

Geopolitics of the Powers and the Bengali Problems in Burma

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1. Background

In 1971 the Independence War in East Pakistan broke out. In Bangladesh this war was officially known as 'Bangladesh Liberation War' which started on 26th March 1971 and ended on 16th December of the same year. At that time, there were about one and a half million to two million Bengali war refugees in Arakan Division of Burma according to BBC . In the mean time, there were more than ten million war refugees on Indian soil. India was open and immediately called international organizations such as International Committee of Red Cross CRC (Red Crescent in Muslim countries), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), World Food Program (WFP) and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and others for help. On the other hand, the Revolutionary Council Government of Burma headed by Gen. Ne Win was too much afraid of international organizations entering Burma as he wanted Burma to stay as an isolated state. He also wanted to deal under the table with the newly formed Bangladeshi Government. He recognized Bangladesh immediately, which caused tensions between Pakistan and Burma. He then had to send a special envoy to Pakistan to explain the situation.

If the then Burmese Government and Ne Win were wise and open like India, the international organisations would have accepted these war refugees who fled into Arakan as "East Pakistani or Bangladeshi Refugees inside Burma", and not the other way round like now. In fact, most of the people who claim to be the 'Rohingya' nowadays are the descendants of those who crossed the border and settled down inside Burma in 1971 during the Bangladesh Liberation War as well as illegal immigrants brought by them at a later period. Evidence of this lies in the fact that this group cannot speak any languages spoken in Burma.

The living conditions in Burma during this time was much better than that of East Pakistan, later Bangladesh. Hence, although Sheik Mujibur Rahman, the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh willingly accepted all of the war refugees coming back to his country, many of them crossed the border back into Burma later and settled down in northern areas of Arakan illegally. Then, the former Bengali settlers who already became Burmese citizens under U Nu's government helped the illegal returnees. The early settlers helped later arrivals which allowed for never ending illegal immigration into Burma from Bangladesh. Thus, the population growth of so-called "Rohingyas" inside Burma became a miracle and now claim ethnic status.

In 1975 the Bangladeshi ambassador in Burma, K.N. Kaiser, admitted to the then British ambassador to Burma, Mr. T.J. O'Brien that there were still around five hundred thousand illegal Bangladeshi immigrants inside Burma. That report can be seen in British Archives in London. As well, Dr. Aye Chan, a Professor at the Kanda University in Japan wrote an article on that case entitled 'Burma's Western Border'.

In 1976, I witnessed in Sittwe many Bengalis living on the roads who could speak only very few Arakanese/Burmese words such as: *"Please give me some food! Please give me some work!"* Language is one aspect of identity. My ethnographic observations provide a context to the discussion in understanding the issues raised within this paper.

The failure of the Burmese Government and Ne Win not to exploit the politics of the day and 'make hay' since Bangladesh was a "Pariah State" at the time of establishment because except for India and East Bloc Countries nobody recognised Bangladesh. The Burmese government then could have

negotiated from a superior position and discussed both refugees and border problems before they had recognised the newly formed state. Unfortunately, the then Burmese Government and Ne Win did not do this. Because of the mismanagement of the two issues, the Burmese government and their people today have to face this so-called 'Rohingya' problem as well as border problems in which Bangladesh can talk from the superior position.

2. Changes in Geopolitics

In 1975 there was an Army Coup in Bangladesh and Sheik Mujibur Rahman was killed. The new military leader Gen. Zia Rahman¹ was close to Pakistan. Bangladesh was recognised by China, USA, West Bloc nations and all Islamic states. Hence, there were changes in geopolitics.

In 1977, the Bangladeshi Military Attaché in Rangoon, Col. Amin was accused of helping anti-government groups, he was declared *persona non grata* and had to leave Burma within 48 hours. In the mean time Sino-Burmese Relation was not good because of the Chinese backed Communists Rebels at their border. Brigadier (Rtd.) Kyaw Zaw, one of the members of the 'Thirty Comrades' joined the Communists Rebels. Five Burma Air Force dive bombers were shot down by the Chinese at the border. The official statement of Burmese government was “the planes hit a mountain range”! These three major areas point to changing relationships and changing power dynamics in the area.

