

An Examination of the Contemporary Rohingya Refugee Crisis:
The Culmination of Ethnic Discrimination, a Mass Exodus, Unequipped Refugee Settlements,
and the Absence of Effective Solutions

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I. Introduction:

The mass exodus of the Rohingya population out of the northern Rakhine state of Myanmar was at the center of international refugee conversation in 2017 as they poured into Bangladesh and other surrounding countries. The influx of Rohingya refugees expanded the already present refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh. The Myanmar government's failure to provide adequate and secure livelihoods for the country's minority continued and the crisis has grown without an effective ending. The mass migration into Bangladesh itself proves to be a complex situation with several intersecting layers that leave just under a million Rohingya refugees displaced in South Asia.

The precarity of these refugees was present before their exodus into Bangladesh but has deepened as they fall victim to unstable camps and ineffective solutions of the Myanmar and Bangladesh governments. The historical ethnic tensions within Myanmar, formerly Burma, and its ongoing political struggles leave the Rohingya vulnerable to persecution. Simultaneously, the exacerbated climate crisis affects refugees' safety and security. The proposed solutions to address the enormous number of Rohingya refugees have yet to solve their precarity and ultimately leaves the Rohingya more vulnerable and unsure of their future.

The research that will be presented will analyze the different factors affecting the Rohingya refugee population. The research will answer the intellectual puzzle: What are the different dynamics present that are affecting the precarity of Rohingya refugees? And how do they interact with each other? To successfully answer this question and its follow up the paper will discuss the history of the Rohingya population in Myanmar, the country's specific political decisions and actions regarding the minority, Bangladesh's first response to the influx of Rohingya and their proposed solutions, and finally the climate change induced disasters that

disproportionately impacts the Rohingya refugee population. Each issue is another obstacle for the Rohingya refugees to live a stable life. This case study is relevant to the overall study of refugee populations as it presents the complicated conditions that cannot be solved by traditional refugee solutions.

The paper will be organized in the following way. First, an introduction to the Rohingya population and the historical events that placed the Rohingya population in danger causing their exodus. The following section will examine the literature on the topic, discussion of research questions, theories, and the methodology used. The final portion will discuss the findings and their implications followed by a brief conclusion of the topic and its future. This paper will showcase just how precarious a refugee's life is in emerging political and humanitarian crises.

II. Historical and Key Background Information:

To understand the current state of the Rohingya refugee crisis it is critical to examine not only who the Rohingya is, but the history of their relationship to Myanmar. Myanmar is a predominantly Buddhist state located in Southeast Asia that is home to over one hundred ethnic groups. The large diversity in the country has privileged some groups while ignoring others. Groups that do not make up the majority face discrimination in the economy, political representation, and systematic abuses from the government (Maizland 2021). The government has largely been influenced by the power of the military following the country's independence from British rule. The military involvement deepened these ethnic tensions and perpetuated the discriminatory practices, specifically to Muslim populations. The Myanmar military has a strong sentiment against the Rohingya minority. The Rohingya are a long-standing group of ethnic Muslims in Myanmar. Their ties to the land of the Rakhine state in Myanmar date back to the Arakan Kingdom in the fifteenth century and other Muslim populations arrived during the

British occupancy. The group differs tremendously from the dominant ethnic groups in Myanmar through their language, religion, and ethnicity. As Myanmar's independent government formed, the Rohingya's claims to the land were not taken seriously and specific laws were passed to emphasize their differences (Albert and Maizland 2020). The Myanmar government took specific actions to allow for discriminatory practices against the Rohingya population. A key event was the refusal to recognize the Rohingya as an official ethnic group in Myanmar, achieved through the 1982 Citizenship Law. It effectively created a narrative that Rohingya Muslims are not full citizens of Myanmar but actually "resident foreigners". This has made the Rohingya a "stateless population" with no legitimate citizenship to a country (Chickera 2021). By not granting Rohingyas citizenship, the Myanmar government has no obligation to provide basic rights and protections to the group. This allows for discriminatory practices and persecution to not only happen to the Rohingya but be embraced by the Myanmar government and military.

