Press Briefing: Rohingya Five Year Anniversary

Tuesday, August 23 at 9 AM ET

Transcript as delivered.

Sarah Sheffer: Okay, so hello everyone, and thanks so much for joining us today for our briefing on the Rohingya crisis five years on. My name is Sarah Sheffer, and I'm the Vice President for Strategic Outreach at Refugees International. We want to express our sincere thanks to our speakers and advocacy partners who helped bring this briefing together today.

Before we hand over to our speakers, a couple of housekeeping notes. Today's briefing is on the record and will be recorded. We have a recording and transcript of our call available later today, shortly after we wrap. If you'd like to follow up with any of our speakers for interviews, please feel free to reach out to me, and I'll put my email address in the chat so that we can be in touch. But in any case, we'll have time for our questions on the line after our speakers present.

So now it's my distinct honor to turn things over to our moderator for today's call Wai Wai Nu. Wai Wai is a former political prisoner and founder and executive director of the Women's Peace Network in Burma. She is also a visiting senior research fellow at the Human Rights Center of the UC Berkeley School of Law.

Wai Wai spent seven years as a political prisoner in Burma. Since her release from prison in 2012, she's dedicated herself to working for democracy in human rights, particularly on behalf of marginalized women and members of her ethnic group, the Rohingya. So, Wai Wai, over to you.

Wai Wai Nu: Thank you very much, Sarah, for your kind introductions. Hello everyone. Yes, my name is Wai Wai Nu. I'm very honored to moderate this discussion today. And the purpose of today's event is to mark five years since the start of the crisis and assess the current situations of Rohingya refugees and conditions in the camps, as told by refugees themselves, and galvanize support for improved humanitarian conditions and accountability for the crimes committed by the Myanmar military.

As many of us know, and have experienced ourselves, the consequences of the genocide and violence in 2017 continue today in Myanmar and across the world, particularly over 1 million Rohingya who have sought refuge since then in Bangladesh, continue to live in increasingly deteriorating conditions with limited access to basics need and livelihood, such as healthcare, educations, and even
safe drinking water. They are also in serious dangers of facing heightened securitizations, as well as arrest and detention. In addition to some coercive relocation to Bhasan Char.

It needs no reminder that all refugees want to safely and voluntarily go home. Yet, Rohingya are prohibited from achieving this as Burmese military brutalize the entire country after the February 1st coup. So today we are going to hear from our experts from the Rohingya and international community about the situations in Bangladesh camps. And I am honored to introduce our speakers today. Unfortunately, one of our speaker is not able to join due to an emergency situation. So now we have three speakers.

First we have Umme Salma. Umme Salma is a Rohingya women activists living in Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh. She is committed to empowering women and girls in the camp through her organization, literacy and handicarfts for Rohingya women.

And we have Khin Maung. Khin Maung is the founder and executive director of Rohingya Youth Association in Cox's Bazar refugee camp, which works on youth empowerment and peace education and human rights advocacy. He has tirelessly advocated on behalf of the Rohingya community to the global audience through media interviews. And we are so honored and privileged to have him at the last minute. Thank you so much, Khin Maung, for joining us.

And lastly, not the least, we have Daniel Sullivan. And Daniel Sullivan, Dan, is the deputy director of Africa, Asia, and Middle East at Refugee International. He focuses on Myanmar, Sudan, South Sudan, and other areas affected by mass displacement. Dan has two decades of human rights and foreign policy experience, previously working with the United To End Genocide, formally Save Darfur, the Broken Institution, Human Rights First, and the Albright Stonebridge Group, where he assisted former Secretary of State Madeline Albright in her role as a co-chair of the genocide prevention tax force.

So welcome everybody. And welcome, Khin Maung, of course, and Umme Salma and Dan. So to kick off our discussion today, that I would like to begin by asking Umme to provide a short initial remark and addressing overall conditions of the refugees in the camp, as well as in particular situations of women and girl in relation to access to educations, help, or livelihood. The floor is yours, Umme.

Umme Salma: Thank you dear for me. So I want to share shortly some of our condition but through we are going. People say that to destroy people, it is not necessary to kill them. It is only deny them formal education. Education is required for our safety and wellbeing.

