

Without land and citizenship

Rethinking food sovereignty in a limiting context

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There has been widespread exodus of refugees from the different states and divisions of Myanmar to countries of the surrounding region, including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh. The expulsion of refugees has been propelled by a complex set of factors, varying between different conflict zones in Burma characterised by particular ethno-religious and socio-demographic fault lines.

The Rohingyas constitute a Muslim minority living among the ethnically distinct Buddhist Rakhines in north Rakhine (Arakan) state of Myanmar, which lies along the international border with Bangladesh. Their darker skin colour compared to most of the Burmese population has provided scope for racist attitudes and discrimination (cf. Lunn 2012:11-13). The Rohingyas were denied citizenship of Myanmar by a law enacted by its military government, effectively reducing their status to that of a stateless group. They were denied "the right to own land or property", amounting to a total land grab and subjected to many forms of

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