Despite the restrictive citizenship laws and practices, the Rohingya were able to obtain some forms of identification. The Myanmar government issued temporary residence cards that did not allow for them to register as Rohingya but Bengali instead. The government intended to deny the Rohingya as a real ethnic group and to erase them from the country (Albert and Maizland 2021). The cards also furthered the discriminatory practices on the population by labeling them as a foreign minority which allowed them to be targeted by institutions. The government systematic oppressed the group through laws and restrictions on Rohingya's everyday life such as employment opportunities, education, family planning, marriage, their practice of Islam, and ability to move freely in the country (Albert and Maizland 2021). These

practices perpetuate the marginalization of the Rohingya and deepened the ethnic tensions in the Rakhine state prior to 2017.

The violent acts against the Muslim minority in 2012 and 2016 led to the initial migration of 200,000 refugees into neighboring Bangladesh (UNHCR 2021). The ongoing mistreatment of the Rohingya refugees heavily contributed to the violence in the region as a new problem was simultaneously occurring: the rise of poverty due to the absence of employment and critical infrastructure. This underdevelopment and already established religious and ethnic tensions produced more conflict. In 2017, the tensions heightened as a Rohingya militant group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), took responsibility for recent attacks of government buildings and forces (Albert and Maizland 2021). In response, the Myanmar government began its brutal campaign against the organization, but all Rohingyas were potential victims of abuse. The government's security forces perpetrated gross human rights violations including mass rapes of Rohingya women and girls, murders, and unjust arrests. Rohingya villages were burned and the mission to eradicate the Rohingya became evidently clear (The Associated Press 2019). Within the first month of fighting more than 6,700 Rohingyas were killed and victims fleeing persecution were subject to open fire, land mines, and arrest (Albert and Maizland 2021). The Rohingya had no other choice but to migrate into neighboring countries as the government denied protection and no end was in sight. Bangladesh, India, Thailand, and Indonesia saw a rapid influx of Rohingya refugees into their borders (Albert and Maizland 2021). Bangladesh received the most Rohingya refugees as its Cox's Bazar region was close to the Rakhine state and already established two camps hosting Rohingya populations.

The migration of the Rohingya into Bangladesh and other countries posed even more dangers for the refugees. The world's ongoing climate emergency has created severe weather

conditions in the Southeast Asia region, specifically in the Bay of Bengal. The rapid warming of the Indian Ocean has significantly impacted the severity of tropical storms and cyclones. The Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are seeing the consequences of climate change faster than the Pacific or Atlantic (Vallangi 2021). The worsening storms and unbearable conditions contribute to the precarious position of refugees migrating into Bangladesh. Once the refugees arrive in Cox's Bazar, the impacts of extreme weather do not stop as their refugee camps are subject to natural disasters.

The historical relationship between the Rohingya and Myanmar is critical to the overall examination of the events leading up to 2017 and the current status of Rohingya refugees that will be discussed. The routes of migration out of Myanmar into Bangladesh and other neighboring states pose threats from weather induced disasters; this a precursor to the future experiences of Rohingya refugees in the Bangladesh UNHCR camps.

III. Literature Review:

The Rohingya relationship to Myanmar:

The historical relationship and interactions of the Rohingya and Myanmar government was a critical piece to examine. The state of knowledge around this topic was most prominent through research and policy think tanks that examine already present international and state crises. The Migration Policy Institute provides information around the problems of “statelessness” for refugee populations and the historical grievances the Rohingya has faced because of their manufactured “statelessness” by the Myanmar government. The Council on Foreign Relations examination of governments includes Myanmar and its specific actions against the Rohingya population. Two articles from the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) are critical to understanding the background of the crisis. The first explains the history and evolution of

Myanmar from its British colonial rule to a military junta government (Maizland 2021). The evolution of the Myanmar government explains the ferocity of the government and tremendous ethnic divisions in the country. The country has not had a simple progression into democracy from colonial rule as it has experienced coup attempts and long-standing military rule (Maizland 2021). The second article from the CFR delves into the Rohingya crisis specifically, outlining the main reasons why Rohingya Muslims are fleeing Myanmar. This information alongside the work of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and investigative journalism are critical to the knowledge of the violent crisis in Myanmar. The contemporary nature of this crisis indicates why these findings and briefings represent the international communities state of knowledge about the Rohingya and Myanmar's relationship.