So if you know, I'm joining from Kutupalong Rohingya community. So I'm also a campus organization. I'm running a, also, campus organization. So I'm applying my voice on behalf of the women that are Rohingya are derived of access to
quality education in Myanmar due to systematic marginalization. It's five years, five years ago when Myanmar military and extremists said we are committing genocide and crime against humanity of Rohingya. We had no place for Rohingya to flee to protect our life. Our [inaudible 00:07:56] country, Bangladesh opened border and saved hundreds of Rohingya from genocide operated by Myanmar's military.

We are grateful for Bangladesh to continue support us. It is incredible support at the national and international levels. We are feeling for saving our life. We leave everything behind. We bring our land and provide, except for the knowledge that we acquire in schools. We know that the Bangladesh and international communities not against of our education. They allot in [inaudible 00:08:48] formal education and formal school for grade one to four in some place, but not every camp yet.

However, those are not enough because UNICEF said there are four a whole lot school age Rohingya children in the Bangladesh refugee camp. However, in just around nearly 3,400 informal learning center across the multiple camps, which only cover only grade one to four. However, from 2020 to 21, those at school we are closed in COVID-19. Due that, most of the children have been learning through this all called Learning Competency Framework Approach LCFA, which is cover level one to four, primarily to children age four to 14. The LCFA was created as an emergency mission to make sure for Rohingya refugee children is a largest informal learning system.

Due to continuously lack of quality education and income hours, the livelihood program, most of the people fleeing to Malaysia, within last year, nearly 600 Rohingya refugee have fled to Malaysia from the camp. Among them, only 45 person we are able to reach Malaysia, according to my observation. The rest couldn't reach their destination, as some of were arrested in different place. And some that died on their journey. Few are still missing. It's a horrific... It is a very bad situation for Rohingya community as almost Rohingya going damage, our community going damage.

And also, lack of education, Rohingya girls mostly suffering here. Rohingya girls have been victimized by domestic violence and child marriage after coming Bangladesh. Because mostly suffering child marriage from after come in, Bangladesh child marriage become very common in our community because as parents and girls, also boys, they had that we could get married after graduation, be whatever we want to be when we were in Myanmar. But here in the camp, there is no hope, no choice. So they're deciding to get early marriage, especially girl's parents deciding to get early marriage their daughter because we don't have enough space to live. All the family member, both in one shelter, because shelter is very small. So who don't have a knowledge about marriage? So they have to suffer domestic violence. Who come suffering, they should get divorce lately, especially most of the girls are staying to Malaysia to get married.
as their parents can’t pay the amount of demanded money, dowry demanded by the boy’s family.

Because violence, mainly because we are only receiving ration from the WFP. That is not enough for us. Except we don't have any other opportunity to earn and to get it. Only, we are receiving WFP ration. Signed in 2020 and 2021, and continuously largest people become jobless in the camp. So our condition becoming drug day by day. So I request to the international community to focus deeply on this issue. My another request, we need formal education with the certificate sorted after returning to Myanmar. We will show that this testimony for getting into enrollment in Myanmar. Education is a fundamental human right for every Rohingya child. All UN members said, including Bangladesh, they too said, that 2018, on global Rohingya conflict-

PART 1 OF 4 ENDS [00:14:04]

Umme Salma: [foreign language 00:14:01]

We are not getting any opportunity for formal education. [inaudible 00:14:21] called us international universities and UN agencies, and [inaudible 00:14:28] to invest more in education. [inaudible 00:14:32] an educational environment for Hindu youth and girls, where we will get higher education with safety and security. Thank you, everyone, for hearing patiently my essay.

Wai Wai Nu: Thank you very much Umme for reminding us how denial of education and destroy people, a group, and police military used it as a tactic. The situations of the women, girls, in particular access to educations in the camps, and their challenges.

We're so grateful that you are here. Thank you so much, again, for sharing with us. Now, then, I would like to turn to [Goa 00:15:28] Khin Maung. Goa Khin Maung, could you share us a bit more about the conditions in the camps. Especially around livelihood, security and other concerns that you may have. I'll give floor to you.

Khin Maung: Okay, thank you. [inaudible 00:15:49]. Are you hearing?

Wai Wai Nu: Yes, we hear you well.

