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The Genesis of Crimes by the Rohingya Refugees and Pathways of Redress: Bangladesh Perspective

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Abstract: The Rohingyas who fled from Myanmar are involved in many terrible crimes. This is increasing the fear among the locals in Teknaf and Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar. A section of Rohingyas has been involved in at least *12* types of crimes in the last four years. At this time, *3* thousand Rohingyas have been accused in *1,298*criminal cases.Displaced by the violence in Myanmar, the Rohingya have flocked to the border with Bangladesh since August *25, 2017*. Over the last four years, more than 10, 00,000 Rohingyas have taken shelter in *34* camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar. As the day progresses, a section of Rohingyas are getting involved in heinous crimes. They have been charged with *13* types of offences, including murder, kidnapping, drugs, robbery and arms. Rohingyas are being detained from one camp or the other every day. They are committing terrible crimes among themselves as well as on the locals.After visiting most of the camps and talking to the law enforcement agencies, it is reported that the camps are getting heated up day by day in the Rohingya anarchy. It is becoming difficult for the law enforcement agencies to keep the situation normal for various reasons.If this vicious cycle of crimes by the Rohingyas continues, greater Chattogram may become restive. This deadly problem can only be solved by the peaceful return of the Rohingya to their homeland.

Keywords: Bangladesh, Crime, Law, Refugee and Rohingya

1. Introduction

The Rohingya are an ethnic group living in northern Myanmar's Rakhine state. Most of them are Muslims. About one-third of Rakhine State's population is Rohingya. An estimated 1.7 million Rohingya have fled Myanmar and are living in Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia and other countries in the Middle East. The Rohingya people emerged in the 7th-8th centuries. The Rohingya people are primarily a mix of Middle Eastern Muslims and local Arakanese people. Later, a mixture of people from Chittagong, Rakhine, Arakanese, Burmese, Bengali, Indian, Middle East, Central Asia and Southeast Asia emerged as a full-fledged nation in the 13th-14th centuries.Rakhine state is home to the Rohingya. Its original name is Arakan. This name reflects the

Muslim tradition. The five pillars of Islam are collectively known as the Arkan. In addition, it is from this Arakan that the land inhabited by his followers has been named Arakan. It is believed that the name Rohingya is derived from the name of the capital of Arakan: Mrohong > Roang > Roingia > Rohingya. However, Arakan is mentioned as Rosang in medieval Bengali literature³. On August 25, 2017, the world witnessed a massive humanitarian crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine State. 1 million of Rohingya fled the violence in Rakhine state, their villages destroyed. It triggered an unprecedented influx of people crossing the border into neighbouring Bangladesh. Within a few weeks, more than half a million people entered Bangladesh in search of safety and shelter. A severe humanitarian crisis was averted due to the generous support of the local Bangladeshi community and the multinational aid efforts led by the Government of Bangladesh. The Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh are living in Ukhiya, Teknaf and Bhashan Char of Noakhali district of Cox's Bazar and all their humanitarian needs are being taken care of by the Bangladesh government and international agencies. The refugees are currently involved in various crimes that are disrupting the internal security of the camps and Bangladesh as a whole. Sustainable steps to solve the problems caused by the Rohingya are now the demand of the time.

2. Literature Review

Many research papers, seminar papers and books have been published on refugee crisis in Bangladesh all over the world and some important research papers have been reviewed to show the originality of my research paper. Mokbul Ahmad and other try to say in their research article titled "Human Trafficking and Crimes in the Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh4" human trafficking increase day by day in Rohingya camp and hampered the normal life of local habitant. Khandaker Farzana Rahman and other express their research paper named "Crime and Securitization Conundrums in the Rohingya Camps" the complex relationship between the Rohingya camps, their environment, and the propensity for criminal activities. It delves into the crime and securitization challenges faced within the Rohingya camps, examining the unique dynamics and complexities that contribute to the vulnerability of the population to criminal activities. Using secondary resources, we addressed the key aspects such as the crime and securitization conundrum in the Rohingya camps, the presence of criminal gangs, illegal weapons, and abduction, gender-based violence, extremism, and insecurity, the impact of refugee populations on crime, and the overall impacts of the Rohingya camps on crime in Bangladesh. The objective of this chapter is to discuss whether there exists a correlation between Rohingya settlements and a heightened likelihood of criminal activities during the period spanning from 2017 to 2020, as is frequently documented by law enforcement agencies⁵. The daily online news portal Dhaka Tribune discloses a report titled "Outgoing judge warns of criminal activities in Rohingya camps"⁶ that paints a real picture of crime in Rohingya camps but cannot express the remedial procedure for those crimes. Md. Shariful Islam try to discusses in his research article titled "Understanding the Rohingya Crisis and the Failure of Human Rights Norm in Myanmar: Possible Policy Responses⁷" also argues that Myanmar state was not interested in complying with the international norms of human rights in case of Rohingya crisis due to the prevailing domestic structure of the country, lack of political opportunities at the national, regional, and global levels, and the narrowly defined national interests of the major powers. In this context, possibilities need to be created to address the Rohingva crisis. Thus, the role of the international community, including China, India, Russia, the United Nations, and the

³Habibullah, N.M, History of the Rohingya Nations, Bangladesh Cooperative BookSocieties Ltd. ISBN: 9844930812

⁴ Ahmad Mokbul and other, Human Trafficking and Crimes in the Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh,IGI Global, https://www.igi-global.com/

⁵ . Khandaker, Farzana Rahman, and other, *Crime and Securitization Conundrums in the Rohingya Camps, Understanding the Rohingya Displacement* (pp.151-165), DOI:10.1007/978-981-97-1424-7_10

