ROHINGYA MPS ASKING QUESTIONS IN THE BURMESE PARLIAMENT TO REDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THEIR PEOPLE IN ARAKAN

PROTESTS BY ROHINGYA COMMUNITY WORLDWIDE AGAINST THE IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS, LIES AND "SYSTEMATIC RACISM" OF USDP GOVERNMENT IN BURMA
It is an outrageous statement by the Immigration Minister of Burma in the parliament regarding the Rohingyas of Arakan. In a primitive tune he branded them as Bengali infiltrators ignoring the history of Arakan. He should study the original people of Arakan who were Indians similar to Rohingyas. The Rohingyas identified themselves with Burmese in good faith with a hope that they would be treated on the same line as Burmese and would be given equal rights. The Rakhine Buddhists have been taken as one of the indigenous races of Burma merely because they are Buddhists. If this religious distinction is eliminated the Muslims of Arakan will automatically come under the same racial category as the Rakhine Buddhists. Islam had played an important part towards the advancement of civilization in Arakan where Muslims and Buddhists lived side by side for centuries with amity and concord as one family and ruled the country together. Coins and medallions were issued bearing "Kalima"; the profession of faith in Islam in Persian script. Persian was the court language of Arakan and the kings of Arakan adopted Muslim names, practiced Muslim manners and etiquettes.

Before the election of November 7, 2010, U Thein Sein, the present President of Burma, visited Buthidaung in his capacity as Prime Minister of Burma. He appreciated the Rohingya people that they dressed like Burman and they could speak Burmese whereas some ethnic groups' dresses are different and they could not speak Burmese, that's why the Rohingyas are the indigenous people of Burma. Brig. General Phone Swe, the then Deputy Home Minister visited Buthidaung and Maungdaw several times before the election to seek the Rohingyas' votes and promised, time and again, that pink cards of the indigenous people of Burma would be issued to Rohingyas, for which, out of jealousy, the Rakhines called him 'Kala Minister'. He is still a deputy minister in another ministry.

Regarding the Rohingyas the speech delivered by Brigadier Aung Gyi, former Vice Chief of Staff, was published in 8 July 1961 by "Myanmar Alin" in page 5 - 6. He said that the people of Mayu District are Muslims. Both the people of the western and eastern sides of the border are Muslims. The people of the west of the border are called Pakistanis. The people of the east, who are in Burma, are called Rohingyas. It is not the only border where same people live in two countries: the same case is in Chinese border too. For example, in Kachin State there is Liesu in Burmese side, also there is Liesu in Chinese side. As there is Eikaw in Burmese side and also in China side. As there is Lawa in Burmese side there is also Lawa in China. In this way as there is Shan in Burma, there is Thai in China side. They speak same language both inside Burma and Thailand (same religion, culture and appearance). In this way the people of same religion are in Pakistan side and (Rohingyas) in Burma.

It is of very great important for the Immigration Minister to study the rulings related to immigration of Burma, "HASAN ALI vs Cont. P. 3
On 29 August 2011, the Second Regular Session of First Amyotha Hluttaw goes on for sixth day Session, the Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi was chosen to answer 3 questions raised by 2 Rohingya MPs in the parliament. In response to the question raised by U Zahidur Rawman (a) U Htay Win of Rakhine State Constituency (7) of Amyotha Hluttaw that “indigenous Myanmar Muslim voters in Maungdaw District of Rakhine State cannot travel freely; to travel other Regions or States for economic, education, health and social reasons, they have to take out Application Form (4) of Immigration Department under the directive of Na-Sa-Ka, forcing them to face many difficulties in socio-economic life; and how the state will help address this issue “, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi answered that those who are labeled “Myanmar Muslims” were assumed to be Bengalis in Maungdaw of Rakhine State;
According to respective countries laws, they need not to be citizens of the said countries. They need to present certification that they have not registered at related foreign embassy relating to original race as its citizens, and they have not applied for passport. Article 3 of Myanmar Citizenship Law (1982) which is currently practicing prescribes that “Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan national races and tribes permanently living in any region of the country before 1185 ME (1823 AD) as their original country are Myanmar citizens.” According to the law, if anyone is not component of national races or tribes, he or she needs to submit certifications to strongly confirm as a citizen.

Issuing national scrutiny card is not based on race and religion. It is concerned with the competence of a citizen’s features prescribed in Myanmar Citizenship Law which was passed on 15 October 1982. Detailed explanation about Myanmar Citizenship Law (1982) has been given on 26 August in replying to the question of Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thei Nyoung from Thingyangyun Constituency. Only when those concerned can present firm certification of their ancestors, will they get citizenship scrutiny card.

Our service personnel will issue citizenship scrutiny card to those qualified to be a citizen. According to Myanmar Citizenship Law (1982) and Foreigner Registration Act (1940), those living in Myanmar need to have citizenship scrutiny card or associate citizen certificate or naturalized citizenship certificate or foreigner registration certificate or temporary identity certificate. Those who cannot show such card or certificates will be temporarily assumed that they are doubtful citizens and need to have temporary identity certificate. In order to get any card, those who are in competence of the provisions of Myanmar Citizenship Law (1982) need to apply for citizenship with the recommendation of “committee for scrutinizing citizen, associate citizen, naturalized citizen” and according to (1983) Naturalized Citizenship Rules and Regulations 46. For the applicants, supervisory committees have been formed at region/state and township level. From 24 November 2009 to date, 105,051 persons who are doubted citizens have been granted citizenship.

In order to issue any kind of identity cards to half-blooded persons living not only in Maungtaw of Rakhine State but also across the country, measures are being taken in accord with Law, procedure, rules and regulations by arranging files taking time. Due to illegal migration and association of Bengalis from the neighboring country to the country, there are complications of population difficult to define who is who. So, it is needed to take time to cope with such issues because of national security and national affairs. Still, submitting the required certification is a key to changing of national scrutiny card. Measures will be taken for smooth procedure flow at appropriate moment.

In response to the question raised by U Shwe Maung (a) U Adu Rawzak of Buthidaung Constituency that “to travel to Yangon for health, social and economic matters, about 90 per cent of locals from Buthidaung and Maungtaw of Rakhine State cost about K 30,000 for the distance from Buthidaung and Maungtaw to Sittway and K 400,000 from Sittway to Yangon in an illegal way. He asked how...”
From P. 4 the government will tackle such situation to drive it out, and how the government will take measures for law (Immigration Form- 4) prescribed for foreigners that takes against local Myanmar Muslims who are living there for long time, according to the needs of security and national affairs, there are cooperative groups including respective departments running checks at required points along the route from Buthidaung and Maungtaw to Sittway and Yangon so as to prevent illegal Bengali migration from the neighboring country. If there are any sufferers, they need to come forward with accurate attestation with exact time and place legally. Millions of pamphlets have been given out to fight bribery and corruption. Phone and fax numbers are shown in public making field trips, airing interviews on Myanmar TV and Myawady TV, on pages of journals and magazines, launching departmentowned website. The sufferers can make complaints and door is opening to constructive advices.

