



"If EU leaders speak and act now, there's a chance the [Ethnic Cleansing](#) could end before the last [Myanmar Rohingya](#) is killed, captured or exiled.
Tun Khin, Oct 12th 2017

The Rohingya Genocide

The Twenty-First Century's Genocidal shame by Martha Brolly, Shaivi Thakur and Amelia Jackson, Yr 8

The Myanmar Rohingya Genocide is one of the twenty-first century's most tragic, and traumatic events with an official 400 dead so far and 43,000 missing, presumed to be dead. Not only has the Rohingya genocide, also known as the 'clearance project', killed and discriminated against thousands of Rohingya but it has also caused 700,000 people to flee from Myanmar to Bangladesh. As well as this, on the 4th September 2017, the UN said that aid agencies had been blocked from delivering supplies to thousands of civilians in the Northern area of Myanmar.

The Rohingya people are an ethnic Muslim group living in Rhakine, a Western State in Myanmar. Myanmar is mainly Buddhist and the Rohingya are viewed as being illegal immigrants from Bangladesh despite some Rohingya communities having lived in Rhakine for centuries. The country has consequently rejected them and

the Rohingya people have been persecuted and forced to endure 'ethnic cleansing' when Myanmar's military dealt appalling attacks and massacres against them.

The 'clearance project' began back in 2016 and has provoked systematic discrimination and left hundreds of families devastated. However, this prejudice has been going on for longer than the past two years- for decades ethnic tensions have simmered in Rhakine State, with frequent outbreaks of violence. In 1948 the first persecutions started as this was the year that the country gained independence from Britain.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), killed almost 100 civilians in Myanmar's Rhakine State in August 2017 right before Myanmar's militants began their 'ethnic cleansing' campaign. Both the ARSA and the military have been involved in the Rohingya genocide and

more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled the atrocities against their people and they have crossed over to Bangladesh, thus sparking a major humanisation crisis.

The reason for the mass murders, torture, gang rapes and arson towards the Rohingya people is only because they are different, they have different ethnicities and cultures so they have been shunned from the country that they call home. They have been stripped of their basic human rights, are starving to death and still having to escape by boat or by foot. As Myanmar's population is 88-90% Buddhist and only 4% are Muslims, there have been discriminative issues since the 1970's, but only recently has the ARSA and Myanmar's military 'ethnic cleansing' campaign begun to commit genocide towards the Rohingya.



So what can we learn from these dreadful events?

Some extremist Buddhist monks are preaching that the Rohingya were reincarnated from snakes and insects and that the killing of them is not a sin as it is just like exterminating rodents; **we cannot ignore the fact that people are being so careless that they believe, and are comparing, human beings being killed as just 'necessary pest control'.**

All genocides follow a similar pattern and we need to understand the signs so that we can act before something as devastating as this happens again. Situations like this always start off with dehumanization campaigns that then get larger and larger and eventually lead to mass genocides like this. This is shown in this particular case for the reason that the discrimination against the Rohingya has been going on for decades, but nothing has been done about it, therefore, countries all over the world are realising again, that all acts have consequences. Unless powerful nations take action, we will continue to watch situations like this and others happen before our very eyes and do nothing. It is easy to speak the platitude 'Never Again' when learning about and commemorating the Holocaust and other genocides yet it is our actions and deeds that will ensure this is more than just a comforting phrase.