3. The ‘aborted’ Naga Min (King Dragon) Operation in 1978

In 1978, the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP) government, without considering the changes in geopolitics of the powers, made routine immigrant check with the Naga Min (King Dragon) Operation in Arakan, especially at the Bangladesh border. Most people fled to Bangladesh claiming that they were “Rohingya” and the issue of military abuses by the Burmese Army was raised. This was denied by the Burmese government and declared these people were new settlers coming from overpopulated Bangladesh because of a cyclone, which hit the neighbouring country recently. This statement was vehemently rejected by Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi government requested the UN and some powers like China and the United States for help. In fact, the BSPP government should have called on the international organizations immediately and given shelters for those cyclone refugees and issued them temporary settling certificates as foreigners. Instead, Ne Win's Regime (BSPP at that time) unwisely started the Naga Min (King Dragon) Operation and chased out those Bangladeshi settlers who named themselves “Rohingyas”.

Unfortunately for the Burmese government but fortunately for the “Rohingyas”, many of these "refugees" had Burmese identity cards. However, it was found out later that some of the Burmese identity cards were counterfeit ones printed in Bangladesh, and some of them though genuine were issued illegally due to the corruption of Burmese immigration officers in the Arakan (Rakhine) State. To subvert the low wages of the Burmese immigration officers, they took bribes and issued unauthorized identity cards to anyone who can afford to pay. Some powers like United States and China pressured the BSPP government of Burma.

The BSPP government, after its difficulties with internal problems, such as riots during former UN Secretary General U Thant's funeral and the semi-annual demonstrations of workers and students

1 In a sub-editorial (Parbattya oncholay oshanti sristir janok marhum rashtrapati ziaur rahman) published in the daily Sangbad from Dhaka, Fakir Abdur Razzak, a renowned journalist and columnist, said that the late president Ziaur Rahman was an agent of Pakistan's ISI. During pre-independence (before 1971) period, Ziaur received training as a junior officer in the Pakistani military intelligence department, ISI, and earned fame as a smart officer. He earned a special 'selection' of the ISI during the 1971 liberation war of Bangladesh. Because of his dubious role that raised many questions during the liberation struggle, General M A G Osmani removed him from the command of a sector, the article added.

since 1974, wanted to avoid creating international attention. The so-called Rohingyas were allowed to return after a bilateral agreement between the Burmese and Bangladeshi governments. These people were accepted into Burma from August 1st 1978 to January 5, 1979 through the “Hinthia Project”. But the number of returnees in Maungdaw Township only was about 30,000 more than the official "refugees" declared by the Bangladeshi authorities. Some claimed to be from a village either in Buthidaung or Maungdaw area, however, they could not show where they used to lived nor did they knew how to go back to their claimed ‘native villages’. In fact, they were new settlers from Bangladesh. The following table shows the details in Maungdaw Township:²

Dist. Of Maung Daw	Number of families	Number of people		
		Male	Female	Total
Outgoing	12,496	Unknown	Unknown	79,823
Incoming	17,674	54,935	54,732	109,667

In the whole Arakan, the number of returnees was about seventy thousand higher than the official number of refugees.

U Nyo Ohn Myint of NLD (Liberated Areas) said in an interview with Myit Makha Media on 18th September 2012: *“My father was the director general of the Social Welfare and Relief Department of Burma during Hinthia Project. He too noticed that the number of returnees was much higher than the people went out. In some cases, a male went out alone came back with a big family with four wives and a number of children. When those people were asked they answered that they were Muslims and allowed to marry up to four wives. Therefore they married there some widows or helpless women with children, which was encouraged by their religion. In my opinion some Bengalis had used this method to bring illegal immigrants in semi-official way. During the interview with Al Jazeera TV (about two month ago) I pointed out those facts. As a result I received death threats from the Islamists”*.³

The truth is, this aborted Naga Min (King Dragon) Operation put ‘the so-called Rohingya Issue’ to the attention of the international community and many from the foreign media who were taken in by ‘the tragic history of the Rohingyas’ and without much knowledge of the historical facts of Burma and the Arakan area.

4. Why do Chittagong Bengali want to name themselves “Rohingyas”

The facts from a historical context is there has never been a “Rohingya” ethnic group either in Arakan or Burma, or even in India. It is quite evident there is no such name as “Rohingya” in all the history books and chronicles written by Burmese, Bengalis, Arakanese, British, Dutch and Portuguese. The name Rohingya is more a political term rather than a historical name.

