



Rights for the Rohingya

This joint report is based on evidence gathered by Rohingya civil society groups in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh about ongoing human rights violations in Rakhine State. The report is based on evidence collected from January to May 2020 about human rights violations including killings and violence and other persecution and restrictions.

The joint report was written by the following groups: Arakan Altruism Society and Educational Network (AASEN); Rohingya Peace Initiative (RPI); Rohingya Students Network (RSN); Rohingya Students' Union (RSU); Rohingya Women Empowerment and Advocacy Network (RWEAN); Rohingya Youth Association (RYA); Rohingya Youth for Legal Action (RYLA); and Rohingya Women for Justice and Peace (RWJP).

Human Rights Violations

Since the International Court of Justice issued provisional measures order for Myanmar in January 2020, Rohingya from northern Rakhine State have lived in constant fear of extortion, destruction of business, arrest, shooting, murder, killing and torture by the security forces. Civil society groups from the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh receive reports about the following human rights violations on a continuous basis.

Killings and Violence

While Rohingya people in northern Rakhine State lack personal security and protection from the government for years, the situation is exacerbated by the conflict between Arakan Army (AA) and Tatmadaw. The conflict has been occurring for more than one year and has resulted in many deaths, burnings of Rohingya villages, destructions of home and property, displacements, and sexual violence. Although the ICJ ordered Myanmar to protect the Rohingya from further atrocities and to take measures to preserve any evidence related to the violations and allegations, civil society in the camp documented the following cases. Some of the cases also involve killings and human rights violations against ethnic Rakhine villagers.

- On 7 January 2020, at least four to eight people were killed in Teik Tu Pauk village in Buthidaung Township as result of shelling. The villagers living in that are documented the event. After the attack, Tatmadaw soldiers came to the village and threatened the villagers that they would burn the village to the ground if local people publicize the attack.
- A shelling explosions killed Rohingya people in Buthidaung Township on 25 January 2020. While it was reported in international media that two people were killed, Rohingya civil society groups in the Cox's Bazar's camps received information that as many as eight were killed including a pregnant woman. Like many other documented cases, it remains unclear who is responsible for the shelling as Tatmadaw blamed the AA and vice versa.
- On 29 January 2020, two Rohingya home from Sali Prang village, Maungdaw township were burnt to the ground, reportedly by Tatmadaw.
- On 31 January 2020, video footage of the torture of two Rohingya women emerged. In the video, people are shouting that the perpetrators are from the AA. Rohingya media contacted the victims and reported the incident. The incident occurred in Hpa Yar Pyin Thein Tan village, Buthidaung Township.
- A 15-years-old Rohingya boy was killed and two others were wounded by shelling in Taung Bwe village, Kyauktaw Township:
- In February 2020, three Rohingya, including a-year-old baby, were killed by shelling in Tha Yet Pyin, Buthidaung Township.
- On 18 February, a Rohingya man in his fifties died from landmine explosion in San Goe Taung village, Rhathidaung Township.
- On 13 February 2020, more than 21 students were injured by military armaments in Kammie Kaung village, Buthidaung Township.
- On 26 February, a Rohingya man died from landmine explosion in Nyaung Chaung village by the Myanmar military.
- At least five and a maximum of eleven Rohingya, including a 12-years-old boy, were killed by shelling by Myanmar military in Bu Ta Lone village, Mrauk U Township.
- On 6 March 2020, a Rohingya young man named Sayed Alom was shot dead while he was fishing, reportedly by BJB.

