

The Security Challenges of the Rohingya Crisis: Role of Regional and International Powers in Repatriation

Nusrat Tayef¹ and Amdadul Haque²

Abstract

Rohingya people are constantly denied to the right of citizenship in their own territory and the military junta always tried to push them in Bangladesh, termed the Rohingyas as illegal Bengali migrants. After the so called democratic transition, the situation remains the same. Bangladesh is a third world poor country suffering from the exodus of Rohingyas. There are three major influxes of Rohingya people in Bangladesh. Moreover, Myanmar started the ethnic cleansing in 2017 where the Burmese military killed thousands of people. As a result, the security crisis is increasing day by day in Bangladesh due to the extra burden of Rohingya people. They have become the most vulnerable group in the region. For this reason, they can be easily manipulated by the terrorist organizations and other drugs and arms smugglers. Thus, it has become a crying need to repatriate the Rohingya people for the security of Bangladesh and the Rohingyas as well. International and regional community should come forward regarding this crisis otherwise they have to suffer in the long run. This paper is an attempt to depict the security challenges of the Rohingya crisis following the role of regional and international powers in repatriation.

Keywords: Rohingya, Security, Crisis, Repatriation, Bangladesh

Date of Submission: 12-11-2020

Date of Acceptance: 28-11-2020

I. INTRODUCTION

According to many historians, the word Rohingya was originated from the word 'Rohang'. The word was the ancient name of Arakan. Poets of Arakan and Chittagong referred Arakan as Roshango Des, Roshang and Roshango Shar.¹ Arakan is situated adjacent to the Myanmar coast line of the Bay of Bengal. The northern part of the region shares 176 miles of common border with Bangladesh. The two countries are portioned by the river called the Naf. It is far from the mainland and divided by the Yoma Mountain. Historically, it had close connection with the west. Historian Phayre (1884) explained that "Arakan has continued to remain as an independent kingdom until it was annexed by Burma in 1784 AD".²

The area is habitually inhabited by the two major ethnic communities - the Rakhine Buddhists and the Rohingya Muslims. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), more than 100 years of the British rule (1824-1948), there was a significant quantity of migration of labors in Myanmar from today's India and Bangladesh. Such migration was regarded as internal migration because the British administered Myanmar as a province of India.³ But the Myanmar governments always treated the stateless Rohingya people with questions. This large chunk of population was not recognized as one of the ethnic groups among 135 ethnic groups in Myanmar. Approximately one million people lived in Rakhine state before the ethnic cleansing of 2017. In 2017, most of them fled to Bangladesh and other neighboring countries. After the recent influx, the situation of Bangladesh has deteriorated whose burden is enormous. Moreover, Bangladesh is facing different security crises for Rohingya people including political, economic, social and environmental. As a consequence, their repatriation is a dire need.

¹ Nusrat Tayef is a lecturer at the Department of International Relations in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Gopalganj-8100.
Email: nusrat.tayef@bsmrstu.edu.bd

² Amdadul Haque is a lecturer at the Department of Political Science in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Gopalganj-8100.
Email: milon93@gmail.com

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Abrar⁴ (1995) shows evidence in his literature that Rohingya people are the indigenous people of Myanmar. Providing a historical overview, he explained that the relations between Arakan and Myanmar has taken long centuries to evolve, specifically from the annexation of Arakan by the Burmese in 1785. The relations further deteriorated after the independence of Burma in 1948 when Arakan claimed independence. This literature has three major parts. The first part seeks to identify the source of the refugee problem. Second part endeavors to deal with the question of treatment of refugees by Bangladeshi government. Third part aims to deal with the repatriation process of 1991 refugee influx in Bangladesh. This article focuses on the economic and environmental insecurity of Bangladesh for the massive Rohingya influx. The major concern of this article is the repatriation of refugee who forced to take shelter in Bangladesh in 1991. But now we have new refugee influx of 2017. In this sense, the article is quite backdated for the present situation. The literature also ignored the political-military and social security problem for Rohingya crisis. As well as it ignored the regional and global powers participating in the repatriation process.