The Refugee Crisis Itself:

The existing scholarship on the Rohingya refugee crisis is very limited. As it began in 2017, it is a recent issue that has yet to be studied through a historical and academic lens. Scholarship on refugee issues exists but does not apply to this specific case study. In order to accurately understand the events following the attacks in 2017, other sources must be reviewed. The work of international governmental organizations like the United Nations is vital to understand the Rohingya's experience. The majority of the Rohingya migrants are found in the UNHCR's Kutupalong and Nayapara camps in the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh, indicating the UN's assessment of the situation is reliable to establish evidence and knowledge of the settlements. Additionally, the work of non-governmental organizations can provide insights to the humanitarian needs for this overwhelmingly large group, but also highlights the limitations of the UNHCR and the Bangladesh government. Their work provides different refugee narratives as well as pinpointing the inadequacy of current and proposed solutions.

The literature surrounding this crisis is predominately investigative journalism from established and reputable media outlets. Their work focuses on what is happening right now to the Rohingya. This significant as crisis continues to develop. As the available information and situation are constantly evolving, daily news articles from Associated Press, National Public Radio, the New York Times, and Al Jazeera provide up to date assessments of the Rohingya crisis. These articles raise important questions to the gravity of the Rohingya's refugee status.

Presence of Climate Change:

There is unanimous scholarship and academic research around the threat of climate change. Recent information has shed light that the worsening impacts of climate change has taken a toll on refugees. The UNHCR provides information on the effects of natural disasters induced by the warming of the climate, specifically on refugee camps in Bangladesh. The emergence of climate refugees is relatively new, but the articles and research of the UN connect them to an already existing refugee population, like the Rohingya.

Limitations of Literature:

As described in the previous sections, the Rohingya crisis is constantly evolving; the refugees have not lived in the camps for multiple generations, this could be their outcome without proper policy prescription. The contemporary nature of this topic suggests that there are limitations to the research; it has not been critically studied by academics or peer reviewed. Although the academic research is unavailable, it does not devalue the findings of the news outlets, think tanks, governmental and non-governmental organizations. They are reporting on the Rohingya refugee exodus and responses in real time. They provide the numerical and statistical data, policy implications and proposal, as well as interviews and ethnographic stories

of Rohingya refugees. These sources will help capture the dynamics of the Rohingya refugee crisis and further the analysis of the situation.

IV. Theory and Elaboration of Questions:

The research in this paper will provide an examination and analysis of the Rohingya crisis. The goal of this research is to answer the overall intellectual puzzle that is occurring through the Rohingya refugee situation. The research questions follow: What are the different dynamics present that are affecting the precarity of Rohingya refugees? And how do they interact with each other? The findings aim to address the complexity of a modern-day refugee crisis through the case study of the Rohingya. In order to accurately understand and answer this question, three main factors are necessary to discuss. First, the background information revolving around the Myanmar government's discriminatory practice towards the Rohingya. This will explain the events of 2017 that forced the Rohingya out of the country into Bangladesh. The inability of Myanmar to show substantial care or protection efforts reiterates why their so-called repatriation efforts are not effective. The second factor is the response of the Bangladesh government to the enormous flows of refugees. This will address what they have done thus far and the problems they need to address. The Cox's Bazar region is grappling with almost one million displaced people. This is an enormous and hospitable undertaking for the government, but it requires thorough examination, as their ultimate solution could either benefit or disadvantage the Rohingya's future. The third layer of this crisis is the impact of climate induced disasters. These ongoing natural threats challenge the structures of camps and further displaces refugees. This adds yet another complexity to the Rohingya refugees' life in limbo. These three factors demonstrate the multifaceted dynamics of the crisis presented.

