

The Rohingya Crisis has become the Massive in the 21st Century

Abstract

In 21st Century the Rohingya Muslim people have become one of the most stateless and persecuted minorities in the world. They are the most helpless ethnic minority group in Myanmar. The Myanmar Buddhist majority are doing ethnic cleansing of them. The Myanmar military is also known as Tatmadaw which has been invading Muslim since 1970. The Myanmar military also launched operations against them for ethnic cleansing. Thousands of Rohingya people have been died in several military attacks and their villages have been destroyed crudely. Many Muslim women were killed crudely; some young girls had been raped by the soldiers, and were killed.

Keywords: Rohingya, Violence, Ethnic cleaning, Bangladesh, Citizenship, Buddhist, Sexual violence.

Introduction

The 21st century is the era of globalization where the whole world has become a global village from 20th to 21st century, Many nations have taken the initiative to protect and serve the human rights and to create the friendly atmosphere between the developed, developing and underdeveloped countries therefore many organization were created in past in aim to prevent the deadly wars like first world war and second world war. Universal Declaration of the Human Rights by UNO (United Nations Organization) in 1948 and women commission organization were introduced in order to remove any kind of the possibility of human right violation and women sexual harassment cases. But In spite of having these powerful organizations, the cases of human right violation and women sexual harassment have been increasing rapidly in the every corner of the world. We have many examples such as Rwanda genocide, Somalia genocide and Rohingya Muslim genocide. These examples force us to think that Today As we can observe, these world organization remained unsuccessful in controlling or preventing these crisis from the beginning of such incidents. Genocide is one heinous of crimes against which all the humanity must unite and come together to prevent it.

Let's talk about genocide crises in Myanmar which is a Southeast country in the Asian continent and shares the border with Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand. Due to Globalization, International communities have deep interest in its internal affairs due to various reasons. This Country has gone through one of the highest armed conflicts in the World which came out from the military regulations. Despite the pro-democracy leader was supporting for a change, dictator military administration started various forms of oppressive actions. During the pro-democracy movement, thousands of people have lost their homes and hundreds of them have been Internally Displaced and forced to depart the nation.

The entire World is facing the refugee problem. All countries have become victims of it as refugee crisis arose gradually due to many reasons for instance: war, persecution, violence, race, religious, ethnicity and political opinion. Consequently Myanmar, Southeast Asian country, has been affected badly and has become more familiar among other nations for the refugee crisis in the 21st century. Although Myanmar is a Buddhist majority country, with significant Christian and Muslim minorities, yet it has not been declared as fully Buddhist religious state. Myanmar is one of the most ethnically diverse nation in the world. The Rohingya Muslim people are in minority in Rakhine state of Myanmar.

They have the different religion, skin color, and speak a different language than most of their neighbors. The Rohingya Muslim is most depressed class in the world. When Myanmar became a country, the



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Rohingya Muslim has been bearing the refugee crisis, because Myanmar government does not accept them as citizens of this country. They are considered as Bengali Muslim who migrated to Myanmar as a labor. But Rohingya Muslims are saying that they have been living in Myanmar before 1948. The Myanmar government did not give them citizenship till now due to some political and religious reasons, therefore they are bearing victims of persecution

The Rohingya people mostly live in the Rakhine state of Myanmar which is situated on western coast of Myanmar along the Bay of Bengal and share the border with Bangladesh. The Rohingya Muslim and Buddhist communities have been living for many years in that state. Here, a major question comes out that when Rohingya did come in Myanmar? Some historians and scholars made some assumptions regarding their origin that the Rohingya are basically religiously and ethnically related to the Chittagonians of Bangladesh. They arrived during the British government in the 19th and 20th century for the purpose of worker. Other records indicate that, during Burmese rule from 1784 to 1826, Muslims in Rakhine State were "considered as descendants of Bengali slaves who had largely assimilated to local Rakhine society while keeping their own religious tradition."¹

The Stateless Status of the Rohingya Muslim in their own Country

Rohingya people who have been living in Myanmar since the British government, they do not have the citizenship. That stateless status of the Rohingya is continuous presently. The Rohingya had a definite scope for citizenship under the 1947 Constitution, which permitted those who were born and lived in any of the territories of the former British regime for at least eight years during 1932-1942—and to remain there permanently—to obtain citizenship.² But in 1948, Burma got independence from the British government; the Union Citizenship Act was replaced by the new government. After launching new policy, Rohingya population was eliminated from the list of indigenous races in Myanmar.

