**“Regional and global responses to the Rohingya Repatriation Process: Opportunities and Challenges”**

G.M.Arifuzzaman[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Abstract**

At present, the Rohingya repatriation process is not only bilateral diplomatic concern between Bangladesh and Myanmar but also have a global concern. Many national and international community, NGO’s and INGO’s have already awaked up about the Rohingya Crisis as a humanitarian or judicial ground. But, the repatriation process of the Rohingya is a matter of vague and have not been seen as definite parameters and facts. Many powerful states in the world i.e. U.S.A, China, Russia, U.K, and India have not yet clarified the position for the repatriation process. Besides, UN, SAARC, BIMSTEC, OIC, and World Bank have played roles for the humanitarian ground but not a realistic grounds for the repatriation process. In the repatriation process, some challenges i.e. geopolitical, historical relations, economic, trade, religion are highly significant. In these challenges are different from Bangladesh to Myanmar. With the strong diplomatic negotiations ground, already Bangladesh creates an awareness all over the world to repatriate the Rohingya in their ownland. Many opportunities i.e. UN voice, many intellectuals and parliamentarian support, documentation and Media role have shown a way to resolve the repatriation process of Rohingya. This paper draws an attention on the scenario of these regional and global responses and will explore these challenges and opportunities for the Rohingya repatriation process.

**Key Words**: Challenges, Opportunities, Repatriation, Responses, Rohingya.

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*“The situation seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing,”[[2]](#footnote-2)*

*Zeid Ra‘ad al-Hussein*

*“It is unacceptable that these people who have suffered so much in Myanmar now have to live in the difficult circumstances that these camps inevitably represent” [[3]](#footnote-3)*

*UN Secretary-General Guterres*

The Rohingya, a Muslim minority group in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, is considered as one of the persecuted and stateless communities in this world. This has a historical narratives of their vulnerability. In recent, 25 August 2017, the Rohingya community had been victimized, tortured, firing on the house and lands, snatching the wealth, spreading gunpowder etc by the Myanmar army and its allied forces by the name of ‘Operation Clearance’. They put on mine bomb and katatar in their land boundary and forced the Rohingya to flee away towards Bangladesh. But, the Myanmar government refused their role for torturing, killing etc brutal activities towards the Rohingya. They alleged this movement towards the Bengali Muslim Terrorist group and focused on the illegal role of ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) is known as a rebellion group in Myanmar. They alleged this crisis for the terrifying of ARSA against the government and the general people of Arakan states for the establishment of their ruling and ideology. The government accuses the militant group of murdering 34 civilians and kidnapping 22 others, mostly Rohingya civilians who collaborated with the authorities since the October attacks.[[4]](#footnote-4) The Central Committee for Counter Terrorism of Myanmar, in a statement published on August 25, declared armed attackers and ARSA as terrorist groups in accordance with the Counter-Terrorism Law of the country, China's Xinhua news agency reported.[[5]](#footnote-5) This is very difficult to identify the exact number but a lot of people fled away from Myanmar to Bangladesh for their lives and shelter in the Refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Now in Bangladesh, the Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP) has registered 1,038,000 Rohingya who fled to Bangladesh to escape persecution in Myanmar that started since August 25 last year (2017).[[6]](#footnote-6) The Bangladesh Government and many international communities are trying their level best to resolve the problem and repatriate the Rohingya to their own land. But, now this problem is not only the regional problem between Bangladesh and Myanmar but also this has also framed a new dimension of the global politics of this issue. This paper framed with a historical background of the Rohingya crisis, methodology, role of states and organization in the Rohingya crisis and concluding remarks.