- On 10 March, one Rohingya teenager and five others were killed by landmine in Paung Toke Ywar Gyi village, Mrauk U Township.
- On 14 March 2020, at least three displaced were killed and 30 injured as Tatmadaw fired arms in Kyauktaw Township, Tarsi village .
- On 15 March 2020, a 25-years-old Rohingya man from no man's land between Myanmar and Bangladesh border was killed in landmine planted by Tatmadaw.
- On 16 March 2020, 21 villagers were killed and more than two dozen were injured while Myanmar military fighter jets opened on four villages in Paletwa Township at the border of Chin State and Rakhine State.
- On 30 March 2020, two Rakhine people were killed and three Rakhine people injured from landmine explosion in San Thay Pyin village, Maung Daw Township.
- On 5 April 2020, five innocent Rohingya died during an attack between the AA and the Myanmar Military in Bu Ta Long village in Mrauk U Township.
- On 14 April 2020, eight people were killed by shelling in Rakhine State in Kyauk Seik village in Ponnagyun Township.
- On 13 April 2020, nine villagers were killed by Tatmadaw's firearms, and more than 20 people injured in Kyauk Seik village, Ponnagyun Township.
- On April 8 2020, more than four villagers injured in Kyauk Seik village.
- On April 8 2020, seven villagers were killed and more than two dozen injured while Myanmar military fighter jets opened on four villages in Paletwa Township at the border of Chin State and Rakhine State.
- On 18 May 2020, in Buthidaung Township, Poyon Lek village , one innocence Rohingyawas injured by Myanmar military shooting around 5 a.m.. When father of Injured people tried to bring him to Buthidaung Township hospital, the authorities didn't allow it.
- Rohingya from Pan Khi village, Buthidaung Township are reportedly living in fear following the murder of Md Edires. Md Edires, a former chairman, was killed by unknown perpetrators. It is said that many villagers fled away from the village after the current chairman started accusing that the Rohingya killed the former chair.
- Recently, security forces detained three men who were carrying pots and food and accused them of being members of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). The three men were extorted 100,000 kyats each in Kyi Nu Thi village, Buthidaung township.
- A young man was beaten by a Rakhine group after returning from Malaysia in order to bring his family out of Myanmar to Bangladesh. It is reported that the man paid 4,000,000 Kyats to the local office in Tang Bazaar to have his safety granted. However, shortly after the money was paid, the man was beaten up by a Rakhine gang and was brought to a hospital in Buthidaung Township. He died soon after.
- On 18 February 2020, 19-years-old Muhammad Roshid Khan was reportedly killed by a mob while he and two friends were traveling to Paung Htoke village, in Mrauk U to gain access to the internet. His two friends escaped.

Recently Myanmar has tried to show it is following the Myanmar provisional measures but is still implementing harmful policies that persecute the Rohingya. For example:

- When the world facing challenges with COVID 19, the Myanmar government ordered the release of innocent Rohingya throughout the country. Many were in jail for years. More than 800 Rohingya released from prisoners were sent to quarantine for COVID-19 before being sent back to their homes in Rakhine State. The government made them take National Verification Cards (NVCs) by saying they are “illegal immigrants” from Bangladesh. The NVC does not grant allow Rohingya to self identify and strips us of access to full citizenship rights.

Restrictions on Freedom of Expression and Information

Freedom of expression and freedom of information are interrelated. Freedom of expression includes the right ‘to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority.’ In February 2020, the Myanmar government imposed internet restriction in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Rhathidaung, and Myebon townships in Rakhine State and in Paletwa in Chin State. Other towns have been subjected to the internet restriction since 20th June last year. The three townships, namely, Rathidaung, Maungdaw and Buthidaung are home to the Rohingya population in Rakhine State as well as former home to the refugees who fled to Cox’s Bazar District Bangladesh in 2016 and 2017.

The internet ban which cuts the Rohingya community off from the rest of the world is exacerbating the situation of the Rohingya and prevents information from being reported. Media access to these three townships in northern Rakhine State has never been permitted in a realistic manner. The cut of information in Rakhine State makes the local communities harder to reach for the international community whenever they need help. Rohingya who attempt to gain an access to internet by crossing other areas are targeted.

Documented Cases from January to May 2020

Our organizations documented 54 cases of human rights abuses. Because of the internet restrictions, it was very difficult to document the abuses. We believe the number is much higher.