In 1974, Myanmar authorities adopted the new constitution; Rohingya Muslim started to become stateless in residing in their own country. The authorities forcibly pressured them to accept the identity card, which would refer them as a foreigner. Then, immediately Buddhist people began to attack on Rohingya Muslims for a vacant state. As a result, many numerous of plights Rohingya exodus into Bangladesh. But the 1974 constitution was so depressing though it was not the end to the problems faced by the Rohingyas. More draconian steps were to come.³

The Myanmar government targeted the citizenship of Rohingya Muslims. For this purpose two types of identity cards were issued to the Rohingya Muslim by Myanmar government. First national registration certificate (NRC) and second is foreign registration certificate (FCR). Myanmar authorities started a campaign to erase Rohingya Muslims' identity. The Myanmar government tried to destroy the Rohingya people through an administrative process

that effectively strips them of basic rights. Despite generations of residence in Myanmar, the Rohingya are not considered to be amongst these official indigenous races and are thus effectively excluded from full citizenship. Rohingya people were forced to accept the NRC they were threatened to be killed if they didn't accept this NRC.⁴

The Rohingya people did not get political and social importance till 1982, while that year the military junta government approved a new citizenship Act, which had been totally against them. In this Act, the Rohingya people were not included as a citizen of Myanmar. All Rohingya people had lost their citizenship overnight and became stateless. Since then, the Rohingya saw their rights steadily eroded, together with an increase in persecution and violence.⁵

The 1982 citizenship Law deprived the Rohingya's citizenship in Myanmar. The Government declared that foreigners can become naturalized citizens of Myanmar if they can prove a close familial connection to the country. Foreigners who have been in the country since 1948 can also apply for nationality. They can also apply if they have married a Myanmar national. But unfortunately, Rohingya people couldn't show any proof because they didn't have any resident proof. Due to a lack of documentation and the arbitrary and discriminatory implementation of the law, this effectively excludes most of Rohingya from naturalized citizenship and they became stateless.⁶

In the year 1990, the government of Myanmar created a Marriage law which was against the religion and traditions of Rohingya Muslim. According to the terms of this law, if Rohingya Muslim gets married, they have to take marriage certificate from the government and they would not take approval of marriage without this certificate. There were many hard terms in order to register the marriage for instance Muslim men had to shave their beard, and they could not wear Muslim cap and dhoti. Muslim girls were not allowed to wear the Burka (a long garment which is worn by Muslim girls in public to cover the whole body from head to feet) and Every Muslim girl was forced to follow pregnancy test before their marriage. If anybody didn't accept these terms they were thrown into prison forcefully. They faced many prohibitions like freedom of movement, marriage, child birth and so on. Muslim girls were forced for abortion.

The Rakhine state government banned the Rohingya couple to have any child if they haven't registered marriage. Those couple, who registered in the government marriage act, can born maximum of two children, just below the population replacement rate. The marriage registered process was very difficult because, the authorities claimed big bribes to register marriage. If Rohingya women have child without registered marriage then authority forcibly ordered for abortion.

Now, Rohingya Muslim felt as illegal immigrants in his own country. They could not travel freely within their own country and cannot work as teachers or doctors. They were strongly prohibited

from their freedom of movement, access to the educational institution and health centers. The census of 2014, more than 10 lakh Rohingya people were not included in the list of citizenship, because they said that they were Bengalis or their purpose for coming to Myanmar was to earn money as a labor.