Ahmed⁵I. (2009) emphasizes the reasons behind Rohingya exodus, dividing the paper into four sections. In the first section, he explained the politics of identity behind the name of Rohingya where he explained two theses of Rohingya origin in Myanmar. The following sections articulate the causes behind the flight of Rohingya people to Bangladesh concluded with an epilogue. The author intensely investigates that the military government was responsible for the Rohingya situation. For the vote bank, they tried race and religion approach, targeted Rohingya people in Arakan and forced them to take shelter in Bangladesh. They denied citizenship of Rohingya people and again pushed them in 1991. The article proposes that despite the major humanitarian degradation in Myanmar different multinational companies did not pay attention on that and they continued to invest in Myanmar. On the other hand, China also continued to supply military hardware. All the incidents approach that oppression upon Rohingya people cost nothing for Myanmar military government and for that reason in near future, they will not give the right of citizenship to Rohingya people. Now, the most important thing is to repatriate Rohingya people other than there is the possibility of militancy and the host country Bangladesh is also facing challenges for this extra responsibility. The local people are extremely anxious for the rising criminal activities and price hikes. The author suggests the need of repatriation through ensuring citizenship of Rohingya people in Myanmar other than forced displacement can happen again. The article was written after the 1991 refugee influx, but recently there is another influx of 2017. The author gave much importance on internal crises in Myanmar rather than the security problem that Bangladesh is facing.

Rahman⁶, U. (2010) states that, in every literature regarding the Rohingya crisis, scholars are devoted their interest to the problem of Rohingya and observe the crisis from humanitarian backdrop. But in this article the author tried to show that how Rohingya people are creating security dilemma for Bangladesh, in every sector: social, economic, political, health and environment as well. This article endeavors the problem Bangladesh is facing for Rohingya crisis, stating it not only a humanitarian tragedy but also a source of interstate tension between Bangladesh and Myanmar. This paper was brought out in 2010, after that, Bangladesh went through another major inflow in 2017. In that sense, the writing could not incorporate the recent inrush Bangladesh is facing. Although the crises are quite the same, but in recent times, the major importance is the involvement of regional and international powers to resolve the crisis which the article did not pen.

Ahmed⁷. I. (ed.) (2010) largely illustrate the problem of Rohingya crisis. In one hand, the book tries to focus on the plight of Rohingya. On the other hand, it emphasizes on security crisis. The book focuses on both realistic and humanitarian concern of Rohingya crisis. The book attempts to explain the two theses regarding the origin of Rohingya people and the oppression they faced in Myanmar. The book explores the migration of Rohingya people in pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial period. Psychological aspects of the refugeehood got a high importance. The literature emphasizes on security crises including politico-military, economic, social and environmental. Concentration was given on how the problem should be solved and focused on the importance of multilateral diplomacy, international donor and civil society organization. The essential is all stakeholders' involvement to solve the crisis and should broaden support for both documented and undocumented refugees. The author paid high illustration on non-state actors' involvement to solve the Rohingya crisis. Finally, the book is concluded with coming forward the Bangladesh government and other international communities to resolve the crisis and repatriate Rohingya people. This book basically focuses on the crises happened before 2017. The book also ignores the regional politics behind Rohingya crisis which is responsible for the silence of regional power to solve the problem.

Mallick⁸, A. H. (2020) focuses on the recent development of the Rohingya crisis after the inflow of 2017. The article describes the origin of Rohingya crisis, their situation in Myanmar and recent persecution and humiliation against Rohingya people. The article also explains how Bangladesh is facing security hurdles for the Rohingya influx, the major repatriation problem and the role of the regional and international communities to decompose the crisis. This article strives to explain more about the Rohingyas rather than the terrible situation

that Bangladesh is facing. The author explains narco-trafficking problem, terrorism, local problems in labor markets. But the author analyses it more from the humanitarian view rather than rational view. Without these economic, social and environmental securities of Bangladesh, the book ignores the Rohingya exodus.

