

**Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wazed  
Prime Minister of Bangladesh  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Old Sangsad Bhaban  
Tejagaon, DHAKA-1215**



Dear Honorable Prime Minister,

We, at the Organization for World Peace, recognize Bangladesh's role in providing protracted shelter and support to hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, as well as your leadership in providing humanitarian assistance. As we understand that the Bhasan Char relocation signifies your government's dedication in providing a solution for the overcrowding in the Cox Bazaar District, we call upon your government to conduct these relocations under a rights-respecting framework.

As these ill-planned relocations are being carried out without the consent of the refugees concerned, Bangladesh is violating its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. (ICCPR). Furthermore, as NGOs and humanitarian aid agencies cannot dispense assistance until independent assessments of Bhasan Char deem the island habitable, such a setup would further exacerbate the problems of overcrowding and poor conditions that the Bangladesh government is aiming to solve.

We voice these concerns in light of the risk of an outbreak of Covid-19, which would only intensify these conditions further. Lack of medical support and access to water, combined with the absence of adequate humanitarian interventions, will only breed a super-spreader situation. Furthermore, as the Bangladesh government has restricted mobile communications and internet access in the camps, Rohingya refugees are denied access to information, and are disempowered in making informed choices for their wellbeing and awareness – including necessary updates on the situation in Bhasan Char.

Inconclusive information regarding human rights and aid groups' involvement, conditions rife for a Covid-19 outbreak, and the Rohingya refugees being unable to make decisions free of coercion and misinformation, are all factors aggravating this situation. We believe that support from the UN, NGOs, and humanitarian aid agencies can help the Bangladesh government protect the refugee population from a Covid-19 outbreak, while not only upholding the Rohingya Refugees' rights, health, and safety, but also honoring Bangladesh's duty to the ICCPR.

With the above considered, we urge your government to:

- **Allow the UN to conduct technical and safety assessments in Bhasan Char;**
- **Develop and implement a framework for protection, assistance, and services that refugees need in Bhasan Char, as well as a plan on how the UN and other humanitarian aid agencies can operationally engage with the Bhasan Char project; and**

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- **Outline in a publicly-accessible, transparent and rights-respecting policy framework the participation of Rohingya refugees in the decisions that affect them.**

The UN has voiced its willingness to continue a dialogue of cooperation with the Bangladesh government's engagement, as well as understanding the Bhasan Char plan. Allowing the UN comprehensive technical protection assessments to be conducted enables the UN and the Bangladesh government to devise a framework for protection, assistance, and services that the refugees would need to live on the island.

We thank you for your attention to this letter. We believe that the Bangladesh government will consider rights-respecting policies for the Rohingya refugees, and continue to support them with the international community's responsibility in mind.

Yours sincerely,

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The Organization for World Peace