Rohingya Muslim Women Victims of Sexual Violence

The article 1st in Universal Declaration of Human Rights says "All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Opposite of it, by killing human rights of Rohingya Muslims, the Myanmar government has shocked his hands with the blood of Rohingya Muslims. Myanmar government not only violated Rohingya male Muslims human rights but Muslim females, children, pregnant women and old women are also not exempted. Firstly Myanmar Authorities snatched their social, economical and political freedom.

After this brutal act, this Muslim female population faced physical and mental torture by the military of Myanmar which is considered as a huge and shameful offense according to the law of any constitution. These women were raped and forced for labor work and sex trafficking. They did not have all necessities of life such as food, shelter, water, medical services and education. There was a lack of these facilities for Muslim women. Even till today, pregnant women do not have proper child delivery facility. Children are born with the help of traditional methods. As a result Many Pregnant women or their new born children lose their lives due to lack of medical facilities. Due to poverty, their economic condition and the strict actions of Rakhine police, pregnant women cannot reach at the hospital for proper treatment which is required during their pregnancy period.

It is a fact, In Myanmar, whenever Rohingya Muslim faced violence, Rohingya women become the main victim of exploitation and violation. By giving the most recent example, In Aug, 2017, a violation was seen against the Rohingya Muslim female population which is also a fresh example as evidence.

When the bloodshed started against Rohingya people in Aug 2017 by Myanmar military and Rakhine police, numbers of Rohingya Muslim girls including minor aged and pregnant girls were raped and became the victim of sexual violation. Such assaults were dreadful for everyone who witnessed this violation. When military attacked on Rohingya people's houses, they used to make the women hostages first then they used to choose young girls among the hostage women and drag them in separate room and rape them forcibly. In some cases, they were reported as the victim of gang rape. Sometimes they were raped in front of their families. During the rape, they were physically assaulted until they lost their lives. Soldiers were also alleged for molesting and hitting female genitals inhumanly so that girls died with this unbearable pain. Military soldiers used to celebrate this moment with their company troops and they were often heard saying kill other women because they are Muslims.⁷

Rohingya women were killed with sharp weapons after they were raped. Their bodies were cut in pieces and burnt. Their children were killed in front of their eyes. Their head, face and breast were hit with heavy guns n hard shoes by military soldiers. Due to cruelty done to their children, husband and other family member, they couldn't stop crying but they had to look for shelter and food.

Women, who survived, went to Bangladesh, their condition were pitiful. Because they had become the victim of gang rape and they were seriously injured. Despite bleeding their whole body, they had to run and travel without meal and medicine. To survive, pregnant women crossed the Bangladesh Border they had to cross long distance during the rainy season, thick forests, rivers and hilly sites. Their legs got swollen and their feet got wounded. By the time, they reached at the refugee camp in Bangladesh, their condition was worse. But these worse circumstances did not let them go easily. In Bangladesh refugee camp again they had to face sexual violation.⁸

The UNHCR organized the refugee camps at Thai-Myanmar border. But there military also tortured them. From the camps, many Rohingya are trafficked into the sex trade and forced for labors in neighbouring countries, particularly for the Thai fishing industry.⁹ Many young girls were sold by their parents because they did not want to live in their own country for any cost; therefore they choose to sell their girls. They travelled through sea in danger and old boats, overloaded, and fishing boats which could be destroyed any time into the ocean because those boats' condition was very bad. The Rohingya were traveling in the fishing boats, there was no one to witness their brutal exploitation.

