



# HIGHLIGHTING NHRC'S INTERVENTION IN ROHINGYA CRISIS

Human Rights for All Everywhere Equally

**NEWSLETTER SPECIAL ISSUE**

2nd Edition



*Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh visits Rohingya Camp and consoles the tortured Rohingyas at a Camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar in 12 September 2017*

**T**he Rohingya crisis has assumed a formidable feature in Bangladesh. The Rohingya communities are those ill-fated and most persecuted people in the modern world who happen to be the inhabitants of the Rakhine state of Myanmar but on real ground most of them are now stripped of their citizenship and hurled into the severe conditions of statelessness. Due to religious and ethnic differences between Rohingya Muslim minority groups and local Buddhist majority people Rohingya communities had been suffering from discriminations, tortures, negligence and all forms of violation of human rights since long. But this time, in last August 2017, the so-called “clearance operations” of Myanmar army had turned heinous and crossed all limits of atrocities to direct heaps of attacks including

physical torture, arson, rape, murder towards innocent Rohingya. They had nothing to do other than flee from their ancestral land to the nearby border area of Bangladesh only to save their lives. With the pre-designed mission of ethnic cleansing

Myanmar army had forced the Rohingya to leave Myanmar and enter into Bangladesh. This was why the exodus occurred and it outnumbered all previous influxes, more than 700,000. The sad saga started around 1978 and with some irregular halts the intrigues and strife got fired and assumed new dimension time and again resulting large arrivals of traumatized asylum seekers in 1991-1992, 2012, 2014, 2016 and at last in 2017, altogether nearly one million within Bangladesh territory which has become a matter of political and diplomatic concern for Bangladesh.

The hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh has kindly given them shelter and other basic necessities from humanitarian ground and requested all concern to come forward and play strong role in the process of repatriation of Rohingya to their ancestral land.

Since the inception of the latest influx, which is identified as the greatest and most inclement wave of human migration so far known, National Human Rights Commission has been up and doing to address the crisis in its own way. NHRC has instantly tried to build up public opinion nationally and internationally in favor of the Rohingya organizing several consultations and meetings with CSOs and other stakeholders. NHRC Chairman started writing letters and making Call for Action to different international bodies like UN, UNHCR, NHRIs of APF region including NHRC, Myanmar, ASEAN, OIC, APF etc. with a view to forming a global platform or consensus so that collective pressure can be mounted on Myanmar Government to stop their clearing operations against the Rohingya and the Myanmar authority becomes under obligation to take them back in Myanmar with full security measures.

NHRC formed several Fact-finding Missions to assess the total situation of Rohingya camps and identify the scale of ruthlessness of Myanmar army; not only that he also paid at least three visits to Ukhiya, Kutupalong and other places of Cox's bazar to witness the plight of Rohingya. The Chairman was highly moved and agonized to see the real picture of the camps; the heaps

of distressed asylum seekers unfolded the stark truth that something very rotten and degrading was being done by the Myanmar army against the Rohingya. NHRC chairman had grown dumbfound and surprised, he could only mutter, for the first time, in front of journalists that **act of genocide was evident** in the torture against the Rohingya perpetrated by Myanmar Military.

NHRC's advocacy campaign on this issue is going on. At present Bangladesh hosts over one million Rohingya; it has created a major humanitarian emergency and raised security concerns; the social, economic, political and public security impacts of this crisis are yet to fully unfold. The crisis has tested Bangladesh's relation not only with Myanmar but also with the key partners like India, China and Russia which have largely supported Myanmar's position. In Nov 2017 Bangladesh and Myanmar reached agreement via a MOU for the repatriation but though the bi-lateral agreement was a welcome step in the right direction, sound implementation of a standard repatriation seems dubious and still a far cry. Hence, much needs to be done by Bangladesh and NHRC cannot sit idle.