In the Chittagong dialect of Bengali language, the Rakhine land(Arakan) is called 'Rohan' and the Rakhine people (Arakanese) are called 'Rohangya (Rohan = Rakhine, Gya = man). Since the word is of Bengali origin, some of the Muslim secessionists used the name to identify themselves to be the natives of Arakan and named themselves as Rohingya by 'hijacking' the name of the real natives of Arakan (Rakhines) in Bengali language.

The real natives of the Rakhine land(Arakan), the Rakhine people (Arakanese) as well as the whole

² Report on the conditions and sufferings of the Arakanese in Maung Daw, Published by: Arakanese Security Association, Maung Daw, Arakan (Rakhine State) dated 9 October 1988 (in Burmese language), p.4.

³ http://maythingyanhein.blogspot.ca/2012/09/blog-post_20.html

populace of Burma cannot accept that term as they are aware of historical data and view this as a political play by a group who had secessionist ambitions.

In his work, Derek Tonkin, a former British Ambassador, wrote in "The 'Rohingya' Identity: The British Experience in Arakan 1826 – 1948": *"But supporters of Rakhine Muslims overseas should at the same time acknowledge that the particular designation 'Rohingya' had no serious historical validity prior to independence in 1948. If 'Rohingya' were felt to be a step too far, why not seek to modernise the 'Arakan Muhammadan' of 1901?"*

In the interview with the Irrawaddy Magazine on July 9th 2012 Dr. Jacques Leider, an Arakan expert, answered very clearly:

Q: *Are the Rohingya an ethnic group of Burma?*

A: *My answer is that Rohingya is not an ethnic concept. Okay, they can stand up and say we are an ethnic group inside Myanmar. But I think that is not the best way. When you argue we are Muslims and we have been living in Rakhine for several generations, nobody can deny it. For me, Rohingya is the term, which is an old word that has been claimed as above all as a political label after the independence of Myanmar. For the moment, I do not see that all the people there readily submit to one and a single label. When I was in Bangladesh, people pointed out Muslims to me who originally lived in Rakhine. They have now moved to Bangladesh and when you ask them, "are you Rohingya coming from Rakhine?" they say, "no, we are Muslims who live in Rakhine, we do not take for us the label Rohingya."*

5. The aborted Pyi Thar Yar (Welfare State) Operation in 1991

In 1991, a deadly cyclone hit Bangladesh and many people once again crossed the border into Arakan. As usual, the new military junta of Burma State Law and Order Reconciliation Council (SLORC) did not want international observers inside Burma, but without taking the lesson of the failure of the BSPP Regime, they unwisely started the Pyi Thar Yar Operation in 1991. Consequently, the issue of military abuses against the "so-called Rohingyas" in Arakan was raised once again and it was vehemently rejected by the Burmese junta. The pressure from Muslim Countries and Western countries were harsher than in 1978 because the image and reputation of the new military Junta (SLORC) was worse than that of the BSPP Regime. It became an aborted operation like the previous Naga Min (King Dragon) Operation and put 'the so-called Rohingya Issue' to the attention of the international community.

6. Bad Image of the various Burmese Military Governments since 1962

The various Military Governments of Burma since 1962 had a ruthless reputation and image, internally as well as with the international media. The news about not respecting human rights by the Burmese armed forces spread like wild fire.

In the year 1991, the SLORC had an exceptionally bad image in the international and internal media. They came to power in September 1988 through a blood shed coup. Most of the oppositions including the former prime minister U Nu and the famous opposition leader, the secretary general of the NLD, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Burma's national hero Gen. Aung San, were put under house arrest. The image of the military government was worsened after the 1990 elections when they refused to surrender power to the winning party, "The National League for Democracy" (NLD) led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. International pressure, too, grew and became harsher and reached its peak in the third quarter of 1991 when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Sakharov Peace Prize followed by the Nobel Peace Prize. Despite such pressures, the SLORC

refused to release her from house arrest.⁴ Hence, international media, Western Nations as well as the UN neither trusted the SLORC nor the various Burmese Military Juntas' statements, even if the statement of the junta was true.

7. Grabbing the opportunity or “Make hay while the sun shines” policy

While various military governments of Burma had a bad image and reputation in at the international level; all three, the various Governments of Bangladesh, the “Rohingyars and the Islamists, knew how to grab the undeserved opportunity and they took advantage of circumstances for their benefit with disregard for true facts efficiently .

