



North South University

Canada



# ROLE OF ASEAN AND OTHER REGIONAL FORUMS IMPACTING ROHINGYA CRISIS

## Background

The Rohingya crisis is not only a bilateral issue between Myanmar and Bangladesh but has become a regional and global crisis which needs to be resolved in a holistic manner. This is a humanitarian crisis that requires the attention of the global political powers (China, India, and USA).



Email: [cps@northsouth.edu](mailto:cps@northsouth.edu)



## Challenges

- i. Sustainability of ASEAN's regional stability and collective human security is the unresolved issue of the crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine state resulting in the massive displacement and denial of the basic rights of the Rohingya minority.
- ii. ASEAN has not taken any meaningful steps since Myanmar became a member of ASEAN.
- iii. There is a high level of intolerance and unwillingness to discuss the Rohingya crisis even though it involves serious violations of human rights, genocide, and crimes against humanity. Simply on the ground of non-interference—one of the principles governing ASEAN—Myanmar continues to do what it wants to do.



## Recommendations

- i. Advancing partnerships for sustainability is a timely and critical one that would provide opportunities for ASEAN to demonstrate its leadership on both global and regional challenges
- ii. Initiatives should be taken for ASEAN to redefine the consensus and non-interference principle, and grant a greater mandate to ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)
- iii. ASEAN must ask Myanmar to guarantee the safe, dignified and voluntary return while at the same time not be used as a means of expediting returns by any means, especially when the conditions that perpetuated the statelessness, discrimination and denial of basic human rights that forced the Rohingya to flee in the first place have not been addressed
- iv. ASEAN should act hand-in-hand with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) campaign in defending the rights of refugees at the international level
- v. ASEAN must address and hold Myanmar responsible for the persecution, oppression, genocide, crimes against humanity, and violation of human rights. ASEAN must pressure Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis which is of regional and global concern
- vi. Oratory, rhetoric and the resolutions of the crimes committed against the Rohingya are already beyond proved. What is fundamental now is to enforce all decisions against the perpetrators of the crimes i.e. the government of Myanmar, political leaders and military.

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Based on the paper presented by  
**Dr. Syed Hamid Albar**  
Former Foreign Minister of Malaysia