So far, many locals from regions and states are cooperating in the form of asking confusion and reporting matters needed to be changed. The ministry took actions like dismissal, demotion and transfer against 12 governmental staff who did not adhere to directive of the ministry as of 1 July. So, any cases that come along with right evidence will be investigated and take action if true. For emergence of good governance and clean government, efforts are being made in accord with the guidelines of heads.

Regarding the second question, illegal migration of Bengalis from the neighboring country has effect not only on adjoining region but also on inner part of the country including Kachin, Kayin, Shan and Mon states. Why travel form-4 is used is that migrants are not distinguishable and it is according to national security and affairs. That is why security is being tightened up. In traveling across the country, anyone is to submit overnight guest list and request to renew it. Action will be taken if he or she does not follow it. It is a system for national security. Action was taken against 278 migrants across the country from 2005 to 29, August 2011 despite efforts. So it is still necessary to take approach to such measures.

Using travel form-4 does not mean deterrence of travel. It is just for inspection measures in a systematic way. In the system, anyone can go around the township freely. If needed to travel to other township in a state, he or she is to have permission of township/district/state staff officers. To travel to other state, local authorities are reported with the permission of state staff officer.

The ministry has permitted those who have immigration qualifications to travel and extended their stay when they report on their purpose of education, health and social affairs. Therefore, for the state security and national concern, immigration form-4 is used to stop the illegal migration Bengalis and the ministry is strictly carrying out the task as it is necessity.

On 1 September 2011, the Second Regular Session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for ninth day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Daw Two Hluttaw representatives raised two questions which were answered by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen. Hla Min.

Regarding the question raised by U Zayad Rawmam (a) U Htay Win of Rakhine State Constituency (7) “there are two sorts of household registration certificate for indigenous Myanmar voters In Buthidaung and Maungtaw Townships in Rakhine State issued by Immigration and Population Department and Border Immigration Headquarters ( BIH ); while the BIH conducts surprise check, those who visits another village
Rohingya communities in 8 countries around the world held an international day of action — THE ROHINGYA GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION — on 15 September 2011 to condemn the racist policies of Thein Sein’s USDP government. They held demonstration in front of Burmese Embassy, or gathering in the home, office where the situation is not favorable to organize demonstration and self-sitting for hunger-strike, according to Rohingya organizations worldwide.

The worldwide protest was held against statements of Burmese Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi in Amyotha Hlutttaw (Burmese Nationalities Parliament) on 29 August 2011.

In London the Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK) had organized the event. Around 200 Rohingya, members of the different Burma’s ethnic groups (Kachin, Karen, Chin), democratic activists and human rights organizations — Burma Campaign UK, 88 Generation Students, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Burma Democratic Concern and Burmese Muslim Association UK — protested outside Burmese Embassy in London on 15 September 2011 at 12:00 – 13:30, according to Tun Khin, President, Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK).

Mr. Nurul Islam – Arakan Rohingya National Organization, Mr. Chris Ring Du Lachung – Kachin National Organisation, Mr. Ko Aung – 88 StudentGeneration, Mr. Van Biak Thang – Chinland Guardian News, a representative of Burma Democratic Concern, Mr. Mathews Jones – Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Wainnin Pwinththon (a daughter of a Political Prisoner), Mrs. Nant Bwa Bwa Phan – Karen Community UK, Anna Roberts – Burma Campaign UK, Mr. Kyaw Zwa – Burma Muslim Association and Mr. Shwekey Hoipang – Chin Community UK, had given speeches in the event, according to BROUK information desk.

In his keynote speech, the ARNO president Nurul Islam stressed that the Rohingya have had a long glaring history, the phenomenal rule of kingmakers, their Muslim rule particularly from 1430-1531, and the recognition of their legal status as a natural citizens and indigenous people by the Burma’s parliamentary government(s) and democracy groups. BROUK president Tun Khin demanded immediate withdrawal and cessation of anti-Rohingya propaganda and human rights violations by the Burmese civilianized military regime and restitution of Rohingya’s citizenship and ethnic rights in their homeland in Burma.

Asserting the recognition of Rohingya as one of the many ethnic nationalities of Burma by the international community, including the UN, 88 Generation leader Mr. Aung termed it a gross injustice to reject them as Burmese nationals.

Mr. Shwekey Hoipang, a Chin activist and Christian pastor who worked in Arakan State in the 1990s, had given his eyewitness accounts of human rights violations, systematic persecution and discrimination against the Rohingyas by the military dictatorship. Saya Shwekey Hoipang said the Rohingyas Cont. P. 7
From P.6 are the worst victims in Burma and demanded religious freedom for all peoples of the country.

Condemning the Thein Sein regime Mr. Hamza Kyaw Zwa, a senior leader of the Burmese Muslim Association said, “How U Kyaw Min, a Rohingya MP elected in 1990, could be jailed for 47 years, together with his wife three daughters for 17 years each, under immigration law. One of the daughters is suffering from seriously illness in the jail. This injustice is unacceptable.”

Ms. Wai Hnin Pwint Thon, whose father is one of the many political prisoners still serving a jail sentence highlighted the situation in Burma, and said: "When we talk about freedom, it is not only for one person but for all the peoples in Burma."

In Bangladesh some senior Rohingya political leaders had sat for a meeting to support “The Rohingya Global Day of Action” and condemned USDP minister U Khin Yi for branding Rohingya Muslims of Arakan as illegal Bengali immigrants.

The protest concluded peacefully with further demands for immediate lifting of all restrictions on the Rohingya’s freedom of movement, marriage, education and for unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Rohingya MP U Kyaw Min and his family.

A joint statement released by 8 Rohingya communities Organizations worldwide and other three individual Rohingya organizations called on Burmese government to immediately restore the fundamental human rights and freedom, citizenship rights and ethnic rights of the Rohingya in the country.

The eight Rohingya organizations are: the Arakan Rohingya National Organization (ARNO); the Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK); the Rohingya League for Democracy Burma (RLDB); the Burmese Rohingya Association Japan (BRAJ); the Burmese Rohingya Community in Australia (BRCA); the Burmese Rohingya Community in Norway (BRCN); the Canadian Burmese Rohingya Organization (CBRO) and the Free Rohingya Campaign (FRC). The other three individual Rohingya organizations are: the Arakan National Congress (ANC); the Rohingya Concern International (RCI) and the Burmese Rohingya Association of North America (BRANA). ##

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On 15 September 2011, the Burmese Rohingya Association in Japan (BRAJ) organized ever biggest Demonstration rally in front of Tokyo Burmese Embassy in response to the new USDP Government’s racist statement in parliaments of Burma against ethnic Rohingyas.

