



Statement on Attacks against Rohingya in Arakan State from #MilkTeaAlliance Friends of Myanmar

Today, the 25th of August 2024 is the 7th Anniversary of the 2017 attacks against the Rohingya community. It is important to say that the genocide against the Rohingya is ongoing.

As the conflict in Arakan State continues, so does the targeting of Rohingya by not only the military but also the forces of the Arakan Army (ULA/AA). In the last few months, there have been major incidents including the burning of villages, killing by artillery, drones & airstrikes, further displacement, direct attacks, and forced conscription, as well as a noticeable uptick in online hate.

For too long have the Rohingya suffered—around 90% of Rohingya have been displaced since the February coup, on top of the 1.4 million Rohingya refugees that had fled previous genocidal attacks in 2017.

One of the most disturbing (but far from isolated incidents) occurred on the 5th of August 2024, when Rohingya people who fled from violent attacks in Arakan, were to cross the Naf River by boat to Bangladesh in Western Arakan and were [hit by drone attacks](#). Reports from the ground say 200 people, including children, were killed. Both the [Arakan Army \(ULA/AA\) and the Myanmar junta have blamed each other for the atrocities](#). Regardless of who carried out the act, it is clear that the Rohingyas have continued to be the targets of genocidal attacks, which community members say are as severe as the attacks in 2017.

The crossing is already perilous without the attacks, [100s of Rohingya have drowned attempting the crossing](#). The majority of those who drowned have been women and children. There have also been reports of [Rohingya being turned back or detained by Bangladesh border forces](#).

It is vital that:

- Armed actors cease violence and genocidal attacks against Rohingya and cease forced recruitment.
- Relief agencies must be allowed unrestricted access to Rohingya communities within Arakan to deliver vital aid.
- Bangladesh should allow all Rohingya fleeing this new wave of violence into the country and provide support to them.
- Humanitarian actors in Bangladesh must step in to assist and provide much-needed humanitarian support to the Rohingya who just fled from Arakan.
- All of the resistance in Myanmar including the ULA/AA, the NUG & other actors, the international community, INGOs, and regional actors to ensure safety, dignity and well-being of Rohingya communities both in Arakan and in the wider region.
- International organs, especially the United Nations Human Rights Council, must take action on the crimes committed against Rohingya.

More than these calls, we must challenge ourselves to do more. We should, whenever possible, make space for and amplify voices from the Rohingya community. We can donate to groups working with Rohingya refugees to try to ensure that the basic needs of those who have survived are met. To this end, here are funding links to two of the many groups that we are aware of doing good work with Rohingya Refugees.

- Women's Peace Network

<https://www.womenspeacenet.org/>

- Rohingya Maiyafuinnor Collaborative Network

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/emergency-relief-for-rohingya>

The Milk Tea Alliance - Friends of Myanmar group came into being from a shared desire among movement leaders, organizers and activists not only for democracy but also for solidarity and inclusion. We commit to stand with our Rohingya siblings until there is a just and transformative future for all. None of us are free if Rohingya are not free.