



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Displaced Muslims in Myanmar (Burma)

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- ❖ Rohingya, a Muslim minority in a Buddhist majority Burma, face some of the worst discrimination in the world according to human rights groups.¹
- ❖ Communal violence against the Rohingya Muslim community spread during 2013. More than 12,000 people were displaced by the violence.²
- ❖ The Burmese government has not amended the 1982 Citizenship law that effectively denies citizenship to Rohingya people.²
- ❖ In 2013, an estimated 400,000 internally displaced persons remained in eastern Burma and 130,000 refugees in the camps along the Thailand-Burma border², where Rohingya refugees are excluded from resettlement camps.³ There are about 500,000 Rohingya living in refugee camps in Bangladesh under poor conditions.⁴
- ❖ In the Arakan state of Burma, a total of 200 Muslims have been killed since 2012 and 140,000 remain homeless, living in camps with few resources or services.⁴ Buddhist and Muslim communities in Arakan have been segregated and many of the Muslim districts were razed and emptied in 2012 by violent Buddhist mobs.⁵
- ❖ Security forces in Myanmar have subjected Muslim men and women into forced labor..⁶
- ❖ According to a U.S. Department of State 2012 human rights report, Burmese officials have kidnapped Rohingya women and forced them into slavery on Military bases.⁶
- ❖ In Sütwe, the capital city of the Rakhine State of Myanmar, approximately one half of the people fleeing the cities drastic conditions have been women and children.⁶
- ❖ Government officials in Burma have enforced explicitly racist policies against the Rohingya, such as marriage restrictions and no freedom of movement.⁷
- ❖ In 2013, the UN estimates that some 30,000 Rohingya fled Burma by boat, with hundreds having down. Tens of thousands are believed to have taken the same risk in 2014.⁸

¹<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/05/2013515135540416852.html>

²<http://www.hrw.org/world-report-%5Bscheduler-publish-yyyy%5D/world-report-2014-burma>

³ <http://www.rcusa.org/rohingya-refugees>

⁴<http://burmatimes.net/being-a-muslim-woman-in-myanmar/>

⁵<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/feb/26/burma-security-forces-rape-arakan>

⁶http://www.huffingtonpost.com/engy-abdelkader/human-trafficking-rohingya-women_b_4501815.html

⁷<http://uscampaignforburma.org/about-burma/conflict-and-human-rights/rohingya-ethnic-cleansing.html>

⁸<http://endgenocide.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/marching-to-genocide-in-burma.pdf>