

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES & THE ROHINGYA CRISIS

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“A lasting solution the possibility to begin a new life is the only dignified solution for the refugee himself.”

With the above quotes, the *United Nations High Commission* for refugees started in the year 1950. With more than 140 signatories of the motion, the aim of the commission was to hinder any such violation of rights of the nationals of the world, who have to leave their respective place of origin due to their religion, nationality, place of origin, cast, race, creed color, political opinion etc. There have been several instances where this commission has worked immensely well to bring out the rights of the refugees who have been forced to leave their country of origin. The noteworthy works of the commission are in the counties of Congo, Sudan, Korea, Bangladesh etc. despite that there has been a recent incident which brought the humanity and the ideals of Universal Declaration Of Human Rights (1948) down to its knees.

ROHINGYA CRISIS - (OVERVIEW)

The Rohingya people are stateless persons who belong to the INDO-ARYAN people from Rakhine state in Myanmar. According to the united nation survey, there were a total of one million Rohingya populations in the state of Rakhine before the crisis took place. Now, this population has started shifting to Bangladesh in the forthgoing days with the number of population crossing the boundaries of Bangladesh becoming 603,000 on 22nd October, it increased to 624,000 by November 2nd and went up to 625,000 on 6th December 2017. The people of Rohingya consisted mainly of people from Islamic religion with some Hindu religion people as well. Under the 1982 = Myanmar nationality law, the Rohingya population is denied citizenship in Myanmar government.”THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH” wing called the Rohingya population the most persecuted group in the world so far. They are denied freedom of movement, equality in the state and treated ill like the system of apartheid which was practiced in South Africa. It is not the first

time that the Rohingya community is facing such an issue of military crackdowns as it has already had happened in 1978, 1991-92, 2012, 2015 and in 2016-17.

The Rohingya maintain that they are indigenous to western Myanmar with influence from Arabs, Mughals, and Portuguese. They are the decedents of Arakan. The official position of the Myanmar government is that the Rohingya people are not an ideal race but instead, they are the illegal immigrants who have come from Bangladesh. They then preferred to call the “Bengalis”. Their rights or demand was that they wanted self-determination within the nation of Myanmar. There have been grave instances where the rights of the Rohingya people have been violated in the sense of forced labor, ill-treatment, arrests, detention, executions, torture, enforced discrepancies. With so many rights violation and ill-treatment, there are more than 100 thousands Rohingya, who have been internally displaced. They attacked the military in the sign of protest which killed almost 12 military personals and sooner than not a wide campaign named “Clearance operation” was started to clear out the Rohingya people from the state of Myanmar. The operation resulted in the burning of houses, torture, rape, Injury and accounted for the deaths of more than 3000 people.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Rohingya population is concentrated in south-east Asia. There is no archeological evidence of the settlement of the Rohingya people in Myanmar. The Arakan state situated near the Bay of Bengal and was a hub for maritime trade. The merchants of that place followed Islam and due to the influence of them, many other people of Arakan converted themselves and adopted the religion of Islam. Arab traders are recorded in the coastal areas of the South-East Bengal. The Rohingya population trace is found from this period. The Arab merchants married local women which resulted in inter-religion marriages and conversion. The Rohingya initially got recognized by the Burma country and were involved in the participation in the parliament and also held Ministerial posts in the government. Later then when the” MILITARY JUNTA” started taking control of, the land in 1962, the condition of the Rohingya people started degrading.

DISPUTES AMONG THE ARKHAM-

The Rohingya people were discriminated by the Burma government. The British government ill-treated the Burma people and the Burma people ill-treated the Arakans people. They both have

been torturing the people rights from the 1940s to date have been discriminating and torturing the community. Jinnah refused to cede Arakan into the dominion of Pakistan, they form a separate party formed “Mojahid party” in 1947. They aimed to form a new Islamic state and termed themselves as the “Rohingya’s”. The “Operation King Dragon” an operation to expel the Rohingya from the state the of Burma. which occurred in 1978 resulted in many Rohingya people going to the neighboring country Bangladesh as refugees as well as to Pakistan. A mass protest occurred in Sittw to drove off the Rohingya Muslim from the country which was done by the Rakhine Buddhist. The government of Bangladesh and Myanmar accepted that Rohingya were Lawful Burmese residents. The Burmese government declared the “Bengalis” as foreigners in the new citizenship.

Modern crisis –(2015-2017)

2015 Refugee crisis – The condition of the Rohingya got even degraded in the early 20’s and they were referred to as “Boat People” by the international media as they were a threat of violence and genocide so they oft Bangladesh and Myanmar. The country to which they preferred migrating were mainly Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand by boats via the Andaman sea and start of Malacca. The boat travel resulted in the death of hundred in Indonesia, two-hundred in Malaysia, ten in Thailand. They traveled in the pathetic condition with all sorts of atrocities despite that they suffered them just to get themselves out of such is situation in Myanmar. More than twenty five-thousand people left on boats and with no food and water.

2016-2017 Refugee crisis – The clash between the northern part of Rakhine state named “Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army” and Myanmar’s military. It led to an international outcry and was declined as ethnic elapsing by U.N.H.C.R. The decisions of the 1982 and military actions taken by the people to drew away the Rohingya people resulted in the violent protest and attack by the “Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army” to the border of Myanmar-Bangladesh.