Khin Maung: Yes. This is Goa Khin Maung, I am from the [inaudible 00:15:55] district of [inaudible 00:15:56]. I would love to thank for inviting me, especially Nu Wai Wai, for giving the chance to share our suffering and our voice.

As you know, the challenges in the [foreign language 00:16:08] in the Bangladesh are many. We have no security. We have no future. No freedom of movement. Violence are very common in the refugee camp, including sexual and gender based violence. Here, there are neither mechanism for protection or
accountability. This is the [inaudible 00:16:33] we see from the international community who are calling and saying gender based violence always, but they did not make any mechanism, protection in the refugee camp[inaudible 00:16:46]. This [inaudible 00:16:50] but particularly old men and [inaudible 00:16:54]. And we all have responsibility to find out a solution.

Our ability to [inaudible 00:17:02] is being denied because we do not have access to integration in [foreign language 00:17:09] Bangladesh. There is no formal integration for the refugee children in 2017. Civil society [inaudible 00:17:18] in the youth have been [inaudible 00:17:20].

This has meant it's increasingly difficult to gain access to information needed to achieve a free future, free of violence. [inaudible 00:17:34] community for the Bangladesh and people of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has provide a critical lifeline but we do not want to depend on the Bangladesh government forever. Our people must have access to integration [inaudible 00:17:53].

To date, UNICEF have been silent this issue. We hope that you will [inaudible 00:18:03] put us together [inaudible 00:18:05] to make better solution for the Rohingya community.

There is no free movement for the [foreign language 00:18:13] in the camp. There are [inaudible 00:18:16] within camp. We cannot escape at night in different camp. Let alone, the people outside [inaudible 00:18:26] people cannot leave the camp to [inaudible 00:18:29]... necessary need of [inaudible 00:18:33] the family.

Thing about our situation, like the part living in the cage. There is much Bangladesh can could do for us if they tried. With further international support to improve the lives and livelihood of the people. But Bangladesh cannot provide the long-term solution that our people need. To address the needs of our people, we must look to the root cause of the crisis in Myanmar.

As you know, our priority has always been to return home. Our homeland in Myanmar, our objective is to secure a free, voluntary, and dignified invitation to our place of origin, Rakhine State in Myanmar. But we cannot return to a place where we will be forced to flee again, where we are treated as a subhuman and where it’s just a matter of time before our homes burn down to the ground. We cannot return to a place where we have no citizenship.

As you know, the junta has no political willingness to accept back the Rohingya [inaudible 00:19:55]. When the Junta and the military region of Bangladesh governments talking about the repartition, the [inaudible 00:20:10] started violence and the fighting again, the military in the Rakhine State.

Mostly, the police [inaudible 00:20:16]. This is one of the things we can conclude, that [inaudible 00:20:22] also the same [inaudible 00:20:24] of the
Myanmar military, of [inaudible 00:20:26] government. [inaudible 00:20:30] government, military or [inaudible 00:20:33] army are all of the same [inaudible 00:20:35] of again the Rohingya community. They are implementing their national policy.

The Rohingya people inside Rakhine State in Myanmar have no free movement, no jobs, no education, little access to healthcare. The situation now also has to face [inaudible 00:20:54] from the Junta and also [inaudible 00:20:56] army. Rohingya are treated as a foreigner in their own land, denied the most basic rights. None of this create a nation for a free, volunteer and dignity [inaudible 00:21:09].

The conditions are blocking for the peaceful repartition. Because Rakhine State is not a safe place for us til now. Unfortunately, the Rohingya have been exclude from discussing regarding our own future in the Bangladesh side. In the Myanmar, even [inaudible 00:21:29]. For example, the [inaudible 00:21:33]... we never have the right to speak out with them. We never have the right to involve their discussion.

We are very unhappy when we see this kind of injustice ongoing, but international [inaudible 00:21:50] to respect and [inaudible 00:21:54] and their code of conduct. We have not been invite to participate in the negotiation about the repartition between UNHCR, Bangladesh and Myanmar. We have no details on the [inaudible 00:22:08] that is need to guide our return home. We have been denied a voice in high level consultation on repartition.

[inaudible 00:22:19], the key to return home, as a community, on behalf of you, you have the right to speak out on behalf of the Rohingya community. We have the right to speak out when we need to [inaudible 00:22:33] are included, that we are not sidelined. No one has [inaudible 00:22:38] in our repartition, then we will [inaudible 00:22:42] and we must have a safe and [inaudible 00:22:45] when this discussion are considered and [inaudible 00:22:49] match.