The Plight Rohingya exodus toward Neighbouring Countries

First of all, we all have this one question in our mind that why have these Muslims been violently driven out of their home in Myanmar? The answer is to escape the violence, many Rohingya have fled to neighboring countries such as Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, and so on. Because of this, ethnic cleansing by the Myanmar military has led to genocide, the mass killing of an ethnic or religious group. First, we have to go in deep roots of this crisis to understand this Plight of Rohingya. Let's understand from the beginning, the crisis first started on 10th June 2012 in northern Rakhine between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims. One murder case was reported after the gang rape of one Rakhine woman by Rohingyas and the killing of ten Burmese Muslims by Rakhine's. In return, Rohingya burned a Rakhine's Buddhist and some houses. According to the report of August 22nd, 2012 it is officially estimated that a total of 88 casualties was reported including 57 Muslims and 31 Buddhists. Nearly 90000 peoples lost their houses and around 2500 houses were burned in this crisis.¹⁰

The government of Myanmar systematically isolated the ethnic minority. This resulted in the migration of Rohingyas to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand by rickety boats. According to

United Nations from January to March in 2015, around 25000 people were taken by boats to different neighboring countries and many of them died. The Myanmar Military started violation against Rohingyas in 2016. In the very first attack of military, many of Rohingya Muslims died and many were arrested. This resulted in the migration of Rohingyas towards Bangladesh as refugees. In November, approximately 1500 refugee houses in border villages of Myanmar were burned by Special Forces. The scenarios after this were even worse. Many Rohingya women became the victim of gang rape, men and kids were killed. The refugee boats in Naf River were under gun fire by Military. In March 2017, 423 detainees were arrested which includes women and children. The crisis resulted in the displacement of nearly 92000 people from their home land.¹¹

The Myanmar government never allowed a citizenship status to Rohingyas. Hence the majority of them do not have any legal documentation, making them stateless. Until recently, they have been able to register as temporary residents with identification cards known as white cards which began issuing in the 1990s. These cards gave some basic rights to Rohingyas such as the right to vote. But they were never recognized as a Citizenship but these cards were cancelled in 2015 which effectively put an end to their right to vote.

In 2014, UN held a census, which was the first in Myanmar in 30 years. Initially, the Muslim minority were allowed to register as Rohingya. But after Buddhist threatened to boycott the census, the government issued a statement that Rohingyas can register only if they are identified as Bengalis.

