force by the Tatmadaw during the court hearing.



## **Other Crimes Committed by Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Government**

The Armed Forces of Myanmar have engaged in extensive gang assaults and other types of sexual assault against the Rohingya Muslim women and girls for the previous three months, according to reports from Human Rights Watch and UN officials in November 2017. These atrocities were carried out by the Armed Forces, the Myanmar Border Guard Police, and the Rakhine Buddhist groups. While Pramila Patten, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, claimed that Rohingya women and girls were made the systematic target of harassment and sexual violence because of their ethnic identity and religion, HRW claimed that the gang assaults and sexual violence were committed as part of the Tatmadaw's ethnic cleansing plans. Other types of sexual assault included forced public nudity, humiliation, and sexual enslavement in military captivity. After arriving in Bangladeshi refugee camps, some women and girls were found traumatized with open wounds, while others had been assaulted to death. A 15-year-old Rohingya girl was brutally dragged on the ground for more than 50 feet before being assaulted by 10 Burmese soldiers, according to Human Rights Watch.

Besides the sexual assault and torture committed by the Tatmadaw, they have also been accused of arson and looting of many villages. According to a report published in September 2018 by the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, at least 392 Rohingya communities in Rakhine State have been destroyed since August 25, 2017. In the past, Human Rights Watch reported that it had discovered 354 Rohingya communities in Rakhine state had been burned down and destroyed by the Myanmar military in December 2017. Thousands of buildings were destroyed, the majority of which were Rohingya Muslim dwellings. Lewa systematically accused the security forces of setting fire to village after village while simultaneously blaming Rohingya arsonists for setting fire to the Buddhist village of Pyu Ma.

Prior to the Inn Din Massacre that took place in early September 2017, Myanmar military personnel and the Buddhist villagers of Inn Din pillaged and burned down the Rohingya hamlets' homes. Later, some Buddhist villagers admitted to Reuters that they took part in the September 2 killing and used kerosene to set the Rohingya homes on fire. The Rohingya property, goats, calves, livestock, and motorcycles were stolen by the Myanmar Army's 33rd Light Infantry Division, the 8th Security Police Battalion, and the Buddhist locals. Later, Thant Zin Oo, the 8th Battalion commander, exchanged money for the cows and cattle by selling them.

## **The Refugee Crisis**

The government of Myanmar does not recognize the estimated one million Rohingya, a Muslim minority community from Rakhine State, as one of the 135 ethnic groups in the nation of Myanmar that are stateless since they lack any official documents. Many Rohingya have been pushed into IDP camps or to neighboring countries where they live in appalling conditions as a result of widespread violence against them in Rakhine State in 2012 and 2015



by other groups as well as by the government. Over 168,000 Rohingya are believed to have fled Myanmar since 2012, according to UNHCR, the UN agency for refugees. Since violence flared up again in August 2017, additional hundreds of thousands have fled to Bangladesh.

Even though governments have prioritized bolstering Myanmar's flimsy democratic reform, there has been ample criticism from various quarters that the Myanmar's government is not doing enough to protect the Rohingya population. This is despite the fact that the international community's reactions to the violence have historically been mixed. In 2016, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the Rohingya Muslims' human rights violations might indicate "the possible commission of crimes against humanity if established by a court of law," and the International State Crime Initiative stated that "the Rohingya face the final stages of genocide" in a very critical report from the previous year.

As a result of the genocide, the great majority of Rohingya people were forced to flee their homes and become refugees in 2017. In January alone, according to some sources, 92,000 Rohingya refugees were compelled to migrate to neighboring countries as a result of the violence at the height of the crisis that same year. The majority of refugees retreated to Bangladesh, although some found refuge in India, Thailand, Malaysia, and other nations in South and Southeast Asia. By November 2017, it was projected that some 650,000 Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group had left Myanmar. The human exodus in Asia since the Vietnam War was caused by the refugee crisis. As of January 2018, about 690,000 Rohingya people had fled or were pushed out of Rakhine State and sought safety in Bangladesh, according to UN reports. Up until this point, 23,000 people had been internally displaced, and around 65,000 had fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh between October 9, 2016, and January 2017.

The new migrants and the additional 232,000 Rohingya refugees currently residing in Bangladesh were to be relocated to Bhasan Char, a sedimentary island in the Bay of Bengal, the Bangladeshi administration said in February 2017. Around 2007, the island first started to take shape as a result of the Meghna River's silt being washed ashore. Hatiya Island, the closest populated area, is around 30 kilometers away. A regional authority was described by news organizations as calling the scheme "terrible". Numerous parties strongly disagreed with the plan. The idea has been referred to as a forced relocation by human rights organizations. In addition, issues with the island's low-lying, flood-prone living circumstances were brought up. It has been said that the island is "only reachable during the winter and a haven for pirates." Authorities in Bangladesh are allegedly beating Rohingya who attempt to flee or protest their living conditions in Bhasan Char.