**Historical background of the Rohingya crisis**

Rohingya crisis is not a new concern but has a historical background. Myanmar has come independence from colonization. Early, Myanmar was two divisions that’s are Pyu City in upper division and Mon Kingdom in Lower Division. According to Dougald, JW (2007),” In the 9th century, the Bamar people entered the upper Irrawaddy valley and, following the establishment of the Pagan Kingdom in the 1050s, the Burmese language, culture and Theravada Buddhism slowly became dominant in the country. ” Modern Myanmar controlled by the Konbaung Dynasty in early 19 the century and later, British Administration establish colony by three Anglo-Burmese Wars. Facing severe human rights abuses and massive ill treatments by the military junta, the Rohingya have become one of the most persecuted communities in Burma. Historically speaking, the Rohingya people have been driven out of Arakan in large numbers on four major occasions: 1784, 1942, 1978, and 1992. (Imtiaz Ahmed, Ed. 2014). In 4 January, 1948, Myanmar got independence from the British ruling as a democratic country, named” Union of Burma”. In 1962, this democracy fall by Military dictatorship through controlling the government and administration directly or indirectly. Rohingya faced Military crackdown many times in 1978. In 1982, Rohingya were not recognized as one of the 135 official ethnic groups in Myanmar and were barred from citizenship and basic human rights (Shakeeb Asrar, Al Jazeera, 2017). Rohingya People victimized by not only Military government but also conflicting with Buddhist Monks. The Specific factors that have been the driving forces behind the exodus of the Rohingya include: denial of citizenship rights, denial of religious freedom, denial of free movement, forced labor, forced relocation, arbitrary taxation, expulsion and other forms of human rights abuses [[7]](#footnote-7) . As the majority area of Rohingya living sate Arakan adjacent to border of Bangladesh. So, it is easy for them to escape by using this route. In 1977, Burmese immigration and military authorities conducted what they called “Operation Nagamin” (Dragon King), a national effort to register citizens and screen out foreigners prior to a national census. By May 1978, more than 200,000 Rohingya had fled to Bangladesh: this, the Burmese authorities claimed, signified the Rohingya's illegal status in Burma. Refugees reported that the Burmese army had forcibly evicted them and alleged widespread army brutality, rape and murder.[[8]](#footnote-8) The most recent mass outflow from Arakan to Bangladesh took place in 1991 and 1992, when more than 250,000 Rohingya refugees fled forced labor, rape and religious persecution at the hands of the Burmese army.[[9]](#footnote-9) In 25 August 2017, Military of Myanmar operated the “Operation Cleanness” in the Rakhine State. This creates the present crisis of Rohingya. Since late August 2017, more than 671,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Burma’s Rakhine State to escape the military’s large-scale campaign of ethnic cleansing. The atrocities committed by Burmese security forces, including mass killings, sexual violence, and widespread arson, amount to crimes against humanity.[[10]](#footnote-10)

**Objectives**

The main objective of this paper is to focus regional and global responses the opportunities and challenges for the Rohingya Repatriation process in Myanmar. There are many other objectives are:

- To analyze a historical background of the Rohingya Crisis

- To find out the Challenges of the Rohingya Repatriation Process

- To find out the regional state and organization such as south Asian country especially India and SAARC, BIMSTEC role in the Rohingya Crisis

- To analysis the Global Politics and role of the States and Organizations such as the U.S.A; China; Russia and UN, World Bank in the Rohingya Crisis.

- To analysis and draw the opportunities of the Repatriation process of Rohingya

**Methodology**

This paper mostly focuses on the qualitative approach because the global and regional politics of the Rohingya repatriation is a matter of deep explanations of the events, incidence, occurrences, challenges, and opportunities. Before analyzing the politics of the Rohingya, it must know about the history of the Rohingya crisis and solutions of the problems. In this paper, Rohingya history was collected from books, many newspapers, journals from the central library, University of Dhaka; Seminar of Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka and internet browsing. It has also collected from various video clips and speeches on the Rohingya in You Tube, a video channel. The paper conducted with KII (key informant interviews) methods and content analysis. In Bangladesh, many experts and scholars of Rohingya are now working on the Rohingya and they have a special outlook on the repatriation process. It has been selected 5 experts by purposive sampling because informants are expert and have a deep and analytical knowledge about the Rohingya crisis. In the content analysis, it has been selected some newspapers to analyses the global and regional aspect of the Rohingya crisis and repatriation process. It has been selected the Daily Star and the Dhaka Tribune, the daily newspapers in Bangladesh and the Myanmar Times, the daily newspaper in Myanmar some international news agency such as BBC, CNN, Reuters & ALJAZEERA. It has been selected because these papers are internationally reputed and available at online browsing. These have especially focused on the stand both Bangladesh and Myanmar in the repatriation process. It has browsed the website of the foreign ministry of the related countries and organizations such as BIMSTEC, SAARC, OIC, and World Bank to collect information about the Rohingya crisis. This paper conducted with these activities and observations of the Rohingya issues from 25 August 2017 to 30 September 2018. The Information of the UN has been collected from the public material of UN i.e. Minutes of meetings, official reports, official letter, journals or comments by browsing UN News and you Tube. This paper not only shows the global and regional politics but also have a special concentration the challenges and opportunities in the Rohingya repatriation process.

