

BPSMUN 2019

UNHRC

Agenda - The Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar

Afghanistan

Description

Afghanistan is a landlocked country in South and Central Asia. With a population of about 28 million, it has an area of 647,500 km, making it the 42nd most populous and 41st largest nation in the world. It is bordered by Pakistan in the southeast, Iran in the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the north, and the People's Republic of China in the far northeast.

Policy

The Afghanistan foreign ministry said in a written statement, "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan condemns in the strongest terms the devastating cruelty and murder of innocent Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar's security forces. While vehemently condemning these vicious and inhuman attacks by the government forces against its Muslim population, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on the United Nations and other International Human Rights Organizations to examine the genocide and massacre of innocent Muslim community in this country

Links:

1. <https://www.mfa.gov.af/#>
2. https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/afghanistan-not-happy-with-myanmar-s-response-on-rohingya-crisis-dr-abdullah-117092900761_1.html
3. <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1158116/world>

Angola

Description

The Republic of Angola is a southwestern, coastal African nation. It is bordered by Namibia, Zambia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Republic of the Congo. Angola gained its independence from Portugal on 11 November 1975. Since its independence, Angola has endured civil war paired with numerous corrupt elections. The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government has been holding power since 1979. The current president of Angola's republic is Jose Eduardo Dos Santos. Roughly 19 million people live in Angola, with about 59% living in urban areas. Angola is rich in natural resources, including oil and diamonds, and as a result its economy is one of the fastest growing in the world. However, the impoverished population has yet to see the benefits of increased prosperity, and the country is still in a state of reconstruction after decades of civil war.

Policy

Angola and Myanmar maintains diplomatic relations since 2013. The government of Angola has shown keen interest in the growing markets of Myanmar and has even signed an agreement recently. The government of Angola even abstained during a formal voting in the United Nations Human rights council on resolutions condemning the actions of Myanmar against the Rohingyas.

Links:

1. http://angop-as31.angop.ao/angola/en_us/noticias/politica/2013/8/38/Angola-and-Myanmar-establish-diplomatic-relations_87964d10-4759-47ac-bf48-623e0431094a.html
2. <http://www.mirex.gov.ao>

Argentina

Description

Argentina is a federal republic located in southeastern South America. Covering most of the Southern Cone, it is bordered by Bolivia and Paraguay to the north; Brazil to the northeast; Uruguay and the South Atlantic Ocean to the east; Chile to the west and the Drake Passage to the south.

With a mainland area of 2,780,400 km² (1,073,500 sq mi), Argentina is the eighth-largest country in the world, the second largest in Latin America, and the largest Spanish-speaking one. Argentina claims sovereignty over part of Antarctica, the Falkland Islands (Spanish: Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

Policy

There is no express policy on the Myanmar crisis from Argentina, However they have been a part of many initiatives on Human rights. Argentina is also a home for many refugees from 35 different countries. Also, recently the government of Myanmar open their markets for specific Argentinian exports.

“Within the framework of the negotiations being carried out by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Worship, the Minister of Agro-industry and the National Service for Agri-food Health and Quality to obtain broader access to foreign markets for Argentine products, on 18 April 2018 the Republic of the Union of Myanmar communicated it has granted market access to Argentine potato exports.”

Links:

1. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/news/releases/myanmar-market-opening-argentine-exports-corn-soy-peas-and-potatoes>
2. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/foreign-policy/human-rights-and-values-our-society>
3. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/representaciones>

Australia

Description

Australia is located in the South Eastern hemisphere of the world and is closest to New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. It is specifically located on the continent Oceania which is between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world. The government type is a parliamentary democracy and has ties to the British Commonwealth. Australian independence from being a UK Colony to a nation is 1 January 1901. There are three branches of Australian government, executive, judicial and legislative. The Chief of State is Queen Elizabeth II but the government is run by Prime Minister Anthony John Abbott since September 2013.

Policy

In the spring of 2017 the Australian Senate passed a motion urging the government to call on the United Nations for a commission of inquiry. In early September 2017, as the Rohingya crisis became ethnic cleansing, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said that Australia was deeply concerned by the escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State and would provide up to A\$5 million to help Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Australia had long interned some of its own Rohingya refugees in camps on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea (whose government ruled the camps unlawful in 2016). PNG and Australia committed to closing the Manus Island camps by 31 October 2017. By mid-September 2017, Australia committed A\$70 million more towards the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Links:

1. <https://www.theherald.com.au/story/4530920/australia-slammed-for-refusing-to-back-rohingya-investigation/?cs=12>
2. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/rohingya-asylum-seeker-claims-he-was-pressured-to-accept-cash-from-australia-to-leave-manus>
3. <https://www.news.com.au/world/asia/australia-offers-to-pay-rohingya-muslims-to-return-to-myanmar/news-story/3e07177cc063ad8edd53671406a3a7d8>
4. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/australasia/article/2111808/australia-offers-25000-rohingya-refugees-willing-return>
5. <https://myanmar.embassy.gov.au>
6. <https://myanmar.embassy.gov.au/files/rang/FM%20Media%20release%2023%2010%2018.PDF>

Austria

Description

Austria, officially the Republic of Austria, is a federal republic in central Europe. The landlocked state has a total area of 83,871 sq. kilometers, making it the 114th largest country in terms of size. It is bordered by Germany and the Czech Republic to the north, Hungary and Slovakia to the east, Italy and Slovenia to the south, and Switzerland and Lichtenstein to the west. The First Austrian Republic was established in 1919 following the end of World War I but was taken over by Nazi Germany in 1938, and Austria did not regain political independence until 1955. According to a July 2014 estimate, Austria's population is approximately 8 million people, making it the 95th largest country in terms of population.

Policy

The Austrian embassy in Myanmar demanded humanitarian access to affected areas in Rakhine State. The Ministry condemned the actions of the government of Myanmar against the Rohingyas. The EU is to cut back ties with Myanmar's military in response to the brutal security force crackdown on Muslim Rohingya areas of the Southeast Asian state.

Links:

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/09/world/asia/myanmar-rohingya-crisis-rakhine-muslim.html?mcubz=1>
2. <https://newint.org/features/web-exclusive/2017/09/13/burma-rohingya-crisis>

Bahamas

Description

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas are a group of Caribbean Islands that for the nation that is The Bahamas. Located in the eastern part of the Caribbean, The Bahamas are surrounded by the United States, Cuba, and Haiti. The Bahamas operates as a parliamentary constitutional Monarchy with the United Kingdoms Queen Elizabeth II as its queen becoming an independent Commonwealth Realm in 1973.

Policy

The country has always been plagued with refugees and asylum seekers. Recently, there has been a change in immigration policies by the current governing administration, the Progressive Liberal Party. It has received much scrutiny and gotten backlash from international organisations inclusive of Amnesty International and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

1. According to the World Bank, refugee by country or territory of asylum in the Bahamas was last measured at 13 in 2014.
2. Individuals who have applied for asylum or refugee status and are awaiting a decision or registered as asylum seekers—are excluded.
3. The percentage of tertiary educated immigrants or refugees to the Bahamas has significantly decreased to zero, signifying the country's undesirable conditions.
4. It is estimated that at least 100 refugees are residing in the Bahamas as of 2000 according to U.N. reports.
5. The Bahamas government prefers repatriation of immigrants, and in 2015 the government spent \$83,000 repatriating illegal immigrants as opposed to granting asylum to refugees.
6. The process to seek asylum or refugee status in the Bahamas has been exposed as corrupt, unfair and unfavourable to applicants seeking political protection.
7. Refugees experience discrimination, both subtle and overt, on a widespread scale.
8. Refugees and asylum seekers are detained at a facility called the Carmichael Road Detention Centre; in adverse conditions.
9. Refugees and asylum seekers are subject to cruel treatment if detained in the Bahamas.

Links:

1. <https://www.unhcr.org/excom/announce/57f783e47/statement-of-bahamas.html?query=Bahamas>
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/21/world/americas/bahamas-told-to-improve-conditions-at-center-housing-haitian-immigrants.html>
3. <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/4641836411.pdf>
4. <http://eleutheranews.com/?p=3423>
5. https://www.quandl.com/data/USAID/ECHIST_BAHAMASTHE-U-S-Economic-Assistance-in-Historical-Dollars-Bahamas-The

Bahrain

Description

Bahrain, which is officially known as the Kingdom of Bahrain, is a small country in the Middle East. Located east of Saudi Arabia, it lies on an archipelago in the Persian Gulf. After gaining independence from the United Kingdom on the 15th of August 1971, Bahrain now uses a parliamentary and constitutional monarchy. Currently King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa oversee the country of 1,343,000 people. The country stretches over 780 km² of land.

