

A Rohingya refugee points towards the other side of the River Naaf, stating that you just have to "cross the river" to get to his home by the riverside.

According to him, the international community cannot avoid their indifference towards the stateless Rohingyas. After the June 10 incident, the US has once again demonstrated its imperialistic attitude and has remained silent, as he says, "But they never forgot to make new business deals with Myanmar and at the same time put continuous pressure on Bangladesh to make more rooms for refugees."

Omi stresses on the point that the Bangladesh government should acknowledge the Rohingy issue. "It has become a social problem for us and has been one from the last 30 years," he says. In the absence of legal status, the Rohingyas are living an undignified, almost inhuman existence. "The government has explicitly stated that they cannot seal the borders. So in one sense, we are just unable to stop the ongoing refugee influx," he says. According to him by ignoring their rights, the government is prolonging the problem, which in the near future might lead to a disastrous situation.

Maren Stange, a well known cultural analyst, writes in one of her writings named "Social Forces Visualized," that a photograph alone can not able to convey meaning to viewers. She believed that each photograph is "anchored in a fixed relation to its caption, to an associated investigative text, and to an authoritative presenting agency." Accordingly, the moments that Omi captures in the Rohingya refugee camp reflects the very nature of an appropriate context of feeling towards the lives led by Rohingyas living on the coastal belt of Teknaf. Misery shown explicitly in a photograph alone cannot make the picture memorable. And Saiful Huq Omi proves that his pictures do not stress on the misery of their subjects but rather tell their story in a compelling, heart-wrenching manner. ■

Lectures and Workshops
The London School of Economics, Rochester Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, among others

Exhibitions
Bangladesh, Germany, England, Russia, Zimbabwe, Beirut, Kabul, Nairobi, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Japan and USA and in the Netherlands

Book
"Heroes Never Die- Tales of Political Violence in Bangladesh", 1989-2005.

Documentary
- Hidden Genocide
- Roaring Kansat

School
- He is the founder of a photography school named "Counter Foto".

Noteworthy Awards
- All Roads National Geographic Award
- Joop Swart Masterclass, World Press Photo
- Alexia Grant
- Emerging Photographers Grant from Open Society Institute (OSI)
- DAYS JAPAN International Photojournalism Awards
- Magnum Foundation Emergency Fund



Saiful Huq Omi