**Challenges**

Capitalism is a systems that emphasis on the economic development of a country. This policy focuses that all of the issues in this world depends on the economy. In the Rakhine state, this is not an exception. In the Rakhine state, there are many global interests. Many States such as China, Russia, and India have strong economic interest with Myanmar. In Rakhine State, China invested 15 Billion USD in oil-gas and mineral sector within 1988-2014. In the west of Rakhine state, just 200km from the worst of the recent fighting between Myanmar’s military and so-called insurgents is the KyaukPhyu Special Economic Zone. Covering more than 1,700 hectares, the area was established in 2013 as a joint venture between the governments of Myanmar and China, with the aim of providing an industrial and infrastructure base serving the two countries and wider trade channels[[11]](#footnote-11).

There are many projects in the Rakhine states especially Belt and Road” international trade and infrastructure plan, Deep-water Port, Thelong Myanmar-China Oil and Gas Pipeline Projects. In Thelong Myanmar-Chins Oil and Gas Pipeline Projects, China invested $ 250 crore and expect to invest $ 180000 in future. India Run many projects in Rakhine State such as Kaladan Multimodal project, two water electric center, Four Lane High way projects among India-Myanmar and Thailand etc. By the Kaladan Multimodal project, the Sittwe Port in the Rakhine State of Myanmar will be connected with Mizoram. The total expenditure of this Project is $484-million. On the Indian side, work is on to extend the Aizawl-Saiha National Highway by 90 km to the international border at Zorinpui. Also, a ₹6,000-crore project is under way for four-laning the 300-km highway from Myanmar border to Aizawl to ensure the faster movement of goods.[[12]](#footnote-12)

Russia is one of the powerful states in the world. Myanmar have a relation to buying Helicopters, gunship and mig-29 airships from Russia. In 2015, bilateral trade reached $130.5 million. This was small compared to trade with China, which reached $10 billion. In 2017, Myanmar-Russia trade is expected to increase to $500 million.[[13]](#footnote-13) In recently, 20 January 2018, Russia and Myanmar implement a large-scale plan for the bilateral military cooperation that was discussed before 2016. [[14]](#footnote-14) Russia has linked usually on army based and academic based relation relations with Myanmar. From 1993-2013, almost 4,705 students got the opportunity to study in Russia on the Nuclear study. Now, they are silent on the issue of the Rohingya crisis issue because they build up a new relationship with Myanmar as like as China.

Myanmar got independence as a democratic country in 1948 but it lost democracy after 1962. After 1962, the military government specially treat on the Rohingya about their citizenship, education even movement. A debate came about the rights of the Rohingya as the Muslim community. They stated to allege the Rohingya as a Bengali Muslim Community. Within that, some rebellion group was formed such as ARSA, Kachin Rebellion etc. by the name of the security, the government tried to control that’s group but it suffers a lot for the civilian people. The civilian people especially women and children were tortured, bitter, forced to control pregnancy etc. In 1982, the Rohingya community lost their citizenship by the Citizenship Law. In recently, 25 August 2018, the military of Myanmar attacked the Rohingya and killed, tortured, battered many people and many women and girl children were raped. The Rohingya People were forced to leave their residence for the army brutality and now they are in the Rohingya Camp of Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh. But, the Military authority has refused to their relation with the Rohingya Crisis.

