Facilitating Rohingya refugee and citizenship rights





Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week in Bangkok
9 December 2025





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

Who are the Rohingya?

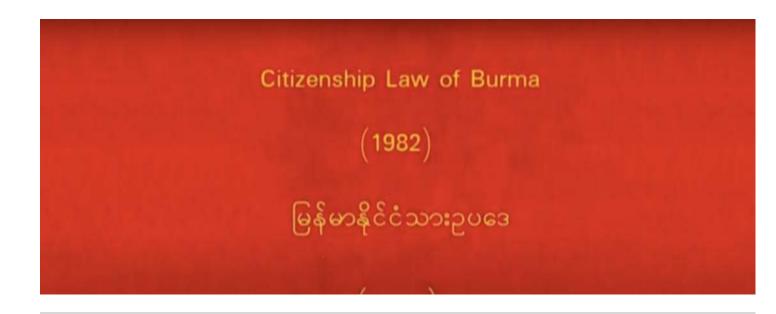
- Arakan was independent and sovereign kingdom for centuries
- It was an independent kingdom between Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent
- Burmese intruded Arakan and occupied
- Arakan again become independent
- Again Occupied during the British era

Forceful eviction of the Rohingya Community

Citizenship revoked and denied

After 1982

Ultra nationalist, Buddhism and Burmese



Chapter II

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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

 ANY ETHNIC GROUP IS NATIONAL OR NOT.

History of persecution

- 1785 (Arakan was over swept by the Bamar)

80% of the Rohingya people are out of the country





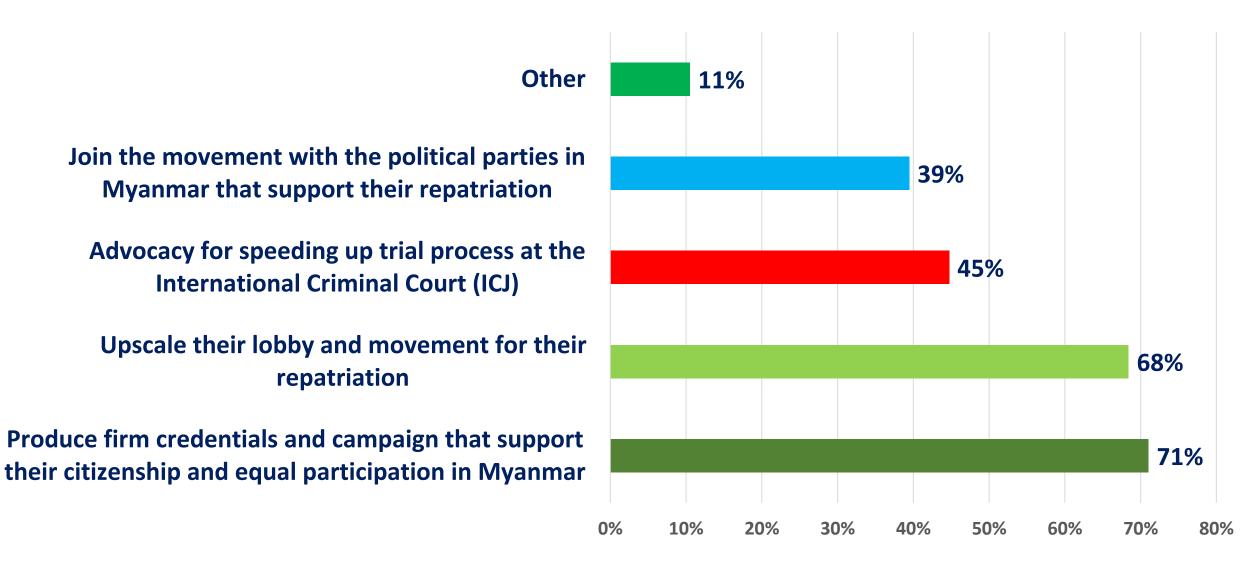
Are refugee rights and repatriation moving forward or falling behind?



- Bangladesh has done an incredible thing, showing humanity.
- JRP progress lags due to funding.
- Bangladesh is taking WB loan.
- Groundwater and waste management challenge.
- Visit of the UNHCR Chief and the UN Secretary General.
- Organizing 3 international conferences on Rohingya crisis.
- Global lack of political commitment to repatriation.

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 for a global political action.
- Independence may not come only through dialogue.
- Put pressure on the Myanmar Junta to reinstate the citizenship of the Rohingya.
- Safe, dignified & voluntary repatriation conditions may set back the progress.
- Support Rohingya refugees, diaspora activists & Arakan Rohingya National Council (ARNC), etc.
- 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