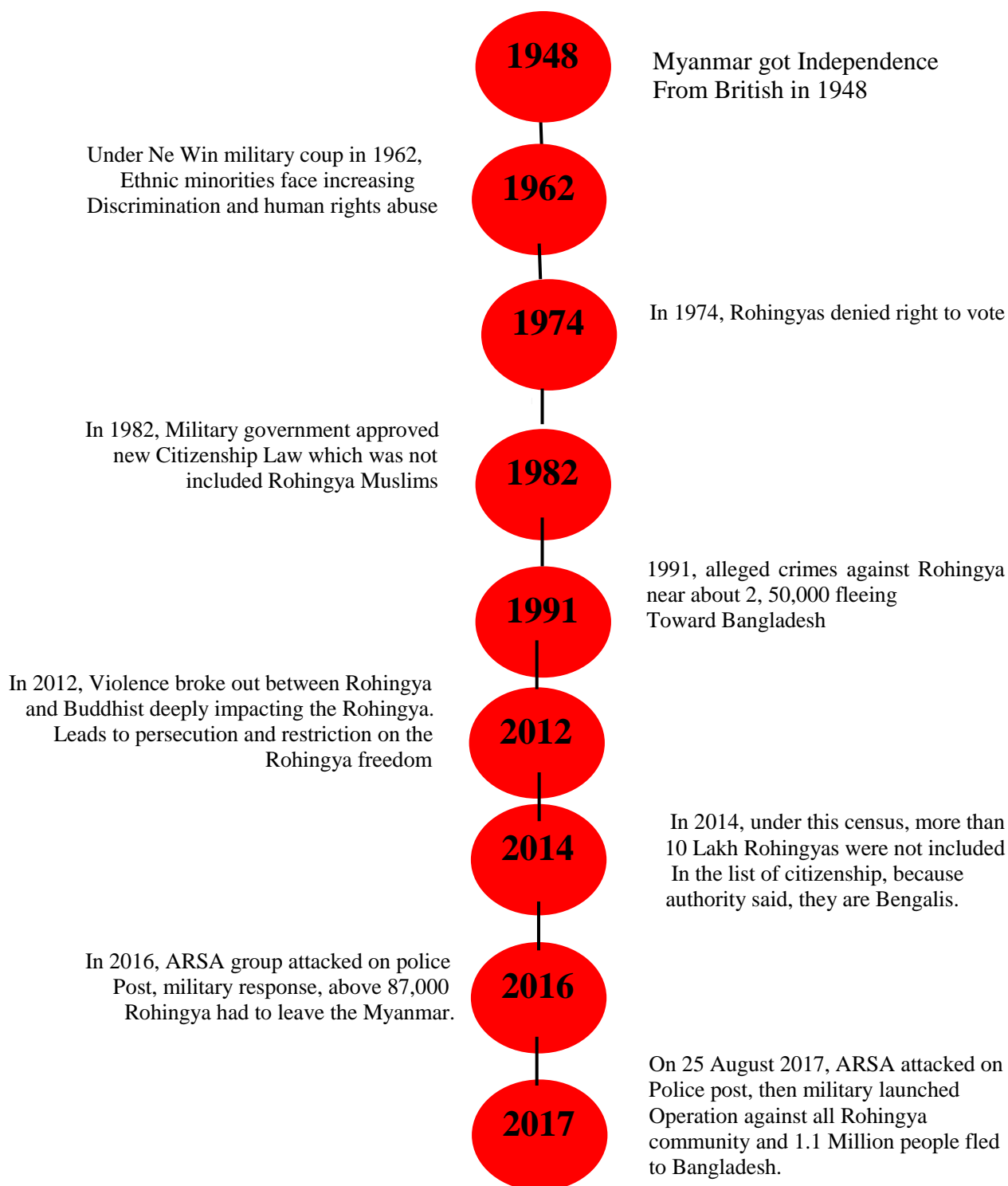
Through arbitrary and discriminatory implementation of this law, government was exploiting them physically and psychologically which was unbearable for the Rohingya Muslims therefore few young Rohingya activists started a group in 2013 named ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) also known by its former name Harakah al-Yaqin is led by Ataulah Abu Ammar Jununi who was born in Karachi Pakistan and grew up in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. This group was formed with a purpose of protecting the Rohingya Muslims rights and stops the violation against Rohingya Muslims because government and international organizations didn't take any strong actions to prevent the violation against them. The

UNSC(United nation security council), which is also called international police forces and works for the peace internationally, was also silent about Rohingya crisis and did not take any strong action against Myanmar government.

On 25 the Aug 2017, the ARSA attacked on Rohingya police station. In this attack approximately two dozen policemen were killed. Ata Ullah, who was the spokesperson of ARSA, told military and police forces about the exploitation of Rohingya women and raped cases. Rohingya women and young girls were killed brutally. This attack was the alarm for the international community's to draw their attention towards the violation and exploitation against Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar military and Authorities.

After this attack on local police station of Myanmar, Military high command and political leaders arranged a meeting and in this meeting, ARSA group was declared as a Terrorist group on 25 the Aug 2017. ARSA has been accused by Myanmar's government of being involved with and funded by foreign Islamic countries like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, but government doesn't have firm evidence proving such allegations. The ARSA released a statement and claimed that its main purpose is to defend the rights of Rohingyas. On 27th Aug, 2017 army was sent to Rohingya villages and the army started a campaign to destroy their villages and kill the innocent residents of these villages.¹²

The Myanmar military also launched operation against them for ethnic cleaning. The local Buddhist people of Rakhine state came to help the military to kill the Rohingya people. They were attacking on Rohingya by sword, steel rod. The military soldiers were abetting attacks against Rohingya people. When soldiers entered into Rohingya houses, they were openly firing and many people were killed. Thousand of Rohingya people died in military attack and their villages were destroyed crudely. Since the early nineties, the Rohingya continued to flee in large numbers from the Rakhine state of Myanmar across the border, mostly of the Teknaf region of the Bangladesh, with memories of gruesome violence, loss of loved ones, and destruction of homes and entire villages, since 25 August 2017, around 1 million Rohingya people have entered into neighboring countries.