Policy

Mr. Al Doseri (Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs), in his speech delivered before the meeting, expressed Bahrain's concern over the situation of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar, which is denied its fundamental international recognised rights, as well as suffering from inhumane treatment in detention camps, impeding of the access of humanitarian assistances to their areas, forced displacement and expulsion to neighbouring countries to live there as refugees. He stated that the Islamic nation is facing many challenges that have severe repercussions of suffering, pains, miseries, displacement and refuge across the globe. He pointed out that the Rohingya's issue is only one of these challenges. Mr. Al Doseri added that the continuation of Rohingya crisis without final practical settlement on the ground for years is unacceptable and represents a challenge to the international community at large and the OIC in particular. He urged the OIC to devise mechanisms that ensure the protection and care to the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar and step up efforts in coordination and cooperation with the international community to end this human tragedy as well as urge and exert pressure on the Myanmar government to end all kinds of violence and violations committed against the civilians of the Rohingya Muslim minority to enable them to live in peace and safety as the rest of Myanmar citizens. Mr. Al Doseri also urged the Myanmar government to take immediate measures to stop the persisting deterioration of human rights situation in Rakhine State for years, and to amend its policies that violate all international norms. He further urged the government to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination and violence based on religion or ethnic origin, to recognize the legitimate Rohingya's rights, and to ensure safety, peace, and rights to all segments of the society in order to bring stability and start creating a common coexistence ground among different and diverse religions, and sects in Myanmar.

Links:

1. <https://www.mofa.gov.bh/Default.aspx?tabid=7824&language=en-US&ItemId=6958>
2. [http://www.gdnonline.com/Details/220480/Bahraini-society-reaches-out-to-Rohingya-refugees-with-\\$50,000-donation](http://www.gdnonline.com/Details/220480/Bahraini-society-reaches-out-to-Rohingya-refugees-with-$50,000-donation)
3. <https://www.newsofbahrain.com/epaper/06-02-2018/single/page-04.pdf>

Bangladesh

Description

Bangladesh, officially the People's Republic of Bangladesh is a country located in South Asia. It is bordered by India to the west, north and east, Myanmar to the southeast and to the south the Bay of Bengal. With a population of a little over 166 million, and a 144,000 km area, it is the 8th most populous country in the world and the 91st biggest.

Policy

Since 25 August 2017, Bangladesh has received at least 655,500 refugees. As of 11 January 2018, 971,627 refugees were registered in Bangladesh. The Parliament of Bangladesh adopted a unanimous resolution urging the international community to pressure Myanmar to provide citizenship and safe return for the Rohingya. The President of Bangladesh Abdul Hamid suggested that a United Nations-administered humanitarian corridor be established in Myanmar for the Rohingya. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "They (Myanmar) should stop the violence. The Myanmar government should have handled this situation patiently and not allowed the army to attack the common people. What are the crimes of the women, children, the innocent people? They are not responsible". Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali said that Myanmar's actions were being described as genocide. National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque alluded to the prospect of international prosecution of Myanmar forces: "The way the genocide has been carried out in Myanmar, the way the people were killed in arson attacks, we are thinking about pressing for a trial against Myanmar, and against the Myanmar army at an international tribunal". The Bangladeshi foreign ministry summoned the Myanmar envoy several times since the crisis began, protesting the refugee influx and alleged intrusions by Myanmar aircraft into Bangladeshi airspace. Major General Abul Hussain, a border force commander, promised a "befitting reply" to any "untoward situation" on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

Muhammad Yunus, recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, made a seven-point proposal which included implementation of the Kofi Annan Commission report and UN-administered camps in Myanmar. In a rare moment of political unity, the BNP (Bangladesh's largest opposition party) supported Prime Minister Hasina's visit to refugee camps. Another opposition party, the Jatiya Party, demanded sanctions against Myanmar. The Bangladesh Armed Forces were reportedly placed on high alert. According to a Bangladeshi official, the government was focused on finding a peaceful resolution of the crisis and stated that "our goal is to ensure a stable, peaceful and safe environment in

the Rakhine State so that people of all religion, color and community can live there in harmony, and we are holding discussions at various places to this end".

On 21 September 2017 Prime Minister Hasina addressed the United Nations General Assembly. She criticized Myanmar for ethnic cleansing, demanded implementation of the Kofi Annan Commission report and proposed a five-point plan for restoring stability in Rakhine State which included UN-monitored "safe zones".

On 29 September Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York, informed the Security Council that Myanmar intended to depopulate Rohingya lands by burning villages and was using rape as a weapon. According to Bin Momen, Myanmar had deployed two army divisions with heavy artillery near the border with Bangladesh since the first week of August. Bin Momen also reported of 19 violations by Myanmar military helicopters of Bangladeshi airspace, and repeated the Bangladeshi government's demand for the establishment of UN-supervised safe zones in Rakhine State.

Links:

1. <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/isrcg-situation-report-rohingya-refugee-crisis-cox-s-bazar-14-january-2018>
2. <http://www.thedailystar.net/politics/bangladesh-rohingya-refugee-crisis-parliament-adopt-resolution-united-nations-international-community-push-myanmar-1460767>
3. <http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2017/09/10/president-hamid-discusses-rohingya-safe-zone-with-turkish-president-erdogan>
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/12/bangladesh-sheikh-hasina-calls-on-myanmar-to-take-back-rohingya-refugees>
5. <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/bangladesh-minister-speaks-of-genocide-in-myanmar-s-rakhine-9203106>
6. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/bangladesh-fm-violence-rohingya-genocide-170911023429604.html>
7. <http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2017/09/01/dhaka-protests-as-myanmar-helicopters-violate-bangladesh-airspace>
8. <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/rohingya-crisis-befitting-reply-if-myanmar-creates-any-anarchy-says-border-guard-bangladesh-bgb-chief-1454818>
9. <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2017/09/12/bnp-lauds-hasina-rohingya-camps-coxs-bazar/>
10. <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2017/09/02/jets-navy-deployed-border/>

Brazil

Description

The Federative Republic of Brazil, more commonly known as Brazil, is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest country in the world. It is bordered by Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and France (via French Guiana). Brazil declared independence from Portugal in 1822, and is currently governed as a Federal Republic. Brazil has the seventh largest economy in the world by GDP, according to the IMF.

Policy

Brazilian Ambassador in Dhaka Joao Tabajara de Oliveira Junior said that his country is always ready to help Bangladesh find a solution to the Rohingya crisis. In a recent exclusive interview, the South American diplomat said: “Brazil is always ready to assist Bangladesh whenever it needs for overcoming the humanitarian crisis.” “We are already helping Bangladesh at the United Nations at political level, but in humanitarian front we are yet to receive any specific demand,” he noted. The career diplomat said that Rohingya crisis is a real and grim shock to the whole world and Bangladesh has made a great gesture by opening its border and let the displaced people seek refuge from persecutions. Citing the crisis as a great humanitarian crisis of the millennia, Joao said, the permanent solution to the crisis lies in the implementation of the recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission report having all points for creating a permanent solution. The Brazilian envoy stated that Bangladesh is in the right direction in resolving the crisis and doing everything possible at bilateral level. “Bangladesh is doing a great diplomatic job by dealing with the crisis in a sensible and pragmatic manner,” he mentioned. In reply to a query, the diplomat said that Brazil already issued a bold statement and supported a resolution in the UNGA and the UNHRC, put up by Bangladesh over the crisis. “We have been very supportive to the demands of Bangladesh and our support will continue in the coming days too,” he added. Asked whether Brazil would take some Rohingyas to its territory, the envoy said this is something for that the UNHCR has to work with all its members.

Links:

1. <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/286609/Brazil-ready-to-help-Bangladesh-resolve-Rohingya-crisis>
2. http://arakanna.com/wp_arakanna/en/?p=11528

Bulgaria

Description

Bulgaria (officially the Republic of Bulgaria) is a country in southeastern Europe that became independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1908. It is bordered by Romania, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, and the Black Sea. With a population of 7,265,115, and an area of 110,879 squared kilometers, it is Europe's 14th largest country.

Policy

Bulgaria supported the request by Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia for a special session of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation of the minority Rohingya Muslim population and other minorities in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. The request was received by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 28 November 2017.

The number of refugees and migrants entering Bulgaria declined, but reports of frequent pushbacks, excessive use of force and theft by border police continued. Irregular border crossing remained criminalized resulting in administrative detention of migrants and refugees, including unaccompanied children, who arrived in greater numbers. Human rights organizations documented numerous allegations of ill-treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers and substandard conditions in detention facilities.

In February, local authorities in the town of Elin Pelin refused to receive a Syrian family that had been granted humanitarian status in Bulgaria. The Mayor publicly warned that "Muslims from Syria [were] not welcome" and refused to register the family or issue them with identity documents. Other municipalities expressed a similar unwillingness to accommodate refugees.

Links:

1. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/europe-and-central-asia/bulgaria/report-bulgaria/>
2. <https://balkaninsight.com/2018/08/20/report-blurred-boundaries-between-reception-and-detention-of-asylum-seekers-in-bulgaria-08-20-2018/>
3. <https://balkaninsight.com/2017/11/16/eu-letter-highlights-failings-in-bulgaria-s-asylum-policy-11-16-2017/>

Burkina Faso

Description:

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa around 274,200 square kilometres in size. It is surrounded by six countries: Mali to the north; Niger to the east; Benin to the southeast; Togo and Ghana to the south; and Ivory Coast to the southwest. Its capital is Ouagadougou. Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) achieved independence from France in 1960. Repeated military coups during the 1970s and 1980s were followed by multiparty elections in the early 1990s. Its government structure is a military junta. Burkina Faso's high population growth and limited natural resources result in poor economic prospects for the majority of its citizens.