All the literatures stated above are imperative to understand the displaced Rohingya crisis. But, most of them were written on previous crisis events after the influx of 1991. Bangladesh is still facing the challenges posed by the Rohingyas in terms of economic, political, social and environmental security after the greatest migration in 2017. The literatures above missed to cover up the crises occurring after 2017 which is the main literature gap for the current study.

III. MILITARY RULE IN MYANMAR

On the 4th January 1948, Myanmar achieved independence from Britain and structured a civilian government under Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL). Almost immediately after the formation of this government, the authority was challenged by both military and internal party rifts. In 1958, the League was divided into two factions. As a result, the military took power as a caretaker government from 1958 until 1960.⁹ On March 2, 1962 military seized power with a view to avoiding the possibility of disintegration in the Union.

From 1962 to 1988, the military government continued power facing challenges from the Student Union. The scarcity of rice caused riots between security forces and inhabitants in 1967 in Rakhine state.¹⁰ In the year 1988, a large procession took place against the military government led by university students named as the "8/8/88 Uprising."¹¹ The movement was gravely repressed by the military dictators on September 18, 1988 and the military again retained the power. A general election was held in 1990 where the National League for Democracy (NLD) won avalanche victory. The military government did not concede the result and forced some of the elected members to go underground. On the other hand, the leader of the party Aung was in house arrest before one year of the election.

In 2012, by-elections were held in Myanmar for 48 vacant parliamentary seats. The NLD was re-registered for the elections on 13 December 2011 as a part of the reforms in Burma since 2010. They secured 43 of the 44 seats.¹² Currently the NLD is the ruling party in Myanmar and Aung San Suu Kyi is the de jure leader of the country. Although Suu Kyi was elected as de jure leader of Myanmar but Myanmar is still under the control of military. The 2008 constitution reveals several harshly anti-democratic provisions which are:

- "Politicians with children or spouses have foreign citizenship are not eligible for the Presidency, so Suu Kyi, cannot take over on the executive office, because of her children's British citizenship.
- Home Affairs, Border Affairs, and Military Affairs, will control by the military and their budgets will remain above civilian scrutiny, despite of which party in power.
- Twenty-five percent of seats in parliament are kept for military officers, while more than seventy-five percent of Parliaments is needed to approve changes to the constitution."¹³

It is largely recognized that Myanmar military is the main persecutor of the Rohingya people. According to the Myanmar military, the military operation was instigated by an attack in August 25, 2017 by so-called Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), thought to be a global Muslim militant gang closely linked with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.¹⁴ This purposive attack was later termed as 'a textbook example of ethnic cleansing' by the UN human-rights chief. The military junta of Myanmar has been constantly denying the citizenship of Rohingya people and deliberately pushing them in neighboring countries especially in Bangladesh since 1962. The rule of democratic leader, Suu Kyi, also has been widely criticized. Some scholars argue that in "military controlled democracy" what Suu Kyi really could do? Or if she could really do something would she really do that? As professor Imtiaz Ahmed argued that "with the possible exception of the pre-military days of early 1960s, the government of Myanmar at every stage of governance and national development has systematically denied providing the Rohingyas some kind of recognition, including the right to acquire citizenship".¹⁵

IV. THE INFLUX OF THE ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH

First Influx in 1978

In 1978, the Burmese army commenced an extensive crackdown referred to as Ye the Ha against the opposition groups in Arakan as well as the Rohingya. The army trailed this aggressive oppression with the Naga Min operation resulting a number of murders, rapes, and crimes against humanity targeted particularly the Muslim population and designed to drive the "foreigners" out of Burma and "back to" Bangladesh. The army set fire villages, extinguished mosques, and directed people into fenced fortifications. In April 1978, thousands of Rohingya forced to escape from the territory, and by mid-July more than 200,000 refugees were crowded into camps on the Bangladeshi side of the Naf River.