(a) The various Bangladeshi Governments

The various Bangladeshi Governments could not control the population explosion of their country anymore. Chittagong Bengali Muslims invaded and are continuing to invade Chittagong Hill Tracts, kill and destroyed the villages of the ethnic minorities. In fact, these areas are 'out of bound areas' for Bengali. Hence, the other alternative is to migrate into neighbouring countries. There are about 15 million illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in India and the Governor of Assam wrote an official letter to the Indian President.⁵ Some illegal Bangladeshi immigrants were shot dead at the border fence by Indian Border Guards.

Although the various Bangladeshi Governments knew exactly that the majority of the so-called “Rohingyas” are in fact Bengali from Chittagong, they usually insist that these people are not from Bangladesh but they labelled them as 'Rohingyas' and claimed that they came from Burma as refugees to Bangladesh. In that way they can get money and help from international aid agencies and organizations. Apart from that they can solve the population explosion partially by transferring some of their people into neighbouring countries. For example, there are some people holding Bangladeshi passports in jails of third countries, however, Bangladeshi missions in those countries refused to accept them as their own citizens and claimed that they were 'Rohingyas' from Burma. One particular case was for the Bangladeshi student in NY, Quazi Nafi, a would be Federal Reserve Bank bomber. Although his parents live in the outskirts of Dhaka and he went to school there, the Bangladeshi Mission in NY and Washington DC claimed that he may not be a Bangladeshi instead a 'Rohingya' from Burma. How can a son of a vice president of a Bangladeshi bank not be a citizen of Bangladesh?

The Blitz⁶ news of Germany reported with names of Bangladeshi citizens, with the tolerance of Bangladeshi missions in Germany, who obtained political asylum in Germany through false claims as 'Rohingyas' from Burma. After they received German citizenship, they went and visited their relatives in Bangladesh.

“Bangladeshi nationals, who falsely sought to be Rohingyas and sought political asylum in Germany are: Uju Ullah [Muslim], who sought asylum in 2011; Gopar [Hindu], who sought asylum in 2012 and Gul Banu [Muslim], who sought political asylum in 2012. Their asylum petitions are under process and surprisingly one of them is Hindu, although there is no record of

4 She was released only in July 1995. Two or three years later she was rearrested and released only in May 2002 but rearrested again in May 2003 and released again in November 2010.

5 The Governor of the Indian State of Assam reported in 1998: “There is no evidence of Bangladesh authorities organising the movement of population but they certainly have made no attempt to prevent it and indeed, may be welcoming it, to ease their problem of bursting population. Thus, there is now even an attempt to cover up this movement. Prime Minister Sheikh Haseena has recently asserted that no Bangladeshi is illegally living in India.

6 <http://www.weeklyblitz.net/2739/bangladesh-ruling-party-member-claims-to-be>

persecution of the Hindu population in Myanmar, while there is no Hindu within the community of so-called Rohingya. Most importantly, none of the above mentioned people speak the language of the Rohingyas or Burmese language, while all of them hail from Dhaka and Comilla district. All of them can speak English. According to the fake certificates and papers submitted by the above named people, all of them claim to have been born in Arakan, when confronted they shifted their claims and claimed to be "Rohingyas from Bangladesh".

The Blitz even supplied the address as follows:

“The address of the above named fake Rohingyas seeking political asylum in Germany is: Frauenhofer Strasse 2-4, 84524 Neuötting, Bavaria, Germany.”

Officially, Bangladesh always denies that the so-called Rohingyas were and are not the illegal immigrants crossing the border from their side into Burma. However, as mentioned before, in 1975 the Bangladeshi ambassador in Burma, K.N. Kaiser, admitted to the then British ambassador to Burma, Mr. T. J. O’Brien that there were still about five hundred thousand illegal Bangladeshi immigrants inside Burma. That report can be seen in the British Archives in London. Dr. Aye Chan, a Professor at the Kanda University in Japan wrote an article on that case with the title 'Burma's Western Border'.

Major Hla Myaing wrote: *“In some official talks on illegal immigration to our (the Burmese) side, some Bangladeshi counterparts said jokingly that our country is much bigger than their country and we are underpopulated. We had enough space to accept two to three millions of excess people from their side and in that way we could help our overpopulated neighbour”*⁷

Apart from that, the so-called 'Rohingya' leaders were and are the supporters of Pakistan and therefore they became *persona non grata* in Bangladesh. Various Bangladeshi governments, especially the one led by the Awami League, knew and know exactly the connections between the so-called 'Rohingya' armed wings and the terrorists organizations like Taliban.⁸ Hence, the Bangladeshi government wanted and wants them out from their country. If those so-called 'Rohingya' leaders could take a few thousands of overpopulated citizens of Bangladesh to neighbouring Burma, the government of Bangladesh would have no objection.