⁶The Daily Dhaka Tribune, Publish : 12 Aug 2023, https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/322313/%E2%80%98rohingya-camps-breeding-ground-for-

⁷Islam Md. Shariful, Understanding *the Rohingya Crisis and the Failure of Human Rights Norm in Myanmar: Possible Policy Responses,* Jadavpur Journal of International Relations 23(3):097359841986248, DOI:10.1177/0973598419862482

European Union, becomes critical. Wolf, Dr. Siegfried O. (2017) in his paper entitled "Genocide, exodus and exploitation for jihad: The urgent need to address the Rohingya crisis⁸" shows Rohingya crisis as the largest mass forced migration in the South-East Asia region which was resulted from the long historical trajectories of conflict in Myanmar which was mainly religious but driven by political and economic interest but the Rohingya made criminal matters are completely absent. Online news portal the Daily Dhaka Tribune express a report titled "How Rohingya Camps are turning into Crime Zones"⁹ reveals rising levels of crime in various Rohingya camps from 2017 to 2024. Important national English the Daily Starnewspaper published an article by Mr. Md. Jamil Khan and Mostofa Yousuf titled Rohingya Refugee Camps: Killings on the rise, gangs on the prowl¹⁰, which discussed the reasons for the rise of various crimes in the Rohingya camps but did not say anything about the remedies. An international English news agency Reuters published an article by Ruma Paul, Sudipto Ganguly and Krishna N. Das titled "Insight: Surging crime, bleak future push Rohingya in Bangladesh to risk lives at sea¹¹"which discussed the reasons and environments for the rise of various crimes in the Rohingya camps but did not say anything about the pathways of remedies. A national English online news portal the Dhaka Tribune published an article by Siam Sarower Jamil titled "How mobile banking facilitates crimes in Rohingya camps¹²" which discussed the reasons for the rise of various crimes influenced by illegal mobile banking in the Rohingya camps but did not say anything about the redress. Tasneem Tayeb says in her research report titled "Could ARSA be behind the recent violence in Rohingya camps?¹³ Rohinga mentioned whether a Myanmar pro-independence organization is behind various crimes in the camp, but our research does not quietly refuse her statement. Along with ARSA, they are leaning towards crime to meet the natural and practical needs of the Rohingya, or someone is using them.A. B. M. Najmus Sakib writes in his research article, "Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Emerging Threats to Bangladesh as a Host Country?¹⁴" Rohingya crisis will be a threat to Bangladesh in the future because crimes in the Rohingya refugee camps are increasing day by day. Md. Zillur Rahman writes in his research paper "Rohingya Influx, Security and Capability of Bangladesh Police in Rohingya Camps: An Assessment¹⁵" He presented the real picture of the Rohingya camps and the different perspectives of the police, and he mentioned how much pressure the police have to exert to prevent their various activities. Petra Molnar says in his research topic named International crimes against the Rohingya in Bangladesh [Petra, 2024] all the crimes committed against the refugee in Bangladesh due to very pathetic reason. Sarwar J. Minar states his research paper titled "Refugee and host state security: An Empirical Investigation of Rohingya Refugee in Bangladesh" that the socio-political and internal security in Bangladesh is

^{8.} Wolf, Siegfried O, *Genocide, exodus and exploitation for jihad: The urgent need to address the Rohingya crisis,*: https://fid4sa-repository.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/4442/, DOI: 10.11588/xarep.00004442

⁹https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/rohingya-crisis/306260/how-rohingya-camps-are-turning-into-crime-zones

¹⁰Khan, Md. Jamil and Yousuf, Mostofa, *Rohingya Refugee Camps: Killings on the rise, gangs on the prowl,* Fri Oct 28, 2022, https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/rohingya-refugee-camps-killings-the-rise-gangs-the-prowl-3154056

¹¹Paul, Ruma ,Ganguly, Sudipto and Krishna N. Das, :Surging crime, bleak future push Rohingya in Bangladesh to risk lives at sea" January 24, 2023, https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/surging-crime-bleak-future-push-rohingya-bangladesh-risk-lives-sea-2023-01-24/

¹²Siam, Sarower Jamil, *How mobile banking facilitates crimes in Rohingya camps*, Publish : 12 Mar 2024, 09:00 AM, https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/341575/how-mobile-banking-facilitates-crimes-in-rohingya

¹³ Tayeb, Tasneem, *Could ARSA be behind the recent violence in Rohingya camps*, Published : Fri Nov 4, 2022 10:00 PM, The Daily Star, https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/closer-look/news/could-arsa-be-behind-the-recent-violence-rohingya-camps-3160486

¹⁴Najmus Sakib, A. B. M. Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Emerging Threats to Bangladesh as a Host Country?, Journal of Asian and African Studies,

https://doi.org/10.1177/00219096231192324https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0021909623119232

¹⁵Zillur Rahman, Md. Police Super(Tourist), Cox'sBazar, PhD. Researcher, BUP, Rohingya Influx, Security and Capability of Bangladesh Police in Rohingya Camps: An Assessment. Asian Journal of Social Science and Management Technology, Volume 5, Issue 2, March-April, 2023, ISSN: 2313-7410, https://www.ajssmt.com/Papers/527594.pdf

being disturb due to the various criminal activities by the Rohingya refugees [Sarwar J. Minar, 2021]. While the Rohingya refugee community is ethnically in their own state. After coming to Bangladesh, they were subjected to various torture and ethnical cleansing but they could not determine their mental state [Mnzoor, Mansoob and Priya, 2023].