The research questions were derived from a list of essential refugee situation questions. Much broader questions of refugee status, agency, and mobility will be showcased in specific regards to the Rohingya population. The questions like: Why is the freedom of movement significant for refugees? And how does it get limited? Are governments able to make choices for refugees without the consent of the UNHCR? How do host governments effectively return refugees to their home country if persecution is still present? The answers to these are different for each refugee emergency but the findings will focus on their prevalence in the context of the Rohingya refugee situation.

V. Methodology:

The findings presented in this paper will examine the various factors affecting the Rohingya refugee population and their ultimate futures. As they live precariously in host countries and informal arrangements, it is important to discuss the issues that impact them the most. This paper will collect multiple forms of data and evidence to paint the entire picture. The research will include various statistics and numerical data as they are helpful measures to understand the scope of the crisis. The UNHCR and other organizations provide reliable information as they keep track of evolving refugee crises in the world. However, numerical data alone will not capture the intensity of the Rohingya's exodus out of Myanmar. It will be critical to incorporate ethnographic data and evidence that explains the how, why, and what of the situation at play; this will be the qualitative data. The research will extensively collect this data as it describes the political, social, and environmental elements contributing to the emergency. The data will be collected from an array of sources: news articles, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, research, and policy think tanks, as well as government briefings and investigative journalism sources. The qualitative research is essential to the overall

analysis of the Rohingya refugee crisis. To ensure this data is accurate and reliable, it will be collected from reputable sources. A reliance on sheer numerical data will not effectively present an answer to the intellectual puzzle. My analytical process will combine different methodologies to best explain and address the Rohingya refugee crisis.

VI. Findings:

Cox's Bazar Region's Refugee Settlements:

The mass exodus of the Rohingya ethnic minority out of Myanmar led to the transformation of pre-established refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar region. This area in Bangladesh was accessible to the Rohingya migrants as it is the closest neighbor to the Rakhine State of Myanmar where the Rohingya population had resided (Albert and Maizland 2020). Bangladesh established two refugee settlements to respond to the escalating tensions in Myanmar within the past decade, Kutupalong and Nayapara (UNHCR 2021). These settlements were created with the UNHCR Refugee Agency to receive the Rohingyas fleeing persecution. The Kutupalong settlement expected to host 75,000 refugees that would arrive following the 2017 events, the UN and other organizations prepared for this estimate with shelters, resources, and development of the area (WFP USA 2020). However, the Kutupalong settlement did not prepare to receive the 700,000 Rohingya refugees that migrated in the first three months of the crisis, thus creating a grave need for more humanitarian assistance as makeshift shelters began to spring up each day (WFP USA 2020). The other refugee settlement, Nayapara, saw similar flows into their camp. The influx of refugees led to an estimated 890,000 Rohingya migrants living in Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh (UNHCR 2021). The camps hosted Rohingya refugees from violent events of previous years but was ill-equipped to receive this large of a population. 75% of Rohingya refugees in the camps arrived in 2017 following the state-supported abuse (UNHCR

2021). This left both camps struggling to create a livable refugee settlement for close to one million people. This was a difficult endeavor for the Bangladesh government, the United Nations, and other humanitarian organizations. It left major challenges and gaps as the need to accommodate the outpour from Myanmar grew.

The presence of almost one million Rohingya refugees has put immense pressure on Bangladesh's main settlements, Kutupalong and Nayapara, to provide adequate housing, resources, and care. Life inside the camps is difficult because of severe overcrowding. The conditions present are a persistent issue for aid organizations and the Rohingya population living there. The lack of clean drinking water and insufficient sanitation causes numerous outbreaks of disease and bacterial infections. Furthermore, the camps are densely populated with makeshift shelters that house multi-generational families (Action Against Hunger 2021). The overcrowding of the camps has contributed to the vulnerability of women and children to violence, exploitation, and harm from armed groups present within settlements (Wiseman 2021). The deterioration of essential services, safety, and resources proves to be yet another devastating element for the Rohingya population. Additionally, there is no intent to provide educational and employment opportunities to refugees by the Bangladesh government; they are not granted formal refugee status either, furthering divisions in the region (Skretteberg 2019; HRW 2019). The absence of formal education for Rohingya refugee children leaves them vulnerable to threats within camps as well as the future consequences of not receiving a formal education. Bangladesh failed to integrate the Rohingya after they opened their borders because of their assumption that Myanmar's repatriation efforts would be successful. (HRW 2019). However, concrete efforts of repatriation have yet to be a solution to this crisis as Rohingya refugees are safer in the camps.