(b) Islamists inside and outside Burma

For Islamists inside and outside Burma, they too could get Lion's Share by using the 'Rohingya Problem' as they can get petrol dollars from rich Arab countries as well as from Islamist Organizations for Islamization of Burma. In the 1970's, after they were given a "Rosy Picture" by Libya, some fanatic Muslims from the overpopulated Subcontinent and Muslim fundamentalists in Southeast Asia dreamed of a Muslim-dominated Southeast Asian Coast. They noticed that the whole of Southeast Asian Coasts except the Burmese Coastal Lines are populated with Muslim majority. Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia are Muslim countries. The Island of Mindanao of the Catholic dominated country, the Philippines, has many Muslims. Even the Kra Peninsula of the Buddhist country, Thailand, has Muslim majority. So, they wanted to use the following methods:⁹

(i) Change the religion of the native women through marriage to Muslim men:

Examples of this ideology can be viewed from the late 1970's until 1980's there were lots of many

⁷ Hla Myaing, Major, Secret Report No. 30, Illegal Immigration into Rakhine state from Bangladesh, 1.11.1983

⁸ RAs soon as the communal riots in the Rakhine state started on 8th June 2012, the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Ms. Dipu Moni stated that those 'Rohingya rioters' inside Burma were backed by the 'Rohingya terrorists' inside Bangladesh.

⁹ See and compare:, Maung Tha Hla, The Rakhaing, pp. 65-80

slogans and campaigns made by fanatic Muslim groups in Burma that Muslim men should marry Buddhist women, especially either influential women or the daughters of "Big Shots" with special rewards offered to those who could do so. A Muslim youth called Hlwan Moe, a pop singer, who courted and married the daughter of U Maung Maung Kha, the then Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, was rewarded with a lot of money, however, called as "Wedding Present" by some Muslims. Most people within Burma were aware of this and other stories of the Muslim agenda through marriage.

(ii) Transfer of people from overpopulated Muslim countries such as Bangladesh to under-populated non-Muslim countries such as Burma, so that Muslims will be everywhere.

Examples of this strategy can be seen in the Irrawaddy Delta Coast and Tenessarim Coast of Burma which can be reached only by a sea route from Bangladesh which would be difficult. Thus, the transfer of people from Bangladesh to under-populated Arakan was by land route, just to cross this porous border, so that it would become a Muslim majority state, and later to declare the area as a separate state of Arakanistan or Arakandesh. If the declaration and separation cannot be done easily, the religious war "Jihad" should be declared if necessary, with financial and military aid from all Muslim countries as requested.

(c) Some of the 'Rohingyarists' are engaging in human trafficking. An example of this is that Bangladesh is a poor country and has population explosion. Malaysia is the nearest rich Muslim country. Hence, no wonder, most of the poor Bengali wanted to go to Malaysia to seek their fortune. If they said the truth that they were from Bangladesh, they would be considered only as illegal immigrants and turned back. Hence, the human traffickers persuade poor Bengalis from Chittagong District who either want to seek jobs in well-paid countries or who want to settle in a rich country, to go out as boat people'. Since the so-called Rohingyas are in fact Chittagonian Bengali, they are of the same kin, speak the same language and have the same culture, it is 'the golden opportunity' for them to 'make hay while the sun shines' and claimed to be the 'Rohingya refugees of Burma' who are discriminated by the Burmese government as well as from the majority Buddhists. Nowadays, in the Bay of Bengal and in the Andaman Sea whenever boat people are captured and checked, they claim to be 'Rohingyas' from Burma, however, they cannot speak any of the languages of Burma instead they asked for a Bengali interpreter. Despite that fact some media including BBC insist that those people are refugees from Burma. Assuming, there are some boat people landing in US Coasts and claim that they are from England but they can speak only Russian and ask for a Russian interpreter, would BBC and those media support their claim? I think not. Yet, many media in the West including BBC want the world to believe the Rohingya myth as fact.

