

She breaks silence Yet remains silent

Suu Kyi's maiden speech since Aug 25 sparks widespread criticism as she refrains from denouncing atrocities against Rohingyas, ignores army role in violence

5 dubious claims Suu Kyi made in her speech

CNN ONLINE

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi gave a much-anticipated address yesterday on the ongoing crisis following the exodus of more than 400,000 minority Rohingya Muslims from the country.

Speaking for over 30 minutes in English, it's the first time Suu Kyi has addressed the situation in northern Rakhine State or the growing international criticism of her and her government.

However, many of the claims made in her speech are somewhat dubious, with some even appearing to contradict the findings of an official report commissioned by the government and compiled by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

'WE WANT TO FIND OUT WHY THIS EXODUS IS HAPPENING'
 Suu Kyi's protestations that the government does not know the root causes of the crisis are peculiar, especially as she repeatedly referenced the Annan report, the Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State.

The report, released in August, identified several key issues, including the lack of citizenship for stateless Rohingya Muslims as well as socio-economic

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Aung San Suu Kyi today demonstrated that she and her government are still burying their heads in the sand over the horrors unfolding in Rakhine State."

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

AGENCIES
 Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi finally broke her silence on the Rohingya refugee crisis yesterday, insisting that her country was not "afraid of international scrutiny."

But her speech in Naypyidaw drew widespread criticism: she did not denounce atrocities against Rohingyas and claimed the government needed more time to investigate the exodus of the minority group.

Suu Kyi condemned human rights violations in Rakhine State and said the perpetrators would be brought to book, but she did not address UN accusations of a campaign of ethnic cleansing by the military.

The Nobel Peace laureate's remarks came in her first address to the nation since attacks by Rohingya insurgents on August 25 sparked a brutal military response that has forced 4.21,000 Rohingya people into Bangladesh.

The UN human rights chief has called the crackdown a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing", but Suu Kyi in her 30-minute speech refrained from blaming the military for violence.

She said the government needed time to find out "what the real problems are" in Rakhine, while the UN rights SUU KYI'S FULL ADDRESS ONLINE



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Rohingya refugees struggle for bags of relief supplies at Balukhali Khelar Math in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday. Refugees who could collect tokens beforehand receive some relief materials from several private organisations.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Stop military ops against Rohingyas

UN chief, France's Macron urge Myanmar; Britain halts training its army

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday urged Myanmar to halt its military campaign against Rohingyas Muslims. Just hours after Aung San Suu Kyi failed to quell an international outcry in a much-anticipated address.

Addressing the opening of the UN General Assembly, Guterres said he "took note" of Suu Kyi's pledge to abide by the recommendations of a report by former UN chief Kofi Annan that has advocated citizenship for the Rohingyas.

"But let me be clear," Guterres said. "The authorities in Myanmar must end the military operations, and allow unhindered humanitarian access."

More than 420,000 Rohingyas have

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UN wants unfettered, full access to Rakhine

HRW finds 214 villages destroyed; MSF wants aid workers' access, IOM worried at health emergencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN human rights investigators yesterday demanded "full and unfettered" access to Myanmar to probe the situation in its conflict-affected Rakhine State amid aid groups' fear of "very real risk" of deaths of Rohingyas there.

The demand came at a time when Human Rights Watch issued a statement with findings from a new analysis of satellite imagery from Rakhine State showing near total destruction of 214 villages.

"It is important for us to see with our own eyes the sites of these alleged violations," the head of UN-backed fact-finding mission, Marzuki Dasuman, told Human Rights Council.

"There is a grave humanitarian crisis underway that requires urgent attention," added Dasuman who is leading an investigation that Myanmar has vowed to reject, reports AFP.

Yet to get Myanmar's permission to enter

the country, Dasuman said, his UN team was now gathering evidence from refugees and medics in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Earlier in May this year, the UN moved to send a mission to Myanmar to investigate alleged rape, murder and torture of Rohingyas by security forces in October last year, but Myanmar rejected entry to the UN fact-finding mission.

The mission was formed following the UN Human Rights Commission's report on military crackdown on the Rohingyas that led to the killing of hundreds of civilians and forced displacement of as many as 390,000 people of the minority community.

This time the UN makes the move following widespread allegations that Myanmar security forces have been burning down Rohingya villages in Northern Rakhine State, and killing them. The UN has already

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ROHINGYA REFUGEES PM expects no help from Trump

REUTERS, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she spoke to US President Donald Trump yesterday about Rohingyas flooding into Bangladesh from Myanmar, but she expects no help from him as he has made clear how he feels about refugees.

As Trump left an event he hosted at the United Nations on reforming the world body, Hasina said she stopped him for a few minutes.

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 PM SEEKS GLOBAL SUPPORT AT UN - PAGE 2

Rains heap further woes on refugees

Rohingya influx slows amid bad weather; many now moving to hills from roadside

PINAKI ROY from Cox's Bazar

Nur Begum, 55, came to Bangladesh from Myanmar's Maungdaw with her young son and daughter in tow. She witnessed her husband killed and in the rush to escape lost her daughters in the crowd. Homeless and feeling hopeless, she thought she found some respite in a makeshift tent in a field near Gundum on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road. But the weather had other plans.

Here, like Nur Begum, a few hundred Rohingya families had been living in makeshift shelters. But the nearby Ukhia Chat Khai swelled following continuous rain, inundating the field and forcing the refugees to relocate.

"I left my home there and came here. Now, I have lost my home here as well," she said.

As it kept raining since yesterday, the water levels began to rise around evening, submerging the field in knee-deep water. The current of the water was so strong that it threatened to sweep away the belongings of the refugees.

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India 'deeply concerned over violence in Rakhine'

Says Indian diplomat in Geneva; praises Dhaka's response to the crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, Rajiv K Chander, yesterday said New Delhi was deeply concerned about the recent spate of violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state that resulted in the outflow of a large number of people from the state, many of whom sought shelter in neighbouring Bangladesh.

While presenting a vivid account of what led to the ongoing Rohingya crisis and how it can be resolved at the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, he also said India extended humanitarian relief to Bangladesh to

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Rice traders, shop staff and workers gather at Chalpoti in Chittagong's Khatungani area yesterday afternoon after a mobile court of the district administration jailed and fined the manager of a wholesale rice trader for hoarding and charging a high price.

PHOTO: PALMER DAS

Govt wasn't alert to depleting stock

Allege rice traders over price spiral; ministers accuse them of hiking price on fake news

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a blame game over volatility in the rice market, the government and rice traders reached some decisions yesterday to help rein in the price of the staple that has hit an all-time high.

The decisions include allowing traders and millers to pack rice in plastic bags instead of relatively pricier jute sacks, and expanding the Open Market Sale programme from district to upazila level. Under the OMS, rice is being sold at a subsidised rate of Tk 30.

Rice traders have assured the government of helping reduce the prices by Tk 2 to 3 per kg at the earliest. But they accused the government of pursuing wrong policies all along this season, which contributed to the price spike.

At a meeting with three ministers at the Secretariat, rice millers and traders said the government was not mindful of its low food stock. It retained a high import duty on rice even after huge crop loss in the haor areas and failed to procure rice from farmers and millers for offering poor price.

On the other hand, the ministers accused rice traders of hiking prices arbitrarily following fake news that India slapped a ban on rice export.

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MEETING OUTCOME
 Govt to allow plastic bag packaging, facilitate transport of imported rice
 OMS to be expanded to upazila level
 Rice price may fall soon by Tk 2-3 a kg