

The Unmet Need of Rohingya Refugee Children in Bangladesh: A Sociological Analysis

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Abstract

Rohingyas are a small Muslim ethnic group of Myanmar those who are not recognized as citizens or one of the 135 recognized ethnic groups in the country. They are the people without any identity, without any home. The aim of the present study is to evaluate the vulnerability of Rohingya refugee children and the military violence of Myanmar against Rohingya people that leads to the complete violation of global human right adopted by United Nations. The study was carried out by descriptive qualitative research techniques. To conduct the study, several Rohingya refugee camps were visited and different literature regarding Rohingya issues were reviewed. The result revealed that the ongoing genocide in Rakhaine state by Myanmar military force on helpless Rohingya people is a complete violation of human rights. Therefore, it can be concluded that the crisis make the Rohingya children homeless and lead them to an uncertain future.

Keywords : Rohingya, Rakhaine, Minority Group, Refugee

Introduction

The Rohingya is a Muslim ethnic minority group living in the western Rakhaine state of Myanmar. Evidently their ancestors were in the nation since seventh century with an unmistakable history. From the mid of twentieth century to the present days the Rohingya considering as a 'problematic issue.' The government of Myanmar doesn't perceive the general population of Rohingya as citizen of Myanmar. The majority of Rohingya in Myanmar today are stateless, having been arbitrarily deprived of their nationality 1982 (Burma Citizen Law, 1982). The recent influx of the Rohingyas, declared by the UN as the fastest growing humanitarian crisis. Since late August 2017, more than 671,000 Rohingya people have fled Myanmar Rakhine state to the border of Bangladesh to escape the military devastated campaign of ethnic cleansing (UNHCR). Most of them are located in Teknaf and Cox's Bazar region and Bangladesh is now hosting about a million Rohingya stateless people.

Objective and Methodology :

Research design helps to organize the experience, observations, examinations, analysis of data and information and their logical expression in a systematic way to achieve the goal and the objectives of the research. This study is descriptive and explanatory in nature has been used qualitative data.

(i) Source of information:

The study was based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected by using questionnaire, besides three FGD session was conducted to grasp in depth data on different social issues of the respondents. FGD was conducted within the camp for willing respondents to come and talk, and 15 people joined in to share their experiences as refugee, raising some pertinent issue. Some questions were asked to lead the discussion. Secondary information was gathered from available literature review. These information was gathered to know the actual situation of Rohingya Children due to ongoing situation in Myanmar.

(ii) Study area:

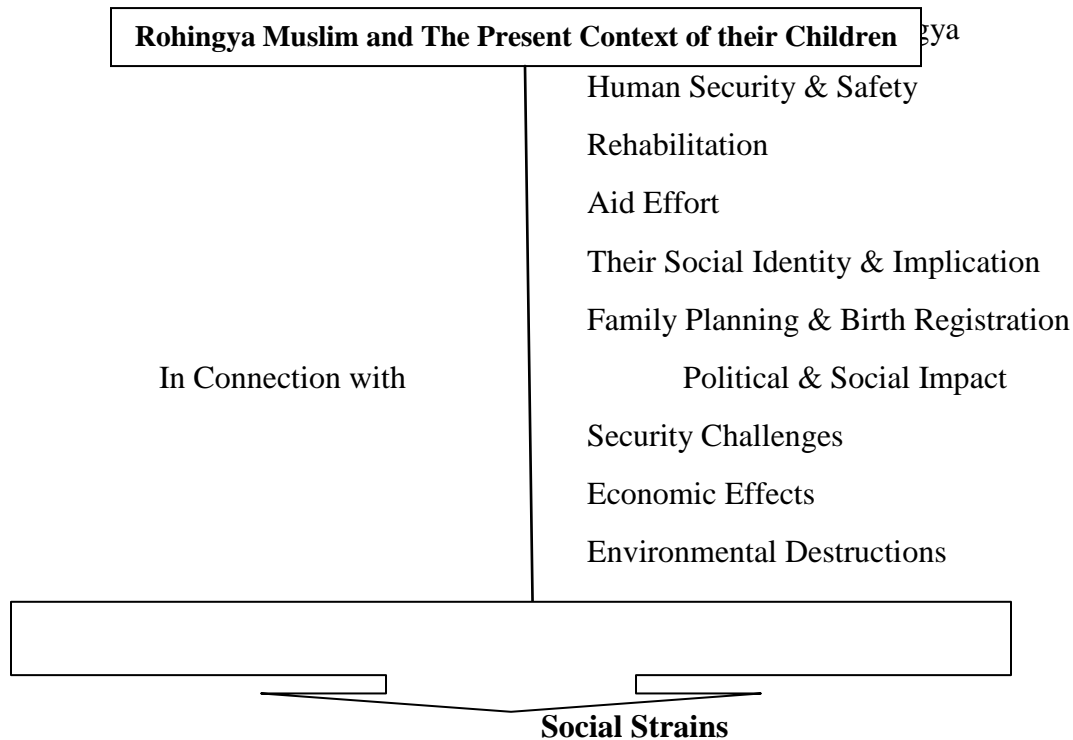
The government of Bangladesh allocated 2000 acres of land for the settlement of Rohingya refugee. The areas are divided into several camps. The study was conducted at 5 Rohingya camps: Kutupalong, Thankhali, Jamtali, Hakimpara, Moinagona; located at Teknaf in Cox’S Bazar district of Chittagongs.

Objective of the study

Rohingya refugee crisis is the most sensitive issue for the recent global problem. The Rohingya women and children are the most sufferer of the ongoing violence in Rakhaine state. The broad objective of this study is to find out the statelessness and vulnerability of Rohingya refugee children which are complete violation of global human rights adopted by United Nations. To achieve broad objective some specific objectives are outlined here-

- To determine the reason of statelessness of Rohingya Refugee Children
- To identify extreme level of violation of global human rights and its challenges
- To illustrate the sustainable solution for ongoing refugee children crisis and to develop affordable way to mitigate the situation.

Theoretical Framework :



The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) militant group, whose attacks on Burmese security posts last year triggered the army’s indiscriminate “clearance operations,” has pledged to continue its insurgent campaign against what it calls “Burmese state-sponsored terrorism.” The Bangladeshi security establishment is concerned both that ARSA will try to recruit within camps, and that it will use the camps as a base for cross-border fighting. ¹

If we talk about our country's economic effects our GDP per capita is a meager \$ 1,400. Though towards the Millennium Development Goals, the national economy growth rate was 7.1 percent. While broad universal compassionate help has poured in to help the displaced people, that doesn't take care of all the monetary expenses to the administration or to the fringe locale's Bangladeshi residents. The deluge's full impact may not be clear for quite a while.

At the point when a huge number of panicked Rohingya exiles started flooding onto the shorelines and paddy fields of southern Bangladesh in August 2017, it was the youngsters – who made up about 60 for each penny of their number – who got numerous individuals' consideration.

Today, there are an expected 720,000 Rohingya youngsters in Bangladesh and Myanmar, in desperate need of philanthropic help and assurance – and seeking the outside world for help.

Critical endeavors are expected to help the Rohingya kids who are debilitated either by the moving toward violent wind season in Bangladesh or by progressing brutality and disavowal of their essential rights in Myanmar.

“This is a crisis without a quick fix that could take years to resolve unless there is a concerted effort to address its root causes,” said Manuel Fontaine, UNICEF Director of Emergency Programmes.

Social Strains :

The displaced people have changed the socioeconomics of Bangladesh's Ukhia and Teknaf zones, where Rohingya now dwarf local people 2 to 1. Of the around 900,000 Rohingya, 73 percent are living in new unconstrained settlements, 13 percent in improvised settlements, 9 percent among have groups, and 5 percent in formal displaced person camps. Kutupalong camp is the biggest and most thickly populated displaced person settlement on the planet.