Mosin Sheik¹⁰ reported: *“Under the cloak of NGOs the Islamic militant outfits are operating among the Rohingyas in Teknaf. Besides, the Rohingyas are also involved in human trafficking.”* --- *“Chris Lewa, a human rights activist from Belgium, added that many Rohingyas are spreading across South Asia in recent times. They went to Karachi through the road link in India. She estimated that at least 200,000 Rohingyas have gone to Karachi this way. The Biharis and Rohingyas are directly involved with human trafficking in Pakistan, which the Pakistanis knew too. She talked to 16 such women (victims of trafficking) in Pakistan. They said that they came to Pakistan to join their families in Pakistan. She also said that those who are giving human rights assistance to the Rohingyas in Pakistan had links with Jamat-e-Islami.”*

Apart from that some “Rohingyarists” used fake photos which had occurred in other countries due to natural catastrophes and they spread up wrong information for their propaganda as if there were genocide and ethnic cleansing against the minority 'Rohingya' people in Northern Arakan, Burma. These false information was enlarged like a wildfire by some “free wheeling so-called Journalists” and “self proclaimed Burma Specialists”. Hence, these false information misled many people! The

10 Wikileaks: Rohingyas sheltered in Cox's Bazar have militant connection, Cox Bazar News, 13.09.2011

truth is the so-called 'Rohingyas' are 97% of the population at the border town Maungdaw. That means, they are not the minorities instead they are majorities in Northern Arakan!! How can 3% of the minority Buddhists commit genocide or ethnic cleansing towards the majority 97%?

Dr. Jacques Leider, an Arakan expert, answered in his interview with the Irrawaddy Magazine on July 9th 2012:

Q: *Is the international media mistaken when they use phrases like “genocide of the Rohingya?”*

A: Yes, a lot. Journalists have to focus more on diversifying their sources of documentation. I agree it may not be easy. I think there is enormous responsibility on media in Myanmar now that is opening up. Myanmar writers, Myanmar ethnicities take a responsible stand on this. It will not help if they take sides. But you need to be critical and self-critical.

In the mean time, some Burmese oppositions followed the principle “the enemy of my foe is my ally”, and helped the so-called 'Rohingyas' by writing their the fake history of 'Rohingyas' in Burmese. Apart from that the 'Rohingyarists' have enough money from rich Muslim countries for Islamization of non-Islamic countries. They can even buy lobbyists and propagandists in many languages for them. That's why their propaganda is more effective and the term 'Rohingya' becomes a world famous term.

8. The Role of Islamic Nations in the United Nation

In the 80' because of the financial support from rich Arab nations, Arabic became an official language of the United Nations next to English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese. Starting from 1990 the East Bloc collapsed. There is no balance of power in the United Nations. U.S.A and allies became more powerful. Besides the rich nations from the Middle East supports the UN with their Petrol Dollars. Therefore, the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) play a big role in the United Nations. Since all Islamic states backed the ‘Rohingya Movement’ because of Pan Islamism and helped them by all possible means, the pressure of the UN upon Burma came into being.

The powers like USA and EU, forced the Burmese Junta to accept the “Repatriation of Rohingyas” because they distrusted this Junta from the very beginning. Even China persuaded the Burmese Junta occasionally to accept the “Repatriation of Rohingyas” because the Chinese did not want to lose their face towards their Muslim Customers and do not want to lose their market share. Many Muslim countries are big trade partners of China, who especially bought arms from China regularly. Therefore, no wonder, some people unwittingly supported the "Rohingyas" and their claims.

9. Burma as a Pariah State

As mentioned earlier there are about 15 million illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in India. India built a fence through out the whole border between India and Bangladesh to prevent illegal immigration from Bangladesh. Apart from that the Indian Government authorised Border Guards 'to shoot on the sight' all illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Since the fence was built, about one thousand illegal immigrants from Bangladesh were killed by Indian Border Guards. Nobody, neither US President Obama nor the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon gave one single comment on this matter. Nor did the international human rights groups. On the other hand, in the case of Burma, the above-mentioned persons dare to give pressure on the Burmese government even on Burmese soil, without respecting the sovereignty of an independent nation. Why? The difference between India and Burma can be viewed as; India is a Pseudo Power armed with nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. Apart from that, since her independence all Indian Governments are democratically elected. The country is known as “the World's Biggest Democracy” and therefore the

country and her government is respected by all.

