

Rohingya Rights & Mobilizing Civil Society in Asia-Pacific for a Durable Solution

Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week in Bangkok
10-12 December 2024





Rohingyas are not Bangalese, they are from Arakan or Rakhaine state

Who are the Rohingya?

- Arakan was independent and sovereign kingdom for centuries
- It was an independent kingdom between Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent
- Burmese intruded Arakan and occupied
- Arakan again become independent
- Again Occupied during the British era

Forceful eviction of the Rohingya Community

Citizenship revoked and denied

After 1982

Ultra nationalist, Buddhism and
Burmese

Citizenship Law of Burma
(1982)
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Chapter II
Citizenship

3. Nationals such as the Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Burman, Mon, Rakhine or Shan and ethnic groups as have settled in any of the territories included within the State as their permanent home from a period prior to 1185 B.E., 1823 A.D. are Burma citizens.

4. The Council of State may decide whether any ethnic group is national or not.

5. Every national and every person born of parents, both of whom are nationals are

THE COUNCIL OF STATE MAY DECIDE WHETHER ANY ETHNIC GROUP IS NATIONAL OR NOT.

History of persecution

- 1785 (Arakan was over swept by the Bamar)
- 1799
- 1971
- 2012
- 2016
- 2017

80% of the Rohingya people are out of the country



Case in International Court of Justice- ICJ

- **International Court of Justice**
 - Time process e.g. Russia vs. Myanmar.
 - Financial crunch
- Also irony when international countries are investing in Myanmar!



WB to give \$400m loan, \$300m grant for Rohingya, hosts

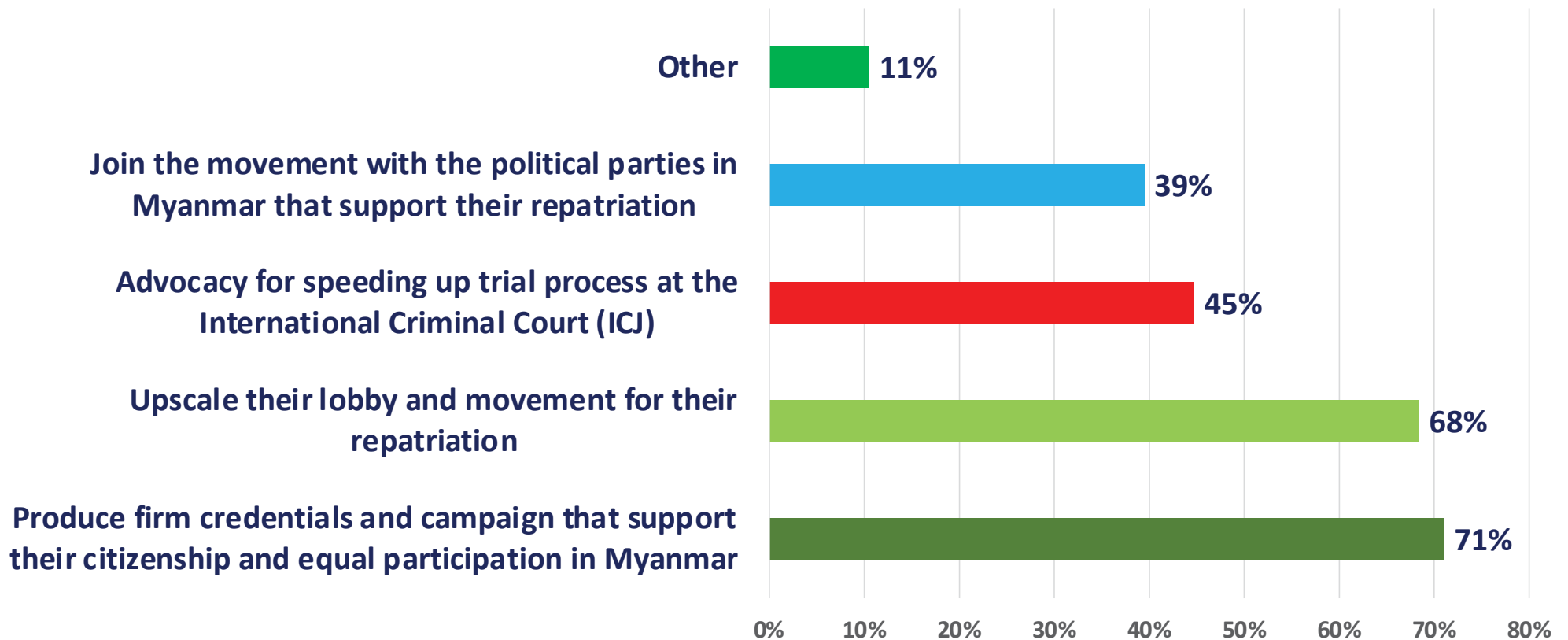


Photo: Reuters, file; The Daily Star, 30.05.2024

- Bangladesh has done an incredible thing but is now in a challenge;
- Of the amount, \$407.50 million is in the form of a loan and the remaining \$292.50 million a grant;
- Loan in humanitarian response will create a wrong narrative

Flashback from a Survey in 2023

Do you think Rohingya community and their CSOs, both at home and abroad should- (multiple choice)?



Way forward

- Strengthen advocacy with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.
- Advocacy with ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.
- Create a safe zone guided by the UN.
- Linking them with the democratic movement, e.g. NUG, AA, PDF.
- Independence may not come through dialogue.
- Advocacy for Rohingya citizenship, Rights & dignified repatriation.
- Encourage the govt. of Bangladesh to recognize refugee rights or at least to provide access to education, income-generating activities, travel passes, bank accounts & prefabricated shelters.





Thank you