Second Influx in 1991

"[The government] objective is to subjugate and absorb the indigenous races, to stamp out Islam and to establish militarism in the country" (Reuters, 05/06/91).

"Burmese soldiers, massed at the border with Bangladesh, have traded gunfire with Muslim rebels and reports indicate that at least 15 people were killed" (The Associated Press, 12/26/91).

"Bangladeshi military sources state that Burma is reinforcing its border to stop more than 170,000 Muslims driven into Bangladesh by the army from returning home" (Washington Times, 03/10/92).

The aforementioned news sharply approaches the situation of Rohingyas in 1991. The Rohingya people began moving into Bangladesh following Myanmar Army's boosted heinous activities in the Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships of Myanmar in close proximity of Bangladesh. The annihilation of Muslim places of worship, ban on religious beliefs, and harassment of the religious priests and slander of Islam revealed the fanaticism of the authorities of the religious rights of this minority community. Between mid-1991 through mid-1992, an estimated 250,000 Rohingya crossed the border and took shelter.

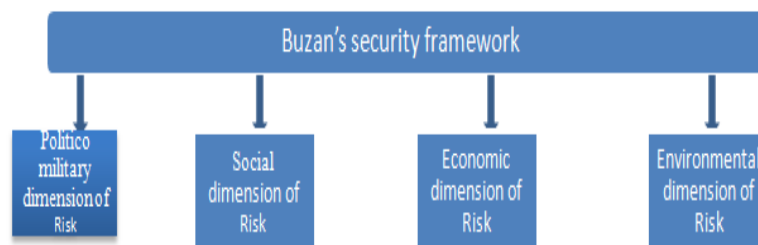
Recent Influx in 2017

The most recent Rohingya influx in Bangladesh considered as the largest Rohingya influx in decades, the United Nations has said. "In total, more than 7 lakh Rohingya refugees are now believed to be in Bangladesh. According to the estimate of the government of Bangladesh, the figure is around 8.5 lakh."¹⁶ The latest Rohingya influx started from 25th August 2017. Myanmar Government indicted the ARSA for attacking on the Myanmar border guard police post. Thousands of Rohingya people were massacred by the Tatmadaw, a large number of women were raped by the Burmese military bearing the clear signal of 'ethnic cleansing'. Bangladesh is a third world country trying its best to provide them food and refuge. There are two state-led Rohingya camps in Bangladesh known as Kutupalong camp and Nayapara camp for forcibly displaced Rohingya people.

V. SECURITY THREATS OF BANGLADESH POSED BY THE ROHINGYA INFLUX

After the three major influxes of Rohingya people in Bangladesh, Bangladesh is finding it hard to manage Rohingya crisis. Security crisis of Bangladesh is escalating every day. The study of new dimension of security gets prominence after the publication of Barry Buzan's book 'People, States and Fear' in 1983. The study further enriched through the book of Security- A New Framework for Analysis by Barry Buzan, Ole Waver and Jaap de Wilde emanated security from two different views such as wideners' and traditionalist view. Wideners' view refers to the non-traditionalist sector of security societal, economic and environmental and traditionalist view of security refers to the military and state-centered sector of security. They attempt to differentiate the process of securitization from politicization. The book unfolds that security is not the matter only associated with military issue rather societal, economic and environmental issues are also the concern of security.

According to Imtiaz Ahmed, the Rohingya refugees are a serious threat to the security of Bangladesh. He designated four dimensions of security threat caused by the Rohingyas, namely, i) politico-military dimension of Security, ii) economic dimension of security, iii) social dimension of security and iv) environmental dimension of security.¹⁷



Source: The chart has been illustrated by the authors.

5.1 Politico Military Dimension of Risk

Risk of Radicalization: The Rohingya people had suffered deliberate oppression by the government of Myanmar from a very long time. The government never treated them as a citizen or habitant of Myanmar and denied citizenship through citizenship acts. These gradual dissatisfactions and anger inspired to form a militant group named the ARSA in 2012 by a group of Rohingya from exiles. The Tatmadaw condemned the militant group for attacking them which caused 2017 ethnic cleansing in Myanmar and drove out Rohingya people from the territory.