Myanmar Government is highly impressed to establish an economic zone in Moungdaw that’s situated in Rakhine state. The Government of the Rakhine State and Kanyin Chung Economic Development Company have already signed a MoU for establishing the Maung Daw (Kanyin Chung), Economic Zone. The Maungdaw project originally began in October 2015 under U Thein Sein’s presidency, with K600 million from the Union government and K400 million from a consortium of private businesses.[[15]](#footnote-15) This zone is located by a river in Northern Rakhine State and it has enough depth for the Marine vessel. It has need 100 acres of land in Kanyin Chaung for constructing this economic zone. So, Government shows high interest to complete the Procedure of constructing economic zone. This area is basically a Rohingya Muslim based area. This economic zone will add a new dimension to the economy of Myanmar. For that, the military government of Myanmar may force the civilian people to leave this area to establishing this economic one.

CITIC’s consortia (including China Harbor Engineering Company Ltd., China Merchants Holdings, TEDA Investment Holding, and Yunnan Construction Engineering Group) will lead projects to build the port as well as an industrial area at the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone in western Myanmar’s Rakhine State, which borders Bangladesh to the north and the Bay of Bengal to the west.[[16]](#footnote-16) This deep sea port is very important for both China and Bangladesh because China will establish their monitoring on the Maritime scale in the Indian Ocean, Chittagong in Bangladesh, Gwadar in Pakistan, and Colombo in Sri Lanka. Security is a vital factor for establishing this zone. Myanmar government highly concern about the security special concern on the Rohingya Community and rebellion. For the interest of economy both Myanmar and China, the military government of Myanmar anyhow want to establish this zone as early as possible and that of pressuring the people of the Rakhine state to stop all kinds of conflicts and disorder.

**Global and Regional Responses to the Rohingya Repatriation Systems**

It has already signed a MoU in Myanmar on Thursday 23 November 2017 between Myanmar and Bangladesh for beginning the repatriation process of the displaced Rohingya within two months. But, it has already spent approximately one year but not see any of progress of the repatriation of the Rohingya to Myanmar. Myanmar strongly refuses the liability of the Rohingya crisis and yet not implement a special policy for the repatriation of the Rohingya. This issue is not only now negotiation between Bangladesh and Myanmar but also have a global and regional issue.

**United States of America (USA):**

On 08 September 2017, it raised a deep concern about the Rohingya crisis by the Trump administration. They have focused on the ethnic cleansing in their report. On 29 September 20187, total 21 senators including 17 democratic senators wrote a letter to the state secretary Rex Telarson for reevaluating the relation between U.S.A and Myanmar. They alleged to impose economic sanction on Myanmar for these brutal and hateful activities in Myanmar. On 28 September 2017, U.S.A ambassador in Bangladesh Marcia Stephen Blum Barnikat visited the Rohingya camps and requested the international organizations and community for resolving the problem. She focused her position in favor of U.S.A. government for the starting the repatriation process as early as possible. On 05 October 2017, U.S.A state department focused on the stop the Rohingya torture either it may create instability and insecurity in that arena. It is not the only threat to internal security but also can promote international terrorism. On 02 November 2017 in Dhaka, Simon Henshaw, visiting Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of U.S.A assured to support Bangladesh on the repatriation of the Rohingya. On 20 November 2017, a delegation of the US Senate, led by Senator Jeff Markley met with the Prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina. The senators said the US wants the Rohingya people to be repatriated to Myanmar and rehabilitated there safely.[[17]](#footnote-17) The US observe the total situation of the repatriation of the Rohingya on global political aspect. The US is working on the humanitarian aids ground continuously but very careful about the Rohingya repatriation issues

**China:**

On 28 August 2018, in the regular news briefing of the Chinese foreign ministry explained the Rohingya Crisis as an “extremely complex”. From the beginning of the Rohingya influx, China always stays beside Myanmar. In economic aspects, China invested in Myanmar more than Bangladesh. China and Myanmar combinedly conducted many mega projects such as Belt and Road, establish Deep sea port, KyaukPhyu Special Economic Zone, the Thelong Myanmar-Chins Oil and Gas Pipeline Projects etc. On 06 November 2017, China clarified the Position in favor of Myanmar in the Security Council of UN. On 08 July 2018, Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zhang Zuo said, "We've urged Myanmar both bilaterally and multilaterally on various occasions for early repatriation of Rohingya. We've also urged them to reach some visible outcome as soon as possible," [[18]](#footnote-18) On 28 September 2018, China diplomat at UN summit meeting focused on the Rohingya issue as an issue is between Myanmar and Bangladesh and hope to resolve the problems by discussions. Now, China is not taken strong position to the repatriation of the Rohingya to Myanmar and continued balance diplomacy with both countries.

