

CHAPTER-10

STATELESSNESS OF ROHINGYA AND EMERGING CRIMINALITIES: A PERILOUS FUTURE FOR BANGLADESH

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Abstract

This paper attempts to examine in what manner Rohingyas are getting involved in criminal offences creating a ferocious situation in Bangladesh especially in the camps in Cox's Bazar since August 2017. As nearly 1.2 million Rohingyas came from Myanmar, from their influx in Bangladesh, this paper reveals that Rohingyas are involved in drug peddling, smuggling, abducting, raping the girls, human trafficking and even murdering others living in the camps as well as the natives. The local inhabitants of Cox's Bazar are becoming scared of the depredation of Rohingyas. These Rohingya criminalities are also scattering all over the country. Frequent failure in the repatriation process of those displaced Rohingya people of Myanmar is creating opportunities for expanding criminalities with a perilous future for Bangladesh. In this backdrop, this paper tries to cover the scenario of emerging recent criminal offences among Rohingyas. This is a mixed method study conducted by both case studies and in-depth interviews. Besides, it analyses the secondary data from Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO). All of the upshots of Rohingya criminalities are very cruel for imminent time of

Bangladesh. Only early repatriation can stop the turbulence among the Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

Key Words: Statelessness; Rohingya; emerging; criminalities; Bangladesh

1. Introduction

“1.1 million Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh were not only a threat to the country’s security, but also to the region. I urge the world community to take appropriate action realizing the gravity of the threat”.

-Sheikh Hasina

The predicament of the Rohingyas, a stateless people, is indeed one of the worst humanitarian crises the world faces today. Rohingyas are not considered amongst the Myanmar’s 135 official ethnic groups and have been denied citizenship since 1983 which has effectively rendered them displaced. Bangladesh today hosts near about 1.2 million Rohingya people who live in cramped camps in Cox’s Bazar. Among these camps, Kutupalong is the largest and most densely populated refugee settlement in the world. The Rohingya influx in Bangladesh was started basically on 25th August in 2017. About hundred thousands of Rohingyas came to Bangladesh on that day to emancipate from a brutal persecution of Myanmar military. Rohingyas recognized that day as a Genocide Day. The Rohingyas find themselves physically sheltered within the borders of a bordered land which does not belong to them; on the other hand, the land they claim to be their home and attach themselves with is denied to them by the concerned state authorities under the rubrics of ‘nationalism’ and ‘state security’ (Mohsin, A., 2019). Bangladesh govt. welcomed these stateless Rohingya people with enough humanitarian dignity. Bangladesh has made temporary camps for their sufficient accommodation in Ukhia, Teknaf and Kutupalong in Cox’s Bazar. Bangladesh is also trying to create an identity of these displaced Rohingya people with dignity by pursuing attention to the international human rights activists including the United Nations (UN) while the Myanmar denied their citizenship right. But, the condition of the Rohingya camps is now under

threat. Since 2017, more than thousands (1088) of Rohingya people are accused by Bangladesh Police or other joint forces in several cases in Cox's Bazar. In the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, there are countless young men who are totally unemployed and they are hopeless about their uncertain future. That's why they are getting involved in crime like drug peddling, human trafficking, abducting, gang robbery, rape and murder. This means that the Rohingya, after the entire trauma they have suffered in their home country, are now again under threat of violence in the only place they thought they were safe, the refugee camps in Bangladesh. Most of the perpetrators are their own people who are involved in several criminal offences. Women and girls are extremely susceptible in the camps; many of them are victims of sexual violence, harassment and trafficking.

A large number of displaced Rohingyas is now either opting to go abroad illegally or spread to different parts of Bangladesh by seeing no hope for their sustainable repatriation to their homeland in Myanmar with dignity. A local human trafficking group is boosting the Rohingyas, mostly women, to take the risk of fleeing to Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries by sea, or flee the camps in Cox's Bazar to collect Bangladeshi passports with fake documents. Some local human trafficking groups help the Rohingyas collecting false documents for making Bangladeshi passport. The traffickers also help the Rohingyas escape from refugehood and contact their relatives living in different Muslim countries. Nonetheless, these activities of the Rohingyas are making chaotic situation in Bangladesh. After all, Bangladesh is getting a perilous future gradually with having food insecurity, densely housing, health hazards, environmental degradation, human trafficking, raping girls and other criminal offences in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. With reference to Bangladesh Police, 45 have been murdered (the total number of death is 112 according to Bangladesh Peace Observatory/BPO) by their fellow refugees since 2017. Bangladesh Police also ensured that there are 471 cases filed against 1088 Rohingyas over several criminal offences like arms, murder, narcotics,

rape/attempt to rape, abduction, robbery and so on. This number is mounting progressively in different places of Bangladesh especially in Cox's Bazar district. Many Rohingya are apprehensive about hasty forced repatriation to Noakhali, and opposition to the plan is growing within and beyond the camps. So given this backdrop, Bangladesh could have to see the perilous future in the long run. This study focused on the empirical data as well as the secondary data since the first influx of Rohingya in Bangladesh in August, 2017. This study revealed how Rohingyas are creating alarming criminal offences that must pay attention to the upper authority of Bangladesh for sustainable repatriation in Myanmar with dignity. This study also can pay attention to the national and international human rights activists over this global issue.

