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Arakan Bumiputra

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U Ba Tha

ABu Anin

Sunday, 28 April 2013

Massacre of 1942 (by Ba Tha (Buthidaung))

Massacre of 1942

Ba Tha (Buthidaung)
(17-12-1960)

In 1825 Arakan became a British territory with a population of only one lakh souls. (Maughs 60,000, Muslims 30,000, Burmese 10,000) In 1835 this had risen to 211,536. In 1845 the population numbered 309,608 and in 1855 reached 366,310. The total population of Akyab district was 95,098 souls in 1831, which had risen to 109,645 in the following year, thence forward the increase was very rapid.

The Muslim population of Akyab district, who numbered 154,887 in 1901, which at the census of 1911 had increased to 178,647 while the Maughs were only 209,432. At the census of 1921 the Muslims in the district were 208,961 while the total population was 576,430 including Arimists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians and others, and 315,140 Buddhist which includes Maughs, Shans, Burmese and Baruas.

The Maughs had been decreased by 30,217 in 1911 due to different speaking dialect while the Muslims had been increased by 23,760 at the census of 1911 because the Muslims intermarry freely with the women of other faith of the country who became Muslims whilst non-Muslims rarely do this. The children of mixed marriages between Muslims and non-Muslims generally adopt the religion of Islam while the children of mixed marriages between two races of different religion assimilated by one of them as the early Hindus of Arakan were assimilated by the Tibato-Burmans. Before 10th century A.D in Arakan there were all Bengali Hindus but not a single Maugh was there. Arakan was invaded, in A.D. 957, by Tibato-Burmans who must have been early Burmese. They mixed with the Indians (Hindus) and created Maugh race. Then the proper history of the Maughs began, which lasted eight centuries until 1784 when the country was conquered by Bodaw Paya of Ava. True, before A.D. 957 Arakan was a Hindu State," writes Maurice Collis.

Islam allows the Muslims to take more than one wife. Early marriage is common to them. The age-group 14-16 in the following table extracted from the Census Report of 1931 will show clearly that 465 per 1000 of the Muslim females are married, and it is much more higher than the proportion married among the Maugh females which are of only 141. The other two age-groups are also higher. Birth rate is much higher than the Maughs.

Married Persons per 1000 of each sex

S. No.	RACE	AGE AT NEAREST BIRTHDAY					
		14-16		17-23		24-23	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1	MAUGHS	15	141	333	632	830	796
2	MUSLIMS	14	465	401	821	817	836

and the children of mixed marriages between Muslims and Maughs adopt the religion of Islam. Rohingyas are the followers of Islam. By the above facts and figures the Rohingya population is increasing year by year. The Maughs have an eye on them. They waited for a chance to drive away the Rohingyas from the soil of Arakan; they did not get any opportunity. But in 1942 while the Burma Government evacuated to Simla and before the arrival of the Japanese the Maughs were favoured with a chance. Japanese aircrafts bombed Akyab. The British Indian forces retreated Akyab. The rebels known as Maugh Thakhins organized themselves into many groups. The withdrawal of the legal government removed from them the fear of armed resistance. Thousands of Maughs joined them in the attack on the Rohingyas.

U Kyaw Khine, the then Deputy Commissioner took charge of Arakan division from the Commissioner, an English man, of Arakan, and he himself a Maugh then supplied the Maugh population with guns, and all guns under licence were taken by force back from the Rohingyas who were then helpless, defenceless and they could do nothing against the well-armed and well-organized Maughs.

Mr. Zaimuddin writes. U Kyaw Khine, the Deputy Commissioner of Akyab, was sole representative of the British Government present. He went east, west, north and south. He freely distributed arms and ammunitions exclusively to the Arakanese of Minbya, Myohaung, Kyauktaw and

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ROHINGYAS ARE A NATION IN ARAKAN

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Massacre of 1942 (by Ba Tha (Buthidaung))

Massacre of 1942

Ba Tha (Buthidaung) (17-12-

(1960))



SLAVE RAIDS IN
BENGAL or HEINS IN
ARAKAN

BURMA'S
NATIONAL MAGAZINE

[RANGOON VOL VII NO 10
OCTOBER 1960.] I wrote about the
Roewen...