3. Methodology and Framework

A major part of this article is based on the secondary literature review, discussing refugees' lives, refugee camps, and criminal activities of refugees in Bangladesh and other part of the world. The article also includes other grey literature such as newspapers and official documents of different government and non-government organizations (NGO) working for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The secondary literature is supplemented with interview data from six humanitarian actor participants collected from different sources. The interviews were conducted over phone or online apps with the male and female staff different NGOs, UN agencies and governments' agencies that's provide the humanitarian service to the Rohingya refugees in the camps. While preparing this paper research ethic is followed and all the participants have been identified and given a pseudonym. The interviews data were translated from Bengali to English with great care to retain the richness and nuance of the original data in the process of data transcription and analysis.

Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Historians claim Rohingya has lived in Arakan since ancient times. After independence in 1948, citizenship was denied to the Rohingya population. In 1982, a new citizenship law excluded Rohingya from the country's ethnic groups. In the 1970s, Myanmar military crackdowns forced many Rohingya to flee, leading to illegal migration [Human Rights Watch, 2012]."Myanmar began to publicly identify them as foreigners, especially" "Bengalis," "after 1974." "At the same time, since 95 per cent of the population is Muslim, the term" "Rohingya" "is largely avoided by Myanmar's large Buddhist population because of the widespread hatred and hatred of them as" "Bengalis" "and Muslims." They think they are a dangerous people. However, many tribes in Myanmar have been engaged in a civil war against Myanmar for the past 70 years. Many tribal groups have been able to create their own open spaces. In comparison, the Rohingyas could not do anything to defend themselves. Even the Karen, the San, could not store energy like the Kachin. The Rohingya are one of the most vulnerable and vulnerable ethnic groups in Myanmar [Brig. Shakhawat, 2018].

Although Myanmar shares a common border with Bangladesh, there is no problem other than the Rohingya problem. The history of fleeing to Bangladesh due to Myanmar's internal ethnic problems is also not very short. In 1978, when Myanmar conducted Operation Dragon in the name of fighting terrorism in Myanmar, more than 2, 00,000 Rohingya people were displaced and took shelter in Bangladesh. However, the Myanmar government took back the Rohingyas who came to Bangladesh after negotiations between the two countries [Lindquist, 1979]. The notable years when a major influx happened were 1978, 1992, 2012, 2016 and recently 2017.¹⁶August 25, 2017. Since then, around 7, 50,000 Rohingyas have entered Bangladesh¹⁷.

Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh

Teknaf and Ukhiya upazilas of Cox's Bazar district and Hatiya upazila of Noakhali district have different camps set up by the Bangladesh government. At present, there are about 9, 4 8,402[RRRC, 2024] registered Rohingya refugees living in Kutupalong, Hakimpur Jamtoli, Samlapur, Moynarghona, Chakmarkul, Teknaf, Unchiprang and Bhashanchar. The Rohingya refugees live in inhumane conditions in various Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, where the Rohingyas are increasingly prone to disease and crime, posing a serious threat to Bangladesh's internal security.Sometimes they are involved in various criminal activities with the local population

¹⁶Chowdhury, Mehedi,2022 *The Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh: An analysis of the involvement of local humanitarian actors*, Tylor & Fancis Online, Volume 43, 2022 - Issue 9, https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2022.2085087

¹⁷ https://rrrc.gov.bd/

Habitants in different refugee Camps [ODP, 2024]								
Name of Camp	Population	Location	Remarks					
The Camp-1 (East)	37,945	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-2 (East)	25,959	Kutupalong Camp (Extension						
The Camp-1 (West)	38,005	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-2 (West)	23,587	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-3	35,599	Kutupalong Camp (Extension						
The Camp-4	29,854	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-4 (Extension)	6,691	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-5	24,437	Kutupalong Camp (Extension						
The Camp-6	22,726	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-7	36,652	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-8 (East)	29,244	Kutupalong Camp (Extension						
The Camp-8 (West)	30,683	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-9	32,846	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-10	29,771	Kutupalong Camp (Extension						
The Camp-11	29,668	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-12	25,662	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-13	41,610	Kutupalong Camp (Extension						
The Camp-14	31,930	Hakimpur						
The Camp-15	49,593	Jamtoli						
The Camp-16	20,859	Moynarghona						
The Camp-17	16,344	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-18	27,023	Kutupalong Camp (Extension						
The Camp-19	22,967	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-20	6,777	Kutupalong Camp (Extension)						
The Camp-20 (Extension)	7,732	Kutupalong Camp (Extension						
The Camp-21	16,468	Chakmarkul						
The Camp-22	21,206	Unchiprang						
The Camp-23	10,494	Samlapur						
The Camp-24	26,026	Teknaf						
The Camp-25	7,403	Teknaf						
The Camp-26	40,440	Teknaf						
The Camp-27	14,921	Teknaf						
The Nayapara Camp	22,640	NayaPara						
The Kutupalong Rohingya Camp	16,713	Kutupalong Camp						
The Bhasan Char Camp	36,227	Bhasan Char						
L	1		1					

Habitants in different refugee Camps [ODP, 2024]

Note: About 36,227 Rohingya refugees transferred from different Rohingya camps in Kutupalong to the Bhasan Char Camp, so the quantity of refugees will be reduced from the Kutupalong camp.

Legal Status¹⁸ of the Rohingya Refugee in Bangladesh

A refugee is defined as a person who has been persecuted because of his or her religion, race, nationality, sex, or other beliefs. Various international laws and treaties define their legal rights and positions. These international treaties or laws are so strong that if a state does not sign other international laws or treaties, it cannot be forced to abide by the treaties or laws, but this principle is ineffective in the question of sheltering refugees. We have highlighted the legal status of refugees in Bangladesh under various state and international laws.