The Rohingyas in Japan participated “THE ROHINGYA GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION” with the enthusiasm of their loves for their nation. The protest was started with the explanation of why they are staging this demonstration by BRAJ President Zaw Min Htut and representatives from various organizations working for human rights in Japan made their speeches in support of Rohingya cause. The Rohingyas strongly condemn the irresponsible statements and lies in the Parliament by the Thein Sein Regime ministers is nothing but an open threat to continue denying the Rohingya people of their rights and freedom including their right to nationality and residence within territory of the state.

The response of the USDP ministers to the queries of Rohingya MPs in the parliament were full of hatred and were deliberate attempts to perpetrate human rights violations continuously against the innocent and peace-loving Rohingya people. The Rohingyas in the country and overseas alike strongly condemn the military back semi-democratic government of Burma for its baseless and concocted allegations against the Rohingya people in the highest political forum. Such a foolish statement or uncivilized behavior is tantamount to committing crimes against humanity.

The Rohingyas in Japan call upon the international communities to come forward to protect their rights and freedom and legitimate interests. The Rohingyas at the rally demanded that the USDP Government immediately restore the fundamental human rights and freedom, citizenship rights and ethnic rights of the Rohingya people.

There were about 90 people participated at the rally including some Japanese and Burmese communities. Before concluding the rally BRAJ president read out the joint statement of Rohingya organizations and handed out the statement and other historical document to the Embassy mail box. The rally was lasted about one and half hours. The peaceful demonstration was ended with the slogans: WE WANT OUR CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS AND ETHNIC RIGHTS NOW, RIGHT NOW … … RIGHT NOW. WE WANT OUR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. COME ON BROTHER LET’S GET OUR ACT TOGETHER !! LONG LIVE THE ROHINGYA GLOBAL DAY !!

The Rohingya problem was a creation of the Burmese ruling Junta, it was created by denying the Rohingyas’ citizenship rights which is inalienable, a right that cannot be taken away by enacting discriminatory law. The Rohingyas have been settling in Arakan from long before the British occupation of the country. In fact the forefathers of Rohingyas had entered into Arakan from time immemorial. The Burmese ruling Junta do not try to know, that the Rohingyas have a long history, tradition and culture that they had built up in Arakan by their long and historic settlement. In fact the Rohingyas have been settling in Arakan for more than a thousand years. ##
PRESS RELEASE

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Following is a joint press release dated 14th September 2011, Issued by Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO), Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK), Rohingya League for Democracy Burma (RLDB), Burmese Rohingya Association in Japan (BRAJ), Burmese Rohingya Community in Australia (BRCA), Burmese Rohingya Community in Norway (BRCN), Canadian Burmese Rohingya Organization (CBRO), Free Rohingya Campaign (FRC).

JOINT STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE IRRESPONSIBLE RACIST STATEMENTS IN THE PARLIAMENT BY THE USDP GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AGAINST THE ETHNIC ROHINGYAS

The following joint statement is issued by the Rohingya organizations worldwide against the responses of the concerned USDP ministers (one of them is former police chief U Khin Yi, Minister for Immigration and Population) to the questions raised by the Rohingya MPs at the first formal parliamentary sessions on the issues and problems (human rights violations) being faced by the Muslim Rohingyas of Arakan.

1. The responses of the USDP ministers in the parliament were full of hatred and are deliberate attempts to perpetrate human rights violations against the Rohingya people. We strongly condemn the Thein Sein government for its baseless and concocted allegation against the Rohingya people (of illegal immigrants) in the highest political forum. Such a foolish statement or uncivilized behavior is tantamount to committing crimes against humanity.

2. Since Dictator Ne Win, for about half a century, grave human rights violations and crimes against humanity have been perpetrated against the ethnic Rohingya by way inventing make-believe stories while putting the otherwise peacefully living communities of Rohingyas and Rakhine at loggerheads.

3. The irresponsible statements and lies in the parliament by the Thein Sein regime is nothing but an open threat to continue denying the Rohingya people of their rights and freedom, including their right to nationality and residence within the borders of the State.

4. The unfounded and irresponsible accusation against the ethnic Rohingya by the USDP ministers as illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators/Bengalis not only contradicts with the Rohingya historicity but also disagrees with the annual reports and statements of the various International Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. The real story is the other way, as about 1.5 million Rohingyas, who have had to leave their homeland to escape persecution since 1942, are already in Diasporas in many countries of the world. International community and UNHCR have confirmed that there is a protracted emergency in Bangladesh as result of the influx of Rohingya refugees from Burma.

If the Rohingyas were illegal Bengali infiltrators why Thein Sein and many other former SPDC ministers assured the Rohingya voters of restoring soon the Rohingya’s rights and freedom during their election campaigns to northern Arakan.

5. The open rejection of Rohingya people by Thein Sein government requiring them Form-4 to travel from place to place like aliens is tantamount to making them stateless in violation of the international covenants or treaties on reduction of statelessness and protection of minorities and the helpless people. We strongly denounce the Thein Sein government for having such wicked attitudes towards Rohingyas.

6. The USDP ministers hatefully tag the Rohingya children as black list babies accusing that their fathers have fled (in fact persecution) and illegally entered again into Arakan and have produced babies by unlawfully living together with their wives with whom they have legal wedlock. It is a clear violation of the Child’s Rights under Conventions and international law.

7. It is an affront to the humanity as well as to the people and government of Bangladesh that the Thein Sein government is firm to continue applying the so-called Burma Citizenship law of 1982, which was enacted in violation of the terms of international customary law, particularly to denationalize the Rohingya people by accusing them of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

8. Thein Sein government was particularly critical of the Muslim Rohingya’s common religion, culture, appearance and language with the people of Bangladesh in order to accuse them as aliens. Here it is worth-mentioning that Burma is an ethnically diverse country. Not only the Rohingya, all ethnic peoples (Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, etc.) living along all the Burma borders have common religion, culture, appearance and language with the peoples living in the adjacent countries. Despite this the ministers made the Rohingyas special target for being Muslims with a view to accelerating its ethnic-cleansing policy.

