



Permanent Mission of Bangladesh
65, Rue de Lausanne 1202 Geneva
Phone : +41 (0) 22 906 8020, Fax : +41 (0) 22 738 4616
Email: permanentmission.geneva@mofa.gov.bd
Website: www.genevamiission.mofa.gov.bd



BMG/HR-306 (A)

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and with reference to the joint communication No. AL BGD 5/2021 dated 18 November 2021 issued by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, has the honour to transmit herewith the response of the Government of Bangladesh.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosed: As stated.

Geneva, 03 January 2022



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Paquis
CH – 1201 Geneva
(Attn.: Ms. Beatriz Balbin, Chief, Special Procedures Branch)

Response from Government of Bangladesh

The prolongation and uncertainty of the commencement of repatriation stemming from the lack of genuine political will of Myanmar is gradually making the situation of the Rohingyas residing in Cox's Bazar untenable. Reportedly, several criminal groups and vested quarters are trying to further aggravate situation in the camps. It is precipitously heightening the tension, which may escalate serious security concerns in the region due to severe shortage of lands and livelihood provisions.

The camps in Cox's Bazar host over a million forcibly displaced Rohingyas. Despite constant funding gaps, over the last more than four (04) years, the GoB has been providing the basic humanitarian assistance and fulfilling the basic needs of the Rohingya people in cooperation with the UN agencies and other humanitarian actors. The GoB has deployed massive resources, including a large number of public administration personnel in the operation of the camps. To ensure full-time safety and security, the GoB has deployed three (03) Armed Police Battalion (APBN) teams inside the camp area, in addition to a total of 1616 Police forces and 427 Ansar forces.

Concerning the murder of Mr. Mohib Ullah, the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) had not been aware, beforehand, of any threats to Mr. Ullah by any quarter. Immediately after the killing of Mr. Ullah, a murder case was filed, and the LEAs conducted prompt, independent and impartial investigation in accordance with the law of Bangladesh. The LEAs arrested twelve (12) suspected Rohingyas. Four (04) of them made confessions under section 164 of The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. Security of all the family members of Mr. Mohib Ullah has been ensured. In addition, after the murders of six (06) persons in Camp-18 on 22 October 2021, the LEAs arrested twenty (20) people involved in these killings. One (01) of them confessed his involvement in killing before the Magistrate.

To maintain peace and security in the camp, the LEAs have made concerted efforts. Safety and security measures have been enhanced inside the camp. The APBN has increased its forces inside the camp areas. Extra solar-street lights and Nano grid connections are being installed for ensuring lighting in the roadway in the camps, which would ease the vigilance by the LEAs and the movement of the Rohingyas in the nighttime. Moreover, awareness-raising programs are regularly conducted to enhance the awareness of the Rohingyas against any criminal activity.

Under the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), the humanitarian actors, including the UN agencies, closely work with the Government authorities in the camp to ensure the basic needs of the Rohingyas. Despite multiple challenges, the GoB is doing everything in its capacity to support the humanitarian needs of the Rohingyas and their right to be able to return to their places of origin in Myanmar. However, due to the sheer lack of commitment of Myanmar, repatriation is being delayed. The prolonged stay of the Rohingyas in Bangladesh is gradually making the situation untenable and aggravating the security situation inside the camp and in the region. The GoB reiterates that the international community, including the UN human rights mechanisms, must effectively contribute to fulfilling the right of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to return to Myanmar without further delay.

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) would like to clarify its position with regard to the relevance of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues to the issue conveyed in the joint Communication No. AL BGD 5/2021, dated 18 November 2021. The GoB would like to make it clear that a large portion of the Rohingya ethnic community of Myanmar was temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh due to the fact that they were forcibly displaced from their places of origin in Myanmar. They were temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh solely on the humanitarian ground. The Rohingyas temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh is, in no way, a minority group in Bangladesh. The Rohingya is an ethnic minority of Myanmar who has lived in the Rakhine State of Myanmar for centuries and has a unique ethnic, religious and linguistic identity in Myanmar. The GoB requests the Special Rapporteur on minority issues to meaningfully address the human rights of the Rohingya ethnic minority in Myanmar in accordance with its mandate.