¹⁸Legal status is the status or position held by an entity as determined by the law. It includes or entails a set of privileges, obligations, powers or restrictions that a person or thing has as encompassed in or declared by legislation.

a. Refugee Convention and Optional Protocol

The most important law for the legal rights and responsibilities of refugees around the world is the 1951 Refugee Convention, in the light of which the various rights and responsibilities of refugees are defined. This was the first international agreement covering the most fundamental aspect of a refugee's life. It spelled out a set of rights that should be at least equivalent to freedoms enjoyed by foreign nationals living legally in a given country and in many cases those of citizens of that state. According to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, refugees are considered to be:

- 1. The Nation
- 2. The Nationality
- 3. Membership of certain social organizations
- 4. Political Thought
- 5. Living outside the home country and

6. A person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country due to fear of persecution [Dina Nayeri, 2019].

The controlling international convention on refugee law is the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention)¹⁹ and its 1967 Optional Protocol²⁰ relating to the Status of Refugees (1967 Optional Protocol). The 1951 Convention establishes the definition of a refugee as well as the principle of non-refoulement and the rights afforded to those granted refugee status. Although the 1951 Convention definition remains the dominant definition, regional human rights treaties have since modified the definition of a refugee in response to displacement crises not covered by the 1951 Convention.

The 1951 Convention does not define how States parties are to determine whether an individual meets the definition of a refugee. Instead, the establishment of asylum proceedings and refugee status determinations are left to each State party to develop. This has resulted in disparities among different States as governments craft asylum laws based on their different resources, national security concerns, and histories with forced migration movements. Despite differences at the national and regional levels, the overarching goal of the modern refugee regime is to provide protection to individuals forced to flee their homes because their countries are unwilling or unable to protect them[IJRC,2022].

b. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights²¹

According to article 14(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was adopted in 1948, guarantees the right to seek and enjoy asylum in other countries. Subsequent regional human rights instruments have elaborated on this right, guaranteeing the "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution²².In accordance with the legislation of the state and international conventions [UDHR,

¹⁹The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol are the key legal documents that form the basis of UNHCR's work. https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention

²⁰ https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-relating-status-refugees

²¹The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 (UDHR) is an international document that states the basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. It was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A). Motivated by the experiences of the preceding world wars, the Universal Declaration was the first time that countries agreed on a comprehensive statement of inalienable human rights. The UDHR is widely recognized as having inspired, and paved the way for, the adoption of more than seventy human rights treaties, applied today on a permanent basis at global and regional levels (all containing references to it in their preambles). https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights

²²Article 14 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universaldeclaration-of-human-rights

1948]. In addition to the rights mentioned above, all provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights shall apply to refugees.

c. The American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man²³

Article 27 of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, 1948 states that, right to recognition of juridical personality and civil rights. That is, when a state is legally obliged to grant its civil rights to citizens of a different country, even if they are not citizens of one country. For exples a leadind case, *Conseil d'etat [CE] [Council of State] April 7, 2010, Rec. Lebon 2010, IX-X, 319840 (Fr.)*: Council of State granted asylum to Iraqi national who had participated in an honor killing while still a minor holding that the Commission des Recours des Réfugiés should have considered whether family pressure lowered his free will and whether his young age may have made him especially vulnerable to such pressure²⁴.

d. Cartagena Declaration²⁵

The official name of Cartagena Declaration is the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, Colloquium on the International Protection of Refugees in Central America, Mexico and Panama. The various rights and responsibilities of refugees, as well as the responsibilities of the host state, are shortly discussed.

e. Regional Legal Instruments for Protection and Status of Refugee

Various states and organizations around the world have enacted various laws and treaties aimed at implementing the human rights of refugees and returning them to normal life, some of which have been discussed

a. Article 12 of the African [Banjul] Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights²⁶;

b. Article 28 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights²⁷;

23. Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, adopted by the Colloquium on the International Protection of Refugees inCentral America, Mexico and Panama, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 22 November 1984. The Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, or just Cartagena Declaration, is a non-binding regional, i.e. Latin-American, instrumentfor the protection of refugees and was adopted in 1984 by delegates from 10 Latin-American countries: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. The Declaration has since been incorporated into the national laws and state practices of 14 countries.

²⁶ The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (also known as the Banjul Charter) is an international human rights instrument that is intended to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms in the African continent. It emerged under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity (since replaced by the African Union) which, at its 1979 Assembly of Heads of State and Government, adopted a resolution calling for the creation of a committee of experts to draft a continent-wide human rights instrument, similar to those that already existed in Europe (European Convention on Human Rights) and the Americas (American Convention on Human Rights). This committee was duly set up, and it produced a draft that was unanimously approved at the OAU's 18th Assembly held in June 1981, in Nairobi, Kenya. Pursuant to its Article 63 (whereby it was to "come into force three months after the reception by the Secretary General of the instruments of ratification or adherence of a simple majority" of the OAU's member statesthe African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights came into effect on 21 October 1986– in honour of which 21 October was declared "African Human Rights Day

²⁷ The Arab Charter on Human Rights (ACHR), adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 22 May 2004, affirms the principles contained in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam. It provides for a

²³The American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, 1948 also known as the Bogota Declaration, was the world's first international human rights instrument of a general nature, preceding both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights. ²⁴https://ijrcenter.org/refugee-law/

- c. Article 12 of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam²⁸;
- d. Article 2,3 & 5 of the European Convention on Human Right²⁹;
- e. Council Regulation EC No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third country national ;
- f. Article 3 of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment³⁰;
- g. African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa³¹
- h. Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child³²

Crimes in the Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh

Crime in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar has increased at an alarming rate. Rohingyas are involved in various crimes such as murder, kidnapping and extortion. Terrorist groups are getting stronger day by day. There are allegations that these groups are directly linked to militant groups, including ARSA. Locals, including ordinary Rohingyas, are outraged by their atrocities. Significant increase in drug trafficking, women and child trafficking, gang-based crime syndicates, kidnapping and all other heinous crimes.

