

12 months of nightmare across Naaf

Altaf Parvez

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Rohingyas crossed Naaf river by risking their lives while fleeing Myanmar to survive a genocide. photo: Reuters.

The world might have forgotten the Rohingya genocide. Myanmar government is the one who reminded us about it by declaring more military appearance and curfew in Maungdaw and Buthidaung last week. 'Irrawaddy', a popular news agency of Myanmar wrote based on their ground assessment that police and army increased their force recently in Maungdaw and Buthidaung.

Curfew has been ruling during 10 pm to 6 am for the last 12 months in those two 'once Rohingya-populated' township of South Arakan. The capital Naypyidaw said, it would continue for another two months. That means, until the next October the curfew will be imposed in the night.

The Rakhine cruelty of August 2017 is once again reminded by this declaration of the government of Myanmar that it is going to be one year. Irrawaddy referred that the government of Myanmar turned some of the burnt Rohingya villages into army garrisons. That means, within this one year all the evidences of Rohingya habitation is erased from those villages forever. The rest of the villages are bulldozed and are confined. The UN Secretary General called this military raid as 'the worst nightmare in the human history' which was operated in these villages by the Myanmar military in August-September last year.

Fictitious 'ARSA' is no more

The people of the world know that the curfew was imposed in Rakhine state/ Arakan in the aftermath of the attack happened on 25th August 2017 by a group called 'ARSA'. Rohingya cleansing mission is started right after the so-called attack of ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) on some outposts of Myanmar Police. Surprisingly, ARSA who's 'terrorist attack' was said to be the main

reason behind making Arakan free from Rohingyas, is never appeared in the news media in the last few months.

ARSA never posted any 'twit' after last July in the social media, twitter. It is suspicious that the twitter account of ARSA was opened in March. The quick appearance and silence of this overrated 'terrorist' organization ARSA raised the question that did Rohingya really ever have an organization named ARSA? Due to the lack of credible evidence about ARSA on the ground, many security analysts suspect that those attacks in August was designed basically to evict the Rohingyas from Arakan. ARSA was just a false flag.



Rohingya houses are set fire in Rakhine. photo: Reuters.

However, even though there is no real existence of ARSA, showing the shadow-fight against it Myanmar forced Bangladesh to take responsibility of nearly 800,000 Rohingyas and still they are spreading ARSA-fear in Myanmar.

The government of Myanmar is also trying to gain sympathy of the international community by showing they are under attack of 'Islamic Terrorism'. That 'International Community' kind of failed to take specific steps based on justice for Rohingyas except some verbal sympathy and relief.

Investigation, Justice, Repatriation of the refugees- nothing happened

The biggest and primary failure of the world leaders about the Rohingya issue is nothing is done for an impartial and authentic investigation on the genocide until today. Even Myanmar was never asked for a proper investigation. Myanmar denied the UN investigation initiative on the first place. Only last month they informed the media

that they have formed an impartial commission of inquiry to find out what happened in Arakan in the aftermath of August 2017 incidents. A Filipino diplomat Rosario Manalo, the chief of the 4-member inquiry commission said last week, they hope to deliver an investigation report on the crisis within one year. Even if the hope is true, the world need to wait another year to get an overview on the brutal incidents happened last year in Arakan. And the result as well as the future of this kind of inquiry largely depends on how much the Myanmar military will cooperate the team. Two of the four-member commission is from Myanmar. That's why the doubt will be always there, will these Myanmar nationals be able to demonstrate the humanitarian crimes committed by their own country?

The initiative for justice for the Rohingyas taken by the International Criminal Court (ICC) based in Hague was not successful either. The objective was to proceed the trial would be facilitated by the strong role of Bangladesh, as Myanmar is not a member of ICC. Myanmar committed a 'crime' by forcing several hundreds of thousands of their citizen to cross the Bangladesh border this could be brought under ICC trail, thought the international law experts. As the ICC member country and being an affected by the systematic terrorism of Myanmar, Bangladesh had a legal ground to demand justice for what happened in Arakan last year. But during the last 12 months Bangladesh has been involved in the bilateral solution of the 'crisis'. As a result, the jurisdiction of ICC over the Myanmar was gradually weakened. Myanmar have been able to overlook the process of ICC trail through their massive propaganda on the 'understanding' with Bangladesh. Naypydaw authority declared to deny the ICC trial last July.

Myanmar has been deceiving the international community about their intention to resolve the Rohingya crisis through the agreement with two UN agencies including UNDP alongside Bangladesh government. In reality, those agreements have never been able to play any role more than being just papers. But, by dint of those papers Myanmar and its armed forces are almost exempted from the allegation of killing 6,700 Rohingyas including at least 730 children.

The second option of bringing the Rohingya genocide under trail was the Security Council of UN to pursue the matter to ICC. That was not successful either due to the persuasion of China and Russia. China, India and Russia, the three friends of Dhaka has been supporting Myanmar since the very beginning on the Rohingya issue and

the Bangladeshi diplomats have been hardly able to change their friends' mind. The result is neither any Rohingya repatriation is happened until today nor any environment is created on the other side of Naaf for this.



*Satellite image of the burnt Rohingya villages.
photo: Reuters.*

Uncertain future

Though opposing to the China-Russia-India position on the Rohingya issue, USA-EU-Canada are in favour of taking strong measures against Myanmar, it is hardly manifested in their activities. After 365 days of the incident they only declared the blockades against 4 of the military commanders and two military units who took part in the raid in Arakan. The real value of this kind of steps are very insignificant and funny. There is no scope to believe that few military officer and soldiers were able to kill thousands of people and raped thousands of women without any prior decision or approval of the highest military or civil authority of the country. It is understandable that, USA really don't want to push Myanmar to China by taking harder steps against them. The geo-political and trade attraction of Myanmar is more alluring than the justice for the several hundred-thousand of Rohingya Muslims.

Rohingyas in the refugee camps seems like they got rid of the verbosity of the international diplomats about them. Tired and frustrated refugees are now almost surrendered to the fate. Fighting against the vulnerability of monsoon, they are getting prepared for the winter. Newborns are being added every day to some 800,000 people who left their homeland. Neither they have any state-identity, nor the world have any obligation to take their responsibility. Who other than Rohingyas have seen the inhuman face of the world under their human mask?

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Barkat Ullah Maruf, COAST Trust