27 th



WALI KHAN

the nobles
placed Nazir Shah on the
throne. He undertook to
restore Meng Soamwun.

At first a general style...



Consideration of
President Thein Sein's
firmed pledge at the time
of coronation and his
downbeat action of now

(Mahan Minkant)

Consideration of President Thein Sein's
firmed pledge at the time of coronation

Buthidaung. His attitude and behaviour to the Muslims however did not suggest in the least that he had any desire to protect them " 2

Then in March 1942 the Maughs started the massacre and driving away the Rohingyas with the intention of rooting out the Rohingyas of Arakan with the help of arms distributed by U Kyaw Khine and arms received from the deserted Karen soldiers who were on the way from Akyab persuaded by the Maughs to join them to root out the Rohingyas. This was started from Myebon township, Kyaukpyu district. U Chit Pa, Ex-Member of Parliament of Minbya constituency in a speech in the Parliament Session of the 17th September 1950 opposing the creation of a new district comprising Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships, had admitted that this was started by the Maughs. In this massacre thousands of Rohingyas (it is said that 80,000 of Rohingyas) were massacred and thousands of them were driven away mercilessly. And those Rohingyas who were once in the cream of Muslim society in Kyauktaw, Myohaung, Pauktaw, Punnagyun, Minbya, Rathedaung and Myebon townships were taken refuge and are now in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Rathedaung and Akyab townships, and some of them were in Chittagong district. And twenty two

thousand of them were in the refugee camp then opened in Shubirnagar in Rangpur district in India. In turn the Rohingyas who survived and took shelter in Maungdaw-Buthidaung area wanted to create trouble there. The Maughs timely ran away from this area to Kyauktaw and Myohaung townships and some of them, especially of Maungdaw township, were taken away to India and allowed them in Dimazpur Refugee Camp. So very few of them were killed. When the Second World War Came to an end all these Maugh refugees were brought to Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships and were resettled in their old places. In their resettlement Mr. A. Ghaffar and other Muslim officers took active part while they were the Township officers there, but 99% of them sold out their landed properties at abnormal high price and came to 7 other townships to enjoy freely the landed properties left by the Rohingyas there. In this massacre and drive 307 Rohingya villages were totally destroyed in the nine townships shown below. All the villages in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships were reoccupied and rehabilitated by the Rohingyas. Some of the Rohingya refugees after the war tried to go to their former places in other 7 townships but the Maughs did not allow them to occupy their villages as a result of which they had to come back to Buthidaung and Maungdaw again. All their landed properties were usurped and enjoyed freely by the Maughs to the present day who do not want to give up the usurpation of the lands of the Rohingyas.

Rohingya villages destroyed in 1942 massacre

Name of Townships	Mye-bon	Min-bya	Pauk-taw	Myo-haung	Kyauk-Taw	Punna-gyun	Rathe-daung	Buthi-daung	Maung-daw	Total
Villages	30	27	25	58	78	5	21	55	8	307

The 6000 Rohingya refugees of one camp are still in East Pakistan scattered all over Chittagong district because U Kyaw, the then Commissioner of Arakan at Akyab not only bitterly refused to take them back but also said to one Mr. Gundivia, the representative of the Indian Government, who came to Akyab and saw the former in connection with these refugees while the Indian Government decided to close down the refugee camps, that he would not allow the steamer to enter the Akyab Port with the refugees in question.³

About this Rohingya slaughter Anthony Irwin says, " The Arakan before the war had been occupied over its entire length by both Mussulman and Maugh. Then in 1941 the two sects set to and fought. The result of this war was roughly that the Maugh took over the Southern half of the country and the Mussulman the Northern. Whilst it lasted it was a pretty bloody affair. Where the Maugh predominated whole villages of Moslems were put to the sword — For weapons they (Muslims) used a great two -handed Dahs, with a blade in some cases four feet long. At first the Maughs had it all their own way, for they were both better organized and better armed, having a fair sprinkling of rifles. But as they pushed North, so they met up against stiffer and more organized resistance and were not only held, but forced to retreat, for they are man to man, no match for the Mussulman Arakanese. " 4