9. The extreme view expressed by the USDP dictatorship implying the need for the 'extermination of Rohingya' as a national security plan reveals how much they abhor and preach systematic hatred against the Rohingyas (on grounds of ethnicity and religion). It is a serious concern that the foregoing statements of the Burmese civilianized military regime against the ethnic Rohingya people is a threat to regional and international peace and security. We, therefore, call upon the international community, UN Security Council and its member States, EU, ASEAN, OIC to mount effective pressures on the Thein Sein government to cease its ongoing human rights violations against the Rohingyas; to protect their rights and freedom and legitimate interests; and to provide them with necessary assistance. Meanwhile, we demand that the USDP government immediately restore the fundamental human rights and freedom, citizenship rights and ethnic rights of the Rohingya people. ##
Fact: A small group of students were granted admission to a college in Sinwe, but they were denied travel permits—a Catch-22.

They were given refuge for stability in the border region and nationalism through the operations such as Nagamin (King Dragon of Minister of Immigration and Population Affair, U Khin Yi (the former Police Chief) in the parliament sessions held in Naypyitaw, Burma, on August 31 and September 1, 2011. The followings are highlights of the false statements by the minister that are challenged by ARU with facts:

■ Statement 1: The population (referring to the Rohingya) in Maungdaw in Rakhine State is assumed to be “Bengalis” (the Bangladeshis) because they share common physical appearance, culture, religion, and language Dialect with those in Bangladesh.
Fact: The Minister contradicted the historical facts that the Rohingya population pre-existed British colonial rule in their native Arakan several hundred years prior to the arbitrary demarcation of Burma–Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) by the British in 1948.

■ Statement 2: The Bengali illegal immigrants entered Burma due to rich natural resources in Arakan State.
Fact: Northern Arakan, has always been the least developed and economically most depressed region in Burma with limited natural resources.

■ Statement 3: In a mass migration of Bengalis to Arakan State, 180,000 Bengalis were scrutinized in 1978, and 230,000 in 2005, and they were given refuge for stability in the border region and nationalism through the operations such as Nagamin (King Dragon of Flames) and Hintha (a Burmese mythological bird of guardianship base on ultra-nationalist ideology).
Fact: The nationalist and xenophobic Burmese junta never allows foreigners to settle in Burma. A so-called gesture of goodwill nationalism to nearly half-a-million alleged illegal Bengali immigrants by the Junta to settle in Arakan State for border stability is tantamount to a mockery of its own policy of intolerance of Rohingya and Ethnic cleansing. The Rohingya evidence to the contrary, that they were repatriated to their native land as the military could not present iota of interna8onal community that they were Bengalis. The Nagamin and Hintha operations that drove half-a-million of Rohingya out of Arakan State were a Mis-calculated ethnic cleansing projects.

■ Statement 4. There are no travel bans on this Bengali population. Because some of these Bengali had penetrated deep into the country, the Travel Form–4 is required to be approved by the authority to travel to other destinations. A total of 360 persons were allowed to travel, and 23 students were allowed to go to college.
Facts: Of over 2 million Rohingyas in Arakan State, 360 individuals were allowed to travel with a 30–day stay-permit, each closing each person in excess of Kyat 200,000 (extortion, not fees), plus additional Kyat 100,000 for each extra 30 days, for up to 90 days. A small group of students were granted admission to a college in Sinwe, but they were denied travel permits—a Catch–22.

■ Statement 5. From 2005 to 2011 (in 6 years), a total of 278 Bangladeshis were apprehended for illegally entering Burma.
Fact: Each year Nasaka (Burma’s Border Security) Force apprehends several Bangladeshi fishermen from the Bay of Bengal, often by crossing over to Bangladesh territorial water or at high seas at interna8onal water. These apprehension strategies are devised by Nasaka to use as false statistics for branding Rohingya as illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

■ Statement 6. Bangladeshi illegally enter Arakan State and get married with local women (implying Rohingya women) before they head off to Rangoon and deep into the country; therefore, marriage permits are required.
Fact: ARU challenges Burmese Junta to produce a shred of evidence of a Bangladeshi man getting married to a Rohingya woman anywhere in Arakan State. The non-issuance of marriage permit is essentially a ban on marriages among Rohingya couples targeting at population reduction and eventual elimination of Rohingya ethnic minority through a “no—new—baby” Strategy.

ARU calls on the Rohingya people worldwide, its fellow citizens in Burma and overseas, and the international community to challenge these false allegations and fabrications made by the Burmese Military Junta’s minister in the Parliamentary session against the Rohingya ethnic minority. The parliament and the Burmese Military Junta must take immediate steps to retract the false statements made by its minister at the parliament sessions, and unconditionally reinstate all political and human rights to the Rohingya ethnic minority.##

DAW SUU KYI WELCOMES MYITSONE HYDROPOWER DAM SUSPENSION

Friday, Sep. 30, 2011, Rangoon: Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has welcomed the suspension of the Myitsone Hydropower dam announced by Burmese President Thein Sein on Friday. She made the comment during a meeting with a government minister, Aung Kyi, at a government guesthouse in Rangoon. The two also discussed the release of political prisoners, protection of the Irrawaddy River and peace with ethnic armed groups. Thein Sein told Parliament in a letter that he will suspend construction on the Myitsone dam for the duration of his presidency.##
basically Burmese with an unmistakable Indian admixture..... the earlier dynasties are thought to have been Indian, ruling over a population similar to that of Bengal."Pamela(1976,pages44-45) writes that the Wissali state was established by Mahawira Min of the west of Naf River in 600 — 612 CE at Purma of present day Maungdaw Township. Purma was a sea-port in accordance to the records of the tourists in 2nd century. From Purma, the Wissali state was established by conquering small states adjacent to it. King Mahawira and his subjects were Indian similar to today's Rohingya. Rohingyas are not solely descended from migrants' people but are the local indigenous people living in Arakan since the dawn of the history that later embraced cultural and religious reformation to upgrade their ancient tradition. It might be from the time of 1202 CE when the Muslims conquered Bengal and converted to Islam. (Dr, Than Tun).

In the 'Kyaukza' stone inscription serial No. 963/20-23-804- Burmese Era 1442 C.E. there is indication of Muslim king's reign of Arakan in 14th century who were friends of Burmese kings and used to visit them. The kings of Arakan had Muslim titles. If they were not the Muslim kings mentioned in the inscription, the Muslim kings of Arakan might be Rohingya Muslim kings, from the Mayu River valley, the eastern side of the Naf River. Rohingyas claim their existence over thousands years. (Dr. Than Tun). In 1795 Francis Buchanan was attached as surgeon to Captain Michael Symes, Ambassador of British to Burma, Embassy in Eva, the capital of Burma. He travelled to Burma through Arakan Yoma and used his journey to collect and record information on many aspects of life in Arakan, Burma and the Andaman Islands. He wrote that, "I shall now add three dialects, spoken in the Burmese Empire. The first is that spoken by the Mohammedans, who have long settled in Arakan and who call themselves Rohingya, native of Arakan." Fracis Buchanan, "The language of Burma". Asiatic Researches (Calcutta) Vol. 5 (1801).