**India:**

In the regional context if the Rohingya repatriation process, India is the most important country. But, yet India has not taken any visible steps for the Rohingya repatriation. India has economic and political relationships with both Bangladesh and Myanmar. India strongly maintains the relation with Myanmar because of the establishment of the regional influence in sub-continent and Asia. There are many projects proceed combinedly Myanmar and India that’s are Kaladan Multimodal project, Four Lane High way projects among India-Myanmar and Thailand etc. On 09 September 2017, the Indian government had given a statement to focus on the agitation about the Rohingya crisis and influx. India has not yet cleared the position in favor of Bangladesh but the send relief and many other services for the Rohingya in the refugee camp. On 13 September 2017, representatives from 40 countries including USA, China, USA and 64 diplomats visited the border area of Cox’s Bazar for the observation of the vulnerable situation of the Rohingya. On 06 October 2017, after the end of the India-EU summit, India gave a statement in Delhi to collaborate with Bangladesh about the solution of the Rohingya refugee crisis. On the following day, the Foreign minister of Bangladesh visited India and Indian government than discuss the global and regional power especially concern about the position of China. On 09 October 2017, Ram Madhav, General Secretary of the BJP (the ruling party of India) visited Dhaka and gave a hope of the support of India about the Rohingya issue. On 11 May 2018, the minister of the Indian External Affairs Ministry Sushma Swaraj, in her meetings with the Myanmar leaders and officials, said “underlined the need for safe, speedy and sustainable return of displaced persons to Rakhine State,”[[19]](#footnote-19). On 17 September 2018, Indian High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Harsh Vardhan Shringla mentioned the humanitarian assistance to support Bangladesh about the assistance and support in times of hardship and distress of Rohingya. India is very careful about the issue of the Rohingya Repatriation. Now they are practicing balance diplomacy with both Bangladesh and Myanmar because of regional politics, economic and neighborhood relationship.

**Russia:**

In recent year, Russia and Myanmar both tried to make a strong bondage both economic and social sectors. In 2014 the Russia-Myanmar Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was established with its First Session held in August in Naypyitaw under co-chairmanship of Russian Minister of Economic Development Mr. Alexey Ulyukaev and Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr. Kan Zaw. Bilateral humanitarian ties are actively developing, including cooperation in education and healthcare. Thousands of Myanmar students have received diplomas in the leading Russian Universities.[[20]](#footnote-20) From the beginning of the Influx, Russia took the position in favor of Myanmar as like as China. Even, in the security council of UN on 13 October 2017, Russia raised their voice in favor of Myanmar and legalized the activities of the Government and Army of Myanmar. On 02 April 2018, meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Russia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov praised Bangladesh about the Rohingya issues and hope to take besides of Bangladesh for resolving the Rohingya refugee crisis. Russia yet not has taken proper or remarkable steps to the concern of the repatriation of the Rohingya in Myanmar.

**United Kingdom (UK):**

The UK criticized the activities of Myanmar and its Army from the beginning and both Government and opposition party of the UK took the position in opposition to Myanmar. They requested the international community not to supply the arms and any other military support. On 19 September 2017, The UK government took a decision to suspend financial aid to Myanmar's military. In the meantime, James Corbin, opposition leader of UK requested Aung San Suki to reflect the human rights concern towards the Rohingya and have a hope to repatriate the Rohingya in their own land. On 10 February 2018, Boris Johnson, UK foreign secretary said, Myanmar must find a safe and dignified way for Rohingya Muslims to return”.[[21]](#footnote-21) On 02 may 2018, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, Karen Pierce said to the UN, “Myanmar must carry out a "proper investigation" into alleged crimes against the country's minority Rohingya population”. [[22]](#footnote-22) On 07 May 2018, UK declared £70 million for the support of humanitarian ground of Rohingya crisis.

