



MUNNY
MODEL UNITED NATIONS OF NYBORG

- Forum:** [3rd Committee of the General Assembly]
- Issue:** [Creating better living conditions for the Rohingya people in Myanmar following the change of administration]
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Brief description of the issue

The problem lies with the persecution of the ethnic group called Rohingya in Myanmar. Since the military coup in February 2021 around 100,000 people in the east of the country fled because of "indiscriminate attacks" by the security forces. But the problem has existed since the 1990s and the goal is now to create better living conditions for the Rohingya people in Myanmar

Background information

As described by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the Rohingya people are “one of, if not the, most discriminated people in the world”. The Rohingya people form the ethnic minority in Myanmar as a Muslim group in a mostly Buddhist country. They are a folk with their own language and culture and furthermore descendants of Arab traders and other groups, who have lived in Myanmar for generations. In 2017 the Rohingya counted over one million Rohingya citizens living in Myanmar, but the government never accepted the ethnic group. They deny them the citizenship and also were excluded from the census in 2014 as they are not seen as part of the people. Furthermore, the government has forced Rohingya to start carrying national verification cards that effectively identify them as foreigners and do not grant them citizenship. The result is that the Rohingya are forced to flee Myanmar.



Rohingya Migration



Most of the Rohingya, around 900.000 are fled on the safer land route to Bangladesh in the hope of a better life, while some are trying to get to Malaysia or Indonesia via the sea, the Andaman Sea.

In 2016, the first democratically elected government un a generation came to power in Myanmar, but critics say it has done nothing to help Rohingya and other Muslims for fear of alienating Buddhist nationalists and threatening the power-sharing agreement the civilian government maintains with the military.

Key terms

Power-sharing agreement

Power sharing is a practice in conflict resolution where multiple groups distribute political, military, or economic power among themselves according to agreed rules.

Rohingya

The Rohingya are an ethnic group in Myanmar. Most of the Rohingya are Muslims and thus a minority in the otherwise predominantly Buddhist Myanmar.

Muslims

A follower of the religion of Islam, a monotheistic religion (believes in just one God).

Buddhist



A follower of the religion of the Buddhism, a polytheistic religion (believes in multiple gods)

Major Actors

Bangladesh:

Most Rohingya seek refuge in Bangladesh, in the north of Myanmar, which has limited resources and land to host refugees. Currently, more than 900.000 Rohingya refugees are in the country, according to the UN refugee agency. Many live in crowded camps in Cox's Bazar district, now home to the world's largest refugee camp.

Nearly 400.000 children in the camps lack access to education since teachers are banned from using both Bangladeshi and Myanmar curricula in the camps and Rohingya children are barred from enrolling in schools outside the camps.

At the same time, the risk of disease outbreaks in camps is high, with health organizations warning of possible outbreaks of several diseases.

More than 60 percent of the available water supply in refugee camps is contaminated, increasing the risk of spread of communicable and water-borne diseases.

Some refugees have turned to people traffickers, paying for transport out of Bangladesh and Myanmar and risking exploitation, including sexual enslavement.

Malaysia:

In October 2019, the United Nations numbered about 100.000 Rohingya in Malaysia. Rohingya refugees who arrive safely in Malaysia have no legal status and are not allowed to work, leaving their families cut off from access to education and health care.

India:

The United Nations refugee agency registered about 18.000 Rohingya refugees. The Hindu nationalist government considers Rohingya to be illegal immigrants and thus tries to send them back to Myanmar so. Since late 2018, India has reportedly sent dozens of refugees back to Myanmar.

Thailand:

The country is a hub for regional human smuggling and serves as a common transit point for Rohingya. Migrants often arrive over the Andaman Sea by boat from Bangladesh or Myanmar before they continue to move to neighbouring countries like Indonesia or Malaysia.

Indonesia:

The Rohingya further seek for refuge in Indonesia, although the number of refugees from Myanmar remains relatively small there because they get treated as illegal immigrants, too. However, Indonesia has rescued migrant boats off its shores and dispatched humanitarian aid and supplies to Bangladesh's camps. They are more likely to help other countries

How to prepare as a delegate

To have fruitful debates, all delegates need to be well prepared and know their topics. You should inform yourself if your country is directly confronted (i.e., as a one of the major actors, to where the refugees flee to). Furthermore, inform yourself about any solutions which got taken and/ or could be taken. Moreover, have a look at the useful sources, since they should help you doing further research as this research report only gives a short overview on the topic. **All delegates are required to write a position paper spanning all three issues prior to the conference.** Please send your position MUNNY 2022 paper to your chair before the conference.

Further reading / useful sources

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/28/rohingya-crisis-explained-in-maps>

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

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-52832841>

<https://edition.cnn.com/specials/asia/rohingya>

<https://www.unocha.org/rohingya-refugee-crisis>