The people forced to come in Bangladesh and now they are mostly residing in Cox Bazar Rohingya camps in Bangladesh near Chittagong. The place is well known for the home of *Qawmi Madrasas* like Hathazari and Patiya probable sources of the base of extremist Islam in Bangladesh. Scholars agreed on the point that the oppression on Rohingyas and the extremist environment may intensify the risk of radicalization. According to the report of The Daily Star, Chittagong based Islamists group Hefazot-e- Islam already declared *jihad* against Myanmar. On the other side, the South Asian terrorist groups have close link with ARSA. According to a report of Hunger Project Bangladesh, local people have suspected about suspicious people's presence in Rohingya camp, might be terrorists, giving training and arms to the Rohingya people. It bears evidence also. Rohingya people had attacked on a cop with different kinds of arms which were not available to them. There are both push and pull factors in the Rohingya crisis which can cause radicalization and violent extremism.



Source: Report on Rapid Assessment of the Rohingya Crisis and Its Potential for Violent Extremism¹⁸

If the immediate repatriation is not possible, Bangladesh and other South Asian countries may have to suffer the explosion of Rohingya radicalization as well as violent extremism.

Drugs and Arms Smuggling: Rohingya people are constantly struggling for their rights which made them desperate. Now, in Bangladesh they are becoming more violent. Recently the law and enforcement agencies have arrested three Rohingya men and a Bangladeshi who were trying to smuggle 800,000 methamphetamine pills into the country from Myanmar.¹⁹ Bangladesh becomes friendlier route for arms and drugs smugglers. The international smugglers can use Rohingya people as drug carriers. The easily available small arms and drugs can severely endanger the security circumstances in Bangladesh. The illicit drugs and small arms would not only endanger the local law and order situation but also terrorist groups may also take deep root in the host country.²⁰ The local people and even the ex-Member of Parliament, Abdur Rahman Bodi, was engaged with yaba smugglers according to Bangladesh narcotics control department. The local youth and Rohingya also are now in the hands of these interests groups. The situation is becoming worse for Bangladesh in every day.

Human Trafficking: Unemployment and infrequent work opportunities for the Rohingyas keep them associated with trafficking. The U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) get around 40 trafficking cases reported since the latest influx. Rohingya and local people are engaging in trafficking and Bangladesh as well as Rohingya women and children are becoming the victim of human trafficking.

Border Security: The extended refugee catastrophe in Myanmar is transforming Bangladesh-Myanmar border risky and unsteady. The border conflict with Myanmar is rising. Bangladesh and Myanmar almost faced a naval conflict after Myanmar ship incursion in Bangladesh water for oil rigs establishment in November, 2008. The story inspires Bangladesh to be alert because plausibility of border conflict in future cannot be ignored. Myanmar is also violating the rule of air space in recent days which is further plummeting the border security of Bangladesh. The volatility and cruelty in the Rakhine state may induce a threat to Bangladesh border security in future. The crisis in Bangladesh-Myanmar border can spring opportunity to non-state actors to create internal security problem.

Internal Security: The immense evacuation of Rohingya refugees can change the internal security scenario of Bangladesh. The Rohingya people can go out from camp and associated with local people which can surge internal security problem by engaging in local criminal activities for their survival. Criminal gang can also exploit the Rohingya people which can further diminish the law and order situation in Bangladesh.

5.2 Economic Dimension of Risk

Food Security: Bangladesh has to depend on the food grains for domestic consumption. There is the possibility of food shortage if Bangladesh continues to survive with the crisis of Rohingya. The number of stateless people arriving in Bangladesh has contributed to price hike in the local market. This may engender volatility in the local food grain market as the number of refugee rises and permanently began to reside here. The need of food

and grain can produce a series of complex problem. Bangladesh is a country which faces natural calamity in every year. Recently Bangladesh also came to terms with a massive flood. In the crisis where food was not available for the local people, it was quite challenging to supply food for Rohingya people.