2. History of Statelessness of Rohingya

The history of borders in South Asia today is a history of 'bordering', 'ordering' and 'othering' (Chaturvedy, 2018). Denial of citizenship, religious persecution, killings, rape, massacres and refusal to afford the basic human rights by exposing them to forced labor, seizure of their land and property, extortion, denial of the freedom to travel to find work, and most humiliatingly placing restrictions on marriage and the number of children they can have has led to millions of destitute Rohingya fleeing to neighbour country, Bangladesh. The United Nations (UN) has described them as 'the most persecuted minority in the world (UNHCR, 2017). Myanmar's Rohingya people have been victims of decades of state-sponsored ethnic discrimination, detention, violence, and repression. There is a culture of denial among the Myanmar authorities on the citizenship of the Rohingya people living in the Rakhine state. The ruling authority recognized only eight major communities as their nationals along with 135 ethnic communities; they are Burman, Shan, Kachin, Karen, Kayah, Mon, Chin, and Rakhaing (Yunus, 1994). The Rohingyas had lived in Arakan for thousands of years with their own language and culture. Muslim settlers came to Arakan State, an independent coastal kingdom in what is now Myanmar, starting in the 1430s, and a small Muslim population lived in Arakan State when it was

conquered by the Burmese Empire in 1784. Burma in turn was conquered by Britain in 1824, and until 1948 Britain ruled Burma as part of British India. During that time, other Muslims from Bengal entered Burma as migrant workers, tripling the country's Muslim population over a 40 year period. Myanmar gained its independence from Britain in 1948 (Blakemore, 2019).

The pre-colonial history of Arakan and the Rohingyas is marked by phases of arrivals of Muslims into the region. The first arrival of the Muslims into Arakan was in between 788 and 810 AD; several Arab ships wrecked off the coast of Rambee (Rambi), and the Muslim sailors who escaped started their lives on Rambi Island with permission from the King. In the 15th century, Muslims again came to Arakan, but this time they were Bengalis and had been invited there by the ruling princes. The third wave of Muslim arrival in Arakan took place in the middle of the 17th century. The period was marked by the presence of Bengali poets like Daulat Kazi, Alaol and Magon Tagore in the region. In 1660, the Mughal emperor Shah Shuja took refuge in Arakan, but he along with his family members was killed by the order of the King of Arakan (Mohsin, A., 2019). The government didn't provide for a Muslim state, either. Nor did it acknowledge the Rohingya, a name adopted by a group of the descendants of both Arakan State Muslims and later migrants to Burma. Instead Myanmar worked to cast out the Rohingya people, excluding them from its constitution. In 1982, Myanmar passed a citizenship law that denied the Rohingya people citizenship, too (Erin Blakemore, 2019).

After the conquest of Arakan, the Rakhines started calling the people of the newly conquered territory the 'Kulas', which meant the dark-skinned aboriginals. With the Mongol invasion from the south, the Hindus and Muslims moved towards the north, which is now known as northern Arakan. The Moghs, joined by the invaders from Burma, remained in the south. The history of Arakan thus fractured into two people, the Rakhines and the Rohingyas; however, history shows that they had lived in harmony for centuries (Ahmed. I, 2010).

Basically, efforts to deprive Rohingya of citizenship began shortly after Myanmar's independence. The 1948 Union Citizenship Act defined Myanmar citizenship and identified specific ethnicities the "indigenous races of Burma", that were allowed to gain citizenship. The list did not include Rohingya. The Union Citizenship Act allowed people whose families had lived for two generations in Myanmar to apply for identity cards. Initially, the government provided many Rohingya with citizenship or identification cards under this provision. However, after the military coup in 1962, the government began giving documentation to fewer and fewer Rohingya children, refusing to recognize fully new generations of the Rohingya population. In 1974, Myanmar began requiring all citizens to obtain National Registration Cards but allowed Rohingya to obtain only Foreign Registration Cards. Because many schools and employers did not recognize these cards, Rohingya faced limited educational and job opportunities.