Crime Chart of the Rohingya Refugee Camps

S1	Description of Crimes	Number	of	Number	of	Relevant Law
		Case		Accused		

number of traditional human rights, including the right to liberty and security of persons, equality of persons before the law, protection of persons from torture, the right to own private property, freedom to practice religious observance and freedom of peaceful assembly and association. The Charter also provides for the election of a seven-person Committee of Experts on Human Rights to consider states' reports. A first version of the Charter was created on 15 September 1994, but no state ratified it. The updated (2004) version of the Charter came into force in 2008 after seven of the members of the League of Arab States had ratified it.

²⁸The Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (CDHRI) is a declaration of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) first adopted in Cairo, Egypt, on 5 August 1990, (Conference of Foreign Ministers, 9–14 Muharram 1411H in the Islamic calendar), and later revised in 2020and adopted on 28 November 2020 (Council of Foreign Ministers at its 47th session in Niamey, Republic of Niger). It provides an overview on the Islamic perspective on human rights. The 1990 version affirms Islamic sharia as its sole source, whereas the 2020 version does not specifically invoke sharia. The focus of this article is the 1990 version of the CDHRI.https://www.oic-oci.org/upload/pages/conventions/en/CDHRI_2021_ENG.pdf

²⁹The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, better known as the European Convention on Human Rights, was opened for signature in Rome on 4 November 1950 and came into force on 3 September 1953. It was the first instrument to give effect to certain of the rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and make them binding.https://www.echr.coe.int/european-convention-on-human-rights

30Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984. General Assembly resolution 39/46 in10 December 1984. https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading.

³¹African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), 2009. Date entry into force: December 06, 2012.https://au.int/en/treaties/africanunion-convention-protection-and-assistance-internally-displaced-persons-africa

³²https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention

01	Murder	164	991	The Penal Code, 1860
02	Narcotics/Drug	2057	2979	The Narcotics Control Act, 2018
03	Human Trafficking	37	189	The Prevention and Suppression of Human
				Trafficking Act, 2012
04	Rape and Attempt to	94	114	The Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain,
	Rape			2000
05	Preparing for robbery	62	535	The Penal Code, 1860
	and robbery			
06	Kidnap	44	222	The Penal Code, 1860
07	Prejudicial activities	65	133	The Special Power Act, 1974
08	Illegal entry at the border	42	104	The Foreigners Act, 1946
09	Illegal Arms	238	552	The Arms Act, 1878
10	Trespass	113	242	The Penal Code, 1860
11	Cyber Crime	125	219	The Digital Security Act, 2018
12	Others	05	480	Different Laws

Note: All of the above data was collected from August 2017 to March 2024 [Bangladesh Police, Cox Bazar District, 2024]

a. Murder³³

In the six years since 2017, at least 131 killings have taken place in the Rohingya camps due to internal conflicts, domination, drug smuggling and money sharing. This is the highest number in the last two years. Among them, some of the notable sensational murders discussed may be discussed as examples. On November 30, 2023, a Rohingya youth named Syed Alam (24) was shot dead by terrorists in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya. At around 6: 00am, terrorists entered the house in the E / 4 block of Rohingya camp No. 4 in Ukhiya and shot him. Residents of the camp blamed ARSA for the killings, while some blamed internal strife [The Daily Star, 2023].On 13 January 2023, Karim Ullah (37), a former bargeman of the Rohingya camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, was strangled to death after being picked up from his residence. The deceased is a former member of Myanmar's separatist organisation ARSA. It is alleged that he was captured and killed by ARSA terrorists after he left the party³⁴.Alam, a Rohingya youth, was shot in the head on May 11, 2024, for dominating the Mochni registered Rohingya camp in Hnila union of Teknaf³⁵.On May 5, 2024, two Rohingya youths were shot and beheaded within a span of 12 hours at the Ukhiya shelter camp in Cox's Bazar. Miscreants killed Nur Kamal, 29, by slitting his throat next to the Red Crescent office in M-19 block of Ukhiya's Ghonarpara 18 camp in the morning and shot dead Zafar Ahmed (42), in B-5 block of 20-extension number Rohingya camp in Ukhiya upazila around 7pm the same day [The Daily Rising, 2024]. On April 24, 2024, a young man named Syedul Amin (45) of A / 11 block of Rohingya camp number 2 in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar was hacked to death by miscreants for dominating³⁶. On 6 December 2023, on the same day, 4 Rohingyas from 3 camps were killed within 7 hours in an attack by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. The deceased are Imam Hossain, a resident of Camp-4, Jobayer, 16, a resident of G-3 block, and Abul Kashem, 23, a resident of Irani Pahar camp, and Anwar Sadik, 22, a resident of G-6 block[Monthly Report of APBN,2023].On the night of September 29, 2021, a group of armed men shot and killed Rohingya leader Mohammad Mohibullah(48) at 1-East Lambashia camp in Ukhiya. The relatives claimed that members of the Arakan Republican Salvation Army (ARSA), another armed group of the Rohingyas, killed Mohibullah Mohibullah is the chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPHR). He was a school teacher

³⁵https://www.channel24bd.tv/countries/article/210547/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BF %E0%A6%99%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE

³³Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being with malice, and divides it into two degrees. Murder in the first degree is punishable by death. In any case, in which the death/capital penalty may be applicable. See section 299-311 of the Penal Code, 1860.

