



ARCMUN

Aristotelio College Model United Nations

Security Council

The situation in Myanmar

Study Guide

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1. Welcoming letter:

Honorable delegates,

We are extremely honored to welcome you all to this year's Security Council of ArcMUN 2019. As members of the board of the Security Council, we firmly believe that you will meet the expectations of the countries which you are appointed to represent in front of this prominent body of the United Nations. Within this study guide you will find all the necessary information and guidelines which will help you endeavor in the problematic of the situation in Myanmar. Therefore, decent preparation concerning the questions to be addressed, break-through ideas, concrete proposals and active participation are the keys for your effective contribution throughout the proceedings of the Council. We are more than positive that we will all manage to cooperate effectively, both during and prior to the conference.

We wish you all a fruitful beginning while reading this study guide; may it be the beginning of a "constructive" procedure, during in which you will accumulate knowledge, new skills and experiences to remember for a lifetime.

Should you have any queries, do not hesitate to communicate with us; we remain always at your disposal at any time during the days leading up to the official opening of ArcMUN 2019!

Kind regards,

Tatiana Kyttaroudi, Main Chair

Alexandros Pantelakos, Co-Chair

Giorgos Margaritis, Co-Chair

2. Introduction to the committee:

The Security Council, which held its first session on the 17th of January 1946, is among the six main institutions that were established by the United Nations Charter. It is its utmost duty to preserve global peace and security in any possible manner, while promoting notions such as international cooperation and respect for human rights. In the event that any of the aforementioned goals of the Council are challenged; it has the right and responsibility to take immediate and drastic action.

With the maintenance of peace and security being the Council's main objective, the latter is always ready to take several initiatives to resolve crises that have arisen. When addressing a conflict between different parties, the Security Council primarily promotes a peaceful resolution for the problem through various ways, such as establishing the principle guidelines of a peaceful agreement, sending special envoys, commencing missions and investigations, and even appealing to the Secretary General for their good offices. In the case of a more acute situation, however, the Council may opt for more intense measures i.e. call for a ceasefire, deploy a peacekeeping operation, and impose blockades, sanctions, embargoes and secession of diplomatic relations. In some cases, it is even possible that the Council undertake collective military action in accordance with the framework established by the Charter of the United Nations.¹

In terms of organization, the Security Council consists of five permanent members (the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, France and China) and ten non-permanent members who are granted a seat at the council for a two-year term following a rotating system. The current non-permanent members are: Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Peru and Poland. Each of the permanent members of the Council has veto power. This means that any important decision and resolution may be blocked (vetoed) if one of the permanent members objects to it.

Apart from aforementioned members, other countries may participate in the Council as Non-Council Members. When the Security Council considers that a country is directly affected by an issue that is being discussed, the aforementioned country may join the Council's discussions without being able to vote on any matter.

The Security Council is the only UN institution, whose resolutions and decisions are binding. Article 25 of the UN Charter states that “[all members] agree to carry out and accept the decisions of the Security Council, in accordance with the present Charter².” It, therefore, becomes evident that the Security Council plays a crucial role in preserving international peace and actively promoting it, not only through

¹Un.org. (2018). *About the United Nations Security Council*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> [Accessed 16 Dec. 2018].

²<http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/un-charter-full-text/>

intervening in instances of high international friction, but also by establishing a lasting rapport between the various nations of the world³.

3. Definition of Key Terms:

3.1 Ethnic cleansing:

Ethnic cleansing could be defined as any attempt aiming to create ethnically homogeneous geographic areas through the forcible displacement of people belonging to a particular ethnic group. Ethnic cleansing may involve practices such as the destruction of monuments, cemeteries and houses of worship of the targeted group in an attempt to minimize its presence and influence⁴.

3.2 Genocide:

The Article II of the Genocide Convention (1948) defines genocide as the deliberate and systematic destruction of a group of people because of their national, ethnic, racial or religious background.⁵ The term is not to be confused with ethnic cleansing. While the main goal of genocide is the destruction of a particular group of people, the purpose of ethnic cleansing is solely the establishment of homogeneous lands, which may be achieved by different methods including genocide.⁶

3.3 Discrimination:

By discrimination we mean the prejudicial and negative treatment of people based on their race, ethnicity, religion, sex etc.⁷ For example, religious discrimination may involve unequal treatment as regards job opportunities or may even lead to harassment through the use of abusive language and actions. Religious discrimination usually occurs against people following a religion different to that of the majority of the region they live in.⁸

3.4 Military rule:

Military rule is an authoritarian political regime in which power is held and exercised by the military. This kind of government is rarely purely military in composition.