The 1982 Citizenship Law of Burma redefined people who migrated during the British rule as illegal immigrants. Under this citizenship law, Rohingyas were declared "non-national" or "foreign residents". This law designated three categories of citizens: (1) full citizens, (2) associate citizens and (3) naturalized citizens (Mahmood, 2016). None of the categories applies to the Rohingyas. To obtain basic level of citizenship they have to prove that their family lived in Myanmar before 1948. Besides they have to be fluent in one of the national languages. Many Rohingyas lack such paperwork because it was either unavailable or denied to them. As a result of the law, their rights to study, work, travel, marry, practice their religion and access health services have been and continue to be restricted. The Rohingyas cannot vote, and even if they navigate the citizenship test, they must identify as "naturalized" as opposed to Rohingya (CGS Peace Observatory, 2018). Consequently, from 1995 to 2010, the government of Myanmar reportedly forced Rohingya to relocate within the country. The crises emerged after various military operations in August 2017 in response to many coordinated attacks on multiple police posts at a northern

Maungdaw township by a Rohingya group. The government reported that 12 security forces personnel and at least 77 Rohingya fighters were killed. In the ensuing crackdown, the military, police and local militias were accused of burning hundreds of Rohingya villages, gang-rapes and arbitrary killings (Habulan et al. 2018).

3. Evidence of Genocide against Rohingya

Myanmar has a population of about 54 million and officially recognises dozens of ethnic groups. Yet the Rohingya are not among these. In fact, authorities of Myanmar including the country's prime minister Aung San Suu Kyi, refuse to use even the term 'Rohingya' (Safdar & Siddiqui, 2019). The Rohingya, however, are indisputably a distinct group with a long history in Myanmar. Rohingya people are deprived and exploited by the Myanmar military since many days. This paper accumulated the evidences of Rohingya cruelty by analysing the secondary sources. Myanmar's long history of promoting ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya culminated in 2012 with a widespread massacre of Rohingya throughout Rakhine state, which has led many legal experts, academics, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to label the atrocity the beginning of genocide in Myanmar (Tun Khin, 2014). Genocide is defined in Article (2) of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide as follows:

“. . . any of the following acts committed with intention to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, racial, or religious group, as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; and (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part. (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group and (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group” (Crossman, 2014; Oberschall, 2007).

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that close to 180,000 people were affected by the 2012

violence. Of these, 140,000 persons remain displaced, the majority of which are Rohingya, and an additional 36,000 people live in isolated villages with minimal access to public services. A total of 167 people were killed in the violence; 223 were injured; and more than 10,000 buildings and homes were damaged or destroyed in 2012 (IRIN News, 2013). The security services dumped bodies of Rohingya killed in the conflict at remaining Rohingya villages and ordered the villagers to dig mass graves for the deceased. The killing of defenceless persons and the subsequent concealment and denial of those criminal actions, such as the burial of bodies in mass graves, are clear indicators of ethnic cleansing and genocide. In the history, several waves of violence against the Rohingya have broken out over the decades, in 1942, 1978, 1991–2, 1996, 2012, 2016 and, most recently, in August 2017. On August 24, 2017, a group of armed Rohingya men, part of the insurgent Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, reportedly launched a raid on police outposts in the region, killing 12 members of Myanmar security forces (OHCHR, 2017).

Myanmar security forces continued to commit crucial violence abuses against Rohingya Muslims throughout 2018, deepening the humanitarian and human rights catastrophe in Rakhine State. From August 25, 2017 through early 2018, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people fled into Bangladesh, as many as 10,000 arriving in a single day (Human Rights Watch, 2018). More than 730,000 Rohingya have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh since the military campaign of ethnic cleansing began in August 2017. The government denied extensive evidence of atrocities, refused to allow independent investigators' access to Rakhine State, and punished local journalists for reporting on military abuses (Human Rights Watch, World Report, 2019). Rohingya refugees who fled in 2018 reported that Myanmar authorities had ordered them to accept the National Verification Card (NVC), which does not provide citizenship or leave Myanmar. Successive governments have for decades deprived Rohingya of nationality through systematic and institutionalized marginalization, rendering them stateless.

4. Literature Review

Rohingya criminality is not new in Bangladesh but it increases after the first influx in August 25, 2017. Rohingya people are sheltered in separate camps and they are provided enough foods by national and international agencies. However, they are not satisfied with the existing facilities and that's why they are getting involved in several criminal offences. National and international authorities are concerned about the uprising criminal offenses among Rohingya in Bangladesh. While there is no dearth of studies on refugees, Rohingya has so far received very little research attention. Nonetheless, one of the most pressing issues is the fact that these stateless people are being increasingly targeted by criminal gangs, and getting involved in criminal activities. Thousands are at risk of human trafficking, while others are being recruited as drug mules to smuggle in 'Yaba pills' a popular methamphetamine brought in from Myanmar which is causing something of an epidemic in Bangladesh. The Rohingya refugees are viewed as easy prey by drug dealers. And as victims of organized crime they often become subject to severe forms of violence too, including death (The Conversation, 2019).

Local and international media have reported on Rohingya being preyed on by various criminal gangs including robbers, extremists, drug and human traffickers. On several occasions, Rohingya refugees were killed in police shootouts alongside Bangladeshis for their involvement in crimes and militancy (Uttom, 3 March, 2020). Refugees can also be arrested for criminal activity. They (and local villagers alike) are subjected to unusually long sentences and denied due process protections. Detentions without trial can extend well past the expected sentence for the crime committed. Moreover, violence and mistreatment of refugees in detention is widespread and jails are severely over-populated. The Cox's Bazaar jail, for example, has the capacity of 800 detainees and is currently holding 3600 individuals in detention (UNHCR, 2007).