The location of the camps also subjects refugees to further displacement. The warming of the Indian Ocean and worsening natural disasters are directly affecting the Rohingya refugee population in Cox's Bazar. The Kutupalong and Nayapara camps have experienced numerous weather effects that have destroyed existing homes and shelters. A devastating fire ravaged the Nayapara camp this year leaving thousands of refugees without shelter as it burned 550 structures and several buildings in the settlement, mirroring another fire in the Kutupalong camp the prior year (UN News 2021). Kutupalong experiences the adverse effects of monsoon season and increased severity of yearly floods as the deforestation of the area makes shelters subject to landslides (Skretteberg 2019; UNHCR 2021). These disasters further displace the Rohingya refugee population as they lose their informal structures and must seek shelter again. The refugee camps themselves have also contributed to a worsening climate situation in Cox's Bazar. Much of the traditional forestry has been destroyed to make room for the massive expansions of Kutupalong and Nayapara. The landscape has suffered immensely as deforestation contributes to the problem of landslides and worsens conditions during monsoon season (Vyawahare 2018). The Cox's Bazar district is expected to be the most severely affected region in South Asia by climate change (Vyawahare 2018). The progression of climate change is not central to just the Rohingya refugee population, as displacement increases as a consequence of these natural disasters all over the world. Cyclones and flooding will continue to erode established refugee settlements in Bangladesh as climate change intensifies (Macdonald and Hoque 2021; UNHCR Staff 2021). This will not only be significant to the refugee populations settled there but to the Bangladeshis as well.

The Cox's Bazar districts hosts the most Rohingya refugees out of all the neighboring states to Myanmar. The Kutupalong and Nayapara camps have become the largest refugee

settlements in the world surpassing the Dadaab Refugee Complex in Kenya and Za'atari in Jordan (UNHCR 2021). The rapid growth of these settlements has caused strife for the Bangladesh citizens in Cox's Bazar. The Bangladesh district of Cox's Bazar is already experiencing the severe effects of poverty. The local population has hosted the Rohingya but are beginning to suffer the impacts of a large informal population. The increased competition in the labor market, depletion of landscapes, reduced wages, and deepening environmental concerns are dividing the local population and the Rohingya (Skretteberg 2019; Vyawahare 2018). The tensions in the district are signaling the enormous need for policy and action from the United Nations, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

Repatriation Efforts of Myanmar:

The Bangladesh government opened its borders to the Rohingya in 2017 in an attempt to provide a temporary safe haven from the ill actions of the Myanmar government. The initial priority was the Rohingya's safety and security from the violence, exploitation, and persecution until it was safe for the Rohingya to return to their homes. The Bangladesh government did not grant formal refugee status to the Rohingya because they anticipated the violence to subside and refugees to return (HRW 2019). The repatriation efforts have yet to be a tangible solution for the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis. Between 2018 and 2019, the Myanmar government tried twice to welcome back the Rohingya but did not fulfill the necessary steps to ensure safety (Kurlantzick 2019). The Myanmar government did not announce any intention to provide citizenship or protection measures for returnees (Kurlantzick 2019; The Associated Press 2019). The prospect of returning to Myanmar is decidedly worse than the conditions that persist in Bangladesh for the Rohingya refugees. The abuses of the Myanmar government and ethnic majorities have not subsided, and the UN has led an investigation into the events of 2017

(Kurlantzick 2019). The investigations surrounding the Myanmar military and government state a genocidal intent towards the Rohingya. So far, the international community has yet to see perpetrators punished or condemned, which has reinforced the idea the Rohingya will not be embraced by the Myanmar government. Subsequently, the government has failed to ensure that future genocides on the minority do not occur (Kurlantzick 2019). Furthermore, the international community has publicly condemned Myanmar for its genocidal actions towards the Rohingya. A UN resolution passed by the General Assembly denounced Myanmar's repeated human rights abuses and failure to properly address the systemic discrimination (The Associated Press 2019). The nature of this complex situation decimated the UN and Bangladesh government's eagerness to see successful repatriation of the Rohingya.