### Civil Society Dialogue and Press Conference

On 06 September 2017, NHRC organized a civil society dialogue on how to address Rohingya crisis; afterwards, NHRC chairman held a press conference where he expressed that he had placed seven-point recommendations to the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar as well as to many other international bodies to solve the ongoing Rohingya crisis. The recommendations included stopping atrocities on Rohingya,





creating a buffer zone for the Rohingya in Myanmar under supervision of the UN, taking initiatives for bilateral talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar under UN mediation, helping Bangladesh by international community in protecting the basic human rights of Rohingya who had taken refuge in Bangladesh, giving them Myanmar nationality back by implementing Kofi Anan Commission Report. He also told the media that he had launched a call for action on imposing diplomatic and other sanctions on Myanmar. **“UN Security Council may consider for bringing the Myanmar army under trial in the International Criminal Court for committing genocide,”** he added.

The NHRC Chairman held several discussions and consultations with colleagues, fellow-members and concern stakeholders to decide action plan about Rohingya crisis; made huge correspondences to attract international attention and support in favor of the displaced and distressed Rohingya.

## Rohingya Camp Visit & Press Conference

On 09-11 September 2017, NHRC Chairman and Member Ms. Nurun Naher Osmani along with a team visited the Rohingya camps, registered and unregistered, at Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox’s Bazar. Later, he shared his experiences at a press conference at DC Office, Cox’s Bazar. He expressed deep concern over the horrendous crimes and genocide committed by Myanmar army. He called for mounting immediate international pressure on Myanmar to stop the atrocities against the Rohingya and take them back to their homesteads. He also mentioned that OIC and ASEAN countries could have come forward to playing

role in this regard. “Bangladesh has given shelter to the asylum seekers of Myanmar on humanitarian ground; global leaders can come forward to extending financial and other logistic supports,” he added.

On 08-09 October 2017, NHRC team comprising of Full Time Member Md. Nazrul Islam, Member Prof. Akhter Hussain; UNDP Country Director Mr. Sudipto Mukherji; UNDP-HRP Chief Technical Adviser Sharmeela Rassool and other officials visited Kutupalong Rohingya Camp. They talked to the Rohingya asylum seekers, local administrations and NGOs/INGOs working over there.

On 21-22 October 2017 a three-member committee of National Human Rights Commission comprising of NHRC Member Banchita Chakma and NHRC officers visited Kutupalong and Balukhali camps. During their investigation, the committee widely interacted with the victims residing at the camps who were persecuted in Myanmar. They also collected information from Cox’s Bazar District Administration.

## UNHCR-NHRC meeting

On 14 September 2017, a high-level delegation from UNHCR led by Mr. George-Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner, UNHCR Head Quarter met NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque and other Members of the Commission. Mr. George-Okoth-Obbo praised Bangladesh for giving shelter and extending support to the Rohingya. He explained that the UNHCR wanted to have the views of NHRC on Rohingya crisis so that they could comprehend the



situation better and design their humanitarian response towards the issue.

Hon'ble Chairman shared his experience of visiting Rohingya camps and expressed that Rohingya community had been discriminated, exploited, persecuted and deprived of their human rights in Myanmar for long and at last they had to face crime against humanity there. He also told that the hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh has kindly given them shelter and other basic necessities from humanitarian ground and requested all concern to come forward and play strong role in the process of repatriation of Rohingya to their ancestral land.

## Hon'ble Chairman attends Istanbul International Ombudsman Conference

Kazi Reazul Hoque, Hon'ble Chairman, National Human Rights Commission attended International Ombudsman Conference in Istanbul, Turkey organized by the grand National Assembly of Turkey on 25-26 September 2017. The conference aimed at providing common understanding on the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in protection of human rights and promoting good governance principles through different perspectives and to strengthen cooperation by bringing together the Ombudsmen of East & West.

The Conference was inaugurated by **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, Hon'ble President, Republic of Turkey and attended by the Heads of Ombudsman institutions and Human Rights Commissions of more than 30 countries, mostly from OIC and ASEAN. Bangladesh Consul General in Istanbul, Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam accompanied the NHRCB Chairman in the Conference.

In his inaugural address, Turkish President made an emotional pitch on the woes and agonies of the Rohingya and assured his government's continued support for bringing the crisis to an end. The issue has also got references in a number of statements delivered at the conference.

