



**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Unity Government
Ministry of Human Rights**



Statement on the situation of Rohingya refugees

16 December 2022

The Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) of the National Unity Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar expresses its grave concern at the dire situation of the Rohingya refugees currently stranded at sea and recently forcibly returned to Myanmar.

According to MOHR sources, at least three boats carrying Rohingya refugees left Bangladesh in late November.

One vessel, reportedly carrying 154 people, was intercepted by a Vietnamese Off-shore company. The Rohingya onboard were handed over to the illegal military junta in Myanmar.

A second vessel, which left Bangladesh on 23 November carrying more than 180 Rohingya, experienced engine failure in the Strait of Malacca and is currently anchored close to Indonesia. At least one child onboard has died, while many others are suffering from severe dehydration and extreme food shortages.

The whereabouts of the third vessel are not known and there are grave fears for the safety of all onboard. It departed Bangladesh around 25 November carrying an estimated 100 Rohingya.

MOHR appeals to ASEAN and its Member States to provide emergency assistance to the Rohingya refugees stranded in the Strait of Malacca and to support urgent efforts to locate the missing third vessel.

Under no circumstances should Rohingya be refouled to Myanmar where they face certain persecution by an illegal junta that has directed deliberate, systematic and widespread atrocities against them, and which refuses to recognise their identity.

Tragically, the deepening junta-induced human rights, humanitarian and security crises afflicting Rakhine State and the rest of Myanmar are forcing out more Rohingya. They also prevent the safe and dignified return of Rohingya driven out by earlier waves of violence.

MOHR acknowledges the significant assistance that Bangladesh continues to provide to Rohingya refugees. Yet the sharp spike in boat departures shows just how desperate these people are, restricted to camps and denied any foreseeable prospect of a return to their homes, communities, and livelihoods in Myanmar.

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