However, the UN did respond to the Myanmar government's repatriation efforts. In a 2019 UNHCR statement, Rohingya refugees will get to decide if they want to return to Myanmar. The voluntary repatriation alludes to how uncertain Rohingya refugees are about returning to the Rakhine state. The UN and Bangladesh government vow to respect refugees' decisions as the situation evolves (UNHCR 2019; Skretteberg 2019). However, since 2019 the political evolution of Myanmar does not seem to be a promising environment for refugees to return to. The Myanmar elections of 2020 proved to be a step towards democracy, but fraud claims and a staged coup kept the military in power (Paul 2021; Albert and Maizland 2021). The clear instability in the political institutions of Myanmar is yet another deteriorating factor to the repatriation efforts. The military's mistreatment of the Rohingya is far too recent for the Rohingya to consider migrating back to Myanmar. Additionally, Myanmar's weak state is enduring sanctions from the United States in response to the killings of the Rohingya, but they proved to be unsuccessful. Recently, the Biden Administration responded to the political crisis of

2021 with the threat of sanctions if the military does not cede its power (Maizland 2021). The UN resolutions and United States' economic pressure are noted but do little to provide substantial change for the Rohingya refugees.

Bangladesh's New Solution, Bhasan Char:

The inept response of the Myanmar government and the substandard environment of Bangladesh's refugee camps presents an unprecedented solution to the Rohingya refugee crisis. Bangladesh's answer to the overcrowding has been the development of a remote island in the Bay of Bengal, Bhasan Char. The government working alongside the United Nations plans to relocate 100,000 Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char to overcome the flaws of Kutupalong and Nayapara (HRW 2021; Associated Press 2021). The island was previously un-inhabited as it just recently formed from silt in the 1980s and 1990s (Beech 2020; HRW 2021). The government created several forms of infrastructure to provide housing, health centers, schools, and floodwalls to counteract the tropical storms that form in the Bay of Bengal. They invested \$112 million into development amid criticism that the island is unsafe from cyclones, flooding, and other weather impacts (Associated Press 2021). The solution of Bhasan Char appears to be innovative, but it has ultimately failed to address the Rohingya refugee crisis. Its problematic location and lack of opportunity does not set Rohingya refugees up for success.

There has been an immense amount of criticism surrounding Bhasan Char and Bangladesh's relocation of 20,000 Rohingya refugees to the island. It does not come as a surprise as the island acts as a holding place for the Rohingya. One of the first instances that Bhasan Char appeared unsuitable for refugees was the rush to finish the project. Instead of allowing for international organizations and third-party investigations to concur the island was suitable for the Rohingya, Bangladeshi officials began moving refugees on their own (HRW 2021). Interviews

of Rohingya refugees on the island exemplify the lack of control they have residing there but also the poor healthcare, food shortages, and a lack of opportunity for education and employment (HRW 2021). The government has said relocation to Bhasan Char is voluntary but reports and interviews have suggested otherwise. The move to Bhasan Char from Cox's Bazar showcases the serious isolation refugees face on the island; it is a two-hour boat ride from mainland Bangladesh and has separated Rohingya from their families and social structures in Kutupalong and Nayapara settlements (Beech 2020). The island's location is its fundamental failure.