The other part of the solution, the political, the Rohingya [inaudible 00:22:56], have been marginalized and exclude from the [inaudible 00:23:00] process from the government side. [inaudible 00:23:04] we see this kind of thing from the [inaudible 00:23:06].

This include, in 2020, election which the Rohingya could not hold and to take part of the Rakhine State. This is one of the things we are always excluded from the [inaudible 00:23:23] of the human right and [inaudible 00:23:26]. Once the [inaudible 00:23:28] European Union, all the walls are put down censorship, to get something in the [inaudible 00:23:36]. Our government, then, would [inaudible 00:23:38].
The thing is that we are very [foreign language 00:23:41], very upset, when international community declare those election as legitimate, but Rohingya not getting any right of the vote [inaudible 00:23:52] as a Parliament member.

The Junta took over the power in 2021. [inaudible 00:23:58] approved what the military is saying. This include pressure on the opposition. Also, the [inaudible 00:24:08]. They are the [inaudible 00:24:12]. We have a little bit... I mean that, are difficult to believe that because they're not yet [inaudible 00:24:21] and we have to [inaudible 00:24:23] speak out against them, but we are waiting their solution.

So, for the Rohingya issue, we must address political transition and the Rohingya crisis together. We cannot treat this as a separate, unrelated issue. Rohingya is one of the most [inaudible 00:24:42] minority in the world. [inaudible 00:24:45]... ongoing the Rohingya issue.

Unfortunately, we see in the Bangladesh [foreign language 00:24:56], some [inaudible 00:24:58]. But they're always a student. Any decision making process. My sister mentioned before the [foreign language 00:25:09]. So many [foreign language 00:25:10] were shot down by the government, by the [inaudible 00:25:13]. They targeted the learning center because, due to the [inaudible 00:25:18] learning center, the children are not going to the NGO's so-called the 'learning center'.

Just the student are willing to go to the community based learning center, because the community learning center providing quality education. NGO learning centers are not providing quality education, so children are not going to there. Parents are not willing to send their children to the NGO [inaudible 00:25:50] school. So, NGO are targeting the community learning center and community school.

This is the thing when we see, we are very surprised. Why international NGO [inaudible 00:26:00]... our community long time. Another thing we already consider when the [inaudible 00:26:09] visit the international [inaudible 00:26:13] on the Rohingya issue, [inaudible 00:26:15].

But in the [foreign language 00:26:18], when we see in 2017 that half of the targeted [inaudible 00:26:27]. But in [inaudible 00:26:27], this is not an outpour. Just a little bit recovered. Why? The [inaudible 00:26:36]... no different when half of the... For example, when the half [inaudible 00:26:44] is enough for us. And then, in the same situation, [inaudible 00:26:46], we are [inaudible 00:26:47].

In many, there is no transparency. Using the [inaudible 00:26:52]... When they are not getting the [inaudible 00:26:58] and acting the same issue. When they are getting [inaudible 00:27:02], they are acting the same issue. In many, the
funding by the international NGO, or the international donor, or UN, or European Union, are not [inaudible 00:27:15].

This is the one of the [inaudible 00:27:17] of the region, [inaudible 00:27:20] respond about their funding issue. Now, we all have to work together to find out the solution. If you cannot [inaudible 00:27:29] the quick repartition, international NGO has the responsibility to make better solutions for Rohingya in the [foreign language 00:27:37].

We'll always see gender based violence, but we cannot implement any single strong protection, mechanism for the female. What NGO are doing in the [foreign language 00:27:48]? This is one of my question, because we always see article and their presentation, and the women are saying the common issue in the [foreign language 00:27:58] is the gender based violence. Of course, I agree on that. But I do not see their...

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [00:28:04]

Khin Maung: While, of course, I agree on that, but I do not see there are any kind of [inaudible 00:28:05] election. Thank you so much.