³Forum, J. (2018). *UN Security Council*. [online] Globalpolicy.org. Available at: <https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council.html> [Accessed 16 Dec. 2018].

⁴Encyclopedia Britannica. (2018). *Ethnic cleansing / war crime*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/ethnic-cleansing> [Accessed 17 Dec. 2018].

⁵Nations, U. (2018). *United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect*. [online] Un.org. Available at: [Accessed 17 Dec. 2018].

⁶Encyclopedia Britannica. (2018). *Ethnic cleansing / war crime*. [online] Available at: [Accessed 17 Dec. 2018].

⁷Dictionary, D. (2018). *DISCRIMINATION / meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary*. [online] Dictionary.cambridge.org. Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/discrimination> [Accessed 17 Dec. 2018].

⁸Eeoc.gov. (2019). *Religious Discrimination*. [online] Available at: <https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/religion.cfm> [Accessed 6 Jan. 2019].

Instead, a number of civilian politicians is allowed to participate in it, with the armed forces always retaining the upper hand.⁹

3.5 Refugee:

A refugee is a person who is forced to flee their country in order to avoid war, persecution or natural disaster. Refugees leave their country behind, seeking safety, because their government cannot or refuses to protect them from the dangers they are facing.¹⁰ A refugee, however, is fundamentally different from a migrant. Any person that crosses an international border in order to find better living conditions, escape a natural disaster, join a family member already abroad as well as for many other purposes, is considered a migrant. Therefore, refugees are people who are forced to evacuate their country so as to save their lives and freedom, while migrants are people who move for various different reasons, most usually economic ones.¹¹

3.6 Internally displaced people (IDPs):

Internally displaced people are persons who have fled their homes in order to escape danger. Unlike refugees, IDPs have not crossed an international border to find safety but are on the run within their home country. Internally displaced people are protected by their government and retain all of their rights and protection under international human rights law.¹²

4. Introduction to the Topic:

The crisis in Myanmar has reached its peak and was in the frontline of the international news during 2017. The crisis is focused on the atrocities against the Muslim population in the wider area of the Rakhine State, the refugee crisis on the area and the general turbulence against peace, stability and human rights since the independence of Myanmar in 1948. At the same time, Myanmar has faced violence, conflict, high political tension and military coups, after 2015, against the effort for political stabilization.

The Rohingya people, which are the Muslim population in the area, have faced since the independence of the Burmese state (also known as Myanmar) oppressive and marginalizing policies, leading to an unresolved situation for many decades. The situation in Myanmar poses a great threat to peace, stability and human rights and it can be seen by a few main pillars: the conflict between the official security forces of the state and Muslim groups, the religious tension among the population, the atrocities

⁹Encyclopedia.com. (2018). *Military Regimes* | *Encyclopedia.com*. [online] Available at: [Accessed 17 Dec. 2018].

¹⁰Amnesty.org. (2018). *Refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants*. [online] Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/> [Accessed 17 Dec. 2018].

¹¹Emergency.unhcr.org. (2019). *UNHCR/Emergency Handbook*. [online] Available at: <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/250459/migrant-definition> [Accessed 6 Jan. 2019].

¹²UNHCR. (2018). *Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) - UNHCR Ukraine*. [online] Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/internally-displaced-persons> [Accessed 19 Dec. 2018].

against Rohingya civilians, the alleged genocide and ethnic cleansing supported by official UN officers and states, the humanitarian crisis and the influx of more than 1.000.000 Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

The crisis in Myanmar is a major problem of the international community and the Security Council should focus on finding a permanent solution in order to resolve the crisis after many years of turbulence.¹³

5. Historical Background:

After a long time of British colonization, Burma claimed its independence becoming an individual state in 1948. Since that time, the state has been divided into two groups, the Burmese people, which are the 2/3 of the total population, and a minority of 100 different ethnic groups, being the remaining 1/3 of the population. Until 1962, the state followed a democratic model, but in 1974 it switched into a model based into isolating and nationalizing the major enterprises¹⁴.

In 1989, the governing military junta changed the country's name from Burma to Myanmar¹⁵. The name "Burma" has been seen as an aftermath of the British colonization and it was supported that the name was offering exclusiveness to the Burma majority of the country¹⁶.