Besides, Bangladesh bans mobile phone access in the Rohingya camps to eradicate the connections among the criminals. The order resonated across the camps where it threatened to disconnect Rohingya from several settlements that stretch for kilometres in the border district of Cox's Bazar. The communication blackout will also isolate Rohingya from family still in Myanmar from where they fled a brutal military crackdown (Aljazeera, 2019). Different national and international newspapers reported that Rohingya refugees' involvement in crimes has sparked fear among locals that violence might increase further if the Rohingyas cannot be repatriated immediately (The Business Standard, 2019). Some 1,100 Rohingya men and women have been accused and arrested in more than 450 criminal cases in the past two years. The 471 cases that have been filed against Rohingyas so far involve robbery, kidnapping, rape, drug peddling and human trafficking. Of the cases, 208 are drug related while 43 are murder cases. Incidents like attacks on locals outside the camps are also taking place. Jubo League leader Omar Faruk was shot dead allegedly by a group of Rohingya miscreants in Teknafupazila in Cox's Bazar in August 2019 (The Daily Star, 2019). Besides, Rohingya people are involved in drug peddling since last couple of years. The smugglers who have already entered Bangladesh, are now hiding in the Rohingya camps and committing crimes whenever possible (Mahmud, 2017).

Human trafficking is also an alarming issue as different cases are reported by the newspapers and the researchers (Palma, 2019). Intensity of the trafficking can be easily understood by the remark of International Organization for Migration (IOM) counter trafficking specialist:

“Trafficking was already a problem in Cox's Bazar before the most recent influx of refugees from August 2017. With so many more people now at risk, it is vitally important to work together with the police and other and other authorities to prevent an increase in trafficking victims over the coming month” (IOM press release, 2018; Haque, 2018).

IOM also illustrates that most of these people were trafficked to Chittagong or the nearby beach town of Cox's Bazar where men were made to work in factories, construction sites and the fishing industry while women were forced into domestic servitude (Karim, 2019).

Gender based violence among Rohingya in the camps is also a silent issue (Shamima, 2014). Every day girls and women are sexually abused by other Rohingya men in the camps. This is a normal issue for the Rohingya women and they are used to being abused. Even the local female NGO workers are also being abused silently in the camps. UNHCR representative reported that sexual and gender based violence increased 1% to 7% in January, 2018 (Women Refugee Commission, 2018). Nonetheless, as the repatriation of the Rohingya is delaying, the violence risk is raising gradually in the camps. As per as the criminal incidents recorded in Bangladesh, more incidents may will be increased gradually to create a perilous future in Bangladesh. This paper also attempts to examine in what manner Rohingya people is creating perilous future for Bangladesh.

5. Methods and Objectives

This paper is a mixed method study based on a field visit to the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh on January 08-11, 2019. Though it was challenging for authors (as the non-Rohingya) to get access to meet the Rohingya in the camps, the author visited the nearby camps unofficially with the help of two research assistants who are native in Cox's Bazar district. But it is significant to mention that the researchers did not face any difficulties to collecting data or create any hamper of the Rohingya people. However, six case studies and eight interviews were conducted in Kutapalong and Ukhia camp in Bangladesh. In qualitative method, case studies are conducted with the Rohingyas who had arrived in Bangladesh from Myanmar in the recent influx which started on 25th August in 2017. Eight in-depth interviews are also conducted with the local residents near these camps to understand the fear about the terrifying future of

Bangladesh. Checklist was used to collect data and the respondents were selected through snowball sampling.

In addition, this paper also based on quantitative secondary data related to the Rohingya violence collected from Cox's Bazar district Police as well as Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO) which is a big data based platform run by Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka. This study collected the data from August 2017 to August 2019 from secondary sources to make this study quantitatively success. These secondary data make this paper more informative to establish the Rohingya criminalities in Bangladesh.

Following the proper research methods (Bryman. A, 1984)), this paper attempts to find out in what manner the Rohingya people are getting involved in several criminalities in Bangladesh especially in Cox's Bazar district. From the first influx in Bangladesh, nearly 1.2 million Rohingya took shelter temporary in the different camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. This is a big question to the readers that how Rohingyas are becoming a risk creating perilous future for Bangladesh?

