

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION OF ROHINGYA: BANGLADESH-MYANMAR PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

The Rohingya are often defined as the world's most persecuted minority. They aren't considered as an ethnic group of Myanmar's 135 ethnic groups and have been denied citizenship in the country since 1982, which has effectively known as the stateless citizen of the world. As a Muslim minority group, Rohingya face immeasurable discrimination such as burning, looting, killing and destroying thousands of villages. An outbreak of severe human rights violation in the western Burmese state of Rakhine has refocused international and regional attention on the issue of the area's stateless Muslim threatening to destabilize. An escalation of violence involving local Buddhist and Muslim communities have resulted in an unknown number of deaths and thousands of home burning. The government, including the military, police and local security forces has responded with violence including mass arrests, mass killing, burning of shelter and reported use of torture against the Rohingya populations as well as forced nearly half a million Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. Tensions in the region, which borders Bangladesh, have historically been fueled by Myanmar's denial of citizenship to the Rohingya who are also not recognized as one of the country's official ethnic nationalities. In this paper, we have spent the past several years documenting the plight of the Rohingya and believe their story is one of the most forgotten, neglected and worst example of human rights abuse in Asia. In Myanmar, the Rohingya have been abused, excluded and denied the most basic of human rights and citizenship. As refugees in Bangladesh, they have been neglected and forced to exist in the darkest margins of society, they are unwanted and unwelcome. This paper exposes the stories and also provides evidence of their sheer courage to stay alive whatever the ground beneath their feet which capture the suffering, the struggle, and fortitude of the Rohingya. The paper is accompanied by short accounts of the lives of the subjects and collectively these provide an illuminating cross-section of Rohingya issues.

KEYWORDS: Human Rights Violation, Rohingya

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