In 2008, the official authorities of the country blocked the humanitarian aid, which purpose was to support the victims of Cyclone Nargis, resulting into the doubt of the legitimacy of the regime. Furthermore, in the same year, the junta established a new constitution. However, in 2011, the junta authorities dissolved, leading into the establishment of a more democratic constitution in the country¹⁷.

The new administration brought Myanmar once again in the center of the international news. Although the political regime became more democratic, the violence on the domestic level did not decline¹⁸.

The Rohingya people:

The Rohingya are placed inside the Rakhine state in the west side of Myanmar. The population has been isolated, mistreated and discriminated by the governing

¹³Council on Foreign Relations. (2019). *Understanding Myanmar*. [online] Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/background/understanding-myanmar> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

¹⁴ibid

¹⁵News.bbc.co.uk. (2019). *BBC News - Should it be Burma or Myanmar?*. [online] Available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7013943.stm> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

¹⁶The Economist. (2019). *The Rohingya refugee crisis is the worst in decades*. [online] Available at: <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2017/09/21/the-rohingya-refugee-crisis-is-the-worst-in-decades?zid=306&ah=1b164dbd43b0cb27ba0d4c3b12a5e227> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

¹⁷Council on Foreign Relations. (2019). *Understanding Myanmar*. [online] Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/background/understanding-myanmar> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019]

¹⁸ ibid

authorities since 1940. In 1982, the population of the Rohingya people was officially stripped of its citizenship, due to the strict nationality law that was imposed. This law obliged the government to provide citizenship only to those who could provide hereditary roots to the country before 1824¹⁹.

The interesting fact is that although 135 races are recognized in Myanmar, the Rohingya people are not, and they end up to be characterized as a made-up race that historically does not exist and for this reason, they cannot claim identity in Myanmar²⁰.

6. Discussion of the topic:

Myanmar has long lived under strict military rule and experienced human rights abuses, suppression of democratic rules and values, as well as deprivation from basic goods, essential for the conduction of a decent life. The situation has undeniably come to a dead end after the events of August 2017. The army operation that took place in Rakhine State against so-called “terrorists”, has forced over a million Muslim Rohingyas to seek a safe shelter to neighboring Bangladesh, in what the United Nations called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing". The tragic outcome of the operation has, of course, stained the new government's international reputation, as well as is continuously reminding the international scene of the atrocious nature of Myanmar’s army.

6.1 Rohingya crisis:

When talking about the situation in Myanmar, the main issue focuses on the so-called “Rohingya crisis” or “Rakhine crisis”, as this is rendered the principal reason for the following aggravating results that the country is facing. The current Rohingya crisis revolves around this Muslim group not being “stateless” or, as defined by International Law, someone who is not considered a national by any state under its law²¹. Rohingyas are, thus, not legally connected to neither Myanmar nor any other state, which is translated as lacking all kinds of legal protection and not having the right to be represented in front of the court of any country, as their legal citizen²². The aforementioned practice also denotes Myanmar’s intention of not attributing the group any historical background or roots, depriving them of their fundamental rights. Since

¹⁹Aljazeera.com. (2019). *Rohingya crisis explained in maps*. [online] Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2017/09/rohingya-crisis-explained-maps-170910140906580.html> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2019].

²⁰Anon, (2017). Foreign Law Guide. [online] Available at: <http://burmacampaign.org.uk/media/Myanmar's-1982-Citizenship-Law-and-Rohingya.pdf>

²¹ Oxfordbibliographies.com. (2018). Nationality and Statelessness - International Law - Oxford Bibliographies - obo. [online] Available at: <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199796953/obo-9780199796953-0013.xml> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018]

²²(www.dw.com), D. (2018). Rohingya crisis demonstrates consequences of statelessness | DW | 02.11.2017. [online] DW.COM. Available at: <https://www.dw.com/en/rohingya-crisis-demonstrates-consequences-of-statelessness/a-41212883> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

it is clear that, being stateless, is a prominent violation of human rights, specifically the right to nationality, as defined by article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “*Everyone has the right to a nationality*”²³.

Apart from being stateless, Rohingya are also facing mistreatment and other atrocities of such gravity in Myanmar, that the case has been referred to by the international community as “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide”²⁴. The United Nations are strengthening this view with a Report, in which they cite the crimes for which the government and military are being held accountable for: murder, enforced disappearance, torture and sexual violence “perpetrated on a massive scale”²⁵. The same report presents proof that Myanmar’s armed forces called Tatmadaw are responsible for the most severe crimes of international law in the regions of Kachin and Shan, where internal conflicts are continuously taking place.

