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8.2.3. Rohingyas

Rohingyas are an ethnic, linguistic and religious minority group in Myanmar,⁸⁸⁵ that have been displaced into Bangladesh for decades.⁸⁸⁶ They are in general stateless, as they are denied citizenship in Myanmar.⁸⁸⁷ In Bangladesh, they are not granted refugee status⁸⁸⁸ but stay on temporary humanitarian grounds.⁸⁸⁹ Most arrived in 2017,⁸⁹⁰ following a violent campaign against the group by the Myanmar military.⁸⁹¹ Yunus has pleaded that Bangladesh will continue to support Rohingyas seeking refuge in the country.⁸⁹²

Rohingyas continued to be displaced, inter alia in 2024 when many crossed the border into Bangladesh, fleeing the escalating conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine state.⁸⁹³ UNHCR estimates that more than 1.1 million Rohingyas are hosted in camps in Cox's Bazar⁸⁹⁴ in the southeast of Bangladesh.⁸⁹⁵ The 33 camps in the area shelter more than 1 million people that cannot move freely or work, and that depend on humanitarian aid.⁸⁹⁶ The camps suffer from overcrowding,⁸⁹⁷ poor sanitation⁸⁹⁸ and poor health conditions,⁸⁹⁹ and Rohingyas living there are dependent on humanitarian aid.⁹⁰⁰ In March 2025, UNICEF reported on the worst malnutrition rates among children in the camps since 2017.⁹⁰¹

Armed Rohingya-led groups operating in the camps have subjected Rohingyas to lethal and sexual violence, torture, and abductions.⁹⁰² The security environment inside the camps deteriorated in 2024,⁹⁰³ inter alia due to the escalating conflict in Myanmar, leading to 'a rise in killings, abductions, extortion, recruitment and violence incidents'.⁹⁰⁴ According to Fortify Rights, militant groups operate in the camps with 'near-total impunity', which has created 'a climate of fear for all camp residents', in particular among Rohingya religious leaders, human rights defenders and other opposing the militant groups fearing for their lives as they 'may be killed any moment'.⁹⁰⁵ Also the police battalions stationed in the camps have subjected Rohingyas to abuse,⁹⁰⁶ including arbitrary arrests, extortion, torture,⁹⁰⁷ and sexual violence against women and girls.⁹⁰⁸ In 2024, there were reports of Rohingya teenage boys and young men being forcibly recruited by armed gangs in the camps to fight in Myanmar⁹⁰⁹ for the Myanmar military.⁹¹⁰ According to Doctors Without Borders over 1 000 young men and boys had been forcibly recruited in the beginning of 2024.⁹¹¹

A local media source reported on a group of Rohingya men being arrested in Cox's Bazar, after having worked informally for months. They were returned to the camp where they were registered.⁹¹²

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