Experts need to keep Rohingya from absorbing into the nearby populace. Camps are teaching the Rohingya in English and Burmese, yet not in Bengali. New outcasts are banned from Bangladeshi citizenship through either birth or marriage.

The birthrate among the Rohingya is likewise considerably higher than that of Bangladeshis; in 2018 alone, specialists anticipate that displaced people will bring forth 48,000 children — who will confront serious dangers of ailing health, ailment and passing. After diphtheria softened out up December, specialists propelled a huge immunization battle. Despite the fact that vaccination has for quite some time been accessible to Bangladeshis — incorporating into rustic regions — general wellbeing authorities stress that waterborne and other transferable maladies may spread past the camps.

The natural effect of 1 million outcasts is hard to exaggerate. The U.N. Improvement Program as of late discharged an ecological appraisal, distinguishing 28 hazard factors debilitating biodiversity and human security. At the pinnacle of the brutality, every week somewhere in the range of 100,000 Rohingya — essentially ladies and kids — were crossing into Bangladesh. Where they settled, a huge number of sections of land of national timberlands were cleared. Territories already occupied by wild elephants are currently desolate. The rich, green, sloping scene has quickly changed into straightened extends of red earth shrouded in covering tents the extent that the eye can see.

Bangladesh is very vulnerable to environmental change. For a considerable length of time the nation has been thinking about soil disintegration, rising ocean levels and continuous catastrophic events, for example, violent winds and surges. Avalanches are to a great degree likely; numerous stress over what will happen to the displaced person settlements when the rainstorm season touches base one month from now. Groundwater sources are rapidly being drained and freshwater streams have turned out to be tainted. Air contamination in

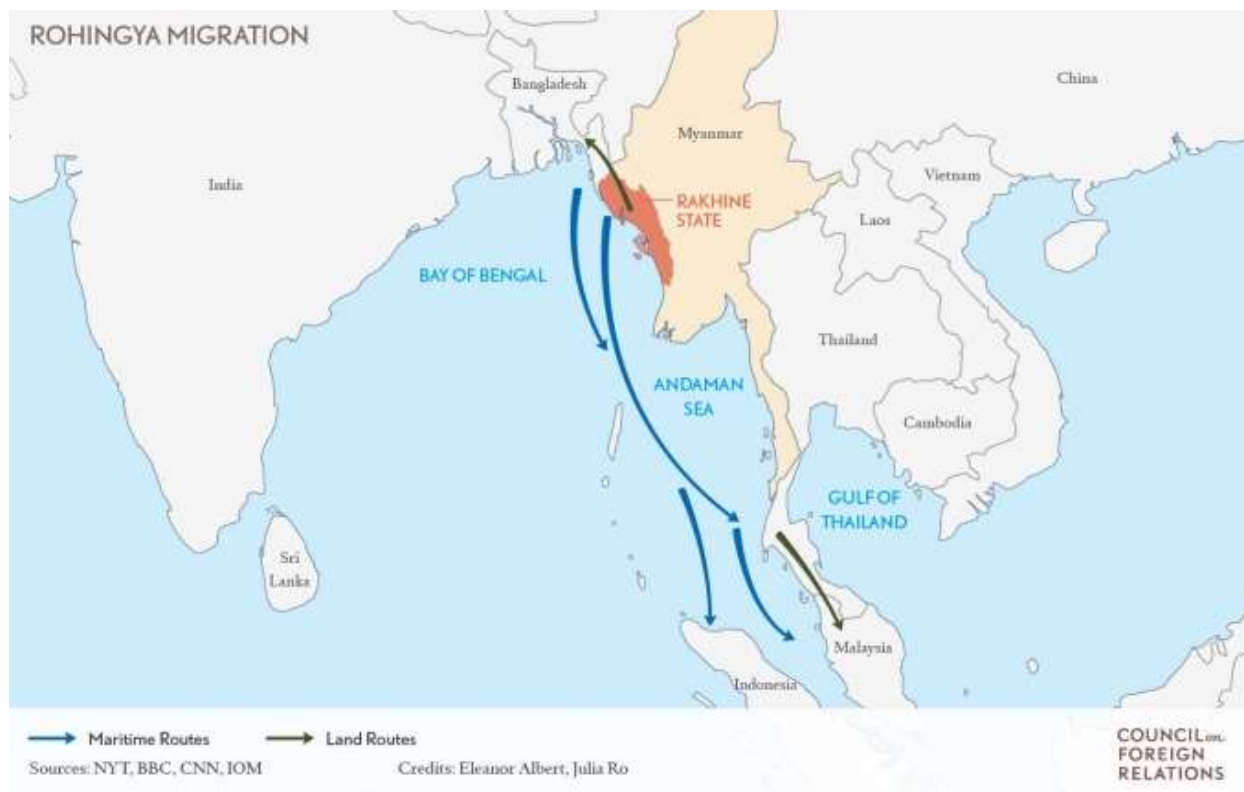
Ukhia and Teknaf has expanded in light of smoke from kindling consumed by displaced people and fumes from a huge number of trucks, jeeps, and autos bringing individuals and products into the camps.