Policy:

1. As of March 2017, there were 32,972 individual refugees and 8,787 families residing in the country, according to government statistics and sources from The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Comparatively, in late December 2014, 32,097 refugees were in the country.
2. Most refugees in Burkina Faso are women (51.6 percent), individuals between 18-59 years of age (40.5 percent) and children between the ages of 5 and 11 (26.28 percent).
3. With respect to ethnicity, most refugees in Burkina Faso are Tuareg (75 percent). Over the last year, more than 2,000 refugees from northern Mali were registered. General regional insecurity, gender-based violence and food shortages are largely to blame.
4. Fifty-seven percent of refugees do not have an occupation (8,801 males and 10,098 females). Most men are breeders (11.49 percent or 3,620) and most women are cleaners (12.17 percent or 3,964). In the capital, most refugee artisans, such as leather workers and blacksmiths, earn income from tourists and municipal needs. UNHCR provides financial assistance to artisans who organize themselves into groups.
5. Refugees in Burkina Faso reside in two primary camps: Mentao and Goudoubou. As of March 31, 2017, Mentao holds 12,658 individuals and 3,534 families. Comparatively, Goudoubou has 10,131 refugees and 2,863 families.
6. Every refugee within the Mentao and Goudoubou encampments has access to healthcare.
7. A large percentage of refugees in Burkina Faso (80.33 percent) have a primary education – more than any other educational level. Roughly 46 percent of refugees are students (1,820 males and 1,300 females).
8. According to the UNHCR April 2017 West Africa Funding Update, Burkina Faso has only received 16 percent of its needed funds – there is a gap of

\$17.8 million. Additionally, only 19 percent of the funding needed to support all West African refugees has been received. A total of \$231.7 million is still needed.

9. Based on March 2017 figures, a total of 776 individual refugees and 251 families live in the city of Bobo-Dioulasso, while in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, 607 refugees (mostly men) and 228 families have taken up residence. What distinguishes urban refugees from those in rural settings or encampments? The answer is twofold. Firstly, their skills are said to be more developed than those in traditional camps. Secondly, they have greater access to employment opportunities because of those skills. Together, these elements mean urban refugees have the means to support themselves, which reduces the need for humanitarian aid.
10. In Burkina Faso, the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF) and UNHCR provide financial, logistical and healthcare assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers (in addition to many other NGOs and government agencies). However, if refugees wish to return home, they can waive the protection and health care provided by these entities.

Links:

1. <http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/West%20Africa%20Funding%20Update%2019%20April%202017.pdf>
2. <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/8657?y=2017#year>
3. <https://borgenproject.org/10-facts-refugees-burkina-faso/>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6J2wwNp2SRA&feature=youtu.be>

Cameroon

Description

Cameroon is situated in the west Central Africa region. Known as "Africa in miniature", Cameroon is home to over 200 different linguistic groups. The "Sao" were one of the first civilisation of the country, living around Lake Chad; another notable population that inhabited Cameroon were the Baka hunter-gatherers in the southeastern rainforest. In the 15th century, portuguese explorers renamed the area "Rio dos Camarões" (Shrimp River), which eventually changed into Cameroon when translated in English. Cameroon became a German colony in 1884 known as Kamerun. After World War I, the territory was divided between France and Britain as League of Nations mandates.

Policy:

There was a time when Cameroon was considered to be one of the most generous refugee-hosting countries in the world. For almost 40 years, it took in hundreds of thousands of refugees who had fled persecution and armed conflicts in countries such as the Central African Republic, Chad, and Nigeria. But this was prior to the emergence of the militant group Boko Haram, a sect operating mostly in Nigeria whose uprising has led to the death of more than 20,000 people and forced millions from their homes as its members seek to establish an Islamic state in the Lake Chad region, which encompasses northeastern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, northern Niger, and western Chad.

Now, with thousands of Nigerians fleeing the jihadis and crossing into Cameroon, which itself is struggling to keep the same fighters at bay, much of that generosity has faded away. Cameroon is facing its own internal crisis, which seems to be shaping its actions toward outsiders. Since the government repressed peaceful protests in 2016 by Anglophone Cameroonians against perceived marginalization, more than 180,000 people have been displaced

Link:

1. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/02/12/cameroon-used-to-welcome-refugees-now-it-forcibly-expels-them-nigeria-refoulement/>
2. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/cmr_nw_sw_fa_2018-05_summary_v07_light_0.pdf

Chile

Description

The Republic of Chile is located in the southwest region of the South American continent. Recognizable for its narrow shape, Chile borders the states of Bolivia, Argentina, and Peru. While Chile obtained independence from Spain in 1810, its current constitutional republic, headed by the current president Sebastián Piñera, dates to its Constitution of 1980. With an area of over 290,000 square miles and a population of over 18,000,000, Chile has overcome the political turbulence of the 20th century, in particular the legacy of the Pinochet regime, and is now recognized as one of the most stable democracies in the region.

Policy:

Chile's Senate has adopted a refugee law that will enhance South America's growing reputation as a safe haven for people forced to flee their home countries because of violence or persecution. The Law for the Protection of Refugees, passed on Tuesday by the upper house of Congress, establishes a legal framework for the protection of refugees in Chile and incorporates this country's obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The Chamber of Deputies approved the law earlier. Among other things, the legislation includes universal and regional definitions of refugees; sets out guarantees and obligations for refugees; and regularises procedures and guidelines for determining refugee status. It must now be signed by the president before entering into force.

Links:

1. <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/asia/2018-09-10-new-un-rights-chief-wants-criminal-charges-in-myanmars-rohingya-genocide/>
2. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2017/10/59e077e94/chile-becomes-latest-country-resettle-syrian-refugees.html>

China

Description

China, officially the People's Republic of China, is a single-party state controlled by its Communist party. Located in East Asia, China covers approximately 9.6 million square miles, making it the second largest state in the world in terms of land area, and is home to approximately 1.35 billion people, making it the world's most populous state. With the largest combined land border in the world, China borders 14 countries.

Policy:

China has supported Myanmar in the UN Security Council. Chinese President Xi Jinping met Myanmar's military chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in November 2017. The general is widely considered as one of the masterminds behind the alleged ethnic cleansing campaign. The Chinese foreign ministry said "We condemn the violent attacks which happened in Rakhine state in Myanmar. We support Myanmar's efforts in upholding peace and stability in the Rakhine state. We hope order and the normal life there will be recovered as soon as possible. We think the international community should support the efforts of Myanmar in safeguarding the stability of its national development".

Although China has traditionally supported Myanmar, the country's foreign minister Wang Yi expressed willingness to help Bangladesh and Myanmar find a solution to the crisis. The Chinese foreign minister visited Bangladesh and Myanmar and outlined a three-stage proposal for the return of refugees. There have been protests in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in support of the Rohingya.

Links:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/24/china-russia-oppose-un-resolution-myanmar-rohingya-muslims>
2. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-china/chinas-xi-discusses-rohingya-crisis-with-myanmar-army-chief-idUSKBN1DO1SK>
3. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/global-split-over-rohingya-crisis-as-china-backs-myanmar-9209242>
4. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/2120563/china-willing-help-bangladesh-and-myanmar-defuse>
5. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya/china-draws-three-stage-path-for-myanmar-bangladesh-to-resolve-rohingya-crisis-idUSKBN1DK0AL>
6. <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/2110478/hong-kong-protest-against-rohingya-persecution-urge-help>

Croatia

Description

The Republic of Croatia is a southern European country on the Balkan peninsula, bordering the Adriatic. Its neighbours are Hungary and Slovenia to the north, Serbia to the east, and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the south. In 1991, Croatia entered its modern form after a war of independence against Yugoslavia. Though the country is relatively new, the Croats have inhabited the region since at least the 8th century, when the Kingdom of Croatia was established. The country boasts a high Human Development Index rank, and is an emerging developing economy with a large service sector.

Policy:

The asylum system in Croatia is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia,³⁴ the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, the UN Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967, the EU acquis in the field of asylum, and the Asylum Act and accompanying subordinate legislation.

The SFRY was party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 New York Protocol, hence the RC through a notification on succession retroactively became party to both agreements on 8 October 1991, which is Independence Day in the RC.³⁵ Although the Government of the RC in Article III of the Decision on the publication of multilateral international agreements to which the Republic of Croatia is a party on the basis of the notification on succession³⁶ committed itself to publishing the official texts of international agreements within two years of the coming into force of the Decision, or by 15 October 1995, the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol have not been translated and published in the Official Gazette, even after 19 years. Besides the fact that the language and the Croatian legal terminology slightly differ from the text published in the Official Journal of the FPRY in 1960, there are also some mistakes in the translation. Therefore, it is necessary to publish an official translation.

Links:

1. <https://www.unhcr.org/research/working/54dca6ee9/asylum-republic-croatia-year-accession-european-union-jasna-barberi.html>
2. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/12/11/croatia-migrants-pushed-back-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

Cuba

Description

Cuba existed as a Spanish colony since its discover in 1492 until the Spanish American War in 1898. Spanish rule ended when Cuban civilians prompted an independence movement that, despite the Spaniard's harsh attempts to dismiss the rebellions, was ultimately successful with the assistance of the US. Following the overthrow of Spanish rule, Cuba amended their constitution with the Platt Amendment, providing the US authorisation to participate in Cuban politics at times of insatiability. Cuba freed itself from US involvement with the Treaty of Paris in 1902, and later in 1959, Fidel Castro came to power through a rebellion and withheld his regime for five decades. Castro was known for his iron rule, and only stepped down to let his younger brother take the reigns. Castro's rule was dominated by Communist practices, brute force, and multiple civilian rebellions. After the Soviet collapse, Cuba took a hit economically, but continues as one of the remaining socialist states with a Communist government. The US currently has an embargo in place as a way to incentivise a shift towards democracy and a respect for human rights in the region.