6. Findings

6.1 Emerging Rohingya Criminalities: Is it a Risk for Bangladesh?

Rohingya are basically homeless people who are deprived and dominated in Myanmar. After the first influx in August in 2017, they are sheltered in the camps in the hill area of Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh. Necessary initiatives are taken by Bangladesh govt. to control the Rohingya in the camps. Rohingya are restricted to go outside of the camps and they are prohibited to use Bangladeshi SIM card. Recently Bangladesh govt. allowed education for the marginalized Rohingya children. Several national and international NGOs are working in the camps for their proper health, nutrition and food. However, cramped camps of Cox's Bazar are densely populated area. Now-a-days these Rohingya camps are becoming chaotic for internal politics inaudibly. The scenario of the camps in a day is totally different from the scenario of night. An armed group crawls over the

Rohingya camp at night. There is no electricity connection and enough roads in these camps. There are only some 'Army Roads' in the camp but these are not suitable to move from one place to another. Even, people have to use some hill roads to reach some places located in the hill area. So, it is very easy for the criminals to fly away from these places after occurring crime incidents. In this regards, this paper attempts to explore how Rohingya people are getting involved in different criminal offences showing the data in this section. The readers can realize the perilous future for Bangladesh through these primary and secondary data.

6.1.1 Cases Filed against Rohingya People

Rohingya people basically live in the cramped camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh since 2017. Gradually they are getting involved in several criminal offences among them and sometimes with the local inhabitants as well as law enforcements. In the last two years, total 45 killed and 471 cases filed over different types of crime against 1088 Rohingya in Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Joint Forces detained Rohingya people over several cases in different district of Bangladesh especially in Cox's Bazar.

Table 1: Types and number of cases against Rohingya¹

Types of Cases	2017		2018		2019 (till Aug 26)	
	Case Number	Accused Number	Case Number	Accused Number	Case Number	Accused Number
Arms	12	23	13	21	11	38
Murder	08	22	15	33	20	81
Rape/Attempt to rape	02	02	16	27	13	27
Narcotics	22	40	95	159	91	169
Abduction	00	00	09	39	06	40
Human Trafficking	00	00	02	08	22	94
Police Assault	01	08	00	00	00	00
Robbery/Attempt to robbery	02	06	07	26	00	00
Filed under the Foreigner Act	23	39	12	20	02	13
Filed under the Special Power Act	02	03	09	20	10	20
Other crimes	04	16	30	61	12	33
Total	76	159	208	414	187	515

¹ Cox's Bazar District Police (Till 25 August, 2019)

In table 1, total 76 cases filed against 159 Rohingyas in 2017, 208 cases filed against 414 Rohingyas in 2018 and 187 cases filed against 515 Rohingyas in 2019 (till 26 August). These cases are related to arms, murder, rape, narcotics, human trafficking, abduction, robbery and so on. But highest number of cases (208) against Rohingyas (368) is about narcotics in the last two years according to Bangladesh Police. These numbers are increasing gradually with the passage of time within and outside of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

Additionally, in figure 1, it shows the number of cases increased from 76 in 2017 to 208 in 2018 and 187 in 2019 (till 25th August). The number of accused Rohingyas is also increased from 159 in 2017 to 414 in 2018 and 515 in 2019 (till August). The data indicates that delay of Rohingya repatriation means increment of the criminalities among them.

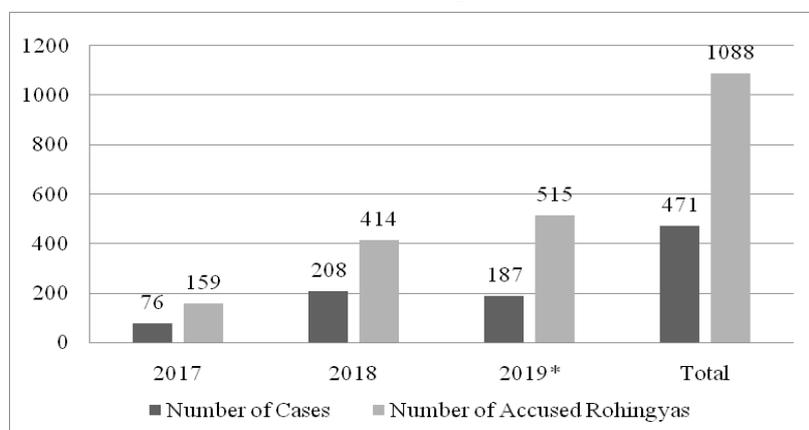


Figure 1: Increasing rate of the cases against Rohingyas
(Aug 2017- Aug 2019)²

It is creating a threat for the future of Bangladesh progressively. On the contrary, according to Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO), total 1540 Rohingyas are detained or arrested over different cases like drug peddling, trespassing, arms possession, human trafficking and other violent activities. This detention number is also high with comparison with Cox's Bazar District Police.

² Cox's Bazar District Police (Till 25 August, 2019)

6.1.2 Violent and Non-violent Activities of Rohingya

From the first influx of the Rohingya in Bangladesh, every day the newspapers cover the crime related incidents regularly. Since 2017, total 362 Rohingya related violent and non-violent incidents witnessed in Bangladesh where 112 deaths and 176 injured in last two years since their entrance in Bangladesh. As the number of cases against Rohingyas is increasing gradually (as described in figure 1), the involvement of the Rohingya people is also swelling in the camps in Cox's Bazar and the outside of the camps. They are getting involved in rape, murder, abduction, creating NID and passport by illegal way, drug peddling, robbery, human trafficking and so on (as described in table 1). A Rohingya man opined that,

“Once I heard the sound of gunfights far away from here when I was seating with my family. But I didn't know from where the sound came to our ear. This fears to us but we had nothing to do here. My wife also stays afraid of this regular sound because we have lost our daughter in Myanmar.”