Literature Review

The Rohingyas are an ethno-religious minority group from the Rakhaine region of Myanmar, which today is surrounded within the border of Myanmar and is nearby to Bangladesh. Rohingyas live mostly in Rakhaine state, where they have co-existed uneasily with Buddhists for decades. Unlike the Buddhist community, they speak a language similar to the Bengali dialect of Chittagong in Bangladesh. The Rohingyas are castigated by numerous in Myanmar as unlawful foreigners and they experience the ill effects of orderly segregation. The Myanmar government regards them as stateless individuals, denying them citizenship. Stringent confinements have been put on Rohingyas individuals' opportunity of development, access to medical help, education and other essential administrations.

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), this comparatively migration was about to be as an domestic movement seeing the British administered Myanmar as a boondocks of India, during the native nation viewed the migration of laborers negatively. However, afterwards the freedom of Myanmar in 1948, the hat in the ring eventual the migration as contrary to law and herewith denied citizenship to the Rohingya population. The Union Citizenship Act was passed and Rohingyas were not included. In 1982, a nifty citizenship process was passed that further did not hook up with Rohingya in the cut a track of country's 135 communal groups. The law nevertheless established three levels of citizenship and the fundamental directly required naturalization i.e., the soul required benchmark of having a society subsistence in Myanmar introductory to 1948. The Rohingyas lacked a well-known documents seeing they were besides initially denied the citizenship. As a explain, their basic rights were snatched from them. From 1970s, the troops on the way to crackdowns in Rohingya villages and by means of this performed crimes against frail , forcing the Rohingya person in the street to deceive from Myanmar. Consequently, these action regarded Rohingyas as contrary to law Bengali immigrants in the eyes of Buddhists in Myanmar.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHRC) called the recent influx of Rohingya as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing.” Since the 1970s Rohingya refugees have been coming to Bangladesh. The Rohingya, a stateless Muslim everything in a dominatingly Buddhist clean, have been overcome many years of mistreatment. The development oversee year of a protection Rohingya military has additionally extended their wretchedness; two shift and unthinkable assaults on state stake powers — on Oct. 9, 2016 and Aug. 25, 2017 — each activated wrecking military responses with respect to extrajudicial mass murder, hang and mass expulsion of plain regular people.



Source : <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/rohingya-crisis>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. According to UDHR, article no 15: (1) Everyone has the right of a nationality; (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality. It article no 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services. The ongoing unexpected situation on Rohingya people is against the law of human rights where the helpless Rohingya people are being forcefully migrated in other lands. Rohingya people deprived from their actual right of health and well-being of themselves and their family.

