

# TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

**1948:** Myanmar (then Burma) gains independence from Britain.

**1962:** Ne Win seizes power in a military coup. Ethnic minorities across the country face increasing discrimination and human rights abuses.

**1977-78:** Up to 200,000 Rohingya flee Myanmar to Bangladesh after a nationwide crackdown on “illegal immigration”. Most returned to Myanmar the following year.

**1982:** Myanmar enacts the 1982 Citizenship Law. The Law is blatantly discriminatory on ethnic grounds, and its implementation in Rakhine State allowed authorities to deprive Rohingya of citizenship *en masse*.

**1990:** General elections. The National League for Democracy (NLD) wins a landslide victory but the military government refuses to hand over power. Many NLD candidates are instead imprisoned. Candidates from Rohingya parties run for election, and some are elected to Parliament.

**1991-2:** 250,000 Rohingya flee Myanmar to Bangladesh amidst reports of forced labour, summary executions, torture including rape and arbitrary arrests by Myanmar security forces.

**1992:** The Myanmar authorities establish the NaSaKa border force in northern Rakhine State.

**1995:** The authorities begin issuing Rohingya with Temporary Registration Cards (TRCs).

**1997:** The Rakhine State Immigration Department issues an order requiring “Bengali race and foreigners” to apply for permission to travel.

**2001:** Anti-Muslim riots across Myanmar also affect Rakhine State, leading to displacement of Rohingya.

**November 2010:** Myanmar holds its first general elections since 1990. Rohingya are allowed to vote, and a Rohingya candidate is elected as a Member of Parliament. Aung San Suu Kyi is released from house arrest soon after.

**2011:** Official transfer of power to a quasi-civilian government led by President Thein Sein, a former military General. The new administration begins enacting wide-ranging social, political and economic reforms.

**April 2012:** Parliamentary by-elections in Myanmar. Aung San Suu Kyi is elected as an MP.

**2012:** Violence between Muslims and Buddhists, sometime supported by state security forces, sweeps across Rakhine State leading to scores of deaths, destruction of property and mass displacement. Myanmar authorities separate communities, and displaced Rohingya and other Muslim communities are moved to camps where their movement is restricted. Curfews are imposed in several townships, however by September 2014 are lifted in all areas except for the Rohingya-majority townships of Maungdaw and Buthidaung.

**March-April 2014:** Myanmar holds its first nationwide census since 1983. Rohingya are not allowed to self-identify, meaning most are not enumerated during the count.

**July 2014:** President Thein Sein begins implementing a pilot “citizenship verification” process in Rakhine State. The process is met with local resistance and is later abandoned after continued protests from Rakhine and Rohingya communities.

**February 2015:** President Thein Sein announces the revocation of all TRCs, leaving the majority of Rohingya without any forms of identity document and effectively preventing them from voting in the upcoming national elections.

**November 2015:** General elections. Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD wins a landslide victory. Rohingya were not allowed to vote or stand as candidates for Parliament.

**March/April 2016:** Transfer of power to the NLD-led administration. Aung San Suu Kyi is appointed State Counsellor.

**April 2016:** The NLD-led government restarts the citizenship "verification" process in Rakhine State.

**August 2016:** Aung San Suu Kyi establishes the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, chaired by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

**October 2016:** A Rohingya armed group, now known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacks three police posts in Maungdaw and Rathedaung townships, killing nine police officers. The military responds with a major security operation marked by widespread human rights violations. More than 87,000 Rohingya flee to Bangladesh over the next 10 months.

**March 2017:** The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) establishes an independent, international Fact Finding Mission (FFM) to establish the facts and circumstances about human rights violations in Myanmar, and in particular in Rakhine State.

**24 August 2017:** The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State presents its final report. The government welcomes the report and agrees to implement recommendations.

**25 August 2017:** Hours later, ARSA launches coordinated attacks on around 30 security posts in townships in northern Rakhine State. The military responds with a brutal campaign of violence against the Rohingya community, committing crimes against humanity. More than 600,000 Rohingya flee to Bangladesh over two months.

**17 October 2017:** The Office of the President establishes the Committee for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine. The Committee chaired by Aung San Suu Kyi is set to "carry out the effective provision of humanitarian aid; coordinate the resettlement and rehabilitation efforts; and carry out regional development and work towards durable peace."