Besides the massive refugee problem that has arisen in Bangladesh, a drug problem has also been seen in the region. Many Rohingyas are carrying the "Yaba" pill, a drug they plan to sell to get money. The Yaba black market is quite prevalent in South Asian nations, and Bangladesh is one of them. More than a hundred pills fit neatly and conveniently in a single cigarette package. Over 96% of Yaba tabs enter Bangladesh via the Taknaf route, while nearly 92% of Yaba pills are transported by Rohingyas. The Kutupalong and Balukhali Rohingya



camps in Cox's Bazar are home to up to 200 Yaba hideouts. Bangladesh's security forces (Police, RAB, and BGB) have begun a crackdown on drugs and have been tighter since May 2018. Around 50 million Yaba tablets and 400 Rohingyas and locals closely connected to Rohingya smugglers have been seized as a result, and 72 smugglers have lost their lives in gun battles with Bangladeshi security forces. However, the majority of Yaba smugglers at the moment are reportedly Rohingya women residing in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

## **Countries and Bodies Involved**

**Myanmar:** The country where the Rohingya genocide is taking place. The Ministry of Defense and the militant force Tatmadaw are responsible for the genocide of the Rohingya people.

**Bangladesh:** Host most of the refugees from Myanmar. Bangladesh is also reported as the country that has sent the most humanitarian aid to the Rakhine region.

**India:** The second largest holder of Rohingya refugees and has also sent humanitarian aid to Rakhine.

**Gambia:** Launched a case against Myanmar in the ICJ in late 2019, which ruled in favour of Gambia, ordering Myanmar to cease the genocide.

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):** The main body which creates reports and holds the statistics on the Rohingya genocide. Since it is a UN organization, it reports directly to the UN, and most of the UN actions are based on it.

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation/Gambia:** One of the only organizations/countries to take Myanmar to court over the genocide, which ruled in favour of Gambia to launch an investigation of the Rakhine region where it was found that villages were clearly bulldozed to hide the evidence of the Rohingya genocide.

## **Timeline of Events**

Date	Event
1947	The Burmese constitution was signed which did not grant the Rohingyas citizenship.
March 2 1962	Burmese coup d'état took place which overthrew the Burmese government and setting up the regime of Ne Win.
February 6, 1978	Operation Dragon King began.
October 15, 1982	Burma Citizenship Act was enacted.
1991	Operation Pyi Thaya began.
October 9, 2016	A group of armed men attacked border police which triggered the Burmese military to launch a 'clearance operation' throughout Rakhine, destroying villages.
December, 2016	Reports of hundreds of dead Rohingyas is made and over 1200 homes across 5 villages were destroyed as a result of the operation.



January 21, 2017	The corpse of three men were discovered, Rohingya Muslims were blamed as a result of the ongoing conflict.
March, 2017	UNHRC launches an official investigation on the government of Myanmar on human rights abuse. Myanmar does not cooperate.
July 4 ,2017	Seven Rohingya men were attacked in a refugee camp in Sittwe by the Rakhine Buddhists.
July 31, 2017	Three more corpses were discovered in Rathedaung, again the local government blamed ARSA for the murders.
August 25, 2017	Attacks were conducted on 24 police stations and an army base coordinated by 150 ARSA rebels.
December 12, 2017	Two reporters for Reuters were arrested for allegedly breaking colonial rule.
Unspecified Date, 2018	Myanmar caught destroying evidence of the genocide.
May 7, 2019	The two reporters and 6,000 other convicts released as a pardon from the UN Secretary-General.
November 11, 2019	Gambia on the behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation accuses Myanmar of genocide to the ICJ.
December 11, 2019	ICJ court takes place, court ruling sides with Gambia following verdict in early 2020.

### **Past Resolutions and Letters**

- [S/AC.51/2013/2](#)
- [A/C.3/75/L.34](#)
- [A/C.3/72/L.48](#)
- [S/2019/591](#)
- [S/2020/67](#)
- [S/2017/1099](#)
- [S/2018/956](#)
- [S/2020/1243](#)
- [S/RES/2669 \(2022\)](#)

### **Possible Solutions**

- Launch further investigations on Myanmar and provide further sanctions on Myanmar.
- Provide humanitarian aid funded by the UN to the Rakhine region.
- Call upon UN peacekeeping forces in the region to protect the citizens and villages within the Rakhine state.
- Reform the refugee camps throughout southeast Asia to prevent overpopulation of the refugee camps and make them more manageable, as over a million people reside in refugee camps in Bangladesh.
- Have constant surveillance throughout the Rakhine State to ensure the safety of the Rohingya people.
- Have Myanmar ensure the safety, wellbeing, and care for the Rohingya's and other minorities throughout the country.



- Ensure any threats such as insurgency groups which are derived within the region are neutralized.
- Provide Rohingya's with easy exit out of the region in the case that any further attacks happen.

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