Events of violence against Rohingya community

The Demolish Rohingya Homes and Mosques

Before leaving Rohingya homes, Military burnt rice fields which was ready to harvest, looted the Rohingya houses, stole the goats and cattle and other animals. The army had only one goal to get free the entire Rohingya house. The Myanmar military carried out a scorched-earth campaign, burning down entire Rohingya villages and shooting people as they tried to flee, all under the guise of "clearance operations" to find militants.

The Myanmar authorities brought bulldozers to erase their houses from the earth in a huge operation and other machinery had been used to complete this task. These authorities fully erased all Rohingya villages, even all tress, village areas looked fully flatten and every crucially evidence of mass atrocities was destroyed which was against the military. Even their mosques and cemeteries were also erased along with their history, culture, religious and past things. There are no identities as a proof where they lived. After flatten their villages, new building had been constructed including with new houses and helipads. A strategy was prepared; most of the houses were delivered to Buddhist communities. Satellite images of Myanmar's troubled Rakhine State, released in late February by Colorado-based Digital Globe, show that dozens of empty villages and hamlets had been completely leveled by authorities within few weeks.¹³

There were reports of landmines laid near the Burmese-Bangladeshi border by Burmese military, shootings of Rohingya civilians as they fled, and the alleged bulldozing of mass graves in a "deliberate attempt by the authorities to destroy evidence of potential international crimes, including possible crimes against humanity."¹⁴

The international organization said that military and state police torturing the villages of Rohingya to leave their homes. The U.N. has announced, it is act of genocide and ethnic cleaning of the Rohingyas. The Myanmar military checked house to house and the hundreds of men and children had been killed and women and young girls had been gang raped. But Myanmar authority does not accept the international reports which against them. However the authority officially said the Rohingya people set fire to their own houses and villages.

The BBC news reporter was an eye witness, he said a group of Buddhist people who had the sword in hand and slingshot, and they entered in the Rohingya villages and burn their house with the help of Rakhine police. He denied mostly all the charges of violation of human rights.¹⁵ The Buddhists people who involved in the list of Rohingya genocide and rapist were saved by the government. The campaign against the Rohingya has radically expanded the military's capacity for ethnic cleansing and, perhaps more importantly, seems to have emboldened it, as the bulk of the population appears to support the army's aggression toward the group.¹⁶

Why the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi was Silent

Aung San Suu Kyi is the state counsellor of Myanmar. She has Nobel laureate for peace and democracy. Suu Kyi is also the leader of the National League for Democracy and played an essential function in the state's transition from military junta to partial democracy. She is youngest daughter of Aung San, Father of the Nation of modern-day Myanmar, who led his country's fight for independence from Great Britain in the 1940s and was killed for his beliefs in 1947.¹⁷ Aung San Suu Kyi rose to prominence in the 1988 Uprisings, and became the General Secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD), which she had newly formed with the help of several retired army officials who criticized the military junta. In the 1990 elections, NLD won 81% of the seats in Parliament, but the results were nullified, as the military refused to hand over power, resulting in an international protest. She had, however, already been detained under house arrest before the elections. She remained under house arrest for almost 15 of the 21 years from 1989 to 2010, becoming one of the world's most prominent political prisoners.

She became the country's first democratically elected leader in 2016 with the big majority; a new position was generated for her State Counsellor, similar to Prime Minister. But she is silent on the Rohingya crisis that her government could not stop the violence which was against the Rohingya. Because they had a political strategy, the majority of Buddhist people wherein her support and she did not want to lose the votes of the Buddhist community. She played a political game with Rohingya for her political benefits. She said the Rohingyas were foreigners whose roots were in neighboring nation Bangladesh. A particular reason to the back this argument is the fact, the Rohingyas speak the Bengali language which, however, is not to be spotted in Bangladesh proper.