Wai Wai Nu: Thank you very much, [inaudible 00:28:12] Khin Maung, you touched so many important issues here from the lack of security to deteriorating livelihood conditions in the camps, as well as the lack of quality educations for refugee childrens, women and girls, and lack of freedom of movement, limiting the movement of the Rohingya refugees in the camp, even within the camps, not only going outside of the camp. So I think these are really, really great points and, in addition to that, you touch, I must say, two critical points, one around the repatriation voluntary dignify return to home, and the frustrations and concerns in Burma by the ongoing genocidal practices of the Burmese militaries, and threat from the Arakan army, and so on. And I think the last points that you touch here is really critical.

I think it's wrong hearing the voices of the Rohingya community itself and how not having the voices of the Rohingya at the center could cause misunderstanding as well as frustrations within the communities, and therefore you touch that any decision related to the Rohingya's matter, Rohingya should involve, and exclusionary tactics, whether by the governments or NGO, is not working. It's clearly saying that. So I appreciate touching those points as well as concern around the funding and shortage of funding, obvious, one of the issue that a lot of experts and humanitarian institutions are highlighting, et cetera, and misunderstanding between all of these situations. And I think these are really, really great points and we appreciate you highlighting those points. Now, I would like to turn to Dan. Dan, would you like to provide your brief remark and touch in on anything else you want to cover on the situations in the camps? Perhaps Bhasan Char situations or anything else. And also international
responses to the Rohingya crisis, including US genocide determinations and so on. So the floor is yours, Dan. Go ahead.

Daniel Sullivan: Thank you, Wai Wai, and thanks to Umme and to Khin Maung. So I'm a deputy director with Refugees International and I've been working on the Rohingya for advocacy for the better part of my career of over 20 years. And I've had the chance to work with people like Umme, and Khin Maung, and Wai Wai, and so would first just associate myself with their remarks. And you've heard directly what the camps situation is like, so what I wanted to do as an independent advocacy organization that has traveled to the camps and has worked with policy makers is to try to identify some of the key ways forward on policy. And so just briefly, I'd like to highlight five key policy priorities now, as we mark this five years since genocide against the Rohingya. First is the need to address the root causes. The same military that carried out the genocide against the Rohingya has carried out a coup and is rooting havoc all around the country.

As you've heard from the Rohingya speakers and I heard from many others, there's a very consistent note of a desire to return home to Myanmar when the conditions are safe, and when their rights are recognized and their citizenship is recognized. Unfortunately, under this military, those conditions are not there right now, so there's a real need to put international pressure on the Myanmar junta to end the abuses that continues today. And there's a number of steps that can be taken, including further coordinated, targeted sanctions, including on the oil and gas sectors, a global arms embargo, and support for accountability. And all of these measures, from a US policy perspective, are included in the Burma Act of 2021/2022, and so that is something that's in the Senate right now and something that we really urge to move forward as a very clear, direct sign to the military junta that the United States is serious about addressing these root causes. And that also includes authorization of further humanitarian aid.

Which brings me to the second main key priority is to sustain and increase the humanitarian aid that is needed because the reality is that in the short to medium term, many of the Rohingya are going to remain displaced in other countries, particularly in Bangladesh. And right now, the joint response plan for the humanitarian response in Bangladesh for the Rohingya is less than 25% funded, so there's clearly a need for sustained and increased funding. I would also expand that to other populations that have suffered in Myanmar who have been displaced, and so there's a need for increased aid, finding ways to get it into Myanmar, including one of the readily available paths across the border from Thailand. The third key priority is to ensure that Rohingya rights are respected in the camps in Bangladesh and that conditions are improved. We've heard about the concerns of lack of access to education or very limited access to education, lack of freedom of movement, including barbed wire that's been put around the main camps.
And then a very serious issue that we continue to hear and have warned about is the movement of now over 20,000 Rohingya to an island in the bay of Bengal, Bhasan Char. We continue to hear very serious concerns about how voluntary that process is, how truly informed the Rohingya who are moved there are, and how sustainable keeping people on that island really is. And I think just seeing continued reports of people trying to leave the island just shows the questions of how voluntary that really is. And as has been mentioned in terms of education, there are some opportunities used by the Bangladeshi authorities, but at the same time, we've seen private learning centers being shut down and, in the same token, livelihood opportunities where we've seen informal shops that Rohingya have set up to try to find a way to be self-reliant, we've seen those destroyed by camp authorities.