There is a historic stone pillar of Vesali Chandra Dynnasty(788-957 CE) known as Vesali stone pillar or Ananda Chandra's stone pillar, which is now lies close to the Shittaung Phaya Pagoda's entrance down the stairway in the old Mrauk-U city. The pillar has inscriptions on three sides — east, west, and northern side. The northern side of the pillar has a total of 78 lines of inscription of which, 69 lines were written in Proto-Bengali script. In the 42nd line, the name of Arakan (country) was written "Arakandesh". (Pamela Gutman: Ancient Arakan, Ph.D. Thesis, Australia National University, 1976.)

BY AFK JILANI
U Khin Yi, Burmese minister of Immigration made the false and fabricated statement in the Parliament. The minister contradicted the history of Arakan and Rohingyayas. As a police chief and a deputy minister he attended the Barly Process in 2009 for the crisis of the boat people. There his false statements were refuted by the honourable Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Dipu Moni. Strongly refuting him on the origin of the Rohingyayas Dipu Moni asserted that Rohingyayas were one of the many races that make up Myanmar's total population. She reminded that Rohingyayas have been in Myanmar for centuries and many of them have even hold high posts in the Burmese government.

Just by excluding from any list will not make them anything other than an ethnic entity of Myanmar. She stressed the need for a multilateral approach by the countries of the region to solve the Rohingyaya problem. Previous repatriation of quite a few hundred thousand Rohingyayas and acceptance of list of further 28,000 Rohingyayas proved that they were very much part of the population of Myanmar. She also said that Rohingyaya, who are predominantly residing in northern Arakan State in Western Burma, had national radio programmes in their language in Burma. There U Khin Yi had denied that Rohingyaya had no marriage restriction while many Rohingyayas were serving jail for marriage without permissions.

It is not possible to ascribe to Rahkines a 'historic right', the right of first occupier as many historical evidence confirmed that it was a Hindu Indian state in the style of the period. Arakan, in fact, a continuation of the Chittagong plain was neither purely a Burmese nor an Indian territory until 18th century A.D. It was an independent kingdom. According to MS Collis, 'the area now known as north Arakan had been for many years before the 8th century the seat of Hindu dynasties. In 788 A.D. a new dynasty known as the Chandra founded the city of Wessali. It was an easterly Hindu Kingdom of Bengal and that both government and the people were Indian. The "true Chronicle" records that in the 957 A.D. a Mongolian invasion sweep over Wesali, destroyed the Chandras and placed on the throne Mongolian kings. According to Wilhelm Klein,' all of a sudden, Arakan changed'. Historian D.G.Hall in his classic "History of South-East Asia" described the Rakhine of today as "basically Burmese with an unmistakable

With the passage of time, there came to exist two distinct communities of Rohingya and Rakhine in Arakan out of those heterogenous races of tribes and are equally entitled to similar historical rights. Both are indigenous peoples characterised by objective criteria, such as historical continuity, and subjective factors including self-identification, which need to define an indigenous people, and entitled to have the right of ethnic origin from Arakan. It means that, if the Rahkines have a 'historic right' in Arakan, the Rohingyayas have also the same right in Arakan. ##

Citizenship of Rohingya Family Revoked and Members Were Given Long Term Jail in Burma

In recent weeks there has been a great deal of news internationally about the plight of Rohingya leaving from western Burma in boats whom navy and security personnel of Thailand have pushed back into the ocean. In order to illustrate some of the problems that they face in Burma, the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) brings the case of U Kyaw Min and his family, who in 2005 were given long jail sentences for supposedly giving false information about their ethnicity in order to get citizenship.

U Kyaw Min and his family members were all born in Burma and are lifelong residents. He holds a number of degrees from institutions in Burma and worked as a township education officer and a school headmaster, both government posts. He was popular and well known in his community of Buthidaung and in 1990 he successfully ran for a seat in parliament; however, he was sacked from his job as school headmaster in 1989 because of his party politics. After the election results were denied and his party was banned, in 1992 he moved his family to Rangoon but continued to take an interest and remain active in political affairs. Throughout this time there was never any question of the validity of his or his family's citizenship, even though the election commission scrutinized Kyaw Min's personal records before allowing him to stand for election to ensure that both he and his wife were citizens.

In fact, the family are Rohingyas but because the government refuses to acknowledge the existence of this group, their ethnicity was recorded as Indian. The family was targeted because of Kyaw Min's political activities and the false information about their ethnic identity was used as a pretext to imprison not only him but also his wife and three of his children. In total Kyaw Min was sentenced to 47 years and his wife and three children, 17 years each.

Appeals were lodged for Kyaw Min and family at the divisional court and Supreme Court on a range of grounds; however, the Supreme Court dismissed its special appeals bench dismissed the appeal without considering the substance of the facts at all. ##
BURMESE GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS POLICY OF RACIAL PROFILING

The Immigration Minister was chosen to answer a question in parliament brought by U Zahid Rawmam aka U Htay Win of Arakan constituency seven, in which he enquired about why “indigenous Rakhine Muslims” still had their freedom of movement curtailed by having to apply to the military’s border force, Nasaka, to move between towns. Failing to do so can result in jail time as a Muslim League for Democracy (NLD) member found out near Mandalay.

Htay Win was quoted by the New Light of Myanmar saying that; “indigenous Myanmar Muslim voters in Maungdaw District of Rakhine State cannot travel freely; to travel other Regions or States for economic, education, health and social reasons, they have to take out Application Form (4) of Immigration Department under the directive of Na-Sa-Ka, forcing them to face many difficulties in socio-economic life; and how the state will help address this issue.”

The response came from the immigration minister, U Khin Yi, a former police chief. The key part of his response reaffirmed the government’s commitment to racial profiling, stating that; “Those who are labeled “Myanmar Muslims” were assumed to be Bengalis in Maungtaw of Rakhine [Arakan] State;” and; “Bengalis in Maungtaw have shared common religion, culture, appearance and language with their counterparts [in Bangladesh].”

Incidentally other ethnic groups in Burma share “appearance” and cultural traits with those over international boundaries in nations such as Thailand or China.

David Matheison, senior Burma researcher for Human Rights Watch (HRW) responded that it was symptomatic of “systemic racism” on the part of the Burmese government.

Khin Yi meanwhile claimed in parliament that migrants from Bangladesh were “penetrating deep into the country,” international NGOs and the UNHCR have confirmed that there is a “protracted emergency” in Bangladesh as a result of refugees from Burma’s northern Arakan state where Maungdaw or Maungtaw is located.