SL	Date	Gender	Age	Village/Place	Township	State	Case	Remarks
01	31.01.2020	Female		HpaYarPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Torture	
02	31.01.2020	Female		HpaYarPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Torture	
03	25.01.2020	Female	18	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Death	
04	25.01.2020	Female	20	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Death	Pregnant woman
05	10.02.2020	Male	15	Taungbwe	Kyauk Taw	Rakhine	Death	
06	12.02.2020	Female	47	ThayatPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Death	
07	12.02.2020	Male	17	ThayatPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Death	
08	12.02.2020	Female	01	ThayatPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Death	
09	26.02.2020	Male	25	Pura Praung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Death	
10	06.03.2020	Male	13	PingPaungToe	Mrauk U	Rakhine	Death	
11	25.01.2020	Male	23	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	

SL	Date	Gender	Age	Village/Place	Township	State	Case	Remarks
12	25.01.2020	Male	25	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
13	25.01.2020	Male	30	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
14	25.01.2020	Female	18	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
15	25.01.2020	Female	03	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
16	25.01.2020	Male	40	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
17	25.01.2020	Female	15	Kintaung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
18	31.01.2020	Male		HpaYarPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
19	31.01.2020	Male		HpaYarPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
20	05.02.2020	Male	33	Sar Goe Taung	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
21	10.02.2020	Male	<10	TaungBwe	Kyauk Taw	Rakhine	Injury	
22	10.02.2020	Male	<10	TaungBwe	Kyauk Taw	Rakhine	Injury	
23	12.02.2020	Female	22	ThayatPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
24	12.02.2020	Male	15	ThayatPyin	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Injury	
25	06.03.2020	Male	15	PingPaungToe	Mrauk U	Rakhine	Injury	Orphan
26	06.03.2020	Male	13	PingPaungToe	Mrauk U	Rakhine	Injury	
27	06.03.2020	Male	16	PingPaungToe	Mrauk U	Rakhine	Injury	
28	06.03.2020	Male	11	PingPaungToe	Mrauk U	Rakhine	Injury	
29	14.03.2020			Me Sa(1) and (2) villages	Po Hla Oa and Sa Mee Townships	Rakhine	Injury	
30	14.03.2020			Me Sa (1) and (2) villages	Po Hla Oa and Sa Mee Townships	Rakhine	Injury	
31	13.03.2020			At hospital	Kyauk Taw & Mrauk U Townships	Rakhine	Death	
32	8. 04.2020				Po Hla	Rakhine	Death	
33	8. 04.2020				Po Hla	Rakhine	Injury	
34	05.04.2020			Bu Ta Long village	Mrauk U	Rakhine	Death	
35	16.03.2020			Four villages	Paletwa	Chin	Death	
36	16.03.2020			four village Paletwa Township, Chin State	Paletwa	Chin	Injury	
37	08.04.2020		30 37 32 18		Aing	Rakhine	Death & injury	
38	10.04.2020		52 14	Oe Tha lee	Mrauk U	Rakhine		
39	13.04.2020			Kyauk Seik village	Ponnagyun	Rakhine	Injury	

SL	Date	Gender	Age	Village/Place	Township	State	Case	Remarks
40	13.04.2020		11 24 25 26 15 15 16 23	Kyauk Seik village	Ponnagyun	Rakhine	Death	
41	16.04.2020		12 50 60 14 52 19				Injury	
42	21.04.2020		31		Minbya	Rakhine	Death	
43	22.04.2020	Female Female Female Female	25 4 22 49		Paletwa	Chin	Death	By weapons
44	22.04.2020	Male Male			Paletwa	Chin	Injury	Artillery Strike
45	22.04.2020	Male Male		PA Phyu village tract	Minbya	Rakhine	Death & injury	
46	22.04.2020			On Rahoung Bridge	Minbya	Rakhine	Death & injury	Had gone by car
47	22.04.2020	Male			Minbya	Rakhine	Death	Innocent person killed by the military
48	24.04.2020	Female	5	Kah Mee Chaung village	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Death & injury	Fire shot
49	29.04.2020	Male		Thasekun village tract	Rathedaung	Rakhine	Injury	
50	01.04.2020 to 30.04.2020					Rakhine	Death & injury	Bombing
51	05.05.2020	Male	48	Rakine state Kyaw tauk town-ship, Yaung Chaung village tract			Death	Bombing
52	09.05.2020	Male Male		Taung swe village tract	Kyauk Taw	Rakhine	Injury	When the victims were out of their houses
53	07.05.2020	Female Female	36	Aye Tha vil-lage tract	Minbya	Rakhine	Injury	
54	12.05.2020	Female Male Female	10 15 12	Shah kee Muslim village tract and Pun Yun lay village tract	Buthidaung	Rakhine	Death & injury	Bombing

