

Ellis, Alex

From: Ellis, Alex
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Kenneth.Roth@hrw.org; Siftonj@hrw.org
Subject: Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Dear Mr. Roth & Mr. Sifton,

Please consider the below response letter from Shah Alom Khokon the Counsellor (Political & Press) for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

Human Rights Watch is wrong when it [claims](#) that Bangladesh has violated its agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in relocating Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char. HRW's charge is doubly perplexing because the agreement isn't public. How can it possibly know?

In any case, Bangladesh is not forcibly relocating refugees. Also, Bhasan Char is not "flood-prone," as HRW asserts. Water levels fluctuate seasonally and with storm activity, causing shorelines to retreat and extend a matter of feet. But the char never submerges. To guard against storm surges, the Bangladesh government has built earthen berms 8 feet high and 8 miles long around the facility.

The recent U.N. resolution, "The Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar", demands that Myanmar's authorities address the root causes of the Rohingya crisis. We encourage Human Rights Watch to do the same. The Rohingya are Myanmar nationals. They must return to Myanmar. The government of Bangladesh is doing its best to offer them safety and security in the meantime. The international community must engage with Myanmar and compel it to commence repatriation.

Sincerely,

Shah Alom Khokon
Counsellor (Political & Press)
Embassy of Bangladesh
Washington, D.C.

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