Matheison confirmed that claims of Bangladeshi migration to Burma were a “massive mistruth,” adding that; “its going the other way.”

Khin Yi however stated that; “As there was mass migration 180,000 were given refugee after being scrutinised by Nagarmin Operation and Hintha Plan in 1978.”

Nagarmin, translates as dragon, and was by most accounts an appropriate description for it was in all intents and purposes a racial purge, where by some 200,000 Burmese Muslims or Rohingya were sent fleeing into neighbouring Bangladesh by heavily armed members of the Burmese military.

Khin Yi none the less stated that; “the Application Form (4) is used in need of State’s security and nationalism as the foreign Bengalis illegally migrated into Maungtaw of Rakhine State.”

Muslims have lived in the Arakan region since at least the 9th century BCE whilst today Cox’s Bazar, in Bangladesh is home to some 200,000 Burmese Muslims or Rohingya as well as significant numbers of Arakanese Buddhist refugees.

However systemic persecution on the basis of race has been experienced not just in border areas. Such laws or policies are regularly used against Muslim Burmese.

A Muslim member of National League for Democracy (NLD) in Mandalay’s Tatkon township was recently sentenced to one and half years in prison for trying to travel to a nearby town to celebrate Martyr’s Day. Pho Htaung (also known as) Hla Myint was sentenced under the immigration act last Friday, said Meikhtila township NLD member Myint Myint Aye.

“He was prosecuted by Tatkon township’s Immigration Chief U Nyi Nyi for failing to inform the Immigration Office when he travelled outside of his town, a regulation for those who carry non-citizen ID cards. Now he has been sentenced to a year and half in prison,” said Myint Myint Aye.

Pho Htaung was previously arrested in March 2010 for travelling to Mandalay [town] to attend an NLD meeting there and sentenced to a year and half prison term. He was released from Sagaing Division’s Katha Prison after serving 13 months. His recent arrest comes just three months after he was released from his previous sentence.

The Muslim population of Northern Arakan state are known as Rohingya people. They were specifically targeted by the military party, the Union Solidarity Party (USDP) in last year’s controversial elections, to garner votes. Matheison states that they were given temporary ID cards to allow them to vote.

Despite being able to vote for the USDP they are now denied what Matheison describes as a “basic human freedom”, the freedom of movement.

As a result groups such as Refugees International describe the ethnic group as; “one of the most persecuted in the world”. This discrimination was characterised by the Burmese consul general to Hong Kong, Ye Myint Aung who in 2009 described the ethnic group as “ugly as ogres” in the press.

Burma is not signatory to the UN’s convention on elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, unlike all of its neighbours. ##

Source: DVB NEWS, Sept. 01, 2011.
ARAKAN STATE IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION CHIEF FORCES
MAGISTRATE TO IMPRISION 9 ROHINGYA TRAVELLERS IN AKYAB

Akyab, Arakan State: The Chief of the State Immigration and Population of Arakan State forced a female magistrate to imprison nine Rohingya including five men and four women in Akyab on September 8, 2011, said a leader from Akyab, denying to be named for security reason.

“The five Rohingya were released from court on bail on September 6 by a female magistrate, but the Chief of State Immigration and Population of Arakan forced the magistrate to issue warrant for the arrest of the released Rohingya males on the same day at 9:00 pm.

“The nine Rohingya including five men and 4 women, hail from Akyab, were sentenced to two and a half years in jail by the Chief of Arakan, without giving them any chance to defend themselves through legal procedure.”

14 Rohingyas including 5 men, 4 women and 5 children were arrested at the Max Toll Gate from Mawbi Township of Lower Burma on July 29, 2011 while on the way to pay a visit to their relatives living in Rangoon and detained there, according to their relative.

“The 14 arrestees were identified as — Jial Hussain (48), son of Jamal Hussain, hailed from Thake Pyin village of Akyab, Ms Hla Hla May (22), daughter of Mohamed Shaffi, hailed from Ambala Quarter of Akyab, she had obtained B. Sc (Physics) degree from Sittwe University, Ms Nur Naher (28), daughter of Abul Hussain, hailed from Thake Pyin of Akyab, Ms. Rashida Begum (27), daughter of Hanifa, hailed from Thake Pyin village, Sayed Mohamed (37), son of Hamid Hussain, hailed from Bumay village, Akyab, Ms. Salma Khutun (31), daughter of Mohamed, hailed from Aung Mingala Quarter of Akyab, Ziaul Haque (40), son of Hussain Ahmed, hailed from Thake Pyin, and Omer Hakim (37), son of Eklas Mah, hailed from Aung Mingala of Akyab, besides their five children, and Shafi Rahman (45), son of Abdu Rahman, hailed from Aung Pyin village of Rathedaung township.”

But, on July 30, 2011, the arrested Rohingyas were sent to Akyab and temporarily detained in the police station No.1, where they were severely harassed and tortured, said a relative of one of the victims.

“Later, on September 5, the five children were released without charge. The children were — two children of Ms Nur Naher, aged 9 to 4 years, another two children of Ms Rashida, aged 4 to 2 years, and last one child of Ms Salma Khutun, aged 4 years.”

“These jailed people are nothing to do with the “illegal entries” as they are all hailed from Akyab and Rathedaung Townships and they all hold NRC cards. Despite being natives holding NRC cards how did they become illegal entries? But it is true that “Might is Right”, said a politician.

“The task was and acts of cowardice and pure extra-jurisdiction in the era of Democratic Administration under the leadership of President Thein Sein, while the international and local communities are hoping that Burma will be changed into Democracy and the human rights violations against the peoples will be stopped under the leadership of President Thein Sein,” said Hla Aung, the president of NDPHR- Exile (National Democratic Party for Human Rights), Paris, France in a statement. “All those people are citizens of Burma and they have inborn rights to move about freely inside the country as they wish and that was clearly mentioned in the constitution.”

According to Minister Khin Yi, the Minister of Immigration and Population, in the Parliament on August 30, 2011, as there were “illegal entries” in the border of Bangladesh, it should be controlled and scrutinized. Its sounds are reasonable, but it is totally ridiculous to pose a “collective punishment” to the entire population of the State: restrictions of free movement, education, religion, social welfare, marriage and etc... Furthermore such measure was never applied in many other states through “illegal entries” exists there too.