6.2 Rohingya refugee issue:

Bearing the above in mind, it is logical to understand the reason why millions of Rohingyas are seeking shelter abroad, in an effort to escape from the violence against them. Furthermore, it is also important to acknowledge the fact that not all of them have had the chance of fleeing away. On August 2017, Rohingya Arsa militants launched deadly attacks on more than 30 police posts, an event characterized as “area clearance operations”²⁶. As a result, troops backed by the country’s Buddhist groups, responded through burning Rohingya villages and attacking the habitants. The outcome of the event was at least 6,700 killings of Rohingya population, among them hundreds of children²⁷. It was this disturbing effect that made the international community asked for Myanmar’s officials to come before trial for the horrendous violations²⁸.

²³ Ohchr.org. (2018). [online] Available at:

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

²⁴ the Guardian. (2018). Myanmar's military must be prosecuted for Rohingya 'ethnic cleansing', UN told. [online] Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/29/myanmars-military-must-be-prosecuted-for-rohingya-ethnic-cleansing-un-told> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

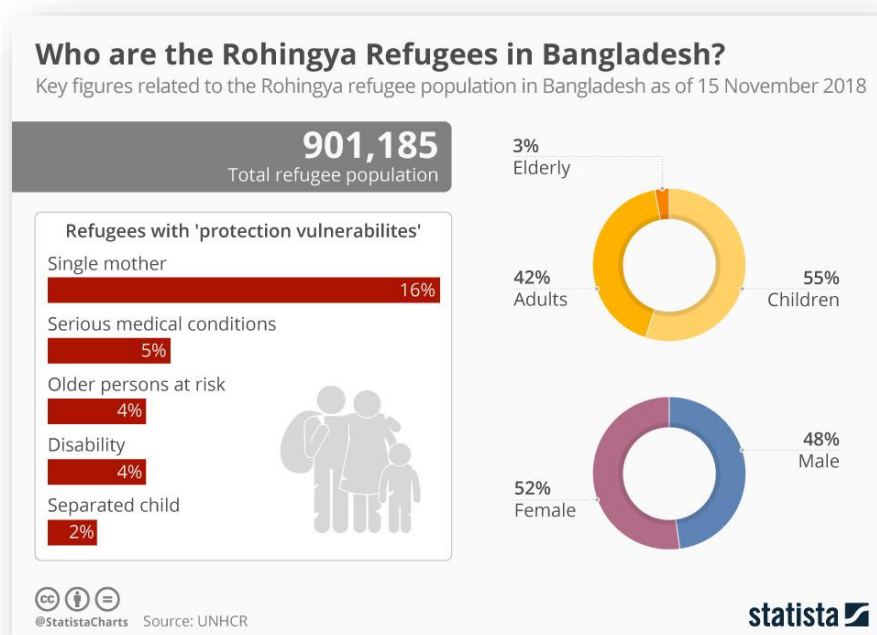
²⁵ the Guardian. (2018). Myanmar's military must be prosecuted for Rohingya 'ethnic cleansing', UN told. [online] Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/29/myanmars-military-must-be-prosecuted-for-rohingya-ethnic-cleansing-un-told> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

²⁶ United States Institute of Peace. (2018). Myanmar’s Armed Forces and the Rohingya Crisis. [online] Available at: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/08/myanmars-armed-forces-and-rohingya-crisis> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].]

²⁷ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International. (2018). Myanmar/Bangladesh: MSF surveys estimate that at least 6,700 Rohingyas were killed during the attacks in Myanmar | Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International. [online] Available at: <https://www.msf.org/myanmarbangladesh-msf-surveys-estimate-least-6700-rohingya-were-killed-during-attacks-myanmar> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

²⁸ United States Institute of Peace. (2018). Myanmar’s Armed Forces and the Rohingya Crisis. [online] Available at: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/08/myanmars-armed-forces-and-rohingya-crisis> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

Those who escaped the turmoil became refugees in the quest of a hosting state. Bangladesh in particular, has been the major recipient of Rohingya refugees ever since the clashes started taking place. More specifically, according to the latest statistics of November 2018 and as shown in the chart below, there are almost 1 million Rohingya refugees seeking shelter in Bangladesh²⁹, whereas various other countries in Asia and the Middle East are also hosting Rohingya. As reported by UNCHR, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, India, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are accumulating a total of 756,000 Rohingya refugees³⁰. Around 120,000 of them are still in the Rakhine state as Internally Displaced



Persons³¹.