Livelihood Security: The equilibrium of the labor market has been achieved through balance between the accessibility of jobs and the workforces. The labor market maybe unbalanced as supply has the probability to be more than the demand. This could disrupt the consistency in the society and more problems would arise as the number of the jobless people will seek whatever means necessary to make their livelihood. Illegal migration of Rohingya people by using Bangladeshi illegal passport is defaming Bangladesh in international job market. In addition, unbalanced demand and supply can create worse situation for Bangladesh in near future.

Price Hike: The presence of national and international donors/aid workers for the Rohingyas brought price hike. It generated a momentous dissatisfaction in the minds of locals what ultimately keeps potentials of animosity against the refugees.²¹ According to the local people, the price of every necessary thing in local market is going high for Rohingya people and for their donors, and the local community is suffering for this. The cost of local transportation is also getting high day by day.

5.3 Social Dimension of Risk

Health Security: The health security of the Rohingya people is also a concerning issue. Potential contagious disease can be the cause of epidemic both the local and Rohingya people have the possibility to suffer if such kind of thing takes place. Recent global pandemic like the COVID-19 is also a very concerning issue for the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis as a densely populated area it can easily fall into the crisis. The health situations of thousands of migrants in the camp areas have not been properly addressed. Many of the incoming Rohingyas are already hauling a number of diseases including TB, skin diseases and HIV/AIDS etc. These epidemic diseases can create crises for Bangladesh. The lack of safe drinking water might resort to Diarrhea and Cholera that could spread to the local population. Child and teenage marriages are on the rise. The Rohingya women are unwilling to use contraceptives and other birth control pills as well.

Engaging with Prostitution/ Sex Business: According to Thomson Reuters Foundation, almost 500 Rohingya prostitutes are habituating in Kutupalong where parents pressurize their female children for engaging in sex business to secure their needs and essentials.²² Cox bazaar is a famous tourist spot for the tourist for that reason the Rohingya women engage with prostitution which is obviously a concern for local people.

5.4 Environmental Dimension of Risk

Large Rohingya influx created accommodation problem, for more accommodation they spread to the hills, which is creating environmental degradation. Deforestation is also taking place in Cox Bazar creating environmental dilapidation. According to UNDP, there are 28 risk factors intimidating biodiversity and human security. Every year water depletion of Ukhia (an Upazilla of Cox's Bazar district) is happening. Woodcutting for fuel is also responsible for environmental degradation. Natural disasters, landslides, sea level rise and soil erosion in Cox's Bazar area made the issue frightening for both locals and Rohingya people in Cox's Bazar. The area of Ukhia and Teknaf is further in crisis for massive transportation and fuel from vehicle. The country now is undergoing a new threat from human induced degradation of the environment that can harm our environment in long run.

VI. ROHINGYA REPATRIATION: ROLE OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POWERS

For now, the most essential policy for Bangladesh is how to repatriate the Rohingya people. Escalating Rohingya crisis is now becoming more challenging for Bangladesh. International and regional assistance must need to repatriate Rohingya people in their country. Recently Bangladesh government is making an effort to repatriate stateless individuals. The UN Secretary General has repetitively called on Myanmar to "recognize the right of return of all those who had to leave the country",²³ and world leaders should give more importance for the safe return of the dislocated inhabitants. The proposal of Bangladesh government is to repatriate Rohingya with "safety, security and dignity", and the formation of UN administered safe zones in Rakhine State. In maintenance with its position that the Rohingyas are "forcibly displaced nationals from Myanmar", Bangladesh has started issuing identity cards to refugees and identifying them as "Myanmar nationals". The process of repatriation has been subjected to delay in which the UN plays a silent role. The 28 April, 1992 MOU between Bangladesh and Myanmar, led to 200,000 Rohingya repatriation. Despite signing a MOU between Bangladesh and Myanmar on November 23, 2017, the repatriation has not yet seen the ray of hope.