Nearly 1.2 million Rohingya people lives in the cramped camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. The field visit in that cramped camps and the secondary data proofed the involvement of the Rohingyas with several groups for criminal offenses. Nonetheless, table 2 displays the total number of violent incidents, death and injuries in the numerous clashes/gunfights between several actors and target groups like Rohingya, locals, law enforcement agencies and unknown miscreants including themselves.

Table 2: Actor and target group segregation (August 2017-December 2019/28 months)³

Doer/Actor	Target group	Number of incidents	Number of death	Number of injury
Rohingya	Labor/NGO worker/Police	13	1	51
Rohingya	Locals	9	2	41
Unknown/Miscreants	Rohingya	22	21	1
Rohingya	Rohingya	20	15	38
Border Guard Police	Rohingya	11	13	3
Locals	Rohingya	8	3	11
Rohingya	Self (suicide)	2	2	0
Law enforcement agency	Rohingya (criminals)	26	42	14
Unknown/Unclear	Unknown/Unclear	16	13	17
Total (violent incidents only)		127	112	176

Most of the incidents has witnessed in different clashes/gunfights between Rohingya (criminals) & law enforcement agencies (26), Rohingyas & miscreants (22) and between themselves (20) among total 127 violent incidents. Moreover, total 42 deaths has recounted in the clashes/gunfights between the Rohingya (criminals) & law enforcement agencies while 21 and 15 deaths counted approximately in the clashes between Rohingya & unknown miscreants as well as between themselves. Sometimes, police report illustrates that Rohingya crime happens in organized way especially in the gunfight and large scale violence.

Likewise, total 176 of injuries recorded in the incidents occurred between Rohingyas & Labor/NGO worker/Police (51) and Rohingyas & locals (41) as well as clashes between themselves (38). Furthermore, in figure 2, it reveals the top five violent incidents related to Rohingya observed by Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO). From August 2017 to December 2019, it stated that assault, gunfight, abduction, clash and sexual harassment occurs most in Bangladesh especially in Cox's Bazar.

³ Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO), cumulative consequences of violent incidents only. Retrieved January 24, 2020 from <http://peaceobservatory-cgs.org/#/>

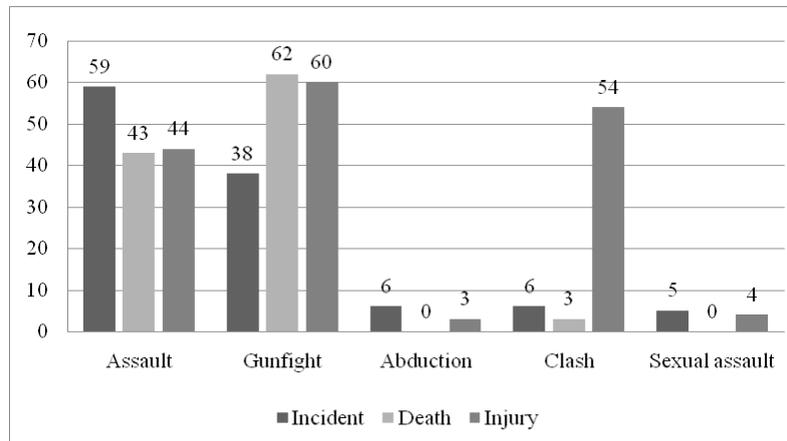


Figure 2. Top 5 violent incidents related to Rohingya in Bangladesh

Among total 112 death incidents, 62 and 43 incidents recorded due to gunfight and assault respectively. Likewise, total 176 incidents of injury, 60 incidents recorded due to gunfight, 54 due to clash and 44 due to assault. Most important issue is to mention that, in spite of small number of incidents (38) in gunfight, highest number of death incidents (62) recorded.

Violence incidents occur among the Rohingya and with the other local inhabitants including the joint forces of Bangladesh. Sometimes the Rohingyas become violent if they feel it is harmful for them and sometimes they get involved in the crimes without knowing the matter actually. A local citizen of Bangladesh shared an experience he faced about the Rohingya criminalities as:

“Once we saw a Rohingya teenage boy was running with a sharp weapon from his camp to another camp. Then we caught him and asked him what happened and why he was running so fast with a cruel face? He didn’t respond at first and after compelling him, he replied that he was running to another camp to attack other Rohingya group who are locked in a clash with his fellow men.”

Similarly, Rohingyas get involve in different criminal offences among themselves inside and outside of their own refugee camp. Additionally, they also become cruel to the local inhabitants and even they don’t fear the police, RAB and other

joint forces. Some NGO female workers still serves in the cramped camps being raped/sexually harassed regularly. They are being sexually harassed forcefully by the Rohingya youths in the camps.