It may be mentioned here that about 48 Rohingyas Muslims from Akyab and Maung-Daw Districts in three groups were arrested at Taunggup Jetty and Ann Bus Station of Arakan by the Burmese Immigration and Military Intelligence (MI) Officers, since then they have disappeared and no one had sent back to their original place. The following are some instances:-

On 23 November 1997, a group of 20 young men, from Maung-U and Kyauktaw townships of Akyab District had hired a private engine boat and reached Taunggup Jetty to go to Rangoon. They were arrested by Immigration and MI officers for traveling without FORM-4. They were seen until 29 November 1997 and then all disappeared.

In early 1998, a family of 13 members including old men, women and some infants led by Moulana Noor Meah, a religious leader from Aung Daing Village of Minbya township had arrived Taunggup Jetty by boat and were arrested by Immigration officers and then sent to Taunggup Jail. Later they were also disappeared from the Jail.

In later part of 1988, a 3 rd group of 15 young men of from Maungdaw and Buthedaung traveled by boat from Akyab to Taunggup. On arrival at the Jetty they were arrested by Immigration officers for travelling without FORM-4 and sent them to Taunggup Jail. Later they were also disappeared from the Jail. All the above persons were not tried in any court of the country and it is assumed that they all were arbitrarily executed.

“Breuil Linter, a prominent writer of many books about Burma said that since 1935, there was no infiltrator to Burma from neighboring country Bangladesh (earlier East-Pakistan).”

“In reality, the economic situation of Burma has been bad to worst since long; no one wants to enter Burma where there is injustice and persecution. On the contrary it is well known to the international community that thousands of people from Burma are daily entering into the neighboring countries,” said a business man preferring not to be named.

If the Rohingyas were illegal Bengali infiltrators why Thein Sein and many other former SPDC ministers assured the Rohingyas voters of restoring soon their rights and freedom during their election campaigns to northern Arakan.

The open rejection of Rohingya people by Thein Sein government requiring them Form-4 to travel from place to place like aliens is tantamount to making them stateless in violation of the international covenants or treaties on reduction of statelessness and protection of minorities and the helpless people. We strongly denounce the Thein Sein government for having such wicked attitudes towards Rohingyas.

The USDP ministers hatefully tag the Rohingya children as black list babies accusing that their fathers have fled (in fact fleeing persecution) and illegally entered again into Arakan and have produced babies by unlawfully living together with their wives with whom they have legal wedlock. It is a clear violation of the Child’s Rights under Conventions and international law. Thein Sein government was particularly critical of the Muslim Rohingya’s common religion, culture, appearance and language with the people of Bangladesh in order to accuse them as aliens. ##
Thursday, 1 September 2011, BNO NEWS
Akyab, Arakan State : An accidental bomb explosion killed seven people, including two children aged 10 and 12, in a village in Burma’s western Arakan State on Wednesday afternoon 31 August 2011.

“They were killed accidentally in the blast while trying to remove a bomb that appeared at the sea shore near their village. They seemed to have no idea what it was,” said a government official who asked not to be named.

Local witnesses said the bomb, which was believed to have been left behind, was smouldering while they attempted to smash it open. Several children were among the casualties. Five men died on the spot and two children died at Akyab General Hospital.

A ROHINGYA BETEL SHOPKEEPER SHOT DEAD BY NASAKA

Thursday, September 01, 2011 Maungdaw:
A betel shopkeeper was illegally shot dead by a Nasaka man last night in Maungdaw, a western Burmese border town, said police.

A police officer said that the incident took place in the Shwe Zar North quarter of Maungdaw at midnight last night but refused to give any further details on the incident.

“The incident actually occurred in this quarter but the case has not been filed in our police station. As it involves Nasaka personnel, the case will be filed with them at the Nasaka headquarters. Because of this, it is impossible to give you details,” the officer said.

A family member said that Muhmad Narsat, son of Nurlarmi, was shot dead by a Nasaka man when the Nasaka man came to the shop to buy a quid of betel at midnight.

“He was afraid of opening his shop when the Nasaka man arrived as it was midnight. However the Nasaka man forced him to open the shop so he could buy a quid of betel. When he opened the shop, the Nasaka man suddenly shot dead him with his gun,” a family member said. “I heard he was late opening up the shop. This is the reason the Nasaka man killed him,” he added.

According to local sources, many high authorities, including Colonel Aung Gyi, the commander in charge of the Nasaka force, came to the area to investigate the incident. The body of Muhamad Narsat was moved to hospital this morning for an autopsy.  ##  Source : Narinjara News

STEP UP REFORM EFFORTS : UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON TELLS BURMA

Wednesday, Sep. 28, 2011:  UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday 27 September 2011 told the Burmese government it must step up its reform efforts if it is really serious about its claims that it is making an inclusive and irreversible transition. Ban’s remarks came on the same day that Burmese Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin addressed the 66th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, giving a detailed account of recent steps toward reform that the new Burmese government said were irreversible.  ##  Source : Kaladan News

SEVEN DIE WHEN WWII BOMB EXPLODES IN WESTERN BURMA

Thursday, 1 September 2011, BNO NEWS
Akyab, Arakan State : An accidental bomb explosion killed seven people, including two children aged 10 and 12, in a village in Burma’s western Arakan State on Wednesday afternoon 31 August 2011.

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NASAKA KILLED ANOTHER ROHINGYA VILLAGER IN MAUNGDAW

Friday, September 02, 2011
Maungdaw, Arakan State: Burm’s border security force (Nasaka) killed another Rohingya villager on August 24, over the allegation that he had involved in money exchange, said a close relative of the victim.

“The victim was identified as Mohamd Hussain (55), son of Kader Hussain, hailed from Shwe Zaar Village tract of Maungdaw Township.”

“Hussain was arrested by officer of Nasaka camp No. 14 under Shwe Zaar village Nasaka out-post, Nasaka Sector # 6 of Maungdaw Township on August 21, over the accusation that he had been involved in illegal money exchange.”

“Hussain was severely tortured by the Nasaka personnel to take confessional statement while he was detained in the Nasaka out-post camp.”

However, on August 24, at around 3:30 pm, he was handed over to his relatives while the victim was serious condition. Receiving the victim, the relatives immediately took the victim to the Maungdaw General hospital for medical treatment. But, he was dead at about 5:00 pm, while taking treatment at the hospital, said a friend of the victim on condition of anonymity.

“The authority handed over the dead body to his relatives without giving any information about post-mortem report of the Doctors.” A local said that post-mortem showed that the victim had been tortured severely. On August 25, the dead body was buried in his village's local graveyard.

“Now there is no case filed against the Nasaka personnel as fear or reprisals of the Nasaka.” Similarly, on August 30, Nasaka had beaten brutally Abdul Matalof,60, an old man who severed as a sentry in Shweza, was dead September 1, morning at 10:00am, said a school teacher from Shweza village.