The state counsellor Suu Kyi was most criticized by the international communities and media. Pakistani human rights activist Malala Yousafzai said "the world is waiting for her to speak out".¹⁸ South African clergyman Desmond Tutu said Suu Kyi would be courageous and resilient once more. Derek Mitchell, U.S. ambassador visited Myanmar, he revealed she was never quite able to address the Rohingya crisis. When she was in Europe, she was asked if Rohingyas Muslims are Burmese, then she gave respond, "I do not know." We can say at the last, in either case, the democratic leadership of Myanmar has become weakened and the military has got strengthened.¹⁹

Kofi Annan, who is the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, submits a report to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, which was about the Rohingya crisis. That report was discharged on 24 August 2017 by Annan Commission a day before the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacked on the Myanmar security outposts. This commission suggested, among others measures, Myanmar authority must undertake a review of the 1982

citizenship law; therefore all Rohingya became stateless people.²⁰

Western countries criticized the de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi for her silence which was strongly enough on behalf of the long-persecuted minority and of defending the army action. Suu Kyi has no power to control the security forces and its policy under a military- drafted constitution where Buddhist nationalism has grown over recent years. The Buddhist nationalism is totally against the Rohingya community. Many people demanded that the Nobel Peace Prize should be taken back from Aung San Suu Kyi.²¹

Aim of the Study

1. To critically examine the Rohingya problem?
2. Why Myanmar state counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi is Silence over the plight Rohingya Muslim?
3. Why the Myanmar government does not accept them as a citizen?

Research Questions

1. Whether Myanmar State Counsellor is serious about Rohingya problems.
2. Whether the Myanmar military has a dictator.
3. Are Buddhists people involve in crated violence against Rohingya?

Research Methodology

For the completion of this study, paying attention does not only one method. The study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources of data include international documents between the states in the form of treaties, agreements, negotiations along with international tribunals and UN Resolutions and conventions, etc; and the secondary data had been obtained from articles, books, journals, newspapers and web links.

Conclusion

The incontrovertible evidence of destruction of villages on a large scale by the Myanmar military and the reports of widespread extra judicial killings against fleeing civilians by the country's federal security forces have made it much more difficult to avoid the conclusion: this is genocide. Rohingya population has been removed from their ancestral lands in just eight weeks. The UN hasn't responded to the situation with the seriousness what it deserves. If any act is defined by the council as "genocide" then the UN becomes legally bound to start peace-making missions and so on. Just like it happened in Rwanda, just like happened in the Balkans, we are once again seeing a genocide happening before our eyes. We have to keep our head down when our children will ask us why we let the genocide happen again and again. Is there no any way out there to get rid of this evil before becoming too late to tackle this type of act which is against the humanity and human rights.

In the case of Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar, we still don't have any hope of quick solution unless international community doesn't play its role wisely. It needs more transparency in every effort. UN has to take actions which are required as soon as possible. Thus Neighboring countries should take some recommendations from UN and work together for the implementations for the long - term solution of Rohingya crisis. The demands of the

Rohingya refugees should be put in front of international judiciary panel which can help them to remove the fear of violation in Myanmar and It can be more helpful to repatriate Rohingya refugees by distributing them equal rights which the people have in Rakhine state in Myanmar. The solution to the Rohingya crisis will come from a combination of international pressure and domestic citizenship law reform. Actors such as the UN, the European Union, the United States, and ASEAN must put economic and political pressure on Myanmar to cooperate. We together have one common responsibility to make the world peaceful and build the brotherhood among people who belong to different religion or culture. We are obliged to respect every class and community of the society which can help to start new era. It can only be possible if we learn from past and remove all type of discriminations from our heart and mind for any class and community.

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