³⁴The Daily Jago News 24.Com, January 13, 2024, https://www.jagonews24.com/country/news/915067

³⁶https://bangla.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news-539271

in the Maungdaw area of Myanmar's Rakhine state. Mohibullah lived in Block D-7 of the 1-East Lambashia Rohingya camp in Ukhiya³⁷.

Since 2017, 80% of the murder in the Rohingya camps has been focused on the domination of the camps, and another important reason is the secret killing of ARSA members in the camps. Wherever there are refugees in the world, there is a refugee-related security crisis. Beharis in Karachi, Palestinians in Lebanon, Afghan refugees in Pakistan, as well as security risks in the Middle East, Europe or Turkey. The Rohingyas in Bangladesh are no exception.

b. Human Trafficking³⁸ and Rape³⁹

One of the problems of the Rohingya camps is human trafficking, which is simultaneously violating internal security and various rules and regulations of the country's border. Through a criminal network of camps, women and children are trafficked within the country and abroad and forced into various immoral activities. The location of the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh is a place where airways, roads and waterways can be used at the same time, and taking advantage of this communication system, a human trafficking syndicate has been formed between the locals and the Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar. Women and destitute men are trafficked by sea to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and other countries with the lure of a better life and livelihood. Rohingya men and women trafficked from Bangladesh are being used as sex workers and drug traffickers in the respective countries.Bangladesh, as a state, has not signed either of the two fundamental laws for the protection of the Rohingyas is in the demand of morality and in the demand of humanity. As a result the trafficking rings are expanding their business and growing their reach and it is directly affecting the citizens of Bangladesh becomes a hub for 'sex tourism' and 'reverse trafficking'⁴⁰.

In domestic law of Bangladesh, according to section 3(1) of the Act (2012)⁴¹, "Human trafficking" means the selling or buying, recruiting or receiving, deporting or transferring, sending or confining or harboring either inside or outside of the territory of Bangladesh of any person for the purpose of sexual exploitation or oppression, labor exploitation or any other form of exploitation or oppression by means of: (a) threat or use of force; or (b) deception, or abuse of his or her socio-economic or environmental or other types of vulnerability; or (c) giving or receiving money or benefit to procure the consent of a person having control over him or her [Jishu Barua, 2021]

The traffickers approach Young Rohingya women in the refugee camps, preferably helpless or destitute, with offers of jobs and marriage proposals. They use connections in the local government offices, the passport office, and the Election Commission to procure birth certificates, national ID (NID) cards and passports. If getting a

³⁷https://www.banglanews24.com/law-court/news/bd/1154629.details

³⁹Rape is when a person intentionally penetrates another's vagina, anus or mouth with a penis, without the other person's consent. Assault by penetration is when a person penetrates another person's vagina or anus with any part of the body other than a penis, or by using an object, without the person's consent. See for details section 375-376 and https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rsa/rape-and-sexual-assault/what-is-rape-and-sexual-assault/

⁴⁰London Collage of Legal Studies, *Forced Prostitution and Human Trafficking in Bangladesh: A Critical Analysis of Legal and Infrastructural Framework*, https://lcls-south.com/forced-prostitution-and-human-trafficking-in-bangladesh-a-critical-analysis-of-legal-and-infrastructural-framework/

⁴¹The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012, Act No.III of 2012,http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1086/section-41708.html

³⁸Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. The traffickers often use violence or fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims. It is a serious offense punishable under both national and international laws of Bangladesh. See the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 (Act No.III of 2012) and section 359-374 of the Penal Code, 1860.

passport becomes too complicated, the women are hauled onto fishing trawlers and sent journeying across the sea. They are sold off as prostitutes to Indian brothels and cheap labour for menial tasks in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. The high profit margins associated with human trafficking incentivizes the traffickers to sponsor their targets. However, there are instances where the victims pay to be trafficked. AKM Jahangir Hossain, additional special superintendent of the PBI in Jessore, told Dhaka Tribune there are groups, which cover different aspects of the operation. "Most of the people we arrest are there to get the victims past immigration. The people we arrest never reveal any details. We have 35 ongoing cases⁴².

In 2018, the Bangladesh government admitted that around 250,000 Rohingyas had gone overseas with Bangladeshi passports. A local broker at Cox's Bazar passport office told Dhaka Tribune that an illegal passport could cost between 60, 000 BDT and Tk100, 000 BDT. Local brokers help obtain proof of identification with the help of local residents who hope to make a quick buck⁴³.For example, Rohingya women are so oppressed that it is their relatives who, for the sake of their power and security, ensure their safety and security by marrying their daughter or sister to a local influential person or a member of his family [Conny, 2015].

According to a report published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)⁴⁴, more than 1,500 Rohingyas crossed the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea between January 2018 and January 2019, nearly 50 times more than those who crossed the sea between 2013 and 2015. The majority of seafarers in 2015 were men. In 2018, 59% of seafarers were women and children. Last year's was even worse. The UN migration agency IOM spoke to and worked with approximately 633 Rohingya victims from 2017 to 2020. According to their estimates, 45% of them, or 348 Rohingyas, were victims of trafficking-related incidents. The total number of rescues from 2020 to 2022 is 873, of which 53% cent are women [IOM, 2022].

c. Illegal Arms and Drugs

"Yaba⁴⁵ has become one of the" "exchange products" "to" "legalize" "the money from human trafficking, whether it is buying and selling gold or illegal foreign money, in the market of Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar."