Policy

Cuba has not ratified the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, nor its 1967 Protocol (hereinafter jointly referred to as the 1951 Convention). In addition, Cuba is not a State party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons nor the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Statelessness Conventions).

National refugee status determination mechanisms or legislation in line with the universal refugee instruments do not currently exist in Cuba, thus UNHCR mandate recognition is the only possibility to access international protection in the country. UNHCR receives and resolves applications for international protection submitted by individuals who contact the agency. UNHCR also intervenes with Cuban institutions to guarantee the highest protection standards available for each person of concern according to national law and policy, and assists refugees recognized under its mandate to access the most suitable durable solution according to their specific situation.

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,CUB,,5b082c644,0.html>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,CUB,,507526112,0.html>

Czech Republic

Description

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe, bordering Germany, Austria, Poland, and Slovakia. The Czech Republic is a parliamentary democracy based in capital city Prague of 10,627,448 people. While the Republic of Czechoslovakia gained independence in 1918, the Czech Republic gained its own independence in 1993 when Czechoslovakia dissolved peacefully into Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Policy

The Czech Republic has joined the ranks of eight EU resettlement countries with the arrival this week of 23 Myanmar refugees, some of whom had been in exile in Malaysia for nearly 10 years.

The Czech Republic succeeded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (hereinafter jointly referred to as the 1951 Convention) in 1993. The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954 Convention) was acceded to, with reservations¹, in 2004 and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961 Convention) in 2001. The 1997 European Convention on Nationality was ratified in 2004.

The asylum process in the Czech Republic is governed by the provisions of the Act No. 325/1999 Coll. on Asylum (Asylum Act), as amended, the Act No. 273/2008 Coll. on the Police of the Czech Republic, as amended, and the Act No. 326/1999 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners on the Territory of the Czech Republic (Aliens Act), as amended. The Czech legislation is generally in line with the European Union (EU) asylum laws.² It also provides for political asylum derived from the Czech Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, and asylum based on family reunification and humanitarian grounds. All applications for international protection are adjudicated at first instance level by the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior (DAMP). UNHCR is not formally involved in the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process, but has access to the case files upon written consent by the applicants. The appeal procedure is conducted before administrative courts.

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,CZE,,5a12ae152,0.html>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,CZE,,,0.html>
3. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2008/10/490b05c64/welcome-prague-first-myanmar-refugees-resettle-czech-republic.html>

Democratic Republic of Congo

Description

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a large republic in Central Africa that attained independence from Belgium in 1960. With a population of more than 77 million and an area of 2.3 million square km, it is the 20th most populous and 11th largest country in the world. It is bordered by Angola in the southwest, Burundi and Rwanda in the east, the Central African Republic in the north, the Republic of Congo in the west, Zambia in the south, Tanzania in the east, and South Sudan in the northeast.

Policy

The DRC has faced major refugee problem in the past, consequences of which still remains in the form of weak economy and political structure in the country. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (hereinafter jointly referred to as the 1951 Convention). However, the DRC has not yet acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Persons arriving from Burundi, CAR and South Sudan continue to seek asylum in several camps in DRC, mostly in South Kivu, North/South Ubangi provinces, and former Oriental provinces. During 2013–2017, nationals from CAR enjoyed prima facie recognition as refugees. Nationals from Burundi also enjoyed prima facie recognition as refugees until 2017 when the DRC introduced a refugee status determination procedure for nationals from these countries.

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,COD,,5ccabdd87,0.html>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,COD,,,,0.html>

Denmark

Description

The Kingdom of Denmark is comprised of Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and Denmark. Denmark is located above Germany, and has close ties with Sweden and Norway. The country is 43094 square kilometers and is a unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy. The absolute monarchy of the country was ended by the signing of a constitution on June 5, 1849.

Policy

The Danish government has allocated Tk 256 million to United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) as relief efforts for the newly-arrived Rohingya refugees coming to Bangladesh from Myanmar. Ulla Tornaes, the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, expressed her grave concern about the situation in Rakhine and condemned the violence against the Rohingyas in Myanmar, said a press release issued today. She also urged the involved parties to ensure protection of Rohingyas as well as other civilians and humanitarian access to the thousands of people that need urgent assistance."Denmark stands ready with immediate financial support when our international humanitarian partners can provide assistance to all indigent people in Rakhine" Ulla Tornaes said, adding that they are strengthening their support to the refugees in Bangladesh.

Links:

1. <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/south-asia-myanmar-rohingya-refugee-crisis-denmark-donates-tk-256m-1459660>
2. <http://bangladesh.um.dk/en/about-us/news/newsdisplaypage/?newsID=3F0D0C70-BA8D-4A36-8F4D-C755F43A4FE5>
3. <http://cphpost.dk/news/denmark-keeping-close-tabs-on-rohingya-refugees.html>
4. <https://www.unhcr.org/neu/14874-denmark-supports-unhcr-with-usd-6-3-million-to-meet-critical-needs-of-rohingya-refugees.html>

Egypt

Description

Egypt is located in the continent of Africa, neighboring Ethiopia and Libya as well as the Mediterranean Sea. The famed Nile River was the host of one of the early four civilizations, and the country has since retained rich cultural artifacts as well as garnered a new position as the connection between Africa and the Middle East. In addition to its leading role in the North African Arab community, Egypt has more recently been known for its uprising during the Arab Spring and subsequent deposing of its long time dictator. At a critical point in its history, Egypt will experience more changes to come.

Policy

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday 6/9/2017, Egypt condemned the violence in Rakhine province in Myanmar, which led to the murder and displacement of thousands of Rohingya Muslims. Egypt called upon the authorities in Myanmar to take all procedures necessary for stopping the violence and to provide necessary protection for the Rohingya Muslims, in order to avoid further deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the country.

Egypt asserted its support for all regional and international efforts aiming at the remedy of the humanitarian situation resulting from the crisis. Egypt also called for positively responding to the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to find an effective and permanent solution to this dangerous political and humanitarian situation.

Links:

1. <http://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/117480?lang=en-us>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,EGY,,,,0.html>

Eritrea

Description

Eritrea officially the State of Eritrea, is a country located in the Horn of Africa. With a population of about 6 million, it has an area of 117,600 km². Eritrea is a single-party state led by the People's Front for Democracy and Justice. With its capital at Asmara, it is bordered by Sudan to the west, Ethiopia in the south, and Djibouti in the southeast. The northeastern and eastern parts of Eritrea have a strategic location with a coastline along the Red Sea, across from Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Eritrea declared its independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

Policy

There is no specific policy/statement from the state of Eritrea in context to the agenda at hand. However, the state of Eritrea in the past has experienced a major refugee problem with Ethiopia. The recent agreement between the two parties can help the delegate the formulate a policy on the same.

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/49de06122.pdf>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,POLICY,UNHCR,,ERI,,4dafa0ec2,0.html>

Fiji

Description

Republic of the Fiji Islands is a series of over eight hundred volcanic islands located in the Pacific ocean to the Northeast of Australia. The aggregate area of the islands spans 18,376 sq km (7,095 sq miles). Fiji is known as a beautiful tourist destination but the island has been experiencing serious political development and turmoil since 1987. Fiji gained independence from England in 1970, with Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara of the AP as prime minister.

Policy (General)

A claim is made as soon as a person signifies his intention to seek to be protected recognized as a refugee in the Fiji Islands to an immigration officer. Where a claim is made under subsection (1) of the Fiji Immigration Act 2003, the claimant must, in the approved form and accompanied by the prescribed fee, confirm the claim, which must include the following:

- the grounds for the claim; and
- a statement explaining whether any other member of the claimants family who is in the Fiji Islands and is also seeking to be recognized as refugees in the Fiji Islands;
- the grounds, if different, for the claim by the member of the family of the claimant; and
- a current address in the Fiji Islands and telephone number or other prescribed means of contact in the Fiji Islands, and must notify the Immigration Department of any change in the address, telephone number or other means of contact provided.

Links:

1. <http://www.immigration.gov.fj/travel-requirements/refugee-status>
2. <https://www.unhcr.org/fiji.html>

Hungary

Description

Hungary, or more formally known as the Republic of Hungary, is a country that is landlocked in Central Europe. It is surrounded by Ukraine, Romania, Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, and Slovakia. Its capital Budapest, is its largest city and a great attraction for many tourists. In addition to being a great attraction in central Europe, Hungary also has a great presence in the European Union, NATO and the OECD. Hungary is over 93,000 square kilometers. It engages in a parliamentary democracy and has the standard 3 branches of government. Hungary became independent on November 16, 1918.

Policy

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said that his country does not want to take in large numbers of Muslims, in defence of Hungary's response to the surge in refugees trying to enter the country.

"I think we have a right to decide that we do not want a large number of Muslim people in our country," Orban told journalists outside the EU headquarters at Brussels.

Links:

1. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/refugees-hungary-train-station-150903064140564.html>
2. <https://www.reformatus.hu/mutat/15382/>
3. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/just-as-bangladeshis-rohingyas-too-are-illegal-migrants-and-not-refugees/articleshow/60757644.cms?from=mdr>
4. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/08/22/hungary-asylum-seekers-denied-food>

Iceland

Description

Iceland is a Nordic island located between the North Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean. With a population of 323,000 and a land area of 39,777 square miles, it is the most sparsely populated country in Europe. Iceland gained complete independence from Denmark in 1944 and is a unitary multiparty republic.