China's Stance: China and India both have friendly relation with Bangladesh but in the matter of Rohingya problem in Bangladesh, these two major regional powers have given much importance to strategic and economic relations with Myanmar. China has already invested a vast amount of money into the restive state. In April 2017, US\$2.45 billion pipeline from Rakhine to China's Yunnan province was opened to secure a key

route for Beijing to import crude oil from the Middle East. On the contrary, Chinese President Xi Jinping rolled out the red carpet for his Myanmar counterpart Htin Kyaw in Beijing. For fastening own interest, China now stands with Myanmar on the issue of the Rohingya. As the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, briefed earlier, “we think the international community should support the efforts of Myanmar in safeguarding the stability of its national development.”²⁴ Recently Bangladesh’s foreign minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen expressed his optimism to solve the problem and talked about tripartite negotiation. He also informed that China exerts pressures on Myanmar to repatriate the Rohingya people.²⁵

India’s Stance: India has also in position of supporting Myanmar in the case of the ethnic tensions. More than 200 Myanmar military personnel have been trained up in the medication, air force and navy fields in India. In addition, Myanmar has acquired rocket launchers, night vision systems, radar and engineering equipment, including \$37.9 million worth of torpedoes, from their counterpart. India has also equipped a submarine to Myanmar on mid-October, 2020 which can operate at a depth of 300 meters. According to Indian External Affairs Ministry mouthpiece, Anurag Srivastava, “Cooperation in the maritime domain is a part of our diverse and enhanced engagement with Myanmar.”²⁶ India is undertaking to confront China in Southeast Asia. Myanmar is also pulling out all the stops to enhance their strategic relations with India to obtain more options. India has both strategic and trade relations with Myanmar and it doesn’t want to lose that on Rohingya issue supporting Bangladesh.

The U.S Stance: The U.S stands for the Rohingya people condemning Myanmar military rule for the atrocities. Former U.S secretary of state Rex Tillerson, elucidated that “the US held Myanmar’s military leadership accountable for the Rohingya refugee crisis, drawing a distinction with Aung San Suu Kyi’s civilian government.”²⁷ The U.S, Britain and France stand strong against Myanmar’s military for the Rohingya crisis but the standpoint of China and Russia urge the United Nations Security Council to work with Myanmar authorities instead of against them.

ASEAN: During the summit of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Manila on 13 November 2017, two leaders raised the Rohingya issue during a plenary session. The Philippines Presidential spokesperson, Harry Roque, quoted Aung San Suu Kyi as the leader of Myanmar which is “the process of repatriation of IDPs (internally displaced persons) will conclude within three weeks after a signing of a memorandum of agreement for understanding with Bangladesh.”²⁸

VII. CONCLUSION

The Rohingya people are the most deprived minority people in the present situation who have been denied their minimal right to be citizens of their own country. They are the stateless people with hunger and poverty fleeing from the homeland for taking refuge in another country. Atrocities against the Rohingyas are a text book example of Rohingya crisis. In this regard, the regional and international powers are silent on this matter due to their diverse interests. Military controlled democracy of Myanmar can never move against military leaders rather offers impunity of the genocidal heinous activities like killing thousands of men, women, children and raping thousands of women in Rakhine state. On the contrary, Myanmar is pushing illegally Rohingya people in Bangladesh which is a third world country taking a great burden on it for at least 1.3 million Rohingya people in Bangladesh. The territory is also undergoing security crisis for extra burden of the Rohingya people. Now, it’s the pick time to repatriate Rohingya people in their motherland with safety, security and dignity. It’s not the responsibility of Bangladesh only to stand for the Rohingya. The regional powers and international communities should come forward to solve the crisis and repatriate Rohingya people in a safe and secured way for the security of both Bangladesh as a country and the Rohingyas as well.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Alam, M. (1965), *The History of Chittagong: Ancient Period*, 4th Edition, Chittagong (in Bengali)
- [2]. Abrar, C. R. (1995), *Repatriation of Rohingya Refugees*, UNHCR’s Regional Consultation on Refugee and Migratory Movements, Colombo
- [3]. <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/08/rohingya-muslims-170831065142812.html>. Accessed on: 5th November 2019
- [4]. Abrar, C. R. (1995), op. cit
- [5]. Ahmed, I. (2009), *The Rohingyas: from Stateless to Refugee*, <http://www.netipr.org/20100101>. Accessed on: 6th November 2019
- [6]. Utpala Rahman (2010) *The Rohingya Refugee: A Security Dilemma for Bangladesh*, *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 8:2, 233-239, DOI: 10.1080/15562941003792135
- [7]. Ahmed, I. (ed.) (2010), *The Plight of the stateless Rohingyas: Responses of the State, Society & the International Community*, Dhaka: University Press Limited
- [8]. Mallick, A. H. (2020), *Rohingya Refugee Repatriation from Bangladesh: A Far Cry from Reality*, *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, 7(2), 202-226