Hon'ble Chairman of NHRC delivered speech on **"Fights against Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Speech: A Case Study of Rohingya"**. He mentioned that he led a four-member team on an emergency fact-finding mission from 09 to 11 September 2017. In fact, it was the Commission's second visit to the camps within a span of seven months. He elaborated NHRCB's observation on the recent Rohingya influx in Bangladesh and the brutality they faced and tolerated in Myanmar.



Hon'ble Chairman also said that to avoid further escalation of the crisis and in the greater interest of human rights, he had sent out a call for action to many international, regional and local entities which directly or indirectly had a stake in this crisis, including the UN agencies, AICHR, OIC and diplomatic missions operating in Dhaka. He outlined that the call for action proposed a four-point formula; **'Triple I + P'**; which stood for;

1. Immediate end to violence
2. Immediate & unhindered access to humanitarian aid
3. Immediate aid to manage influx of refugees
4. Permanent solution

Hon'ble Chairman also called upon the international community to;

- Take immediate steps to end atrocities of Myanmar security forces on Rakhine Muslims
- Continue to provide humanitarian aid in a coordinated manner
- Immediately undertake fact finding missions to investigate alleged human rights violations and crimes against the Rohingya
- Advocate on establishing the buffer zone within the territory of Myanmar under the guidance of UN agencies

- Continue to lobby within the Myanmar government to find a durable and sustainable solution to address the ongoing crisis and if needed, initiate discussions on trade/economic sanctions to be imposed on the government of Myanmar
- Continue to advocate for the rights of the Refugees indulging the right to return and citizenship
- Support to safeguard rights of the host community paying heed to the longer-term impact this crisis has on environment of Bangladesh
- Support the immediate implementation of the Kofi Annan report.

The active participation of NHRC Chairman had not only provided a first-hand account of events but also helped to mobilize international support to pressurize Myanmar to immediately stop violence and create an enabling environment for the return of Rohingya to their homeland in a safe, secured and dignified way.

### NHRC Chairman attends Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in Malaysia

The NHRC chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque spoke before a Rome-based Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT), an international public opinion tribunal that operates independent of state authority. The purpose of the tribunal was to "expose" the alleged inhuman treatment to Rohingya and push to stop the crimes. It had been hearing victims from the Myanmar ethnic communities, recording their testimonies on their experiences in a court-like setting.

As Bangladesh tackles the flood of Rohingya Muslims streaming into the country from Myanmar, NHRC Chairman said that the situation was alarming in the camps set up for the refugees and further aggravation of the situation might lead to a "humanitarian catastrophe".

"Bangladesh has seen an estimated 400,000 Rohingyas fleeing into the country in the past three-and-a-half weeks, creating a humanitarian crisis, with the refugees facing acute

shortages of all kinds of humanitarian support, shelter, food, sanitation and clean water", said Kazi Reazul Haque. He called for immediate and unhindered access to humanitarian aid from the international community. He said "Bangladesh has allowed the Rohingya people to seek temporary shelter and provided them humanitarian support, but the situation was so critical that the influx of the refugees took place far faster than the government was able to set up camps."

"The Rohingya refugees had started occupying all available spaces, including public spaces such as railway stations, public grounds and markets. Persons who were not able to find space were simply occupying roadsides. During our visit, we witnessed rows of persons helplessly standing by the roadside," the chairman added.

He also said "Bangladesh has already been hosting 32,000 registered Rohingya refugees, most of them are living in two official camps in Cox's Bazar. But the new arrival since 25 August, 2017 has taken the number to around 700,000; unless a sustainable solution is found there is a possibility that the entire Rohingya community from Myanmar may flee to Bangladesh to escape the ongoing grave violation of human rights."

### Experts of Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar visits NHRC

The UN Human Rights Council appointed the Fact-Finding Mission, March 2017 to establish the facts and circumstances of alleged human rights violations by military and security forces of Myanmar, in particular in Rakhine State. Marzuki Darusman, former Indonesian Attorney-General and human rights campaigner



pioneered the Fact-Finding Mission. The other experts were Radhika Coomaraswamy, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and Christopher Sidoti, an Australian international human rights specialist.

