



Statement on Cyclone Mocha Tragedy in Rakhine State, Myanmar

Date: May 19, 2023

The Rohingya Students Network (RSN) is deeply saddened by the loss of lives caused by Cyclone Mocha in the IDP camps and other affected areas in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims and their families during this difficult time. We extend our heartfelt condolences to everyone who has been affected by this devastating natural disaster.

The recent cyclone has brought to light the precarious situation of the Rohingya community living in the IDP camps. We believe that the severe restrictions imposed by the authorities on the Rohingya, particularly those living in the camps, have contributed to the high number of casualties and hindered prompt rescue and relief efforts. The inadequate access to necessary resources and support for the affected Rohingya population has exacerbated the impact of the cyclone.

We are deeply concerned about the conflicting reports regarding the number of casualties provided by the military government. The discrepancy between their official statement, reporting 149 deaths, and the information we have received from various sources raises questions about the transparency and accuracy of the information being shared. We urge the authorities to provide accurate and comprehensive updates on the situation, including the number of casualties, to ensure transparency and accountability.

RSN call to the military government and all relevant parties in Rakhine State to immediately lift the restrictions imposed on the Rohingya population, particularly in the IDP camps. It is imperative to allow humanitarian aid groups and organizations to access the affected areas and provide essential assistance to save the lives of the remaining people. The prompt mobilization of humanitarian resources and expertise is vital to prevent further loss of life and alleviate the suffering of those affected.

Furthermore, we call upon the international community, human rights organizations, and neighboring countries to extend their support and collaborate with local and international humanitarian actors to ensure the necessary aid reaches the affected areas promptly. It is a collective responsibility to protect the lives and well-being of all individuals, regardless of their ethnicity or background.

RSN stands in solidarity with the Rohingya community, as well as all other individuals affected by Cyclone Mocha. We will continue to advocate for the rights and well-being of the Rohingya people and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals can live in dignity and safety.

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