⁴² Hossain,Imran,*How Rohingya women become fodder for sex trafficking,* The Daily Dhaka Tribune, Circulation:18 Dec 2019,https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/rohingya-crisis/196531/how-rohingyawomen-become-fodder-for-sex

⁴³Ibid

⁴⁴ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency works to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge, having fled violence, persecution or war at home. UNHCR was created in 1950 to address the refugee crisis that resulted from World War II. The 1951 Refugee Convention established the scope and legal framework of the agency's work, which initially focused on Europeans uprooted by the war. Beginning in the late 1950s, displacement caused by other conflicts, from the Hungarian Uprising to the decolonization of Africa and Asia, broadened the scope of UNHCR's operations. Commensurate with the 1967 Protocol to the Refugee Convention, which expanded the geographic and temporal scope of refugee assistance, UNHCR operated across the world, with the bulk of its activities in developing countries. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with over 18,879 staff working in 138 countries as of 2020.

⁴⁵ Yaba is a combination of methamphetamine (a powerful and addictive stimulant) and caffeine. Yaba, which means crazy medicine in Thai, is produced in Southeast and East Asia. The drug is popular in Asian communities in the United States and increasingly is available at raves and techno parties. Yaba is sold as tablets. These tablets are generally no larger than a pencil eraser. They are brightly colored, usually reddishorange or green. Yaba tablets typically bear one of a variety of logos; R and WY are common logos. Yaba tablets typically are consumed orally. The tablets sometimes are flavored like candy (grape, orange, or vanilla). Another common method is called chasing the dragon. Users place the yaba tablet on aluminum foil and heat it from below. As the tablet melts, vapors rise and are inhaled. The drug also may be administered by crushing the tablets into powder, which is then snorted or mixed with a solvent and injected. Individuals who use yaba face the same risks as users of other forms of methamphetamine: rapid heart rate, increased blood pressure, and damage to the small blood vessels in the brain that can lead to stroke. Chronic use of the drug can result in inflammation of the heart lining. Overdoses can cause hyperthermia (elevated body temperature),

Yaba is also useful in handling remittances from abroad to people in these camps who do not have bank accounts. Yaba is a new currency inside and outside the camps across Teknaf and Ukhiya. In case of any criminal transaction, you can pay Yaba without paying one lakh rupees in cash. After one lakh rupees, yaba will be sold at five times more price in the country's market. After visiting different Rohingya camps in Ukhiya and talking to the Rohingya youths there, it is known that every day there is a drug market inside the camps. After the government and non-government officials leave the camp at 4pm - it is a different world. Those who hide till 4 o'clock come out after evening. It could be members of different extremist groups, brokers to send abroad, kidnappers. In addition, in the evening after that, all the transactions are done with yaba. They also said that many of the original residents of Ukhiya come to the drug market of the camp. In the Rohingya camps, there is a flurry of weapons not only at night, but also during the day. Several Rohingya armed groups are now in a faceoff position in 34 camps in Ukhiya-Teknaf. As the evening approached, panic spread through the camp. Murder, rape, abductions, extortions have become commonplace. Several intelligence sources have even claimed that there are illegal arms factories in the mountainous areas of the camp. Due to this, the security of the people of Cox's Bazar-Chittagong is at risk. In the last five years, 115 people have been killed in different camps for dominating among themselves. In the wake of these incidents, the law enforcers have recovered hundreds of local and foreign firearms⁴⁶.Recently; the names of the armed men in the Rohingya camps were included in the list of an intelligence agency. A list of 192 people's names describes their horrific actions. According to multiple sources, they have been ordered to be brought under the law in such a situation [Ittefaq, 2023]. Mohammad Sihab Kaiser Khan, superintendent of police of 8th Division of APBN, told a law and order meeting at Ukhiya in Cox's Bazar that members of 8th Division Armed Police Battalion (APBN) arrested 478 listed terrorists in 11 camps in a year in 2022. Around 8 lakh pieces of yaba along with 140 local and foreign weapons were recovered from their possession⁴⁷.

d. Theft, Robbery, Hijack and Kidnapping

Thefts, Smuggling, robbery and kidnap in the Rohingya camps have increased fourfold in the last three years. Several organized criminal gangs control the crime scene in the camps located in Ukhiya and Teknath.Incidents of murder, loot, rapes are on the rise. In two years, 43 Rohingya have been killed in their own internal conflict in Rohingya camps. "Another 32 Rohingya were killed in" "gunfights" "with law enforcement." Besides, 471 cases have been filed against the Rohingyas, including robbery, kidnap, rape, theft, drugs and human trafficking.

e. Prejudicial activities and Illegal Trespass

Rohingyas continue to illegally enter Bangladesh as a result of the Myanmar army's brutal war with Muslim groups. Every day, small numbers of Rohingyas are entering Bangladesh with the help of a group of organized brokers, adding a new dimension to the existing Rohingya crisis. According to the government, the number of new intruders in the last one and a half months is more than eight thousand. However, local sources say that the number of Rohingya newly entered is twice that. The number of Rohingyas in Bangladesh is now more than 1.2 million. Eight million Rohingyas entered in the following months from September 2017. However, the government says that Bangladesh is not in a position to shelter even one more Rohingya. However, due to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, Bangladesh is under pressure from the international community to shelter Rohingyas are entering Bangladesh by sea and we also learned that a part of the Rohingyas are staying in various places on the banks of the Naf river on the side of Myanmar(Benar 2024). Among the various problems with the newly infiltrating Rohingyas are that they cannot be brought under registration, they are not staying in designated areas, various law and order activities are being organized due to Rohingya refugees not following the prescribed policies.

convulsions, and death. Individuals who use yaba also may have episodes of violent behavior, paranoia, anxiety, confusion, and insomnia. Although most users administer yaba orally, those who inject the drug expose themselves to additional risks, including contracting HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), hepatitis B and C, and other blood-borne viruses.