The huge “Clearance Operation” was launched on the October 2016- June 2017 by the Burmese Government which resulted in the death of more than thousand people according to the United nation officials. The military’s clearance operation and the act of the ARSA resulted in a violent and heinous adversity in Myanmar resulting in more than thousand Rohingya people getting

internally displaced and their rights getting violated. The United Nations condemned the action and hoped for a quicker solving of the situation.

June to till date situation and crisis –

The President of Myanmar after pressure from the United Nation Human Rights Commission said that the government would try to avoid all sorts to direct conflict with the Rohingya and they would try to help the civilians and preserved their human rights, the best way it is possible the ARSA on the October 7th agreed to make peace with Myanmar and dropped off the arms.

Major Humanitarian crisis and Human Rights violations -

Four thousand non-Muslim were evacuated by the security forces in August. The number of refugees which were around in twenty-three in Bazaar prior to August increased to two-lakh and seventy-thousand till September. Many got internally displaced and many got droned or have died in the meanwhile due to non-availability of food and water. The Bangladesh government to shift the new and the already existing refugees in the country to the new sedimentary island of “Thengar Char” was criticized by many institutions as well as from the Human Rights groups which termed it as “forced relocation”. Many Hindu migrated to Bangladesh as well due to the conditioned the violent action of the Myanmar’s military which again burned down many houses and made the condition in the Rakhine state an impossible to survive soon as total of four lakh twenty-nine thousand refugees fled to Bangladesh with more number of the ease of crossing of boundary around six-lakh refugees were seen to have taken shed in Bangladesh with more number of the ease of crossing of boundary around six- lakh refugees were seen to hard taken shed in Bangladesh and the condition continues to get worsen even after several steps taken by both the government of the Bangladesh and Myanmar on the issue. The Rohingya is one of the least wanted minorities and most persecuted people in the world The noteworthy point according to the united nations wing is that there has been no telecast or the coverage of the violations and problems which the people of the state of Rakhine have suffered by the military and governments action. The rights which are guaranteed under the universal declaration of human rights are violated to a great deal by the action of the military and government area the past few years , from denying them the nationality or citizenship status to not doing them the basic rights like rights to freedom of

movement , education , shelter , jobs in the public sector. To deny citizenship to the people who have been living in the country for so long and to impose on them a threat to be called as illegal immigrant is great violation of the human right , giving them different color of I.D. card(white) is another sign of then discriminating the community were also not allowed to have more than children despite there being no proper implementation of such laws on the other citizens. Many of the other issues of grave human rights violation were from the part of the Tatmadaw. They were responsible for the destruction of the property of the Rohingya and destroying in their house. They burnt them which made then internally displaced. Many of them have to cross the borders and brome a refugee in the country of Bangladesh. The other violence and rights violation include physical violence, harassment, rape, sexual violence etc. Amnesty International stated that the people of Rohingya have been suffering from such human rights violation from the military rule in 1978. The major issue for the people to fly away to the Bangladesh borders was their constant conflict with the Buddhist community in the state. The government's constant discrimination also have been a major reason for their fleeing.

The report released by the United Nations high commissions for refugees on October 11th,2017 released a report which titled “The Mission Report of the O.H.C.H.R. rapid response mission to Cox Bazar, Bangladesh “ detailing the Burmese military systematic process of driving away the Rohingya's Myanmar.

The strategy was –

- Have male Rohingya's between the ages of fifteen to forty years arrested and arbitrarily detained.
- Have Rohingya's political, cultural and religious figures to be arrested and arbitrarily arrested.
- Ensure that access to food, livelihood and other means of conducting daily activities and life be taken away from Rohingya villagers.
- Drive out Rohingya's villagers and masses through repeated acts of humiliation and violation such as incitement of hatred, violence, and killings.

- Instill deep and widespread fear and trauma (physical, emotional and psychological) in Rohingya, through acts of brutality; killings, discrepancies, torture, and rape.

WORKS OF DIFFERENT UNITED NATION WINGS IN SOLVING OR AIDING THE REFUGEES -

The different wings of the united nations, as well as the private N.G.Os, have come up to preserve the "HUMAN RIGHTS" of the Rohingyas. The most noteworthy task was done by the united nations high commission for refugees(U.N.H.C.R) which has stood although the crisis to pressurize the rights of the refugees and maintain features of the commission. The commission aimed at preserving all sorts of rights and stabilizing the conditions of the refugee has worked quite well. From making food supply and clean drinking water to providing social security to the Rohingya's has been the main task of the U.N.H.C.R. The united nations along with the U.N.H.C.R. forced and criticized the countries which didn't allow the Rohingyas to settle in their territory like INDIA and made the nations of Myanmar to make plan for bring back the refugee and giving them equal rights as with the other people in the country. The RED CROSS and UNICEF have also worked immensely well to sort some relief to the refugees.

The universal declaration of Human Rights (1948) was declared on December 10th and since then it has done its best to preserve the rights of several such people. The different wings of the United Nation work along with the signatory nations of the declaration and have been successful to preserve peace. Despite coming in front of many challenges in the society it has made its best way to resolve the issues,

“For to be free is not merely to lost off one's chains but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of the others “ - **Nelson Mandela**