So there's a lot more that needs to be done to improve the situation. The United States and other countries can also help by working with Bangladesh to provide for resettlement of Rohingya refugees. That's not going to be a solution for the majority and, again, most Rohingya do want to go home to Myanmar, but in the intermediate term, that should be part of the solution. The fourth priority is on making sure that Rohingya are included in a future of Myanmar. It's very important that the United States support the opposition to the coup, the opposition to the military, the National Unity Government and other bodies that are representing people, but we need to make sure that the Rohingya are included in that.

We've seen, since the coup, a change in some of the attitudes that other people in Myanmar have towards the Rohingya, increased empathy, believing now what the military has done to the Rohingya and others, and that's something that the United States and others should support, but need to make sure that Rohingya are included in those future plans. And then fifth, the final priority I'd like to highlight, is the need for accountability. We've seen some very significant progress on this where the UN had a independent investigative mechanism set up, a fact-finding mission. United States, earlier this year, finally came around and had a genocide determination that what the Myanmar military has committed against the Rohingya does constitute genocide, and we've seen some funding to support collecting evidence. What needs to happen is a lot more.

First of all, the US and other countries can formally join with the case before the International Court of Justice, and just in general, I think just needing to push things forward through any path towards accountability, including through International Criminal Court or through some of the cases through universal jurisdiction that are out there. So that's a key point to addressing the issue because there can't really be a path out of genocide if you don't address this cycle impunity that has been continuing. So those are the five key priorities addressing the root causes, increasing humanitarian support, ensuring that the Rohingya rights are respected and conditions improved in the camps, including Rohingya in the future of Myanmar, and supporting accountability. I'd say that
the most immediate thing that is available to address these that captures a lot of those priorities is the Burma Act that is before the US Senate, so we just really urge that step be taken. Thank you.

Wai Wai Nu: Thank you very much, Dan, for highlighting the need to address root causes and providing us with comprehensive roadmap. And yeah, we appreciate that. Definitely Burma Act has everything that we need, almost everything that we need, and that would allow the administration to really be able to effectively support the Rohingya community in Burma and Bangladesh, as well as have more effective policy response. So now, I'd like to turn to our press media friends. If you have any questions, please raise your hand and ask questions to our speakers directly or any way you want. Please feel free to ask the questions. Raise your hand or, since we have a small group of people, you can just turn on your speakers and ask them directly as well.

So maybe we don't have any question. If that's the case, I would like to ask Umme, and Khin Maung, and Dan if you have any other topics or issues that you want to cover or add to what we have discussed already. Also, I think, a few areas that we haven't been able to touch really is around access to healthcare, and access to food and nutrition, et cetera. How the situations in the camp, how Rohingyas are surviving daily basics, and stuff like that. If you want to share anything else. And Umme also highlighted around the-

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [00:42:04]

Wai Wai Nu: Umme also highlighted the issue around people fleeing the camps and not actually reaching to the destination or safe haven in Malaysia, and why people are choosing to take this risky journey, and why, increasingly, people are choosing to leave the camps. Who will like to go first?

Daniel Sullivan: Umme, do you maybe want to take the question about concerns about people leaving the camps, why they're leaving?

Or maybe I can just start by saying, I think it's been a concern over many years that tens of thousands of people, dating before 2017 even, have left the camps in Bangladesh for Malaysia and other places. We saw, in 2015, there was a boat crisis where there were tens of thousands of people who were stranded, both Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, when there was a crackdown on some of the trafficking routes. At that time, there were countries like Thailand and Malaysia who were not allowing them to come to shore. We see that continues to be a concern where people who are stranded on boats are not always allowed to come to shore. That's another thing in the longer term that needs to be addressed, is a regional kind of agreement to allow for safe disembarkation and addressing why people are coming, and making sure that, if they have claims to asylum, they're able to pursue those.

Wai Wai Nu: Khin Maung and Umme, do you like to add anything on that?
Umme Salma: Nah, no question again. I'm Umme.

Wai Wai Nu: Increasingly, people are choosing to leave the camps to go to Malaysia, or some people are even trying to return to Myanmar by bribing the authorities and so on. It's a very small number of people who are trying to return to Myanmar, but majority of them are leaving for Malaysia, or other countries. Why do you think people are choosing to leave the camps?

