



## [Human Rights Activists Condemn the Indian Government for Detaining Hundreds of Rohingya](#)

The Indian government has come under fire in recent days after it ordered the detention and deportation of hundreds of Rohingya Muslim refugees. Indian authorities detained nearly 170 Rohingya in Kashmir, and the government said it planned to deport them to Myanmar, where they had originally fled. Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar are under imminent danger of ethnic-based violence, and the risk of this has increased greatly since the country's coup in early February. Several international organizations have urged the Indian government to reverse its decision and allow the Rohingya in Jammu and Kashmir to remain in the state. Furthermore, human rights groups in India have called on the government to expeditiously process the relevant asylum requests filed by these individuals, in addition to halting the deportation of Rohingya back to Myanmar. Many of the Rohingya refugees are in possession of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) documents that classify them as protected refugees, but the Indian government has long considered them as being in the country illegally.

Rohingya in Myanmar face the imminent danger of violence perpetrated by the country's military, and the threat of this has increased significantly since the country's coup. In recent years, Rohingya have been subjected to indiscriminate killings, the destruction of entire villages, and other violence based solely on their ethnic identity. The Myanmar military is responsible for these atrocities, and the coup has taken away any semblance of a democratic checks-and-balances system where the military could incur repercussions for their actions. As a result, several international bodies have called for the Indian government to halt the deportation of Rohingya back to Myanmar, and instead fulfill their obligation to protect vulnerable populations.

India began detaining Rohingya in Jammu and Kashmir early this week, under the guise of a verification drive and COVID-19 testing. The authorities claimed they were checking documentation, but instead rounded up Rohingya from areas they were known to inhabit. Indian police officers reportedly told the Rohingya that they were being detained and arrested for illegally crossing the border. The formal drive to detain and deport Rohingya from India follows upon the growing discrimination they have faced in the country. Since India's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014, negative sentiment has grown, and violence has increased against Rohingya in India.

India is estimated to be home to roughly 40,000 Rohingya, of which, just over 16,000 are registered through the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) as refugees. Additionally, dozens of the refugees are thought to be police officers in Myanmar who fled during the coup after they refused to use violence against protesters. Several human rights experts have called India's efforts to send Rohingya back to Myanmar a blatant violation of international law. For the Rohingya themselves, it is a repeat of what occurred in Myanmar, where they were persecuted solely based on their ethnicity.