**United Nations (UN):**

In 25 August, 2017, the world has seen again the stateless and plight situation. Before one day ago, in 24 August, the UN released the final report of the independent advisory board to focus the situation. In a press release in New York, UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric argument on the report, “the importance of its mandate to analyze the situation of all communities in Rakhine state and draft recommendations toward conflict prevention, reconciliation, institution building and long-term development, as well as humanitarian services” [[23]](#footnote-23). In 06 October, 2017, UN aid official declared officially this crisis as “the world’s fastest growing refugee crisis” and “Level 3 emergency. On 20 October 2017, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) highly concerned about the rights of children and urgent services of their vulnerable situation. They alleged to end the atrocities committed against the Rohingya and long term solution of the Rohingya Crisis by implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. On 07 November 2017, the president of the Security Council, Sebeastiano Cardi emphasized on the government obligation of Myanmar, rule of law, to respect human rights including women and children, vulnerable group and not to discriminate with the basis of ethnicity, religion, even citizenship statues. UNSC president welcomed the Myanmar Government’s decision to establish a “Union of Mechanism” and emphasize on the full implementation of the recommendations by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. In a press conference on 20 December 2017, UN Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee, the United Nations expert on Human rights expressed her visit the Myanmar but Myanmar government denied the access. Her argument was, “The Government has repeatedly denied violations of human rights are occurring throughout Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine state. They have said that they have nothing to hide, but their lack of cooperation with my mandate and the fact-finding mission suggests otherwise”. [[24]](#footnote-24) In a press conference in Seoul on 01 February 2018, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Ms. Yanghee Lee concerned and alleged against the Military and security forces on the basis reports of attacks against civilian, home, places of worship and villages; sexual violence; arbitrary arrests; and torture and enforced disappearance. In 13 February 2018, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Miroslav Jenca briefed ambassadors in the Security Council. He emphasized on the importance and implementation of the Advisory commissions suggestions and recommendation for the improvement of the situation of the Rakhine state and the Rohingya. In 8 March 2018, Andrew Gilmour, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, said at the end of a four-day visit to Bangladesh, “The ethnic cleansing of Rohingya from Myanmar continues. I don’t think we can draw any other conclusion from what I have seen and heard in Cox’s Bazar,”[[25]](#footnote-25) He also said, “The nature of the violence has changed from the frenzied blood-letting and mass rape of last year to a lower intensity campaign of terror and forced starvation that seems to be designed to drive the remaining Rohingya from their homes”[[26]](#footnote-26). In a news brief in 13 March 2018, UN alleged the possible “crime of genocide” in Rakhine state[[27]](#footnote-27). In 09 April 2018 Ursula Mueller, the UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator of UN emphasized on the religious and citizenship statues of Myanmar and the implementation of recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine state for resolving the Rohingya crisis. In 13 April 2018, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Filippo Grandi and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Haque signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or a cooperation agreement on the volunteer repatriation of Rohingya in Myanmar on the safe and dignity in their own house in Myanmar. In 27 June, 2018, UN Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee, the United Nations expert on Human rights focused the accountability for crime of Myanmar. She said,’ “I strongly recommend the persons allegedly responsible for the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law be investigated and prosecuted by the ICC or a credible mechanism,”.[[28]](#footnote-28)In 1 July 2018, in Dhaka, UN General Secretary thanked Bangladesh for the shelter of Rohingya in the camp and applauded Bangladesh for giving a safe haven to homeless and violated Rohingya refugees. In 2 July 2018, Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General visited the Rohingya Camp and appealed, “My appeal to the international community is to step up to the plate and to substantially increase the financial support to all those working in Bangladesh to protect and assist the Rohingya refugees,”.[[29]](#footnote-29) In 4 July 2018, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, High Commissioner, United Nations Human Rights, urged the UN Security Council to refer the Member State to the International Criminal Court (ICC) immediately to look at the crisis of Rohingya. He also repeated a call for access to northern Rakhine and doing the step to repatriate the Rohingya as soon as possible. In 27 September 2018, in the news brief of UN focused that Human Rights Council would launch judicial mechanism into Myanmar abuses against Rohingya. UN is trying to resolve the Rohingya crisis and the repatriation process of the Rohingya in Myanmar.