Burma under U Nu's government was also respected internationally although the country was not a power because U Nu's government was a democratically elected government. Apart from that Burma was a co-founder of the Non-Aligned Movement. Therefore, a Burmese citizen, U Thant was chosen for the post of the Secretary General of the United Nations in 1961. However, since 1962 onwards, the various Military Governments of Burma always had a poor reputation and image, neither in the internal nor in the international media and the worst still Burma became a "Pariah State" after 1988. Hence, everybody wants to bully, exploit and criticize Burma everywhere. Finally, as mentioned earlier, foreign condemnation went too far that both US President Obama and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon; without respecting the sovereignty of an independent nation, dared to bully Burma by forcing Burmese government on the Burmese soil to accept those so-called 'Rohingyas' as Burmese citizens. This was and is a tragedy for Burma and her citizens!

10. Conclusion

The 'Rohingya Problem' is not a basic conflict between the Buddhists majorities and the Muslim minorities as some authors claimed because **the so-called 'Rohingyas' are not the minorities instead they are majorities in Northern Arakan**. Also the Rohingya issue cannot be compared with the Karen, the Kachin, the Shan and the other ethnic problems in Burma basically because the so-called "Rohingyas" do not fall under the same category of ethnic minorities. Most of them are illegal immigrants from over-populated Bangladesh, however, they are doing what they want with no regard and winning Global support. If this continues, Arakan will eventually be forced to accept millions of Bengalis from Chittagong as 'Rohingyas' after each and every natural catastrophe in Bangladesh and it will be the end of Arakanese (Rakhine) race, Buddhist religion, the Rakhine language and culture.

In conclusion, I would like to ask "Human Rights Lobbyists" whether only the so-called 'Rohingyas' have Human Rights? What about the Arakanese or Rakhine people? History must be taken into account when lobbying for any group. When lobbying for one group, do you have to ignore the other group's rights?

I would like to point out and request "Human Rights Lobbyists" on behalf of all Arakanese (Rakhines) to please consider also the Human Rights of the Arakanese (Rakhines)! Is that not a Violation of Human Rights that firstly, the name of our Ethnic Group and Country was already hijacked by the Islamists and now secondly, the Intruders are now trying to take from the Rakhine their native land under "the Mask of the Refugee and the labelling of themselves an ethnic group within Burma.

Glossary

- Arakan** The land in the West Coast of Burma known to the West, which is also known as Rakhine Pree in Arakanese and Yakhine Pyay in Burmese
- Arakanese** The natives of Arakan or Rakhine Pree as known to the west, who are Buddhists and ethnically Mongoloid. However, The Rakhines (Arakanese) traditionally believe that they are the descendants of the *Sakya Sakis* the race from which Lord Gautama Buddha came.
- Burma** A country in Southeast Asia and a member of ASEAN. Same as Myanmar.
- Burman** A Burmese. The dominant ethnic group in Burma/Myanmar, who are Buddhists and ethnically Mongoloid. The Burmese/Burman traditionally believe that they are the descendants of the *Sakya Sakis* the race from which Lord Gautama Buddha came.
- Burmese** 1. Same as Burman. 2. The people and the language of the dominant ethnic group in Burma/Myanmar; it is also known as Bama/Myanmar in the native tradition.
- Rakhine Pree** Same as Arakan. It is called Rohan or Rosan or Rohin in Bengali Chittagong dialect and sub-dialects.
- Rakhaing** The genuine native of Arakan. Also known as Magh or Mogg or Mugg and Rosanga, Rohangya or Rohingya by the Indians and Bengalis.
- Rohingyas** The self-proclaimed name of Chittagong Bengali Muslims in Northern Arakan. There are no historical background on such name. In the Chittagong dialect of Bengali language, the Rakhine Land or Arakan is called 'Rohan' or 'Rosan' or 'Rohin' and the Rakhine people or Arakanese are called 'Rohangya' or 'Rosangya' or 'Rohingya' (Rohan or Rosan or Rohin = Rakhaing (Arakan), Gya = man). Since the word is of Bengali origin, some of the Muslim secessionists used the name to identify themselves as if they were natives of Arakan and named themselves as Rohingya by 'hijacking' the name of the real natives of Arakan (Rakhaing) in Bengali language.
- Rohingyarists** Islamists, lobbyists and propagandists of the so-call Rohingya Movement who want to Islamize Arakan first, then the whole of Burma step by step.