Policy (General)

Iceland has received groups of refugees for resettlement since 1956. Between 1956 and 2012 a total of 525 refugees were resettled in the country. The Icelandic Refugee Committee (until 2005 the Council) was established in 1996 and since then Iceland has overseen the reception of refugees annually or every other year, approximately 22 refugees each year, as a part of the UNHCR Resettlement Programme. In 2007 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs announced the establishment of an annual quota of 25 to 30 refugees. The quota for 2008 was 29 individuals. Due to the financial crisis in Iceland in 2008 the quota for resettled refugees was reduced and in the year 2010 two families (six persons) were accepted as resettled refugees. In the year 2012 Iceland accepted three families (nine persons) as quota refugees.

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/52a0776a0.pdf>
2. <https://reliefweb.int/report/iceland/iceland-equal-reception-conditions-resettled-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

India

Description

India (officially the Republic of India) is a country in South Asia. With a population of 1.3 billion people, it is the world's largest democracy, and the fourth largest economy in the world. With an area of 3,287,264 km², it is the 7th largest country in the world. It is bordered by Pakistan in the north-west, China and Nepal in the north, Bhutan and Bangladesh in the north-east, Myanmar in the east and Sri Lanka in the south. The country became independent from British Rule in 1947.

Policy

The Government of India led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been largely silent on the atrocities faced by the Rohingya people in Myanmar. Modi, whose party the BJP is accused of promoting Islamophobia and violence against Muslims in India, traveled to Myanmar on 5–6 September 2017 and stated "we hope that all stakeholders together can find a way out in which unity and territorial integrity of Myanmar is respected". He did not use the term "Rohingya" and condemned attacks by Rohingya militants. During his visit, he reportedly advised State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi that she had "a very good international image" which she should not tarnish.

India also announced plans to deport its Rohingya refugee population. Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju described the refugees as "illegal immigrants", echoing the Myanmar government position. Although the Rohingya have fought deportation in the Indian courts (partly on humanitarian grounds), in September 2017 the Indian government responded that India did not sign the 1951 Refugee Convention and most Rohingya arrived in India before the August 2017 violence. Some Indian media have reported that the country's intelligence agencies suspect militant Rohingya leaders of conspiring with Pakistani terrorists and planning to incite violence in India.

Varun Gandhi, a leader in Modi's own ruling party and a grandson of Indira Gandhi, opposed the government's plan to expel 40,000 Rohingya refugees and called for their asylum after careful vetting. Gandhi said that India is a party to the SAARC Terrorism Protocol, whose Article 17 forbids India from deporting anyone on religious grounds. Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir dismissed Gandhi's view as "against national interest". The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee called for support of Rohingya refugees, whom she described as "common people" who should not be seen as a security threat to India. Shashi Tharoor, a leader of the main opposition Indian National Congress party, criticized the Modi government for not having a "mechanism" to process asylum applications.

India later updated its response to the crisis. After Modi returned to India from Myanmar, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh met with the Foreign Secretary of India. Following the meeting, the Indian foreign ministry issued a statement: "We would urge that the situation in Rakhine be handled with restraint and maturity, focusing on the welfare of the civilian population alongside those of the security forces". The Indian Air Force began Operation Insaniyat to deliver aid for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

In October 2017, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj expressed India's support for a permanent solution to the crisis urged the international community to contribute to the social and economic development of Rakhine State. According to Swaraj, the Myanmar government should repatriate the refugees (who are Burmese nationals) and "punish the terrorists, not innocent people."

On the sidelines of CHOGM 2018, the Indian prime minister contradicted his own earlier position in a Commonwealth joint communique which supported the Rohingya's right of return to Myanmar. Speaking at a political rally of Non-Resident Indians titled "Bharat ki Baat, Saab ki Saath", Modi said "When the Rohingya people returned to Bangladesh, we understood that Bangladesh is our friend. So we started sending steamers full of aid there". The comment reportedly embarrassed Indian diplomats. An anonymous source in the Indian foreign ministry reportedly said "Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have suffered a slip of tongue. He could have meant that Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh, instead of saying the Rohingyas returned. But this is just conjecture". The Indian foreign ministry refused to publicly comment on Modi's remarks.

Links:

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/such-a-strange-silence-indias-stand-on-the-rohingya-crisis/article21235760.ece>
2. <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/2100513/modis-party-stokes-anti-muslim-violence-india-report-says>
3. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/modi-in-myanmar-pm-praises-suu-kyi-s-leadership-vows-to-fight-terror-in-joint-statement/story-vC4Pi9WL594NnRt8Oe430J.html>
4. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/pm-narendra-modi-advised-suu-kyi-not-to-destroy-her-image-swaraj/articleshow/61175822.cms>
5. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rohingya-are-illegal-immigrants-who-need-to-be-deported-says-kiren-rijiju/article19625459.ece>
6. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/rohingya-refugees-terrorists-mamata-banerjee-modi-govt-rakhine-state-1045598-2017-09-15>

Iraq

Description

Iraq (officially the Republic of Iraq) is a Middle Eastern nation bordered by the Persian Gulf as well as Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey. The population is approximately 32.5 million, and the nation is 438,317 km, around three times the size of the state of New York. It is the 40th most populous and 59th largest nation in the world. Iraq is a parliamentary democracy that gained independence in 1932. The official religion of the nation is Islam.

Policy

Iraq's Foreign Ministry released a statement: "The Iraqi Foreign Ministry expresses its firm rejection and condemnation of the crimes and atrocities committed by the government authorities in Myanmar against the safe minority of the Rohingya Muslims in Arakan province west of the country, And calls upon the United Nations, all organizations of international community and all Islamic and Arab countries to take all deterrent measures to stop these brutal massacres, which are less common in the world, in addition to serious work to open the way for the arrival of teams and humanitarian aid to the people of Rohingya immediately"

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,IRQ,,,0.html>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttdRlThctjo>

Italy

Description

Italy, officially known as the Italian Republic, is a peninsula located in southern Europe which extends into the Mediterranean Sea. It is surrounded by France in the northwest, Switzerland and Lichtenstein in the north, Austria in the northeast and Slovenia in the east. Also, it has two enclaves within its borders San Marino and The Holy See (Vatican City) Italy has a population of over 60 million people and an area of 301,340 sq km.

Policy

“Deeply concerned” about the situation of the Rohingya people, Italy pledged today in Geneva 7 million euros in humanitarian aid to finance the performance of emergency relief activities to assure food, healthcare and protection by the specialised United Nations Agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross both in Bangladesh and in Myanmar. “During the last few weeks, over half a million people, mostly women and children, had to leave Myanmar and find refuge in Bangladesh; Italy is in the forefront in humanitarian relief actions,” said the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Angelino Alfano.

Links;

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,ITA,,,,0.html>
2. <https://www.onuitalia.com/2017/10/23/rohingya-italy-deeply-concerned-pledges-7-million-euros-donors-conference-geneva/>

Japan

Description

Japan (officially Nippon or Nihon) is an East Asian island nation located in the Pacific Ocean. It has an area of around 378,000 km and a population of over 126 million people, making it the country with the tenth-largest population in the world. Japan is a constitutional monarchy where the Emperor's powers are very limited. It lies east of China, North Korea, South Korea, and Russia, and north of Taiwan.

Policy

On 26 September 2017, the government of Japan extended a US\$4 million emergency grant to aid Rohingya refugees in Myanmar and Bangladesh. Three days later, the Japanese government issued a statement: "Japan strongly condemns the attacks carried out against the Myanmar security forces in northern areas of Rakhine State in Myanmar since 25 August as utterly unacceptable and expresses its condolences to the bereaved families. Japan strongly expects that, with the restoration of security, the protection of civilian populations and humanitarian access is assured as soon as possible. Japan will support the efforts by the Myanmar government to implement the recommendations for realizing peace and stability in Rakhine State presented in the Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Former United Nations Secretary General Dr. Kofi Annan". Japanese foreign minister Taro Kono visited Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh and Rohingya villages in Myanmar.

Links:

1. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001743.html
2. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001703.html
3. <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2017/11/19/eu-foreign-policy-chief-3-foreign-ministers-visit-rohingya-camps/>
4. <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2017/11/19/eu-foreign-policy-chief-3-foreign-ministers-visit-rohingya-camps/>

Mexico

Description

Mexico, or the Mexican United States, is located in North America. It is bordered by the United States, the Pacific Ocean the Gulf of Mexico, and Guatemala. It is governed by a Federal Presidential Constitutional Republic, with a size of 1,972,550 square km. Mexico gained its independence from Spain on September 16, 1810.

Policy

The Mexican government said in a statement, "On behalf of the government of Mexico, the Foreign Ministry expresses its deep concern about the recent escalation of violence against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine state in northern Myanmar. Mexico reiterates its repudiation of all forms of violence, its unconditional support for the peaceful settlement of disputes and its commitment to protecting and defending human rights. It also calls on the parties involved to exercise maximum restraint, protect the civilian population and guarantee access to humanitarian aid for those who need it most. In addition, Mexico expresses its solidarity with the authorities in Bangladesh, a country that has welcomed thousands of refugees as a result of the crisis in Rakhine."

