

UNSOLVED TRAGEDY: From Colonialism to Military

Government, Where's The Daybreak for Rohingya

As the Myanmar's stunning natural landscape unfolds, beneath the illusion counterfeited by the veil of tranquility, without being noticed, the buried reality, the pleas from Rohingya and spilled blood lies beneath. Due to political and religious reasons, the Rohingya, as a small minority of Muslims in Myanmar, have had years of conflicts with the dominant local Buddhists. Because of their unique status, they have been deprived of citizenship, becoming refugees. The resettlement of these refugees has long been a challenge for Myanmar and its neighboring Southeast and South Asian countries. Till now, this tragedy remains unsolved, and with the continuous exacerbation, it has attracted increasing international attention and become an important international focal point

A Long Way in the Dark

From the moment the sturdy boots of the British Army stepped onto Myanmar's soil, violence erupted, marking the beginning of the Rohingya's long-term tragedy. The British used Rohingya as an army force and soon betrayed them right after the victory resulting in the exacerbation of religious tensions and fractured communities. This situation briefly improved when Myanmar gained independence, as [the 1948 Federal Citizenship Act](#) recognized the Rohingya as Burmese citizens, offering a fleeting respite from the gloom.

However, when the military government came to power, the situation took a nosedive, and violence and discrimination soon surrounded the lives of all Rohingya, dragging them into the great darkness. The enactment of the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law even exacerbated their situation, repatriating their legal citizenship, and blocking their access to maintain their basic living and dignity. In addition, a special army called NaSaKa was established by the government, which became a watchful eye that always oversees the Rohingya. This soon resulted in violence and rounds of massacre, shading the whole Rakhine region with blood. The Rohingya continue to struggle in an endless cycle of exodus and oppression, with hope

remaining elusive. Even now, as Myanmar claims to be a democratic country, no effective measures have been taken to address their plight.

Unsolved Challenges and Political Obstacles

Severe difficulties have made the process even harder to progress. The first problem is the fact that Myanmar has not yet signed the [International Refugee Convention](#), meaning that Myanmar was not bound by the responsibilities and obligations contained in the treaty. This made it difficult for international forces to intervene directly in protecting refugees on the ground and caused many inconveniences to the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This situation also takes place in other Southeast Asian countries, exacerbating the problem of the Rohingya as they flee to Bangladesh and other nearby countries.

Furthermore, systemic problems within Myanmar itself create significant barriers for the Rohingya to secure and maintain their basic rights. When the military government confiscated their registration cards, the Rohingya lost the only evidence of their identity. Meanwhile, with the enactment of the [1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law](#), the government refused to recognize the Rohingya as one of the country's ethnic groups, making it impossible for them to obtain legal identification. More high barriers, such as language proficiency requirements in Burmese, were introduced by the government which further restrict their ability to register. As a result, the Rohingya have little defense when the Myanmar government labels them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, deepening their statelessness.

Last but not least, even if some countries are willing to accept those Rohingya refugees, they struggle to manage these new populations with their already limited resources. Most of the refugee-hosting countries have a weak economic base of their own and are unable to take on the additional burden of such a group of immigrants and ensure their employment and social integration. At the same time, cultural differences between the two countries may also exacerbate local social tensions. In addition, many governments view the Rohingya as violent elements and as potential

terrorists. This results in the resistance attitude of these countries toward the Rohingya, worsening the situation of Rohingya.

Possible Way-Out and Potential Solutions

Fortunately, potential solutions do exist. First and foremost, Voluntary repatriation is considered the most practical solution for refugees because it allows Rohingya to make a living in an environment they are familiar with. In this case, the international society must first ensure that the refugees should be able to make an informed and free choice of returning to their native place without any pressure from anyone else. Additionally, the social environment inside Myanmar must be improved. Systematical changes have to take place so that Rohingya could be able to secure their most basic need and regain their identities. To solve this problem, it would be better if greater international pressure and scrutiny were promoted on Myanmar while enabling UNHCR to follow closely the progress of Rohingya returns.

Additionally, promoting further resettlement programs in third countries is another way to solve the problem, offering the Rohingya the opportunity to rebuild their lives in safe environments with prospects for integration. Examples could include the [Refugee Admission Program](#) established by the USA, Canada's Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program, and Australia's Humanitarian Program, in which numbers of Rohingya have been resettled and gradually returned to contact with society. Other international organizations and countries, such as [the EU](#), the ASEAN and [China](#), have also contributed to the assistance of the Rohingya by offering financial aids. But while promoting these programs, the key problem goes with selecting a suitable country. Factors such as local culture, religions, economic development, location, and country's own ability to host such amount of refugees in such a short period.

Another possible way to ensure the resettlement of the Rohingya is social integration in the host countries such as Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Thailand, which will be more convenient since those refugees may not have to experience long trips back to Myanmar or a third country. However, the poor social base and conditions lead to a lack of resources and the ability of those countries to accept such number of

new populations. Thus, assistance from other countries should be considered to help those countries secure their people and the refugees when it comes to this solution.

In conclusion, although the world is rapidly changing, full of hope and opportunities, we must not overlook the countless challenges that persist in the shadows. The Rohingya are one of them but not the only ones. The Rohingya's night continues, more comprehensive solutions need to be proposed urgently, and Rohingya voices should be heard. The future is in everyone's hands.