Khin Maung: This is the great thing that the Rohingya community has given to the international community that we are not happy in the refugee camp. It is not enough for us. We are not safe. They destroyed their way. We lost everything. They destroyed their way. For example, if I say about the Malaysia issue, mostly the female are going there. But in the refugee camp, they have so many difficulty, in my experience. I already mentioned the gender based violence that come on in the refugee camps, but there is no protection mechanism for them. They're taking protection themselves by choosing the debt of [inaudible 00:45:42]. If we want to focus to stop the female on going to the Malaysia, first we have to address the production issue in the refugee camp. For example, there's a lot of thing when we talk with the female, we heard a lot of their family matter or general issues, but they have no way to explain to anyone what they are suffering.

This is the reason the female are going Malaysia, and for in the student. Recently, some student, when I asked them, they replied that they cannot see any future in the refugee camp, so they decide the way they can. All the people have their special reason why they are going to Malaysia, why they are going to Myanmar, but the condition in the refugee is not the place to live for the people one more second. All things are created from the refugee camp. The people are not safe at all in the night, especially the good person and the activists leaders [inaudible 00:46:53]. Leading person are not safe at all in the refugee camp. Recently, you all know, through the shoot out in the refugee camp [inaudible 00:47:04] who is called Camp 15, but their family are not getting drastic until now. Even the Mohibullah issue. His family are not getting enough justice of his massacre, his assassination and the murder. Thinking about this, these all are things we see. The thing is that people are not happy in the refugee camp. They try and decide what they can able they're going to do. Thank you.

Wai Wai Nu: Thank you very much.

Khin Maung: Another thing, for example, maybe there is some, the person who are running the project in the refugee camp, in the next two days, 25 August is the Rohingya genocide rememberary, but INGO are not willing to give one day off to their volunteer, the Rohingya people, to commemorate and celebrate 25 August Rohingya Genocide rememberary. It is very hard in our heart. The INGO are all working for us in the refugee camp, even they are not ready to give one holiday off for the volunteer to commemorate and celebrate the Rohingya genocide rememberary. We appreciate the MSF. MSF already decided for this one in the reason we made with the MSF and we have special request them, "If you are
working really for the Rohingya people, please listen one of our voice, that is, please stop working in the refugee camp 25 August, especially the Rohingya volunteers." They listen our voice. They are already oral and they are already saying that 25 August they off there for the Rohingya volunteer. They will pay on that day also. Everyone should be like that. We are willing, we are saying, we are recommending everyone. Thank you.

Wai Wai Nu: Thank you very much for Khin Maung for, I think once again, bringing up this, some of the key issues and concerns in the camp. Obviously, the deteriorating living conditions in the camps leave people with no choice but to leave the country, or the camps. People find no hope. People are losing hope in the refugee camps, and there is a stronger need for the international community to have a more comprehensive response to the Rohingya crisis that address root causes and improve the immediate living condition security concerns in the refugee camps. Just before wrapping up this session, I’d like to thank you again to our speakers for your incredible contributions and insights today, and thank you for all the work that you do.

Also, our speakers today actually has reminded us how important it is for the international community not to lose sight of Rohingya genocide, and again stepping up with the meaningful support to the displaced Rohingya survivors so that we may be able to reduce the severe consequences and human suffering, as Umme was describing in her remark earlier. I too voice their thoughts and contribution today with the hope that the perpetrators of most grave international crimes will be held accountable. As a member of the Rohingya community, I myself truly hope that the international community will pursue further actions to protect Burma’s most marginalized and vulnerable populations and prevent further atrocities from being perpetuated against them and across the country today.

Finally, I would like to thank the organizers, the refugee internationals and INGO’s partner for making this event meaningful for organizing the event, and giving the voice of the Rohingya at the center, bringing up the true voice of the Rohingya and willing to listen and hear our voices, what we have to say. Hopefully, I think this will lead us to better conditions, better situations for the Rohingya, with the Rohingya, and lead us to a better finding in finding better solutions together with the community and for the community. Hopefully, one day we will be able to bring justice. Thank you again everyone who joined us today, and I wish you all the best. Have a good day or a good evening, wherever you are.

Umme Salma: Okay. Thank you.

Sarah Sheffer: Thank you all.

PART 4 OF 4 ENDS [00:52:28]