CASE 1

Mrs XYZ (28 years old girl), only earner of her family, works in a popular NGO in the Rohingya camp in Cox' Bazar, Bangladesh. Approximately in July 2018, she was on duty in Ukhia camp as her daily assignment. Two Rohinhya men attacked on her and molested her softly in a corner. This is a regular worse situation during her working hour. She sexually harassed by the Rohingya youth men forcefully while she remain in her duty. She cannot protest the Rohingyas in fear of an uncertain violence by them. On the contrary, she cannot leave her job because if she resigns from the job then she will have to face several problems with her family as s only earner of the family.

6.1.3 Rohingya Involvement in Human Trafficking

Rohingya are now trying to escape from cramp camp in Cox's Bazar to the different spaces of the country. A large number of displaced Rohingyas is now either opting to go abroad illegally or spread to different parts of Bangladesh by seeing no hope for their sustainable repatriation to their homeland in Myanmar with dignity. A human trafficking group is boosting the Rohingyas, mainly women and children, by promising them good-paying jobs and a better life, taking the risk of going to Malaysia and Indonesia by sea, or flee the camps in Cox's Bazar to collect Bangladeshi passports with fake documents. The human trafficking group helps the Rohingyas collecting false documents for making Bangladeshi passport. There are some local citizens who also seek the client to make illegal passport for the Rohingyas demanding extra money from them. Making Bangladeshi passport with fake documents is a crime and this is happening among the Rohingya people. A local citizen of Kutupalong opined in this regard as:

“Some Rohingyas want to move outside of the camps and they try to get chances to go away from here. Sometimes they come to us and offer money for making any opportunity to fly away this camp and this country. But we refuse them.”

Since August 2017, Bangladesh joint forces including Bangladesh Police detained Rohingya people as well as some local human traffickers. This study finds that total 43 human trafficking incidents occurred in last two years and Bangladesh joint forces including Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) rescued as well as detained total 684 Rohingya and human traffickers. According to Cox's Bazar district Police, thousands and thousands of Rohingya people are rescued from the traffickers in the Cox's Bazar sea area. Rohingya people sometimes try to escape from the camps to nearby country like Malaysia, Indonesia and other nearby countries for freedom and their better life. That's why Bangladesh join forces sometimes detain the perpetrators related to this kind of the criminalities from different parts of the country. Not only the locals of Cox's Bazar are not facing the Rohingya problem but also the entire Bangladesh is facing this difficulty. This study reveals that the highest majority of the incidents (85%) related to Rohingya occur in Chottogram division especially in Cox's Bazar district, 10% of the incidents occur in Khulna and Dhaka airport area while the Rohingya try to flee abroad and other 5% incidents occur in other divisions to some extent. Gradually the Rohingya related violent and non-violent incidents are spreading all over the country. Law enforces also detained a number of Rohingyas in plentiful cases in different areas of Bangladesh.

The Rohingya violence is now visible to all due to the reporting in both print and electronic media. In Cox's Bazar, the violence rate is high because the camps are located in this district and Rohingyas are getting involved in numerous crimes here. Bangladesh Police including other joint forces also detain the Rohingyas in different places of Bangladesh if they try to go away from the camps or do other crimes. That's why the rate of incidents in other division is lowest than the Chottogram.

6.1.4 Uprising Incidents of Rohingya Criminalities

Since August 2017, Rohingya people are getting involved in criminal offenses and the newspaper and the Bangladesh Police data proved this involvement. Different national and international delegates are also concerns about the violence related to Rohingya. However, this study reveals that the criminal incidents are uprising progressively from 2017 to 2019. The incidents were below 10 in the months of 2017 and in 2018 it was fluctuated from below 10 to 20 in every separate month. This is noticeable that the incidents were 16-20 in every month (July to September) in 2018 just one year after the Rohingya influx in August 2017. On the contrary, in 2019, the violent incidents boomed at 25, 32 and 41 in different months simultaneously. Every month has a big amount of Rohingya related violence incidents in Bangladesh and this is alarming. So it is a significant concern for Bangladesh including the national and international human rights activist to take steps for early repatriation of these stateless people.