Yet, not matter the quest for a better future, the conditions that the Rohingya are welcomed by, are not the best. On the one hand, the situation the group is facing during border control appears to be extremely harsh. Rohingya arriving from Myanmar have continuously reported incidents of harassment, violence, detention and registration as “non-citizens”³². On the other hand, and throughout their being hosted, kidnappings³³, abductions³⁴, diseases³⁵ are just some of the problems that Rohingya

²⁹ Data2.unhcr.org. (2018). Situation Refugee Response in Bangladesh. [online] Available at: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar_refugees [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

³⁰ Aljazeera.com. (2018). Rohingya crisis explained in maps. [online] Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2017/09/rohingya-crisis-explained-maps-170910140906580.html> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

³¹ ibid

³² Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International. (2018). Bangladesh Rohingya crisis update – September 2018 | Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International. [online] Available at: <https://www.msf.org/bangladesh-rohingya-crisis-update-september-2018> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

³³ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International. (2018). Bangladesh: Emergence of diphtheria worsens situation of Rohingya refugees | Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International. [online] Available at:

have to endure in Bangladesh, since the structures are now deemed inadequate for the immense amount of refugees that are arriving.

6.3 The country's armed forces case (Tatmadaw):

It is also worth noting that, even if a case of a tribunal against Tatmadaw arises, there will be extremely difficult legal obstacles to overcome, so as to convict them. Since these armed security forces are functioning in a hierarchic way, it is always imperative to ask who is delivering the orders and distinguish them from the person that acts on behalf. One would argue that, evidently, it is the commander-in-chief that is the responsible for any action the troop commits. Yet, the reality of Tatmadaw is more complex, as the forces are comprised of two-sub groups; one operates in a more formal way, following regulations, while the other serves its mission more informally, not abiding by specific rules³⁶. Since the orders, under which Tatmadaw are acting, are official rules by the state, it would take a constitutional reform to impede human rights abuses³⁷. Until then, the Tatmadaw will continue on attacking the press, which is trying to reveal the true events, but also arresting peace activists, ones that are exercising their right to peaceful assembly³⁸.

6.4 The role of the government:

Finally, what is the role of the legitimate government in the whole situation?

Unfortunately, from 1962 till 2011, Myanmar was under dictatorship and the military on rule arrested democratic advocates, including the country's current State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi³⁹. On a way to democracy, 2008 was the year when a constitutional reform allocated ¼ of the Parliament's seats to the military⁴⁰. It was also the same year that Aung San Suu Kyi was back in the public light. The above prospect was a positive way towards creating a representative democracy, a Republic; nevertheless, according to the existing Constitution, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces is, in many cases, above the President⁴¹. It is, thus, clear to understand why the situation in Myanmar is as it is, with minimum chances of a long-term, sustainable solution.

<https://www.msf.org/bangladesh-emergence-diphtheria-worsens-situation-rohingya-refugees>

[Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

³⁴ *ibid*

³⁵ *ibid*

³⁶ United States Institute of Peace. (2018). Myanmar's Armed Forces and the Rohingya Crisis. [online] Available at: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/08/myanmars-armed-forces-and-rohingya-crisis> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

³⁷ Altsean.org. (2018). [online] Available at: <http://altsean.org/Ongoing%20Attacks%20Factsheet.pdf> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

³⁸ *ibid*

³⁹ Jamie Tarabay, C. (2018). Myanmar's military: The power Aung San Suu Kyi can't control. [online] CNN. Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/21/asia/myanmar-military-the-real-power/index.html> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

⁴⁰ *ibid*

⁴¹ *ibid*

7. Actions already taken:

The gravity of the situation in Myanmar only renders actions of help and relief imperative. Long term solutions are difficult to be achieved, as this is something that will happen on a national level. However, governments, non-governmental organizations and international organs have extensively made efforts to ameliorate the conditions in Myanmar and in the countries where the Rohingya are being hosted.

To begin with, since 2012, the United States Institute of Peace is working on various sectors in Burma (Myanmar), so as to increase conflict resolution skills, bolster justice institutions, as well as establish peace through training and educational programs⁴². To be more exact, applied research takes place in the Rakhine state, in an effort to address violence and human rights abuses. What is more, the institution is working on empowering local religious leaders, so as to prevent cleavages caused by religion. Ensuring safe elections is one more sector of USIP's work, as the newly democratic country is definitely in need of assistance during elections, preventing violent incidents from happening⁴³.