Experience recommended that the Myanmar government, on one affection or other, has been extremely hesitant to reclaim their nationals, the Rohingya. Whatever the number was permitted to come back to Myanmar has dependably been much little than the genuine number of refugees. It creates the impression that the answer for the issue and the arrival of the displaced people to their will be questionable soon and their stay in Bangladesh will proceed for a more extended timeframe.

The exodus was the fourth of its kind, and in both speed and scale it was the worst. A camp called Kutupalong was established in 1978, and swelled in the early 1990s amid another wave of violence. Other smaller camps were later formed, such as Balukhali, Leda and Nayapara, and some 3-400,000 Rohingya have been scattered across the district for decades. Those who remained in Myanmar lived in ever-deteriorating conditions; restrictions on travel, social services and employment amounted to apartheid, and worsened after deadly riots tore across the state in 2012. Security was then used as a pretext to further isolate them as aid stopped flowing, trade was discontinued and civil servants were no longer deployed to staff Muslim schools and clinics. More than 100,000 have been trapped for years in camps for the internally displaced near the state capital Sittwe, where tens of thousands became so desperate they fled on boats manned by human traffickers, many dying namelessly in the Andaman Sea.²

The Social Barriers : The Rohingyas are facing

The Rohingya have confronted many years of segregation and suppression under progressive Burmese governments. Successfully denied citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law, they are one of the biggest stateless populaces on the planet. Limitations on development and absence of access to fundamental social insurance have prompted critical helpful conditions for those uprooted by before rushes of brutality in 2012 and 2016.

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- **Health Issues and Cleanliness :**

Upon their landing in Bangladesh, somewhat more than a fourth of the exiles were inoculated for measles and rubella in a monstrous drive focusing on kids from a half year to 15 years old, and a moment round of get up to speed immunizations is well in progress to achieve its objective of 336,943 youngsters. Starting in mid-October, in excess of 700,000 cholera immunizations were regulated to defenseless outcasts, the biggest and quickest drive at any point endeavored. Be that as it may, in a helpful reaction, even the most strong achievement misrepresents disappointment. While there is presently enough sustenance and asylum to keep these approximately one million occupants alive, and keeping in mind that there are all that anyone could need toilets to oblige them, those offices are not kept up. "If you somehow happened to make an agenda of the considerable number of elements for a flare-up, here you would check relatively every crate," says Onus, of Doctors Without Borders.

- **Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Issues :**

Water, sanitation and cleanliness administrations, referred to in the guide world as WASH, have just been conveyed to about portion of those in require. About 95% of exiles are now expending defiled water, as indicated by the International Rescue Committee, with 66% of supply found to contain defecation. A restroom might be usable for around two months, once full a "X" will be scribbled on its side and another one introduced only a couple of feet away. Organizations, for example, UNICEF are progressing in the direction of waste administration arrangements, yet discharging a few lavatories would require physically scooping waste into a pail and conveying it by foot to the closest engine street, which now and again is six kilometers away; finished slopes, crosswise over flimsy bamboo footbridges and through paths stuffed with unaccompanied babies who, regularly, aren't wearing any garments.

Findings and Discussions

The Rohingya are a muslim minority group in Rakhain state, which occupies the western coast of Myanmar. Almost 60% of the refugee are children. Many have become separated from their families or fled on their own. All have suffered tremendous loss. In October, 2017, a 8 year old girl was among the new arrivals who received medical treatment after being sexually harrassed as military violence against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhaine state. Those who are victims of gang rape, most of them are child of 13 or 14 years. The Rohingya children was physically tortured by the military violence. A victim's sister stated- "I cried when they took away my little sister, but I couldn't stop them." Among Rohingya children, some of them under 10 years old, are receiving treatment for rape in camps of Bangladesh border, medicals say that young refugee account for half of those sexually assaulted while fleeing violence in Myanmar. This is how miserably Rohingya children have passed their life before crossing the border of Bangladesh.