Rohingyas are killed as an animal in Arakan north by Nasaka without any judicial inquiry or proper query less giving importance than an ant, said a trader from locality.  ##  Source : Narinjara News

Rohingya fishermen are working in the shore of Bay of Bengal.
90 ROHINGYAS ARRESTED IN BANGLADESH ARE PUSHED BACK TO BURMA

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Monday, 12 September 2011.
Chittagong, Bangladesh: Bangladesh security force arrested about ninety Rohingyas in difference places in Bangladesh since August first week, according to an officer who is working on Rohingya in Bangladesh.

“Most of the Rohingyas are trying to enter into Bangladesh from their home land, Arakan, Burma while they were arrested. They were pushed back to their home after arrested on the border. Some time, the security force handed over to police for further action.”

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel arrested 17 Rohingyas from Naytong-hill point of Teknaf Upazila in Cox’s Bazar on September 11, morning for illegal entrance and handed over to the Teknaf Upazila police. A case has been filed with the Teknaf police under passport act, according to the Teknaf BGB battalion sources.

Similarly, six Rohingyas were arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on September 11 night while trying to board a Jeddah-bound flight with fake Bangladeshi and Nepalese passports, the airport armed police said. “A Bangladeshi citizen, Ershadul Islam Raisul, was also detained for helping the Rohingyas in their attempt to fly out.”

Six Rohingyas, Burmese citizens were arrested at Kaptai jetty in Kaptai Township in the Ramgamati district of Bangladesh near the western Burmese border for entering Bangladesh illegally on September 10, while they were entering a ghat at around 10am via a engine-run boat leaving for another township, Bilaichhari, according to the Bangladesh news agency, UNB.

Seven Rohingyas were arrested by BGB from Nilla on September 5, 2011 who were pushed back after arrested, according to an elder from Nilla. Also ten Rohingyas were arrested by Chandanaih police station who are living and working daily labor in Dohachari on September 4. BGB arrested 12 Rohingya at Nazir Para of Teknaf on August 13, 2011 and 13 Arakanese Rohingyas were arrested by the BGB (Bangladesh Border Guard) at the Nila border on August 5, while attempting to cross the border illegally into Bangladesh. Later, they were pushed back to Burma, said a source from Nila close to BGB.

At last, 18 Rohingyas were arrested on August 1, at Sharpuri Dip, under Teknaf Police station.

“Rohingya people are minority Muslims from the Arakan state of neighboring Burma, who crossed into Bangladesh to escape persecution of movement restriction, marriage restriction, educate and religious persecution, ban on government jobs and rejection on citizenship by the Burmese junta after 1978.”

The Rohingyas fled from their home land to save their lives in Bangladesh as a better place. But, some Rohingyas try again to find out other places while they face same persecution in Bangladesh like Burma, said a member of Rohingyas watch dog in Bangladesh.

“Some of Bangladeshi human traffickers are taking advantages on Rohingyas, to flee from Bangladesh to other countries, like KSA, UAE and Malaysia with fake passports and other process.” “The Rohingyas are just following as per the directions of Human traffickers.”

According to UNHCR, approximately 29,100 Rohingyas are staying in the official camps in border area, Kutupalong and Nayapara under Cox’s Bazar.

About 2,00,000- 5,00,000 Rohingyas live among the population in southeast Bangladesh, according to the US diplomatic cable leak. A process to repatriate them has been stalled because of Burma’s reluctance to take them back. ##

Source : KALADAN NEWS

Maulana Shamsul Alam is no more with us

Maulana Shamsul Alam Abdul Qader, the Vice-Chairman of the Burma Center for Memorization of Holy Qur’an, Dubai and UAE passed away (Inna Lillahi-Wainna illaihi Rajeoon) on September 20, at Ajman, UAE, with heart failure, at the age of 60.

“Maulana Shamsul Alam was admitted at Khalifa Hospital, Ajman before his death. His Namaze-e-Janaza was held at Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Masjid, Ajman, UAE, on September 21 after Asar Prayer.”

Maulana Shamsul Alam hailed from Kumir Khali (Laikra) village in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, Burma.

He was the son of Abdul Qader and son-in-law of Tajmuluk Rowathugyi of Bowl Bazar of Maungdaw Township.

He left behind sons, daughters, his wife and a lot of relatives and friends in Arakan, abroad and elsewhere in the world to mourn his death. He attended the first Rohingya Convention held 30-31 May, 2011 at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The president and members of ARNO were shocked at the sudden demise of brother Maulana Shamsul Alam, who served the community for a long time. He is a man admired and respected by all strata of people. Our sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May Allah grant him Jannat-e-Ferooodus. ##
Rangoon (27 September 2011): On 26 September, 2011 pro-democracy activists in Rangoon defied heavy police deployment and held prayer vigils and ceremonies to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the regime’s crackdown on the monk-led Saffron Revolution of 2007.

About 60 activists held a prayer vigil at Sule Pagoda. However, police prevented about 200 demonstrators from joining the ceremony near Rangoon City Hall.

In South Okkalapa Township, about 1,000 people, including monks, NLD leaders, student activists, and politicians, participated in a ceremony at a local monastery. During these events, activists also called for the release of political prisoners and expressed their opposition to the Myitsone dam project in Kachin State. Police said no arrests were made.

“We came here to pray for the release of political prisoners and to mark the fourth anniversary of the Saffron Revolution, but a police officer asked us not to go anywhere so that’s why we have to go home,” one of the activists said.

Security guards closely followed and monitored Monday’s protest with many officers also deployed near Sule Pagoda. But there is no violent crackdown against the protesters and the event took place peacefully. “They didn’t shout and hold placards. They just marched peacefully but some wore yellow shirts,” said a witness.

Dozens of people also launched a separate demonstration in North Okkalapa on Monday. They were blocked by Burmese authorities before ending the march peacefully. They repeated the “Metta Sutta” (Buddhist chant for compassion) after being blocked by security forces but then decided to end the march, said a protester. They also called for the immediate release of all political prisoners without condition. An estimated 1,998 political prisoners are currently detained across Burma, according to Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Outside Burma, activists held commemoration ceremonies in Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, India, the UK, and the US.

Myanmar is now ruled by a nominally civilian government but its ranks are filled with former generals and the country still has more than 2,000 political prisoners. In recent weeks the regime has shown signs of engaging with its opponents including pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won a 1990 election but was never allowed by the junta to take power.

In an interview earlier this month, Suu Kyi said there had been “positive developments” in Myanmar, but it was unclear whether President Thein Sein would be able to carry through his reform pledges. The dissident said she did not want a popular revolt in Myanmar of the kind seen in Libya, adding: “Everybody knows that Libya’s troubles are going to drag on for a long time.” ##