- [9]. <http://rotarypeacecenternc.org/files/2012/07/2013-aung-promoting-democracy-in-myanmar.pdf>. Accessed on: 5th November, 2019
- [10]. <http://rotarypeacecenternc.org/files/2012/07/2013-aung-promoting-democracy-in-myanmar.pdf>. Accessed on: 5th November, 2019
- [11]. Protest against military regime in Myanmar, the protest reached in rural area. Ne win, military leader of Myanmar ordered the army disperses the massive protests and that their "guns were not to shoot upward" - an elliptical "shoot to kill" order. 5th November, 2019
- [12]. <https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Myanmar%20by-elections,%202012>. Accessed on: 6th November, 2019
- [13]. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/can-myanmars-new-government-control-its-military>. Accessed on: 6th November, 2019
- [14]. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/09/rohingyas-burma/540513/>. Accessed on: 6th November 2019
- [15]. Ahmed, I. (2009), op.cit
- [16]. <http://www.theindependentbd.com/post/115615>. Accessed on: 4th November 2019
- [17]. Ahmed, I. (ed.) (2010), op. cit
- [18]. <https://en.thpbid.org/rohingya/>. Accessed on: 11th November, 2020
- [19]. <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/bangladesh-arrests-three-rohingya-men-from-myanmar-for-smuggling-800-000-meth-pills/story-W7EipDAgrPohV1ZzuU9oZM.html>. Accessed on: 9th November, 2019
- [20]. http://bipss.org.bd/pdf/Rohingya_Refugee_Crisis_in_Bangladesh.pdf. Accessed on: 9th November, 2019
- [21]. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/02/12/how-the-rohingya-crisis-is-affecting-bangladesh-and-why-it-matters/?noredirect=on>. Accessed on: 10th November, 2020
- [22]. Ferris, E. G. (2007), Abuse of Power: Sexual Exploitation of Refugee Women and Girls, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, 32(3), 584-591
- [23]. http://www.institutesi.org/repatriation_statelessness_and_refugee_status_2017.pdf. Accessed on: 4th November, 2019.
- [24]. <http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2113259/how-chinese-cash-shores-myanmars-rakhine-state-despite>. Accessed on: 9th November, 2019
- [25]. <https://www.thedailystar.net/rohingya-repatriation-dhaka-hopeful-tripartite-talks-after-new-govt-formed-in-myanmar-1992013>(Accessed on: 12th November, 2020)
- [26]. <https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/india-gives-submarine-myanmar-amid-growing-chinese-footprint-indian-ocean>. Accessed on: 13th November, 2020
- [27]. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/24/us-withdraws-assistance-from-myanmar-military-amid-rohingya-crisis>. Accessed on: 4th November, 2019
- [28]. <http://www.thedailystar.net/rohingya-crisis/rohingya-refugee-repatriation-after-singing-mou-bangladesh-myanmar-suu-kyi-assures-asean-leaders-manila-1491055>. Accessed on: 14th November, 2019