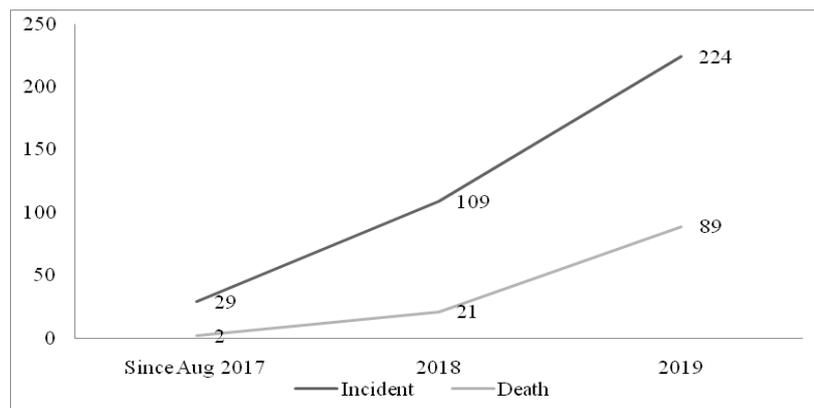


Figure 3. Increasing rate of Rohingya related violence in Bangladesh⁴

The violence is increasing with the passage of time. However, figure 3 transparently indicated the uprising scenario of crime incidents including death since 2017. Here, the data shows the incidents jumped in 224 in 2019 from 109 in 2018 and

⁴ Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO), incidents illustrated from August 2017 to December 2019. Retrieved January 24, 2020 from <http://peaceobservatory-cgs.org/#/>

only 29 in August, 2017. Similarly, the death also hurdled in 89 in 2019 from 21 in 2018 and only 2 in August, 2017. This is very alarming for Bangladesh. If the Rohingya repatriation delays the criminal offences will raise with the passage of time.

In this backdrop, this study reveals that the delay of Rohingya repatriation is creating criminalities by them in Bangladesh especially in Cox's Bazar area. But this is a big question that why the Rohingya criminalities are uprising in Bangladesh? This paper found that there are several socio-economic and political factors that can uphold the Rohingya criminalities in Bangladesh. Few local citizens also help the Rohingyas to do the illegal passport with fake documents that is also alarming for us. The Rohingyas are welcomed in Bangladesh with a humanitarian eye but it is engendering a perilous future day by day. A police super of Cox's Bazar, opined on the Rohingya criminalities that:

“They have no works, they are getting aid, eating three times a day and sleeping. So they are getting lazy and involving in several crimes themselves. Everyone can use them as a tool to make a crime. This is big challenge for us to control the crime.”

Though Bangladesh controls the Rohingyas in the crowd camps in Cox's Bazar, they are sometimes getting involved in countless criminal offences as the previous data explained. We can easily realize the consequences of these criminalities all over the country. Now this is the international issue of thinking to make the proper repatriation of Rohingya with dignity.

7. Discussions

Rohingya is now global concern ('the most persecuted minority in the world'). Being denied from the citizenship right, Rohingya people came to Bangladesh for a temporary shelter. From the first influx in Bangladesh in August 2017, they are creating the criminal offenses gradually. This study reveals their involvement in criminalities like drug peddling, rape, gunfight, abduction, murder and so on. Bangladesh Police also detained a representable number of Rohingya people against several cases

in different districts of Bangladesh especially in Cox's Bazar. Besides, this study analysed daily violent and non-violent incidents related to Rohingya recorded by the Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO). The data shows the trends of Rohingya involvement in several criminalities that is spreading all over the country gradually. As per as August 2019 from August 2017, total 471 cases filed against 1088 Rohingya people by Bangladesh Police in Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh. On the contrary, according to Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO), total 362 Rohingya related violent incidents are recorded. Among these incidents, total 112 killed and 176 injured in different places in Bangladesh. Likewise, a large number of Rohingya people (1540) are detained or arrested over different cases in Bangladesh. This study also recovered five top violence types among the Rohingya like assault, gunfight, abduction, clash and sexual harassment. In this backdrop, this study is significant to identify how the Rohingyas are creating a perilous future for Bangladesh getting involved in several criminal offenses gradually. This study attempts to reveal the actual scenario of Rohingya violence in Bangladesh. The law enforcement authorities are also concern about this issue. If the Rohingya criminalities increase gradually and spread all over the country rapidly, anyone can imagine that how Rohingya are becoming a risk for Bangladesh. That's why the govt. of Bangladesh tries to seek attention to the international authority including United Nations for early repatriation of these stateless people of Myanmar. Without proper repatriation of the marginalized Rohingya people, Bangladesh has to suffer a long run in future.

8. Conclusions

Rohingya crisis is a global anxiety in the contemporary epoch. Whole world wants proper repatriation of these homeless people with dignity except Myanmar. This is proved in the recent speech of Aung San Suu Kyi at International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands, defending Myanmar's military against Rohingya genocide. Authority of Bangladesh welcomed the Rohingyas with humanitarian backdrop but gradually the repatriation process is failing step by step. In the meantime, the

Rohingyas are getting involved in several crimes within the camps and other places outside of the camps. They are getting involved in abduction, murder, kidnapping, sexual harassment, drug peddling, human trafficking and so on. This study demonstrates the trends of these criminal offences since the Rohingya influx in 25th August in 2017. The primary and secondary data labelled the emerging criminalities among the Rohingyas in Bangladesh especially in Cox's Bazar. Nonetheless, authorities should emphasize on the long-term solution to the protracted Rohingya crisis stopping the crime and violence for making a peaceful situation in the cramped camps Cox's Bazar.

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