**Organizations of Islamic Conference (OIC):**

Organizations of Islamic Conference (OIC) is the most powerful organization of the Islamic states. It has operated and financed by the Islamic states. In the conference of OIC Science and Technology on 10 September 2017, Abdul Hamid, the honorable president of Bangladesh requested Islamic states to resolve the problem. Again, on 19 September 2017 in the contact group meeting of OIC, prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina argued the ethnic cleansing towards the Rohingya community. On 04 May 2018, Hesham Youssef, OIC assistant secretary general for cultural, family and humanitarian affairs visited the Cox’s Bazar Rohingya Refugee camp and stated that the Rohingya issue would be the concern of the discussion at the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers. On 06 May 2018, OIC secretary-general Yousef bin Ahmad al-Othaimeen, commented the organization’s member states to defend the Rohingya. He said, "We affirm the commitment of the OIC to continue to act at all international and regional levels in support of the cause of the Rohingya people,”[[30]](#footnote-30) On 06 May 2018, the Dhaka Declaration of the 45th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers focused the violation of International Law for the rights of Rohingya community and full implementation of the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. In this declaration, it had expressed further assistance from the member states to resolve the Rohingya crisis. The 45th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Countries concluded by adopting a resolution to form an “Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on Accountability” to mobilize international support to ensure justice for atrocities on Rohingyas.[[31]](#footnote-31) This committee will work to ensure accountability and justice for the Rohingya community on the ground of violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws. On 25 September 2018, OIC took a decision to raise the plight of the Rohingya at the United Nations. On 26 September 2018, the Contact Group’s meeting condemned the systemic brutalities and despicable atrocities perpetrated against the peaceful and defenseless Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and expressed its deep concern over the Rohingya people’s continued subjugation to discriminatory treatment in the Rakhine province including killings, rape and coercive eviction.[[32]](#footnote-32) Bangladesh is trying their level best to make strong diplomacy to the Islamic states to raise their argument to stop the inhuman activities towards the Rohingya and help Bangladesh about the repartition process of the Rohingya by strong diplomatic and economic Support.

**World Bank (WB):**

On 25 September 2017, World Bank Vice President for South Asia Region Hart wig Schafer thanked Bangladesh for taking shelter of Rohingya and messaged that the World Bank has made over $480 million available to support Bangladesh to help the Rohingya. On 27 September 2017, Chimia Fun, Country director of WB Bangladesh gave a hope of overall help to the Rohingya refugee in Bangladesh. In the matter of Repatriation of the Rohingya, WB would donate $ USD 40 crore to Bangladesh from the fund of International Development Assistance (IDA). On 02 July 2018, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited The Rohingya Camp. Kim said. “I have been deeply moved by the courage and the dignity of the Rohingya people, and appalled by their stories of what they had to endure: rape, torture, killing, burning of homes. As the UN Secretary-General said, the Rohingya are one of the most discriminated against and vulnerable communities on Earth.”[[33]](#footnote-33) He also emphasized the justice towards the Rohingya and continued to help Bangladesh in health, education, sanitation, disaster preparedness, and other services for the Rohingya until the return home safely, voluntarily, and with dignity.

**The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):**

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization and it has seven members including Bangladesh and Myanmar. In the Rohingya Crisis issue, BIMSTEC has not given a strong argument in the repatriation process. On 30-31 August 2018, the last BIMSTEC summit in Kathmandu, it has discussed the problem of the Rohingya. In that summit, the secretary general of BIMSTEC emphasized the “diplomatic Maturity” between Bangladesh and Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis. It was unfortunate that there was no agenda in that summit to discuss the repatriation process of the Rohingya but discussed on the institutional reform, poverty alleviation, transport and communications, trade and investment, counter terrorism, climate change, energy, technology, agriculture, fisheries, public health, people-to-people contact, cultural cooperation, and tourism.

**South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC):**

On 08 December 1985, The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka. Bangladesh is one of the founder members of this association. One of the objectives of the SAARC is to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life. But, In the matter of Rohingya Crisis, SAARC Secretariat yet not give any brief about the strategy of the member states to repatriate the Rohingya in Myanmar.

