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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 status[888] 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 Bazar[894] 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 sanitation[898] 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 Myanmar[909] 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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