The Mission visited NHRC in October 2017 to have NHRC's views and experiences in dealing with Rohingya crisis. NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque, Member Md. Nazrul Islam and Meghna Guhathakurta, Secretary Hiranmaya Barai attended meeting with the mission. **Hon'ble Chairman said that Myanmar's persecution was tantamount to genocide. This genocide needed to be tried at international criminal court.** He also told that UN could have created pressure on Myanmar so that they stop the heinous crime committed against the Rohingya and take them back to their own land ensuring their basic rights in Myanmar.

Independent International Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar also met the Chairman of NHRC in 2018 and wanted to know the findings of NHRC's investigation on allegations of sexual violence against Rohingya women and girl. NHRC Chairman briefed them the findings. NHRC is pleased to see the similarities between NHRC's report and Fact Finding Mission's report that Myanmar military committed crimes against humanity against the Rohingyas.

## Round Table on Rohingya Crisis: Call for Action

NHRC jointly with HRP-UNDP organized a Roundtable titled "Rohingya Crisis: Call for Action" on 26 October 2017 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRC moderated the discussion.



NHRC Members Md. Nazrul Islam, Prof. Meghna Guhathakurta, Nurun Naher Osmani, Prof. Akhter Hussain attended the discussion. Key discussants were Md. Shah Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief; Brig. Gen. (Rtd.) M. Sakhawat Hussain, Former Election Commissioner; Ms. Sadia Faizunnesa, DG (UN), Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Rasheda K. Choudhury, Executive Director, CAMPE; Sheepa Hafiza, Executive Director, Ain o Shalish Kendra; Ms. Wahida Banu, Executive Director, Aparajeo Bangladesh; Ms. Momtaz Begum, Chairman, Jatio Mahila Sangstha; Dr. Mesbah Kamal, Chairperson, Research and development Collective (RDC); Former Ambassador Maj. Gen. (Rtd.) Anup Kumar Chakma; Former Ambassador Mr. Muhammad Azizul Haque; Shabnam Azim, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mass Communication & Journalism, University of Dhaka.

**NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said that the implementation of the five-point recommendation from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and recommendation from The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State could guide the pertinent solution to Rohingya repatriation.** Bilateral efforts alone could not make this happen and hence the international community could have extended their support towards Bangladesh, he mentioned. He also said that the oppressions made by Myanmar government had encompassed all criteria of genocide and for that they could have been taken to the International Court. Director General (UN) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sadia Faizunnesa said, "Myanmar is always a difficult nation to deal with traditional diplomacy. Bangladesh needs to communicate more often than before with ASEAN and South Asian countries with regards to the Rohingya crisis. Government of Bangladesh believes that repatriation of Rohingyas is the prime solution of the issue and we actively working towards it". She added that MOFA would press the issue during the next Asia-Europe (ASEM) meeting with due importance and dexterity.

Maj Gen (Rtd.) Anup Kumar Chakma, former Ambassador to Myanmar said that repatriation would not fix the problem unless the Rohingya were granted full citizenship in Myanmar.

### UNSRSG on Sexual Violence Ms. Pramila Patten meets NHRC Chairman

United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Pramila Patten met NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque on 11 November 2017. The UN special envoy had come to Bangladesh only with the mission of having a better and clearer understanding of the patterns and trends of the sexual violence occurred in Myanmar against the Rohingya women and girls. During her meeting with the NHRC Chairman she said that they had heard horrendous stories about sexual violence from Rohingya survivors who were raped or gang-raped. She had shown interest to hear from honorable Chairman of NHRC about his personal experience and opinion in connection with the issue. Appreciating the role of the government, Patten said

Bangladesh not only opened borders for Rohingya but also opened their homes and hearts for humanity. She urged NHRC to play leadership role in documenting sexual violence on Rohingya women and girls in Myanmar. NHRC Chairman thanked Ms. Patten for her compliment and said that the Commission had already planned for conducting studies and surveys on Sexual violence against Rohingya girls and women within shortest possible time.

Ms. Pramila also visited NHRC and met hon'ble Chairman in 2018. She was pleased to know that NHRC had conducted investigation on allegations of sexual violence against Rohingya women and girls.