⁴⁶https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/628582/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%99%E0%A6%99%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE-%E0

⁴⁷ https://samakal.com/chaturango/article/93482/%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%95

f. Cyber Crime in Rohingya Refugee's Camps

Cybercrime is one of the most important problems that Bangladesh has faced since the arrival of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in 2017. Since entering Bangladesh, Myanmar has spread various fake videos, false information and rumors by purchasing mobile SIM⁴⁸s with local brokers under various names and internet services, through which many big crimes have been organized. Deadly crimes like human trafficking, arms trafficking and drug smuggling have been committed using various social media.To deal

with such crimes, the Bangladesh government banned the sale of mobile SIM to Rohingya refugees, but later it was allowed, but the Bangladesh Telecommunications Authority was ordered to stop 3G and 4G network services in refugee camp areas. However, many have criticized these issues and cited them as violations of human rights and humanitarian law(Faheem 2019).

4. Recommendation

In the study based on "The Genesis of Crimes by the Rohingya Refugees and Pathways of Redress: Bangladesh Perspective" title, we propose a three-pronged recommendation in the implementation phase that will hopefully play an important role in solving the problems arising in the Rohingya refugee sector in Bangladesh. These are below:

Recommendation 01:

The refugee problem is an important issue for the world. This is one of the ongoing crises in Southeast Asia, particularly the Rohingya refugee issue from Myanmar in Bangladesh. Historically, it is true that since the ancient Hindu rule, refugees from Myanmar have entered Bangladesh's Chittagong and Cox's Bazar at different times, sometimes for work and sometimes as victims of ethnic violence. These refugees pose a threat to the country's internal security, economy and social structure due to their criminal tendencies. Since Bangladesh's independence, the number of Rohingya who entered Bangladesh in 1978, 1992, 2012 and 2017 is a threat to Bangladesh's economy and internal security. Bangladesh has not made any law for the protection and control of this huge ethnic group in Bangladesh, but the government passes a law in parliament when there is a small problem in Bangladesh, but the refugee issue has put Bangladesh in serious security risk since independence, so that parliament will play a very important role in solving this problem through legislation. The existing Foreigners Act, 1946 in Bangladesh does not specifically mention the rights and responsibilities of refugees, but some crimes can be prosecuted immediately. We recommend enacting special laws to protect the rights of the Rohingyas based on the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Constitution of Bangladesh and various regional conventions.

Recommendation 02:

Our long research report revealed that there are many types of crimes committed by the Rohingyas. These crimes are mainly human trafficking, drug and arms smuggling due to their insufficient income and basic needs (food, clothing and other facilities) not being met. Incidents like theft and robbery are happening which have become the cause of internal security and image crisis of Bangladesh in various international circles. To deal with this crisis, no permanent solution can be found by providing relief to this large population. Therefore, according to the provisions of the Prison Code in Bangladesh, such as by employing the prisoners in various

⁴⁸SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card is an integrated circuit (IC) intended to securely store an international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) number and its related key, which are used to identify and authenticate subscribers on mobile telephone devices (such as mobile phones and laptops). The first phone (Motorola DynaTAC 8000X), launched in 1983, didn't use a SIM card, weighed a kilogram, and cost \$4,000. The Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) was implemented for the first time in the early nineties. It's the second generation (2G) of communication systems in cellular networks and allows a communication company to identify a phone's owner. And since then, the size of a SIM has gotten smaller and smaller. The eSIM (also known as an embedded SIM or digital SIM) sparked a boom in the field of communication. An eSIM is an embedded SIM that is already built into your phone. Instead of buying a physical SIM card and activating it manually by inserting it into your phone, you can connect digitally.

innovative works, their income can be increased as well as the GDP of the state. Based on this, to introduce action-oriented programs for their rehabilitation so that their personal income increases as well as so that they do not feel burdened to the state. Through this, the crime caused by them will be reduced; we are raising the matter as recommendation.

Recommendation 03:

One thing that is clear from the various data in our research report is that no matter how much assistance is given to a refugee; it cannot be equal to that of his own country. No one can guarantee him equal citizenship in his own country, no matter how well he is helped. Because neither the international refugee law nor the national law of the host country can guarantee full citizenship rights. And wherever a citizen is deprived of his fundamental rights, crime tends to arise. I strongly recommend to the relevant authorities to take voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees as soon as possible for a permanent solution to organized crime in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh.

5. Conclusion

When a citizen or a community is persecuted by the state or society due to ethnic, different ideologies, caste or political opinions in their own country or society, they are forced to seek refuge from the state or society in another state or society, due to which they are stateless. On the other hand, suffer from national identitylessness and even ethnic identity becomes a cause of fear. This community then came to be known as "refugees". Citizens don't get the facilities they have in their own country in the host country due to which to a large extent they become prone to crime and they also fall under the wrath of the host country. Many may receive humanitarian assistance for these issues, but civil benefits are not guaranteed. The host state can legislate certain rights and responsibilities during their stay and create employment for permanent residence and ultimately voluntary repatriation to obtain civil benefits and full redress. A comprehensive solution to the refugee problem can be found in this continuum.

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