Links:

1. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/prensa/mexico-expresses-concern-over-the-situation-of-the-rohingya-minority-in-myanmar>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,MEX,,,,0.html>

Nepal

Description

Nepal, officially the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, is a landlocked country in South Asia. With a population of about 27 million, it has an area of 147,181 square km, making it the 41st most populous and 93rd largest nation in the world. It is bordered by India in the southwest and by China in the northeast. Interestingly, Nepal is unique in the United Nations by virtue of two idiosyncrasies. First, it has the only non-rectangular flag, and second it is the only country which measures its annual economic progress not by GDP growth, but by overall happiness of its citizens.

Policy

The arrival of Rohingya refugees in Nepal earlier this year was just the latest wave of the Muslim group fleeing violent persecution in Burma – in fact hundreds of Rohingya families have fled to Nepal each time there is a fresh crackdown by the military.

The Rohingya have made harrowing and sometimes treacherous journeys across from Burma to Bangladesh and India and into Nepal, finding this country by far the most hospitable to them. The first wave of refugees six years ago sent word back to those fleeing the latest violence that Kathmandu was a safe bet.

Links:

1. <https://www.nepalisansar.com/world/rohingya-crisis-refugee-issues-top-agenda-for-nepal-rights-groups/>
2. <https://www.nepalitimes.com/here-now/living-on-the-margins/>
3. <https://thewire.in/diplomacy/life-for-rohingya-refugees-in-nepal-is-better-than-in-india-and-bangladesh-but-only-marginally>

Nigeria

Description

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is on the west coast of Africa, neighbouring Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria gained its independence from Great Britain on 1 October 1960, and ever since the government has been modelled after that of the United States of America. That is to say that the executive branch of government can have a maximum of two four-year terms, there is a bicameral legislature, the upper house has three seats per state and the lower house is based on population. Nigeria has three types of laws: they have a derivative of common law from their former British colonization, customary law passed down through indigenous tribal norms, and Sharia law present in the majority Muslim northern part of the country. Nigeria also recently became the largest economy in Africa, surpassing South Africa, and is considered part of the next BRIC-like group of economies, called MINT.

Policy

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday likened the violence in Myanmar against Rohingya Muslims to genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda, urging a halt to the “ongoing ethnic cleansing” and safe return of refugees.

“The Myanmar crisis is very reminiscent of what happened in Bosnia in 1995 and in Rwanda in 1994,” Buhari told the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations.

He added that the “horrendous suffering” had been caused by “state-backed program of brutal depopulation of the Rohingya inhabited areas in Myanmar on the bases of ethnicity and religion.”

Links:

1. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-un-nigeria/nigerian-president-likens-myanmar-crisis-to-bosnia-rwanda-genocides-idUSKCN1BU26Q>
2. <https://aa.com.tr/en/africa/nigeria-urges-end-to-ethnic-cleansing-in-myanmar/908228>
3. <https://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e484f76.html>

Pakistan

Description

Pakistan (Jamhuryat Islami Pakistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) is a country in South Asia, which borders the Arabian Sea between India, Iran, Afghanistan, and China. With a total population of 182,142,594, it is the seventh most populated country in the world.

Policy

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif expressed anguish at the "violence against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar" calling it "a challenge to the conscience of the international community". At a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the cabinet adopted a resolution: "We call upon Nobel laureate Ms Aung San Suu Kyi to take immediate steps to stop the atrocities being committed in Myanmar where her party is in power. We also call upon the United Nations to take the lead, which it must under its mandate, in stopping immediately the genocide of Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar". On 9 September, Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua summoned the Myanmar ambassador in Islamabad to register a formal protest. Thousands of Pakistanis demonstrated in major cities across the country, protesting against the crackdown on Rohingya Muslims

Links:

1. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1355607>
2. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1500704/cabinet-condemns-rohingya-genocide/>
3. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1356613>
4. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/why-the-plight-of-the-rohingyas-is-stirring-a-wave-of-protest-in-pakistan/2017/09/11/ed946aee-96ef-11e7-af6a-6555caaeb8dc_story.html
5. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1356408>

Peru

Description

The Republic of Peru, also known as Peru, is a south American country on the west side of the continent. It was conquered by the Spanish in 16th century, and eventually declared independence in 1821. Since independence, the country has undergone periods of political stability and instability, and several changes in government. Currently, it is a representative democratic republic, and is considered a developing nation. Despite its low-key status in the current international system, Peru is historically very important. Peru was once home to some of the most ancient civilizations in the world, including the Incan empire. Peru is also an ecological hotspot, and known for its diverse geography. There are plains on the coast, the Andes mountains in the north, and the Amazon river and rainforest in the east.

Policy

GUSTAVO MEZA CUADRA (Peru) recalled that his delegation, alongside those of the United Kingdom and Kuwait, headed the Council's visit to Bangladesh and Myanmar four months ago. Despite progress on the voluntary and safe return of Rohingya refugees to their homeland, challenges remain, including the need to redouble repatriation efforts. The signing of a bilateral agreement on returns and the establishment of a hotline between the two countries' Foreign Ministers are steps in the right direction, and they must yield results on the ground, he said, emphasising the need to tackle the root causes of the crisis, including the issue of citizenship for the Rohingya. Accountability for human rights violations is also essential, he added.

Links;

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,PER,,,,0.html>
2. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13469.doc.htm>

Phillipines

Description

The Republic of the Philippines is a self-governing republic of islands in Southeast Asia. The country was part of the Spanish Republic since the 16th century, and in 1898, Spain seceded the Philippines to the United States. In 1935, the Philippines gained independence. Between the South China and Philippine Sea, these islands are mostly mountainous with extensive coastal lowlands. Currently, the population is approximately 107,000,000.

Policy

In 2016, during the last months in office of President Noynoy Aquino, son of the Mother of Asian Democracy, Corazon Aquino, the Philippines government expressed their wish to provide shelter for up to 3,000 "boat people" from Myanmar and Bangladesh. As a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the country abides by the rules of international law and will provide assistance to refugees. Malacañang Palace also noted in a statement that this follows the country's harbouring and assistance to Vietnamese boat people fleeing from Vietnam in the late 1970s.

In 2017, ASEAN chair and newly elected Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte accepted Malaysia's rejection of an ASEAN statement condemning attacks on Myanmar security forces and all acts of violence which result in the loss of civilian lives, destruction of homes and the displacement of large numbers of people. The rejection of the statement solidified ASEAN's stance under Duterte for accepting human rights violations against Muslim Rohingyas, though Indonesia and Brunei were against the rejection.

In January 2018, Rodrigo Duterte revealed that he advised Myanmar's Suu Kyi to 'ignore human rights criticisms on Rohingya issue'.

In 5 April 2018, Rodrigo Duterte recognized the existence of a genocide against the Rohingya people. He told media that the Philippines is willing to shelter some Rohingya refugees, if Europe will also shelter some as well.

Links;

1. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/93577-myanmar-rohingya-boat-people-philippines>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/19/philippines-offers-refuge-to-desperate-asylum-seekers-trapped-on-boats>
3. <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/163689/duterte-suu-kyi-ignore-human-rights-criticisms-rohingya-issue-duterte-myanmar-suu-kyi-rohingya-muslims-asean-meetings>
4. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/649045/duterte-cites-iso-genocide-in-myanmar-says-phl-will-take-rohingya-refugees/story/>

Qatar

Description

The State of Qatar is a monarchy located on the Arabian Peninsula. Its almost 4,500 square miles share only one border, with Saudi Arabia; as Qatar is located on the Qatari Peninsula, the rest of its borders open onto the Persian Gulf. Qatar is a monarchy ruled by the Al Thani family. Though the Al Thani family has ruled Qatar since the mid 19th century, their sovereignty was interrupted by a period under the Ottoman Empire, and 55 years as a British Protectorate. Fully independent since 1971, Qatar is one of the richest countries in the world thanks to its significant gas and oil resources.

Policy

Qatar has called for finding a solution to the issue of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar through peaceful and comprehensive means and dialogue so as to achieve national unity. This came in the remarks of HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi during his participation in a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation's (OIC) member-states in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the situation of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. HE al-Muraikhi emphasised Qatar's belief that conflict settlement should be done through peaceful means so as to the bring the points of view of the parties to the conflict closer, noting that impacts of disputes and conflicts are not confined to a certain geographic area but rather go beyond borders to threaten global security and peace.

He added that the Muslim world still faces several challenges that affect its unity and stability and limit cultural interaction and global co-operation.

Links;

1. <https://www.gulf-times.com/story/528741/Qatar-calls-for-peaceful-resolution-of-Rohingya-is>
2. <https://www.gulf-times.com/story/563467/Qatar-Fund-extends-help-to-Rohingya>
3. <https://www.gulf-times.com/story/597195/Qatar-Charity-distributes-food-aid-to-Rohingya-ref>

Rwanda

Description

The Republic of Rwanda is a country located in central Africa bordering with Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east, Burundi to the south and Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. Being a rather small country with 26,338 square kilometers of land area, Rwanda has large water bodies and rich vegetation. It is a developing country that relies almost entirely on agriculture. Other economic activities include tourism and mineral processing. Rwanda gained independence from Belgium on July 1, 1962 after which the country had to face several ethnic conflicts and a civil war that led to a genocide in 1994. Rwanda is a presidential republic, with executive, legislative and judicial branches, and a multiparty system.