### NHRC Conducts Study on Alleged Sexual Violence Against Rohingya Women & Girls

From time to time members of different UN missions, UN agencies and international experts met NHRC Chairman and Members during their visit. They discussed about the atrocities done by Myanmar against Rohingyas. They wanted to know what NHRC as an independent institution was going to do in this regard. NHRC Chairman informed them that Commission was going to do a study in this regard. Based on their inputs a detailed questionnaire was structured with support from Bangladesh Liberation War Museum. The non-disclosure form for the investigators and consent form for the interviewees/survivors were also prepared. A fact finding team visited Rohingya camps.

The aim of the team was to collect testimonies of Rohingya women and girls who were raped and sexually abused by Myanmar military. For the purpose of data collection in February 2018 The Study team visited Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. Hon'ble Chairman also visited the camps during that period. The research team were divided into four teams and all teams were composed of female interviewer, note-taker, interpreter and psychosocial counselor. Altogether 52 Rohingya women and girls were interviewed whose privacy was maintained.



## UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention meets NHRC Chairman

In 11 March 2018 UN Secretary General's Special Adviser Mr. Adama Dieng met hon'ble Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque. NHRC Chairman shared his view on the Rohingya crisis. NHRC has been collecting testimonies of Rohingya women and girls who were raped and sexually abused in Myanmar, the Chairman added. Mr. Adama told that no one was immuned from trial for committing the crime of genocide.

In a press conference on the day, NHRC Chairman urged neighbouring countries China and India to mount at least "economic pressure" on Myanmar to stop atrocities and return their nationals ensuring their dignity and rights.

He said Bangladesh would need to continue diplomatic efforts to convince China and Russia, the two permanent members of United Nations Security Council who opposed the UN resolution on Rohingyas, so they remain neutral to pass the resolution next time.

## Training for NHRC officers on Documenting Conflict-Related Sexual Violence among the Rohingya

In order to create credible documentation on alleged sexual violence against Rohingyas by Myanmar military NHRC, Bangladesh is conducting a study. During the visit in Bangladesh the Executive Director of UNWOMEN met the Chairman and Members. They discussed the matter and expressed their desire to send an expert team for providing training to the documentation team. Accordingly, MoU was signed between NHRC and UNWOMEN.

As part of the MoU, on 18-22 March 2018 UNWOMEN and Institute of International Criminal Investigations organized Training for NHRC investigation team. Trainers were Dr. Ingrid Elliott, IICI Consultant (and International Criminal Justice and SGBV Expert, UK Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Team of Experts & UK Senior Gender and Justice Conflict Adviser); Ms Erin Gallagher, IICI Consultant (and investigator at International Criminal Court, and SGBV-Investigation Expert) and Ms. Siobhan Hobbs, UNWOMEN (Women, Peace and Security Specialist and International Criminal Justice and SGBV Investigation Expert). The acting High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, Country Representative of the UNWOMEN and NHRC Chairman were present at the 05day long training program and expressed their continued support.

NHRC is also planning to assess the impact of Rohingya influx on local community in regards to livelihood and public service delivery.

### NHRC Collects Testimonies on Sexual Violence from Rohingya Women & Girls

National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh conducted another investigation in different Rohingya camps from February 1 to February 4, 2018 on ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST ROHINGYA WHICH TOOK PLACE IN MYANMAR. During fact-finding visits of representatives and members of different UN missions, UN agencies and international experts on genocide they met NHRC Chairman and Members and discussed about the atrocities done by Myanmar against Rohingyas. They wanted to know what NHRC as an independent institution was going to do in this regard. NHRC Chairman informed them that Commission has been conducting independent investigation on the atrocities since February 2017. They also shared their experiences on their work in different international tribunals and ICC. Based on their inputs a detailed questionnaire was structured with support from Bangladesh Liberation War Museum and HRP-UNDP. The non-disclosure form for the investigators and consent form for the interviewees/survivors were also prepared.