During the military violence in Rakhaine state, many of Rohingya children lost their parents and other family members. Some of them cross the border of Bangladesh along with the other helpless Rohingya people. After entering the border these orphan children start their life with no shelter of own blood. "Suyahef" a 11 years

Rohingya children stated- “ I was sleeping along with my mother & little sister at night, my father was not home. Suddenly my mother started screaming and saying that leave the home. I woke up and saw that our home was burning and my mother was burned. I didn't find my little sister and I saw that all the houses in our area burned and people were running here and there.”

This survivor child still can't forget the miserable situation of that night and his uncle claimed that every night he wake up suddenly and start screaming. There are many victims like Suyahef who suffered a lot and many of them leading their life in trauma. In Kutupalong camp, another victim named “ Aklima” a 9 years old Rohingya children who took medical treatment after crossing the border of Bangladesh. A bullet from Myanmar military gun was attacked on her right leg. Aklima's father Noor Hossain(41) described the incident that happened with her sister. He said - “ I was about to perform my Fazr prayer, and suddenly heard the sound of military helicopters. They were spreading powder to burn our village. The villagers woke up & we started running. The military started firing from the helicopters and my sister was attacked badly by the bullet in her her leg. Many of us died on that night. We came to the close of Naf River and cross the border by swimming.”

About 40,000 children have crossed the border into Bangladesh (UNICEF,2017). These children crossed the border alone after their parents were killed or displaced. This stateless children are now under the control of different NGO, child care center etc. During the FGD session, one of the Mahjee (leader of 100/120 Rohingya refugee family) named Sobhan Mia (39) has claimed that the Rohingya children are suffering in different diseases, they are facing malnutrition problems, they don't get the scope of getting primary level education and has also claimed about lack of healthy sanitary system. 60% of the Rohingyas are children and much has been done for them by International relief workers like UNICEF, RED CROSS, UNHRC and others. Despite consistence efforts of both NGOS & INGOS there seems to be lack of proper implementation of resources because the relief received by Bangladesh resident Rohingyas seem to be abundant but the picture inside the camp is completely opposite.

MD. Ismail Mia a Rohingya resident of the Ukhiya camps has claimed tha the mass influx has given rise to human trafficking, smuggling, coercion and many other illegal occurrence. It is also evident that the smuggling of ‘Mad Drugs’ has risen exponentially since the intake of Rohingyas within the country. The most alarming news is drugs are distributed by the children within the community. Another imminent treat to children is trafficking. In many camps, we found that Rohingya parents had been searching for their children for many days. Nazir Ahmed, a Rohingya refugee in the camp, set up an information center which he said has already reunited some 1800 lost children with their parents.

Different NGOS & INGOS working with the Bangladesh Army to keep the situation of camps in sustainable position. In the camps Mahjee are very influential. Nothing is done without their permission and even the camp management is not able to access the people directly. The Mahjee support the traditional gender role, values and their culture. They know where refugee are going outside the camp and what are they doing. Refugee must get the permission from Majhee to engage in income generating activities, which make them extremely powerful in the community. Instead of assisting the impoverished refugee, many of the Mahjee take advantage of their power. Sometimes they used children, specially the teenage children to do illegal works such as- sex work. The Mahjee's power is all-encompassing, so much so that the refugees cannot complaints directly with the camp authority.

These uncertain situation happening within camp just because of the lack of proper controlling power of camp authority and due to the lack of facilities of educational institution. Different national and international NGOS working together to solve the unexpected situation that happening with Rohingya children. BRAC, UNICEF and many others establish temporary school and madrasha to give primary level education to Rohingya children. They provided foods and other staffs to encourage the children to attend in the educational institution. Here need to mention that these educational institutions don't force them to learn Bengali literature or culture. These institution have been staffed by trusted and trained teachers, enabling severely traumatized children to re-

established a sense of normalcy, through a daily routine. Besides education These NGOs & INGOS are providing medicine and relief materials for improving children's health. The campaign of vaccination is being conducted jointly by UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh to protect over 150,000 children from the deadly diseases of measles, rubella and polio - diseases that threaten to take hold where overcrowding and inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene are present (Anon, n.d.)