Policy

There is no specific statement from the side of Republic of Rwanda on the agenda at hand. However, UN officials, diplomats and experts have various times pictured the Myanmar crisis and Rwandan genocide as similar on various aspects. The delegate is requested to research thoroughly on the past crisis in Rwanda and the similarities (If Any) between the two.

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,RWA,,,,0.html>
2. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/08/31/its-time-to-hold-myanmar-accountable/>
3. <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/rohingya-refugee-crisis-dont-let-myanmar-go-rwandas-way-1467733>

Saudi Arabia

Description

Saudi Arabia (officially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) is a large country in the Middle East, surrounded by the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and Persian Gulf. With a population of about 27 million and an area of over 2 million square km, it is the 47th most populous and 13th largest country in the world. It is bordered by Iraq and Jordan to the north, Kuwait to the northeast, Qatar and the UAE to the east, and Oman and Yemen to the south.

Policy

Saudi Arabia's mission to the United Nations tweeted the Kingdom's condemnation for the recent attacks on Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority. "Acting upon KSA responsibility as the leader of the Islamic Ummah. Saudi Arabia has called for a resolution to condemn the atrocities and human rights violations committed against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar," the mission tweeted. "KSA has reached out to members of the Security Council to address the recent human rights violations against the Rohingya on its agenda. KSA has expressed its concern to Secretary General, which resulted in a condemnation from the United Nations. Upholding its responsibility." "Saudi Arabia will continue its efforts to find a lasting solution to the plight of the Rohingya Muslims."

Links:

1. <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/gulf/2017/09/03/Saudi-Arabia-condemns-Myanmar-s-Rohingya-attacks.html>
2. https://world.einnews.com/article__detail/country/saudiarabia/404985252-saudi-arabia-pledges-15-million-to-aid-rohingya-muslims-in-myanmar?vcode=PqS0

Senegal

Description

The Republic of Senegal is located in West Africa on the Atlantic Ocean, and is bordered by Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau and surrounds most of Gambia. The country gained its independence in June 20, 1960 from France. The country is 197000 square kilometers and is a semi-presidential republic.

Policy

The request by France, Britain, the US, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Sweden comes after fresh violence erupts in Myanmar's Rakhine state with 20 homes catching fire and a bomb blast near a mosque.

France, Senegal, the United States and four other countries on Friday asked the UN Security Council to meet next week to discuss the ongoing violence in Myanmar that has seen hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims flee in under a month. The call for the meeting comes after fresh violence erupted in Myanmar's Rakhine state with 20 homes catching fire and a bomb blast near a mosque. The seven countries including Egypt, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Sweden want UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to brief the council on Myanmar's military campaign against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state.

Links:

1. <https://www.trtworld.com/asia/seven-countries-seek-unsc-meeting-to-discuss-violence-in-myanmar-10764>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=search&skip=0&query=&coi=SEN>

Slovakia

Description

Slovakia, officially the Slovak Republic, is located in central Europe, and is bordered by Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Ukraine, and Hungary. It was officially formed in 1993, when the Czechoslovakia dissolved following the collapse of the Soviet Union. With a population of about 5 million, Slovakia has one of Europe's fastest-growing economies, as has been dubbed the "Tatra Tiger." Slovakia is a member of the European Union.

Policy

Slovakia, the central European country that currently holds presidency of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), called for an amicable solution to Myanmar's Rohingya crisis to ensure return of the refugees to their country.

"We place huge importance to issues of human rights and are aware of the seriousness of the Rohingya issue. We believe all stake-holders should find an amicable solution to the issue so that the refugees can go back to their home country", Slovakian state secretary for Foreign and European affairs Lukas Parizek told HT in an interview.

He was in India for bilateral consultations, and held wide-ranging discussions with minister of state for external affairs V K Singh.

Links:

1. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/slovakia-calls-for-amicable-solution-to-rohingya-crisis-to-ensure-return-of-refugees-to-myanmar/story-AynXvktDbIEDJxxHev50YK.html>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=topic&tocid=50ffbce524d&toid=50ffbce525c&skip=0&querysi=togo&searchin=fulltext&sort=date>

Somalia

Description

The Federal Republic of Somalia is an East African country with 10.4 million inhabitants. Somalia is bordered by Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, and the Arabian Sea. Somalia is governed by a federalist republic, with an executive administrative branch, a parliamentary legislative branch and a judiciary. A former British and Italian protectorate, Somalia gained independence in 1960, and the government has endured multiple transitions of power, both violent and peaceful.

Policy

There is no specific statement from the side of Federal Republic of Somalia on the agenda at hand. However, UN officials, diplomats and experts have various times pictured the Myanmar crisis and Somalian Refugee problem as similar on various aspects. The delegate is requested to research thoroughly on the past crisis in Somalia and the similarities (If Any) between the two.

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,POLICY,UNHCR,,SOM,,4f675c5e2,0.html>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,POLICY,UNHCR,,SOM,,,,0.html>

South Africa

Description

"South Africa is a parliamentary republic whose president is both the head of state and the head of government. It is the southernmost country on the African continent. It has borders with Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique in the north and it surrounds the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Kingdom of Lesotho. South Africa's society is multiethnic, mainly due to the diversity of native tribes and both the Dutch and English colonial rule, which began in the late 17th century. The country is considered an emerging country, as it has become more and more industrialised in the past decades and its meaning in region has thus increased significantly. Its main economic activities include agriculture (i.e. fruit and vegetable exports), mining and industrial manufacturing.

Policy

Representative of South Africa expressed concern for the serious humanitarian crisis that affects almost 1 million Rohingya refugees. He commended the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh for assisting vulnerable people and called on Myanmar to work with the United Nations to facilitate conditions that will allow a voluntary return of displaced persons. The humanitarian crisis is being perpetrated by a lack of access to life-saving humanitarian assistance, including to health, education and other essential services. He called on the Myanmar Government to fully implement the memorandum of understanding signed in June 2018. It is also essential that relevant aid agencies receive the resources needed to address this humanitarian crisis.

Links:

1. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13727.doc.htm>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,ZAF,,,0.html>

Spain

Description

The Kingdom of Spain, more informally known as Spain is found on the Iberian Peninsula. It is bordered by both the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, as well as Gibraltar, France and Andorra. Spain's territory is also comprised of the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, three exclaves in North Africa, Ceuta, Melilla, and Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera that borders Morocco, and the islands and peñones (rocks) of Alborán, Chafarinas, Alhucemas, and Perejil. This territory is ruled under a constitutional monarch: Felipe VI, and a Prime Minister: Mariano Rajoy. It has an area of 504,645 km squared, making it the fifth largest country in EU

Policy

As friends of Myanmar, we are deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in northern part of Rakhine State. We have welcomed the Government's agreement to allow a resumption of humanitarian assistance and initial deliveries to some villages, but we are concerned by delays and urge all Myanmar authorities to overcome the obstacles that have so far prevented a full resumption, noting that tens of thousands of people who need humanitarian aid, including children with acute malnutrition, have been without it now for nearly two months.

This assistance is desperately needed to address serious humanitarian needs but also to begin to restore the confidence and hope that are essential to a restoration of peace and stability. Full and unfettered access is essential for humanitarian agencies to conduct a comprehensive assessment of current humanitarian needs in support of the Government's humanitarian response. The re-establishment of access to markets and livelihoods is also very important.

Links:

1. <https://mm.usembassy.gov/joint-statement-humanitarian-access-northern-part-rakhine-state/>
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/09/world/asia/myanmar-rohingya-crisis-rakhine-muslim.html?mcubz=1>

Togo

Description

The Republic of Togo is located in Western Africa is encompassed by Ghana to the west, Benin to the east, and Burkina Faso to the north. At approximately 57,000 square kilometers Togo is one of the smallest countries in Africa. The sub-Saharan country is essentially dedicated to its main economic activity, agriculture. Although the primary language is French, many other cultural dialects can be found within various regions of the country.

Policy

The republic of Togo voted in favour of a resolution (**A/HRC/39/L.22**) on the **Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar**, adopted by a vote of 35 in favour, three against and seven abstentions, the Council decides to establish an ongoing independent mechanism to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011.

Links:

1. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/39/L.22>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,TGO,,,0.html>

Tunisia

Description

The Tunisian Republic is situated in the northern most part of Africa, and shares borders with Algeria and Libya. Tunisia gained independence from France in 1956. Due to a recent revolution within the country, Tunisia is now a constitutional government with a president, a prime minister, and a one house parliament. Due to the fact that it was a former French colony, Tunisia has a civil law legal system.

Policy

Two separate demonstrations were held in the Tunisian capital on Friday to protest the ongoing persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's western Rakhine State. The first demonstration, organized by Tunisia's Current of Love movement (Tayar al-Mahaba), saw dozens of demonstrators waving banners decrying the Myanmar military's ongoing crimes against Rohingya Muslims. Protest organizers distributed leaflets condemning Myanmar's security forces for their ongoing persecution of the country's Muslim minority. One of the leaflets called on the Tunisian government, along with "friendly countries", to intervene to stop the oppression in Myanmar. A second protest was held next to Tunis's National Theater, where dozens of activists associated with Tunisia's Democratic Movement condemned atrocities suffered by the Rohingya at the hands of the Myanmar regime. Demonstrators carried placards reading, "End the bloodshed in Myanmar", "Stop murdering Muslims", and "The world is watching while Muslims are killed".

