

Who are the Rohingya and why are they fleeing?

1) They have been raped, tortured and killed. They have been crowded on boats and ping-ponged between nations that don't want them. They have been forced into labor and have no rights to their land. Rohingya Muslims are among the most persecuted people in the world, and once again, they find themselves running for their lives. (torture 拷問にかける persecute (特に異端者などを) 迫害する)

2) In the Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, fierce clashes between security forces and Rohingya militants left hundreds dead and entire villages torched to the ground. (torch 放火する)

3) Since August 25, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled over the border into Bangladesh, the UN says, as the military intensifies its clampdown on the minority group. UN human-rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein described the actions as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing." (clampdown 弾圧、締め付け)

Who are the Rohingya?

4) The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic-minority group that has lived as a people in Myanmar for centuries. Today, more than a million of them live in the country, most in the western coastal state of Rakhine, where they make up around a third of the population. They speak their own language, which isn't recognized by the state.

5) There are regular clashes between the Rohingya and the country's security forces, as well as other ethnic groups in Rakhine, which are predominantly Buddhist. Rohingya militant groups are often involved in the clashes. (predominantly 圧倒的に、優勢に)

6) Even Buddhist monks have been accused of inciting violence against the Rohingya there and led a boycott movement against them during deadly clashes in 2012. A community of Rohingya refugees also lives in Bangladesh and some migrate to Malaysia, where they typically work illegally. (incite 煽動する)

Why aren't they recognized as Burmese?

7) The government in Myanmar refuses to recognize the Rohingya as citizens, claiming that they are Bangladeshi or Bengali. The UN and rights groups have long accused the government of ethnic cleansing through its repressive policies.

8) Having had such a long history in Myanmar, the ethnicity of the Rohingya is more complex than the government makes out. (make out 理解する、認識する)

9) The government has argued that the Rohingya descend from farmers from what is now called Bangladesh. Many arrived in large numbers during British rule, from 1824 to 1948, when Myanmar was considered a province of British-administered India. The Rohingya were sent there as laborers, in what Britain considered an internal migration. (descend from ~ ~の血統である)

10) Many Rohingya, however, say they are descendants of Muslim traders who can be traced back to the ninth century. In reality, there is likely to be a mix of ethnicities among them. (descendant 子孫)

11) When Myanmar gained independence in 1948, the Rohingya were able to apply for identity cards, which offered some rights, and some even served in Parliament.

12) But after a military coup in 1962, the Rohingya lost this status and were considered foreigners. They were granted foreign identity cards. (grant 公式に与える)

13) In 1982, a citizenship law allowed the Rohingya to apply for citizenship only if they could speak an officially recognized language and had proof their family had lived in the country before independence. But most Rohingya were never granted the paperwork to prove their roots, so they were effectively rendered stateless. (render (目的補語を伴って) ~にする =make)

What is life like for them in Myanmar?

14) The Rohingya have faced repression since the 1970s, but more intensively since 2011, when the government transformed from a military administration to a civilian one. (repression 鎮圧、抑制)

15) There had been hope at that time that their situation would improve, but their repression has only intensified. They remain left off a national list of 135 recognized ethnicities in Myanmar.

16) Now, the Rohingya don't have access to the same resources and services that Myanmar's predominantly Buddhist citizens do. Despite this lack of recognition, they are not allowed to leave their settlements in Rakhine without government approval.

17) Many live in Rakhine in impoverished camps, and others spend periods in internally displaced people's settlements in other states after fleeing violence. (impoverished 貧窮化した internally displace people 国内難民) 後略 【2017-09-13 | By Angela Dewan, CNN】

★Ice breaker for active discussion

1. If you have to explain about Rohingya to someone who doesn't know about it, how would you explain it?
2. What can you say about the requirements in order to allow citizenship among the Rohingyas? (#13)
3. Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi is under criticism over the Rohingyas. What can you say about it?
4. What can the international community do to help alleviate the problem?
5. Make sentences using the following words: persecute, incite, descend from, render and impoverished.