



Click the photo to watch a short, but moving, report published by *The New York Times* in 2017, shortly after the genocide mass exodus began.

A Shameful Genocide by Myanmar Buddhists! The Rohingya Refugees Urgently Need Your Help



There are more than one million Rohingya refugees in the camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Conditions in these camps are almost unbearable, but the majority of the refugees have been staying there for nine years. For a few months in 2017-18, when the genocide in Myanmar began, the world paid attention to this crisis. Some Western Buddhist groups, human rights organizations, and journalists visited the camps. There were urgent calls for assistance, and many articles appeared in newspapers, magazines, and journals. TV news graphically exposed the horror of the brutal genocide in Myanmar, with burned villages, slaughtered families, and raped women and girls. Fanatical Buddhist monks under Wirathu's leadership labeled Rohingyas "Bingalis," despite their having lived in Myanmar even before British rule, and urged their expulsion and/or slaughter. (Rohingya is not included among the 135 animist, Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim ethnic groups on the official list in Myanmar.) Since 2018, there has been little coverage of the genocide or the refugee situation, and relief aid has been highly inadequate. Recently, largely due to President Trump's end to USAID funding, NGOs and the United Nations have had to reduce or suspend many programs. Food has become critically scarce. Hospitals have had to curtail their services. One hospital even closed completely! With serious medical problems, refugee patients must go to Bangladeshi hospitals, where treatment is expensive. The Rohingya have organized their own schools and training programs, but, for these, they need funding. In desperation, some refugees have fled the camps by boat, hoping to find educational or employment opportunities and a better life elsewhere, but few have succeeded, and many lives have been lost at sea.

Almost all Rohingya want to return to Myanmar, where they have lived for generations, but, until the military regime or a new government is forced to recognize their identity and to guarantee their rights, that is impossible. In order to survive in the camp, they urgently need food, clean water, medicine, and money for other basic needs and to continue their social programs. In cooperation with a dedicated Australian aid worker who is thoroughly familiar with camp conditions, Buddhist Relief Mission has a secure and reliable conduit for sending aid directly to the refugees. We appeal to our donors and supporters for contributions to help these refugees in distress. Thank you all for your generosity and compassion.

Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!



Buddhist Relief Mission, which we established to assist Indochinese refugees after having worked as teacher trainers in camps in Thailand and the Philippines, is a small organization with no staff and no overhead expenses. One hundred per cent of the money we receive goes to relief projects. For donors in the United States, contributions are tax deductible.



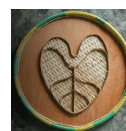
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THE TARO LEAF:
A Symbol for the Rohingya Experience

Click the leaf for a video explaining the symbolism

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May you receive all blessings. May the devas protect you. By the power of the Buddha, the Dhamma, and the Sangha, may you enjoy well-being.



Buddhist Relief Mission

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