Links:

1. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,TUN,,,,0.html>
2. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170909-tunis-protesters-demand-justice-for-myanmars-rohingya/>
3. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/tunis-protesters-demand-justice-for-myanmar-s-rohingya/904902>

Ukraine

Description

Ukraine, located in Eastern Europe, is the largest country contained entirely within the continent. Formerly a part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine is now an independent state. The country's capital, Kiev, is home to a semi-presidential system of government. Ukraine inherently has strong political and cultural ties with its neighbour, Russia. These ties have sometimes acted as a hindrance as Ukraine seeks to develop stronger relations with the European Union and the United States.

Policy

At the United Nations, Ukraine's ambassador underscored that targeting of civilians and infringing upon their human rights are unacceptable and stressed that these actions can not be tolerated. Ukraine's ambassador emphasized that "Ukraine is seriously concerned by the continuously worsening humanitarian situation of hundreds of thousands of refugees and IDPs and stresses the need to ensure unhindered access of humanitarian actors to those in need.

Links:

1. <https://ukraineun.org/en/press-center/259-statement-by-the-delegation-of-ukraine-at-the-unsc-session-on-the-situation-in-myanmar/>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,UKR,,,0.html>

United Kingdom

Description

The United Kingdom, also known as Great Britain, is officially called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Located off of the coast of mainland Europe, its closest neighbours are France and Ireland, with Northern Ireland located in the upper half of Ireland. The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, with a monarch as the head of state and a prime minister as the head of government. The current establishment of the country was finalised in 1927. It spans 243,610 square kilometers.

Policy

By 13 September 2017, the United Kingdom had asked the United Nations Security Council to discuss the Rohingya crisis twice: on 29 August and 13 September. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said in a statement, Aung Sang Suu Kyi is rightly regarded as one of the most inspiring figures of our age but the treatment of the Rohingya is alas besmirching the reputation of Burma. She faces huge challenges in modernising her country. I hope she can now use all her remarkable qualities to unite her country, to stop the violence and to end the prejudice that afflicts both Muslims and other communities in Rakhine. It is vital that she receives the support of the Burmese military, and that her attempts at peacemaking are not frustrated. She and all in Burma will have our full support in this". A statement by 157 members of Parliament read, "The scale of the human rights and humanitarian crisis unfolding in Myanmar is unprecedented in its recent history. It requires the attention of the British government at the highest level". While visiting Bangladesh, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said "The plight of the Rohingya and the suffering they have had to endure is one of the most shocking humanitarian disasters of our time. This is a man-made tragedy that could be resolved with the right political will, tolerance and cooperation from all those involved". Johnson compared the Rohingya situation with the displacement of Palestinians in 1948. He visited Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh.

Links:

1. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/08/uk-calls-meeting-myanmar-violence-170829210354423.html>
2. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/404>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-calls-on-an-end-to-violence-in-rakhine>
4. <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/direct-cargo-flights-dhaka-uk-lift-ban-shortly-1532539>

Uruguay

Description

Declaring its independence in 24 August 1825 after a 3-year struggle with Brazil and Argentina, the 176,215 sq km Oriental Republic of Uruguay now has some of the freest labor and political conditions in the world. Led by a constitutional republic under President Mujica, the political system is composed of a bicameral General Assembly and a Supreme High Court of Justices. Located on the southern side of South America, it borders the South Atlantic Ocean, sitting between Argentina and Brazil.

Policy

LUIS BERMÚDEZ (Uruguay) said the grave crisis created by the wave of sectarian violence against the Muslim Rohingya people was alarming. Humanitarian and security conditions had seriously deteriorated. The resurgence of violence emphasized the need for true national reconciliation. He called on Myanmar to adopt measures to end impunity and investigate all violations of human rights. He urged the authorities to implement recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission. Noting the deep-rooted history of the crisis, he condemned the violence of all military groups but reiterated that the main responsibility of protecting civilians fell on the Myanmar Government. Human rights must be respected, he said, calling on the Government to stop the violence, allow the return of those that had fled and facilitate unfettered access to those in need. Oppressive behaviour against the Rohingya group under the pretext of fighting terrorism risked destabilizing the region.

Links:

1. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13012.doc.htm>
2. <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,URY,,,,0.html>

Myanmar (O)

Description

Myanmar is located in Southeast Asia between Bangladesh and Thailand. It also borders the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Myanmar received its independence in 1948 from the British Commonwealth. As of 2011, it is a parliamentary government. Myanmar is a moderately sized country, with a total area of 676,578 square kilometers, making it the 40th largest country in the world by area.

Policy

The government of Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, denies the Rohingya citizenship and even excluded them from the 2014 census, refusing to recognise them as a people. It sees them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Myanmar's military says it is fighting Rohingya militants and denies targeting civilians.

Links:

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41170570>
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/06/aung-san-suu-kyi-lashes-misinformation-terrorists-126000-rohingya/>
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561>

United States of America (O)

Description

The United States was founded after the American Revolution and 1783 Treaty of Paris. In effect, thirteen founding colonies gained independence from Britain and expanded across the North American continent. The country is bordered by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and Canada and South America make up its northern and southern borders. From its founding, the United States is a constitutionally-based federal republic with strong democratic traditions. The country is almost 10,000,000 sq km with 319,000,000 citizens.

Policy

On behalf of President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence condemned the "terrible savagery" against the Rohingya: "The images of the violence and its victims have shocked the American people, and decent people all over the world". Pence called the Rohingya expulsion a "historic exodus" and a "great tragedy unfolding", saying that the situation may "sow seeds of hatred and chaos that may well consume the region for generations to come and threaten the peace of us all". The U.S. embassy in Yangon demanded humanitarian access to Rakhine State in December 2016. The State Department issued a statement on 9 September:

We are very concerned by the United Nations announcement on September 8 that an estimated 270,000 Rohingya have arrived in Bangladesh since August 25 following allegations of serious human rights abuses in Burma's Rakhine State, including violent attacks and mass burnings of villages. We continue to coordinate closely with our partners, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration to provide emergency assistance to these individuals. Since October 2016, the U.S. government has provided nearly \$63 million in humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities displaced in and from Burma throughout the region. We applaud the government of Bangladesh's generosity in responding to this humanitarian crisis and appreciate their continued efforts to ensure assistance reaches the affected population.

UN Ambassador Nikki Haley said that her government was "deeply troubled" by reports of atrocities. According to White House Press Secretary Sarah

Huckabee Sanders President Trump was "aware and monitoring" the situation. Trump reportedly expressed outrage over the atrocities during a meeting with the prime minister of Malaysia.

Senator John McCain announced moves to scrap planned future military cooperation with Myanmar, and the U.S. summoned the Myanmar ambassador on 13 September. Through September 2017, the U.S. government contributed \$32 million in aid to Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar. Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Myanmar military: "This cannot continue".

While visiting Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, Sam Brownback, the United States Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, stated "The president, vice-president, and congress are all watching the situation closely. They want justice for the Rohingyas. They want them to be able to go home. This issue has captured a lot of interest in the United States". Speaking of his conversations with refugees, Brownback said "Everybody that I spoke to today said that they believe their religion was the main reason behind the persecution they faced".

Links:

1. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-trump/trump-says-will-be-putting-more-sanctions-on-north-korea-idUSKCN1BW1XH>
2. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-trump/trump-says-will-be-putting-more-sanctions-on-north-korea-idUSKCN1BW1XH>
3. <https://mm.usembassy.gov/joint-statement-humanitarian-access-northern-part-rakhine-state/>
4. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/little-us-pressure-amid-talk-of-ethnic-cleansing-in-myanmar/2017/09/09/93f469ca-9515-11e7-8482-8dc9a7af29f9_story.html
5. <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/us-stops-short-admonishing-myanmar-1459855>
6. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/12/world/asia/trump-najib-razak-malaysia-white-house.html?mcubz=1>
7. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/john-mccain-to-punish-myanmar-in-defense-bill>
8. <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/13/politics/myanmar-rohingya-attacks-us-state/index.html>
9. <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/20/politics/us-aid-rohingya-myanmar/index.html>

Human Rights Watch (O)

Description

Human Rights Watch investigates and reports on abuses happening in all corners of the world. We are roughly 450 people of 70-plus nationalities who are country experts, lawyers, journalists, and others who work to protect the most at risk, from vulnerable minorities and civilians in wartime, to refugees and children in need. We direct our advocacy towards governments, armed groups and businesses, pushing them to change or enforce their laws, policies and practices. To ensure our independence, we refuse government funding and corporate ties. We partner with organizations large and small across the globe to protect embattled activists and to help hold abusers to account and bring justice to victims.

Policy

Myanmar's stalled democratic transition has given way to a massive human rights and humanitarian crisis. Since August 2017, the military has committed mass killings, sexual violence, and widespread arson against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State that amount to crimes against humanity, forcing several hundred thousand to flee to Bangladesh. Armed conflict between the military and ethnic armed groups in northern Myanmar has intensified, causing mass displacement. Under Aung San Suu Kyi's de facto leadership, prosecutions of journalists, activists, and critics have increased. The military remains the country's most powerful institution, with control of key ministries and autonomy from civilian oversight.

Links:

1. <https://www.hrw.org/asia/myanmar-burma>
2. <https://www.hrw.org/about-us>