It separated the two peoples into two distinctive areas of influence. The Northern Section is predominated with the Rohingyas while the Southern Section is predominated with the Maughs. As in Maungdaw-Buthidaung area the Maughs have no chance to be returned in any election for the Union Parliament, the Rohingyas became an eye sore to them. In 1948, Bo Nyo Tun (Maugh) who was the then Minister for Minorities had attempted to start a campaign of exchange of population. He submitted a report in which he requested the Prime Minister to exchange ninety thousand Rohingyas with an equal number of Maughs from different area so that they could diminish and exterminate the Rohingyas, saying that they wanted Arakan to be joined with Pakistan as the area is predominated with them.⁵ U Nu gave a heed to his request and the AFPFL (before split) Government uprooted the Rohingyas of Tulatuli village tract of Maungdaw township, who were for generations there, and the Maughs were settled there and the landed properties belonging to the Rohingyas were distributed to the Maughs who were imported from Pakistan and other places. The Rohingyas, therefore, were deprived of justice and landed properties.⁶

The same plan will be carried by the ANUO (Arakan National United Organization) leaders if Arakan Autonomous State is granted to them. They are always making false propaganda about the Rohingyas that the Bogyoke Ne Win Govt's plan was to shift about 200 Rohingya villages, into further interior of Arakan, which are situated along the Naaf River and border side, and an equal number of Maughs from different parts of Arakan would be settled there after the monsoon season in order to seal off the Naaf River to stop smuggling and illegal immigrants from Pakistan. In this connection Mr. A. Ghaffar and other Rohingya leaders saw U Khin Maung Phyu, Minister for Home Affairs in the

and his downbeat action of now Sunday, April 21



ROEWENGYAS IN
ARAKAN
THE GUARDIAN
BURMA'S NATIONAL
MAGAZINE RANGOON

VOL VII NO. 5 MAY 1960 By U Ba
Tha 5 MAY 1960 He wrote about
Rakhaing Kaman Musl

FLUCTUATIONS OF POWER AFFECTED CHITTAGONG

When Bengal was strong, its rulers received the tribute of Arakan, at other times Arakan claimed tribute from parts of the Ganges delta. T...

Caretaker (Bogyoke Ne Win) Government, who replied to them that there was no such plan made by the government.

Many Rohingyas had migrated to Saudi Arabia and 30,000 of them went away to Pakistan in 1949 and 1950 because of local tyranny from various sources * especially due to the oppression of the Maugh BTFs (Burma Territory Force), and Maugh Police. They were extorting money from the well-to-do Rohingyas who were arrested under section 5 POPA; and many elders,* for instance Master Azhar Hussain and Moti Rahman. Headmen of Kannyobyin and Kasaribil (lower Purma) village tracts of Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships respectively, were killed by them.

Besides, there was another organized attack on the Rohingyas in 1934 in Rathedaung township, in connection with which the Maugh leaders of Akyab town made vigorous attempt to defend the inhuman crimes of the Maughs of Rathedaung township and they expressed the feelings against the Rohingyas, which are still fresh in the mind of every Rohingya ¹⁰

Failing in these two drives and killing the Maugh leaders applied the latest method to uproot the Rohingyas, in which they were successful in driving away mercilessly over 13,000 and over 10000 Rohingyas from the Northern regions of Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships respectively in the months of July and August 1959. These two inhuman drives were done by the Immigration Officers who were inclined to the Maughs. These people still have taken refuge in East Pakistan. All the Rohingya refugees who are still in East Pakistan are waiting for repatriation. ¹¹

Maurice Collis: Into Hidden Burma, p 137

Mr. Zainuddin: Political Development in Burma

Mr. A. Ghaffar: Press Conference given on the 21st April, 1960

Anthony Irwin: Burmese Outpost, p 21

Memorandum presented to the Regional Autonomy Enquiry Commission by S.Ahmed

Mr. A. Ghaffar: Press Conference given on the 21st April, 1960

The Nation Daily: Dated 8th July, 1959

Mr. A. Ghaffar: Press Conference given on the 21st April, 1960

Mr. A. Ghaffar: Address Presented to U Nu on 10-3-50 at Maungdaw

Mr. Zainuddin: A Cursory Survey of Muslims' Position in Akyab District

Mr. A. Ghaffar: Press Conference given on the 21st April, 1960

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