

Viable Solution for Future Peace of Rohingya Crisis

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While discussing solutions for the Rohingya refugee crisis, it is found that there are more stakeholders to consider than options. There are numerous crises that arise from the bigger issue of the refugee crisis, conflict between the refugee community and the host community, radicalisation and religious extremism being a threat towards the vulnerable refugee people, the resource scarcity, health security, etc. being just some of them. So when future peace is discussed, the concern of repatriation is not just a one-step process, but a resolution that requires deeper discussion and mull-over.

Let's consider the Five-point proposal for resolution that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, proposed in the UN General Assembly Session in New York in 2017¹.

1. Myanmar must unconditionally stop the violence and the practice of ethnic cleansing in the Rakhine State immediately and forever.
2. The Secretary General of the United Nations should immediately send a Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar.

¹ 5-point proposal could resolve Rohingya crisis: PM. (2017). Retrieved October 12, 2020, from The Daily Star website: <https://www.thedailystar.net/rohingya-crisis/5-point-proposal-could-resolve-myanmar-rohingya-crisis-says-bangladesh-prime-minister-sheikh-hasina-1477306>

3. All civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity must be protected in Myanmar. For that "safe zones" could be created inside Myanmar under UN supervision.
4. Ensure sustainable return of all forcibly displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar.
5. The recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission Report must be immediately implemented unconditionally and in its entirety.

All these points are focused towards a safe repatriation process and sustainable resolution of the Rohingya crisis. But let us focus on more specific issues that also need to be addressed for a sustainable and viable solution toward future peace for the Rohingya crisis.

Terrorism and Insurgency

If we consider the fear of insurgency and terrorism, it is essential to double the amount of national and foreign aid to combat violent religious extremism and illegal activity in this country. Financial aid leads to the Rohingya people not being financially vulnerable to fall for the offers of insurgent groups.

Stopping Gender-based Violence against Women and Girls

While it is comprehensive what the conditions of repatriation includes, extra emphasis should be put into ensuring the safety and security of women and girls, in fact, children, against violence and persecution. It is known quite well that women and children are exclusively targeted and sexually violated and inhumanly tortured and

killed as weapons of genocide, and the Rohingya crisis is no exception to that atrocious rule. Hundreds of women and girls are still suffering from their sexual assault and torture, either suffering from PTSD, pregnant or suffering from different STIs and sicknesses². While world leaders and International organisations contemplate repatriation, this should be the first condition they ensure is fulfilled.

Developing Diplomatic and Economic Ties between Bangladesh and Myanmar

In order to resolve the crisis, the Government of Bangladesh must continue its energetic diplomacy, in particular with regional partners. To arrive at a solution, platforms such as BIMSTEC and BCIM should be used to improve regional and sub-regional exchange, investment and transport connectivity. As part of this movement, the Bangladesh-Myanmar Friendship Line, that connects Taungbro to Kyauktaw of Myanmar via Ramu-Gundom of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh³, needs to be revived and implemented. There should be more ties, like enacting better energy dimensions, Border Haat, Contract Farming, as well as Defence Diplomacy should be promoted, like going for joint military training, joint front against border insurgents, etc.

International Cooperation and Other Solutions

A comprehensive solution for a peaceful future should not just be a bilateral concern emerging from joint efforts of the government of Myanmar and Bangladesh, but

² Begum, F. (2017). "All of My Body Was Pain" Sexual Violence against Rohingya Women and Girls in Burma. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/11/16/all-my-body-was-pain/sexual-violence-against-rohingya-women-and-girls-burma>

³ "Myanmar Hands Over Report Of Land Acquisition Of Bangladesh-Myanmar Friendship Road". 2005. Bdnews24.Com. <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2005/03/27/myanmar-hands-over-report-of-land-acquisition-of-bangladesh-myanmar-friendship-road> (Accessed October 10, 2020).

contribution can be considered and achieved through international mediators, i.e., the UN, OIC, and EU.

In addition, culturally relevant approaches should also be considered. The different ethnic identities and languages need to be considered, where an amicable relation needs to be cultured and international health organisations are needed to tackle the catastrophic mental health issues that are omnipresent in the refugee population. In order to find a constructive and accelerated solution to this ongoing crisis, such efforts, driven by suitable political actions, are needed.

Like so many others, the Rohingya crisis requires a holistic, integrated reaction, a long-term solution, while supporting short-term needs. This involves longer-term financing and the incorporation into the decision-making process of both the beneficiaries and the host societies. This is a critical moment for the rights of this marginalized community to be restored and secured, and allow them to rebuild better lives. In order to contribute to a permanent solution for a peaceful future, Myanmar, Bangladesh and the international community all shoulder the burden.