Differing from traditional refugee camps, it is not attached to any major municipality or state in Bangladesh. This is a key challenge to its effectiveness as a refugee settlement for the Rohingya. The relocation of Rohingya to Bhasan Char limits their freedom of movement, a historic right guaranteed by the United Nations. An agreement between the Bangladeshi government and United Nations did not include a freedom of movement clause which poses serious concerns (McPherson and Paul 2021). Refugees are essentially stuck in the Bay of Bengal as the document explains boats to the mainland will be provided on an "as needed basis" decided by the government leaving refugees stuck (McPherson and Paul 2021). The United Nations responded to the leak of the agreement restating its emphasis on voluntary movement to Bhasan Char and denying involvement in the first stages of relocation (UN Press Release 2020). The poorly designed deal the UN arranged with Bangladesh reflects the sentiment that Bhasan Char is a refugee prison. There is no incentive for the Bangladesh government to fix the problems of Bhasan Char as they emphasize there is no reason to leave as it provides everything the refugees need (McPherson and Paul 2021). To limit a refugee's freedom of movement furthers the notion that the Rohingya are not important or recognized by South Asian governments. Movement is what propels refugees to leave the persecution in their home

countries. Movement was the way out of their precarious situation and halting it leaves refugees in limbo as they are unable to rebuild their livelihoods.

The relocation of the Rohingya to Bhasan Char has left refugees eager to return to the mainland. Without consistent forms of transportation back to Bangladesh, refugees that want to leave have to escape the island. Several reports have surfaced citing the deaths of Rohingya refugees escaping Bhasan Char by boats often ill-equipped to travel in the hazardous conditions of the Bay of Bengal (Paul 2021; Al Jazeera 2021). The maritime movements of the Rohingya exemplify their dissatisfaction with the conditions on Bhasan Char and desire to be able to move freely. Simultaneously, cyclones and overall weather patterns in the Bay of Bengal are worsening, making these escapes even more dangerous; the Bangladesh government will need to provide transportation to refugees desiring to leave (Paul 2021; Al Jazeera 2021). Bhasan Char proves to be a solution that does not address the whole situation and needs of Rohingya refugees. It instead traps them into the limbo of being unable to earn a living, integrate into communities, and disregard of their legal status.

VII. Conclusion:

The Rohingya ethnic minority has long been the victim of grave mistreatment and systematic discrimination in their home country of Myanmar. The long ethnic divisions in Rakhine and the Myanmar government's decision to not grant the population citizenship placed the Rohingya in a vulnerable position. As they became more disenfranchised, the rates of violence and abuse towards them increased. The events of 2017 proved the Rohingya were a group facing persecution and called for the international community to help. The genocidal intent of the Myanmar government did not go unnoticed as countries like Bangladesh opened their borders to host the Rohingya migrants. However, the underestimation of just how many

Rohingya refugees would seek safety in Bangladesh set the Kutupalong and Nayapara camps to become overcrowded and without the basic necessities. The Rohingya exodus led to the camps becoming the most densely populated refugee settlements in the world. The rapid migration into the region was accompanied by brutal weather and disasters were a result of climate change, furthering the displacement of the Rohingya. Proposed repatriation efforts and new settlements have failed to provide the Rohingya with any certainty about their future. The international focus has shifted away from the emergency since its initial start in 2017, but the challenges have not been met with proper solutions. The Rohingya refugees' complex situation lays in the hands of governments that do not want to take accountability or grant them a chance to have a dignified life. The crisis of the Rohingya people is not an anomaly but it presents the extensive vulnerability and precarity of a refugee in the twenty first century. It captures how historic divisions, governmental decisions, access to citizenship, climate change, and refugee settlements affect the life of a refugee and culminate to the unpredictable daily lives of these populations.

The case of the Rohingya refugee has not been solved by the international community. The weak Myanmar state is not suitable for repatriation, but neither is the island of Bhasan Char. Rohingya refugees need to be embraced by the host countries to integrate into the economy, education systems, and be able to create a life until it is safe to return to Myanmar. The Myanmar government needs to be held accountable by the international community to ensure protections and citizenship to the Rohingya if repatriation efforts ever want to be successful. Until then, the Rohingya will have to rely on the work of humanitarian and human rights organizations to advocate for them. This paper has examined the situation's start, severity, and shortcomings in an effort to analyze a Rohingya refugee's uncertain future. This refugee crisis will not see an end until effective policy and solutions that incorporate the voices of the Rohingya population are

proposed. The case of the Rohingya refugee is not just a news article of 2017 but a reflection of the deepening global refugee crisis.

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