**Opportunities**

Bangladesh is implementing strong diplomacy to the international community and trying to reflect the helpless and vulnerable situation of the stateless Rohingya now, staying at the refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. From the beginning of the influx, Bangladesh observed the situation of the Rohingya crisis. In the meantime, Bangladesh has drawn the importance of the Rohingya crisis in humanitarian and repatriation ground all over the world. It raised voices in many national, international or regional platform such as UN platform, ICC, international summits etc. this strong diplomacy has already created the opportunities of the repatriation of the Rohingya in their own land, Myanmar.

Kofi Annan, former secretary General of the United Nations (1997-20016), founded the Kofi Annan Foundation in 2007 and the Chair of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. In September 2016, Kofi Annan Commission, means the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State was founded in collaboration with the office of the state Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kofi Annan Foundation and is formed with six local and three international expert. In its work, it considered humanitarian and developmental issues, access to basic services, legal questions including citizenship and the assurance of basic rights, and security to all people in all communities.[[34]](#footnote-34) This commission is continuously working for the rights of the Rohingya community. This commission has created the opportunities of the repatriation of the Rohingya.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is now working on the investigation to find out the link up of the Myanmar government and its allied forces about the brutality, extra judicial killing torturing and any other inhuman activities towards Rohingya by that could lead to a wider probe and eventually a trial. They also investigated the forced deportation of the Rohingya amounted to the cross-border crime. This investigation and position of ICC create an opportunity for the repatriation of the Rohingya in Myanmar.

Many national and international organizations are working to survey the Rohingya crisis and have tried to prepare documentation. In an example, The Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), with funding support from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), conducted a survey in spring 2018 of the firsthand experiences of 1,024 Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar District, Bangladesh. The goal of the survey was to document atrocities committed against residents in Burma’s northern Rakhine State during the course of violence in the previous two years (January 2016-April 2018)[[35]](#footnote-35). In Bangladesh, Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka are working on the Rohingya crisis. It has already organized many national and international seminar i.e. seminar on "Accountability: ICC and the Rohingya Crisis" on 04 June 2018 for building the strong argument about the rights of Rohingya and Justice. Such like documentation would help to establish the real situation of the Rohingya rights and the repatriation.

Media are now aware of human rights, peace and justice all over the world with the development of communication and technology. Media both electronics and print media are working to monitor the update scenario of the Rohingya crisis. From the beginning of the Rohingya deportation, Media telecasted and broadcasted the news, videos, interview of the atrocities in Myanmar. Media are playing a remarkable role to reflect the vulnerable scenario of the Rohingya globally and these help the international community to raise their voices against the inhuman activities towards Rohingya.

**Conclusion**

Bangladesh is standing in a very tough position about the Rohingya repatriation. Most of the historical amicable country of Bangladesh is now following in balance diplomacy and neighbor countries are silent on the issue of Rohingya. A huge amount of population maintenance is very hard by the government of Bangladesh. Bangladesh faces an environmental degradation for the shelter, sanitation, water management etc by destroying the forest and hill. For this emergence, it must repatriate the Rohingya in their own land. Firstly, it has already one year back, Myanmar government and its allied forces have not yet acknowledged the liability of the recent Rohingya crisis but they alleged the crisis for the local rebellion groups. There are no economic or military sanctions against Myanmar by the powerful states or the organizations. Myanmar maintains trade, economic or military relationship with many countries as before. Secondly, Bangladesh is also problematic in the justice parameter of ICC because Myanmar has yet not ratified the Rome Statute. Thirdly, International media are trying to broadcast the news of the Rohingya for their identity, citizenship and living in their own land with peace and prosperity, ultimate a peaceful solution about the Rohingya. But, in Rakhine state, it is very tough for media to collect information because of the monitoring of legal forces of Myanmar. An optimism may come of the repatriation in near future but it may not huge population but tiny as compared with the total refugee. This process is ongoing because of Bangladesh and Myanmar are working in a joint working group (JWG) since January 2018 to find out the possible solutions about the Rohingya crisis and the repatriation.

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