The United Nations have for long worked in response to the tragedy that is taking place in Myanmar. First of all, the international community as a whole demand immediately addressing the issue legally, condemning Myanmar's armed forces for "genocide" and crimes against humanity⁴⁴. Furthermore, organs under the auspices of the United Nations, for example the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has introduced the "Bangladesh Rohingya Emergency" initiative, offering Rohingya refugees' access to shelter, clean water, health care, education and, generally, sustainable conditions of living⁴⁵.

In the United Kingdom, the Disasters Emergency Committee, apart from being engaged in aiding the hosting structures in Bangladesh, has also launched the "Burma Raising Campaign" in order to further fund their goal, which is no other than helping people in need⁴⁶. The charity appeal was indeed successful, as the amount of 30 million dollars was raised and donated to member charities, allowing the building of shelters and the provision of food, clean water and sanitation to Rohingya refugees⁴⁷.

⁴² United States Institute of Peace. (2018). The Current Situation in Burma. [online] Available at: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/06/current-situation-burma> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

⁴³ ibid

⁴⁴ Ohchr.org. (2018). OHCHR | Myanmar: Tatmadaw leaders must be investigated for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes – UN report. [online] Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23475&LangID=E> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

⁴⁵ UNHCR. (2018). Bangladesh Rohingya Emergency - UNHCR Philippines. [online] Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/ph/campaigns/rohingya-emergency> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

⁴⁶ BBC News. (2018). UK charities launch Myanmar Muslims appeal. [online] Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41487898> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

⁴⁷ Disasters Emergency Committee. (2018). People Fleeing Myanmar. [online] Available at: <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/people-fleeing-myanmar> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

Finally, the European Union, is thriving to aid Myanmar in its effort to succeed in its democratic transition but is also engaging in human rights issues through dialogues since 2014, particularly focusing on the case of Rohingya⁴⁸. The Union, after having formed a close relationship with the country's military forces, paying visits to each other and following the devastating events of August 2017, to suspend invitations to the Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar armed forces and other senior military officers and to review all practical defense cooperation⁴⁹. On 2018, the Council condemned the atrocities and human rights abuses against Rohingya by Tatmadaw and affirmed its position to limit its assistance in defense systems to the necessary minimum, in order to strengthen the democratic principles and protect human rights⁵⁰.

8. Conclusion:

The threat that the situation in Myanmar poses for both its future and the international community is immense. The Rohingya have suffered the most severe implications, but Aung San Suu Kyi and her government, the security forces and the people of Myanmar have all lost their share, in different ways. Despite the high hopes following the 2015 elections, Myanmar has not moved forward, away from its dark past. This, of course, poses real challenges for long-term, sustainable solutions.

All of Myanmar's governments have resisted external pressures to adopt or adapt to particular policies. And this is unlikely to change, within the framework of the current constitution. The challenges that the current administration has to face are unbearable, with an international verdict concerning the atrocities that took place pending. Aung San Suu Kyi and her rest officials have to deal with a radical re-building of the state, engaging with a new legislative procedure, physical infrastructure and grounds of security, in order to attract foreign investments that will boost local economy. Yet, unless attitudes in Myanmar shift significantly, a fair and durable solution to the Rohingya crisis, as well as the desirable, full legal accounting for past events, will remain a distant prospect.

9. Points to be addressed:

⁴⁸ EEAS - European External Action Service. (2018). EU-Myanmar relations - EEAS - European External Action Service - European Commission. [online] Available at: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/4004/EU-Myanmar%20relations [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

⁴⁹ *ibid*

⁵⁰ Data.consilium.europa.eu. (2018). [online] Available at: <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6418-2018-INIT/en/pdf> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2018].

- What role can international organizations, and especially the United Nations, play in targeting the issue with immediate and long-term solutions?
- Could, and how, an international criminal tribunal be ensured, so as to condemn the human rights abuse and attribute justice to the victims in Myanmar?
- How can the statelessness of the Rohingya be effectively addressed?
- Could a national reconciliation take place between the armed forces and the government? How?
- What should be the role of the international community in efficiently restoring democratic structures in Myanmar?
- What humanitarian action plan should be developed, so as to target the suffering of the refugee Rohingya population in Bangladesh, but also elsewhere?
- What are the steps that must be taken, so as to prevent The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) from becoming an extremist organization?

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*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

– Margaret Mead