The aim of the investigation was to collect testimonies of Rohingya women and girls who were raped and sexually abused in Myanmar. In February 2018 NHRC officers jointly with research team of Liberation War Museum and HRP-UNDP visited Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar led by Hon'ble Chairman, NHRCB. The research team were divided into four teams and all teams were composed of female interviewer, note-taker, interpreter and psychosocial counselor. In that mission, 52 Rohingya women were interviewed.

### NHRCB recommends Government to assist ICC on Rohingya Crisis

NHRCB has urged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs to assist the International Criminal Court (ICC) in prosecuting Myanmar over its alleged crimes against the Rohingya in Rakhaine state last year and collected testimonies of 53 victims of sexual violence.

In separate letters to each ministry on 10 June 2018, NHRCB Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said that the Commission firmly believed that apart from ongoing bilateral initiatives between Bangladesh & Myanmar to reach a permanent solution to the Rohingya crisis it was very important to approach the ICC. The letters said the Commission had conducted investigations separate from the government's initiatives to resolve the crisis. "A group of researchers trained by international experts documented the testimonies of the survivors of sexual violence in Myanmar. The Commission is willing to share its evidence if and when a case against Myanmar at the ICC begins" - the letter said.



*Sheikh Hasina, MP, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh could not stop her tears listening to the sufferings of Rohingyas*

### Round Table on Rohingya Influx & its Impact on Locality: Role of Stakeholders for durable solutions

The National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh jointly with HRP-UNDP organized a round table on "Rohingya Influx & its Impact on Locality: Role of Stakeholders for durable solutions". The program was held on 31 July 2018 in Pan Pacific Sonargaon.



The objective of the program was to go for mapping who should play what role and how coordination should be maintained. The discussion was focused on 3 issues: Rohingya repatriation; justice for Rohingya and impact on host community.

Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission presided over the discussion. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh Government; Md. Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Secretary, Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs; Ms. Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator; Md. Abul Kalam, Refugee, Relief & Repatriation Commissioner; Ms. Sharmeela Rassool, CTA, HRP-UNDP; Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Executive Director, CAMPE; Sheeпа Hafiza, Executive Director, Ain o Shalish Kendra; Ms. Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera Kori; Mr. Ajoy Das Gupta, Associate Editor, Daily Samakal; Ziad Al Malum, Prosecutor, ICT; Mokhlesur Rahman Badal, Chairman, Human Rights & Legal Aid Committee, Bangladesh Bar Council; Shabnam Azim, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mass Communication & Journalism, University of Dhaka were present as the distinguished discussants.

Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission said, “we acknowledge the role of hon’ble Prime Minister for giving shelter to Rohingya who compelled to flee from their ancestral land due to the persecution. The persecution is not new. In 2016, 87000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh. At that time could we engage international community as now? If international community could come forward then the atrocities would not happen in 2017.” He also said, “we acknowledge the support of

international community in providing humanitarian assistance but we expect international community would create pressure and impose economic sanction on Myanmar so that they stop the atrocities and take the Rohingya to their ancestral land.”

## Round Table on Durable Solution of Rohingya Crisis

National Human Rights Commission organized a Round Table on Durable Solution of Rohingya Crisis at Conference Room, NHRCB on 04 October 2018. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB chaired the program.

In this Round Table, former diplomats and strategic analysts called on the government and the international community to convince Beijing to resolve the Rohingya crisis. The analysts and ex-diplomats vented their frustrations, claiming that neither friendly India nor trusted China have done much to help solve a crisis that was threatening regional security.

Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB said, “Bangladesh has given shelter to the Rohingyas who fled due to genocide against them by Myanmar army. Rohingyas need to be repatriated to their ancestral land with due citizenship, human dignity and security. Though bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh has been signed to repatriate them, no progress has been seen. China & India can play vital role by creating pressure on Myanmar to take the Rohingyas back with security. We need to convince these two countries regarding this.”