This study refers the cruelty of Myanmar government and military force towards the helpless Rohingya people. The ethnic cleansing, conducted by Myanmar military force effect badly on Rohingya children. These children lost their parents, family and became traumatized. They were forced to displace & to leave their land without any reason which lead to the ultimate violation of human rights. They crossed the border of Bangladesh with an uncertain future. A strong negotiation with Myanmar government and political enforce of powerful countries and different organization should be taken as early as possible to solve the problem.

Conclusion & Recommendations

The as a matter of first importance basic of the emergency is the easing of the affliction of the Rohingya individuals. ASEAN needs to assume the main part here; it needs to define a system to manage the emergency by fair dispersion of the evacuees among part countries, military escort of Rohingya water crafts, a course of events for return of the displaced people, and weight on Myanmar to determine the contention. The International people group can likewise assume a part by loaning money related guide to the nations who will house the displaced people.

The Muslim countries can assume a basic part here by offering help and volunteers to care for the evacuees. The OIC can possibly be revived by the emergency as it can be used to dispatch a conciliatory battle to feature Rohingya abuse. Pakistan can assume a significant part in driving the accuse for solidarity of the Rohingya. It can likewise house a predetermined number of Rohingya outcasts especially in Karachi, which as of now has a significant Rohingya populace.

The United Nations ought to be used for arranging free and unhindered global philanthropic access in Rakhine State. Singular governments ought to energize the UN Secretary General to take up this issue and give abnormal state support to his endeavors. Governments need to attest that future positive discretionary relations are dependent upon unhindered compassionate access, and abolishment of unfair strategies and practices against the Rohingya. Negotiators and UN authorities should utilize "Rohingya" both out in the open and private. This will delegitimize the Myanmar government's progressing separation and crusade to depict the Rohingya as illicit settlers. The philanthropic emergency for the Rohingya in Burma is a piece of a methodical arrangement of impoverishment of the Rohingya. These arrangements may constitute violations against mankind, and have helped prompt ethnic purging. The worldwide group should bolster the foundation of an autonomous global examination concerning conceivable infringement of universal law against the Rohingya in Burma.

Rohingyas are among dozen of oppressed groups in Myanmar. In any case, the key distinctive of Rohingya with different groups is that while other are resident and perceived races of Myanmar. Addressing them as stateless people, Myanmar military force started systematic and widespread ethnic cleansing to free the Rakhaine state from Rohingyas. We have reflected over the indeterminate eventual fate of the Rohingyas, Rohingya children and the way to find durable solutions to their plight. UNHRC conducted a number of studies to look for the answer for Rohingya problem yet the majority of the recomandations are for care and maintenance rather than long term solution. The essential reason of extended circumstance is political. The solution ought to exude from political crystal. An important dialogue ought to be open up with the Myanmar government and military to push for the abolishment of oppressive approaches and practices that hinder a determination of the emergency and to guarantee that the Myanmar government and military work to determine the main driver of the emergency in a honest to goodness and timely manner and to get back them (Rohingya) to their land.

While outer variables could reduce this emergency, they can't resolve it. The seeds for the arrangement lie in Myanmar itself. The part of inward Myanmar powers, particularly the National League for Democracy NLD drove by Aung Saan Suu Kyi, has been to a great degree unsuitable. It is accepted their quiet on the issue is because of dread of losing Buddhist votes in the up and coming general race. There is a requirement for national compromise in Myanmar with the Rohingya as well as with other ethnic gatherings occupied with strife with the Myanmar state.

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