## Interfaith Dialogue to promote peace, social harmony and human rights in Cox's Bazar

National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh organized a discussion on Communal Harmony in Cox's Bazar supported by Human Rights Program-UNDP in November 2018 and February 2019. In November Program, NHRC Chairman told that NHRC was following the situation of Rohingya crisis since the influx in August 2017 and advocating for safe and secured repatriation of the Rohingyas to their ancestral land in Myanmar. He urged the religious leaders and the human rights defenders to help maintaining the environment of communal harmony between the Rohingyas and local communities in Cox's Bazar. Answering question to the media, NHRC Chairman also called on all the authorities concerned to take effective measures to avoid human rights violation during election. In February 2019 program, NHRC Chairman discussed about the initiatives taken by religious leaders and local administration to maintain the communal harmony in Cox's Bazar.

## International Symposium of OIC countries in Turkey

Hon'ble Chairman of NHRCB delivers his speech on 'Atrocious violence against Rohingya Communities residing Myanmar: The importance of International cooperation' in International Symposium of OIC countries in Istanbul, Turkey on 7 December 2018. He argues the OIC Member states to raise their voice against the atrocities and create pressure on Myanmar government to take back the Rohingyas to their ancestral land with safety, security and human dignity. A documentary prepared by NHRC, Bangladesh on the torture against Rohingyas by Myanmar was shown in the program. The program was attended by OIC member states and most of them expressed solidarity with the Rohingyas. They praised the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to give them shelter and also praised NHRC, Bangladesh for its activities to solve the crisis.



### International Initiatives to solve Rohingya Crisis

An Independent U.N. Fact-finding Mission on Myanmar in August 2018 concluded that Myanmar's military in 2016 carried out mass killings and gang rapes of Muslim Rohingya with "genocidal intent" and the commander-in-chief and five generals should be prosecuted for orchestrating the gravest crimes under law. The report also makes dozens of recommendations, including to the United Nations and the international community and to the Government of Myanmar. It reiterates the Fact-Finding Mission's call for the investigation and prosecution of Myanmar's Commander- in-Chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and his top military leaders for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) ruled on 6 September 2018 that it has jurisdiction over alleged deportations of Rohingya people from Myanmar to Bangladesh as a possible crime against humanity. The reason provided that an element of this crime - the crossing of a border took place on the territory of a State party (Bangladesh).

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) expressed itself on human rights situations in Myanmar among few other issues approving a draft resolution. The Committee's approval of a draft on the human rights situation in Myanmar was similarly marked by intense debate, with Myanmar's delegate "totally" rejecting the text as procedurally unwarranted and "hopelessly unconstructive" in its attempt to exert pressure on a soft target. There is no mention of Myanmar's efforts to foster national reconciliation and build a democratic federal union.

### Conclusion

In this situation of amid international initiatives on solution of Rohingya crisis, NHRCB expresses gratitude to the people of Bangladesh in particular, hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh for her relentless efforts to give shelter to the persecuted Rohingyas and to place 05 point proposals in 2017 and 03 points proposals in 2018 for durable solution to the Rohingya crisis in UN General Assembly.

NHRCB believes that the solution of Rohingya crisis lies in the implementation of Hon'ble Prime Minister's proposals.

NHRCB also heartily expresses thanks to the hon'ble President of Republic of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his wife, the first lady of Turkey Ms. Emine Erdoğan; hon'ble Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Binali Yıldırım for their continuous support to Bangladesh to tackle the Rohingya crisis and create pressure on Myanmar.

NHRCB cordially expresses gratitude for raising concern over Rohingya's persecution in Myanmar to the Secretary General of the UN Mr. António Guterres, World Bank President Mr. Jim Yong Kim, the heads of UN agencies, three Nobel peace prize winners who visited Bangladesh and urged international community: Tawakkol Karman from Yemen, Shirin Ebadi from Iran and Mairead Maguire from Northern Ireland; Representatives from local and international agencies working in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh.

We also urge upon the OIC Member States and OIC Forum of NHRIs to play vital role in creating pressure on Myanmar so that they take the Rohingyas back to their ancestral land in Rakhine State of Myanmar with citizenship, dignity and security. NHRCB also urges international community to take measure to begin the trial of Myanmar in International criminal court for committing crimes against humanity/genocide.



*First lady of Turkey Ms. Emnie Erdogan meets Rohingyas in Rohingya camps, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh*



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Published: February 2019