

IMPORTANT HISTORY OF ARAKAN FROM 1942 UNTIL THE PRESENT - TO KNOW, TO UNDERSTAND, AND TO USE WISELY

by Rick Heizman, May 22, 2018, San Francisco

MAUNGDAW MASSACRE

In the last 100 years in Burma there has been one huge massacre that possibly CAN be defined as a bonafide Genocide - the 1942 Maungdaw Massacre - with 30,000 Buddhists slaughtered in Maungdaw town alone, more than 400 Buddhist villages torched, and in one particularly heinous massacre, with the highest death toll in a single place, the incineration of more than 500 Buddhists - women, children, elderly, monks, and novices - who had fled in terror to the largest Buddhist temple complex of the area, in Ah Lei Than Kyaw, about 6 miles south of Maungdaw, which was then surrounded by 20,000 blood-thirsty Muslims and set ablaze. The Muslims, shouting 'Allahu Akbar' praises to their god, hurled bundles of dry hay over the walls making an absolute inferno that nobody survived.

The Bengali Muslims intended to carry out a genocidal ethnic cleansing then - just as they intended with their huge surprise well-planned and systematic terror attacks on August 25th, 2017. That has been their stated goal since the 1940s, if you didn't know.

Nobody talks about the 1942 Maungdaw massacre - of course most people don't know anything about it - and the Bengalis that know would simply like it to be buried. In World War II, as the Japanese were stomping across the country, and over to Arakan, and the British were in full retreat and having the crap beat out of them, the British formed what's called the Bengali V Force. It's a historical thing - you can look it up - and they were arming the Muslims - not the Buddhists, because the British saw that the Muslims were good fighters and they liked to fight; they knew that. If you armed the Buddhists, what were they going to do? They don't want to fight anyway. So, they armed the Muslims to help them against the Japanese, trained them quickly, and then the British, all of a sudden, had to make a strategic retreat. What did the Muslims do? They immediately turned all the weapons on the Buddhists and they slaughtered 30,000 Buddhists in Maungdaw town. They set fire to over 400 Buddhist villages in the area, sending another 100,000 fleeing for their lives. That's what they did in 1942.

The Beginning of Ethnic Cleansing in Maungdaw Town: 1942 Eyewitness accounts
Department of Defense Service Archives, Rangoon: CD 1016/10/11

Unidentified eyewitness, *"By May 1942, the Bengali-Muslim men from all the Bengali villages in the frontier area and many more from across the border had gathered, armed with guns and swords and spears, to begin their genocidal campaign against the Buddhist-Yakhine villages. [Yakhine = Rakhine]*

The armed Bengalis set up roadblocks, destroyed bridges, and encircled Yakhine villages. More than 20,000 armed Bengalis had surrounded the town of Maungdaw, in Arakan, very close to the border with the Bengal part of British India (at independence became East Pakistan, and then Bangladesh). All the entry and exit points had been completely blocked and horrifying news reached the town constantly with reports of surrounding Buddhist villages being burnt to the ground and the people slaughtered.

The town was already sheltering hundreds and hundreds of Yakhine refugees from nearby Buddhist villages. Many people were injured or severely wounded by Bengali swords as they fled for the assumed safety of Maungdaw. But, now they were trapped in Maungdaw together with the Buddhist population of the town.

The wholesale slaughter of the Yakhine-Buddhists in Maungdaw began as the armed and blood- thirsty (and land-thirsty) Bengali-Muslims entered the town.

Buddhist families choked the streets carrying only whatever they could manage and tried to leave the town, but were blocked again and again, with nowhere to go. Finally, nearly everyone ended up in the compound of the Maungdaw Buddhist Monastery. The whole place was filled with loud cries of children and fearful voices of adults. The crowd must have been over 5,000 - all Yakhine-Buddhists.”

The Burning of Maungdaw and the Slaughter of Buddhists

“By night all we could see rolling flames on the Maungdaw side from Taknaff Town across the wide Naff River. Later we heard the depressing news that tens of thousands of Bengali-Muslims had entered Maungdaw after the town was abandoned and burned down the whole town after taking away everything removable from the Yakhine houses including rice, cooking oil, salt, and every single piece of furniture.

All the Yakhine Buddhist villages - there were hundreds of them - on the extremely fertile strip south of Maungdaw Town, between the Naff River and the Mayu Mountain Range were completely wiped out by the rioting Bengali Muslims - within just a few days.

While the Yakhine villages at or very near the river were able to escape across the Naff River with their boats, the villages far from the river were burnt down and all the villagers slaughtered by the Bengali-Muslims - as they shouted praises to their Allah.

Even Buddhists who intended to trek up and over the Mayu Range to safety, were hunted down, ambushed, and killed by the Bengali-Muslims.

At that time, the large village of Ah-Lei-Tha-Kyaw had the largest Buddhist temple and monastery complex in the area, and had a small police station. Now it is the biggest Rohingya village, with a large UNHCR supply depot and their area-HQ. Twenty thousand

armed-Bengali-Muslims raided the Ah-Lei-Tha-Kyaw police station and brutally killed all the policemen who surrendered and then set off to kill all the Yakhine men from the villages.

The blood-thirsty Bengali-Muslims - doing what their extremist, intolerant Wahhabi Islam expects them to do - burned down the large village monastery, with more than 500 Buddhist women, children, elders, young Buddhist novices, and Buddhist monks taking refuge inside the main monastery building. All 500, or so, Buddhists inside were burned alive that day by the Bengali-Muslims, who want the villages, the fertile land, and the fishing grounds of the Buddhists - and they believe that it is not wrong to kill the Buddhists, in fact, their faith claims that the 'idol-worshippers' should be killed, and their property and women are to be taken, and Allah will be pleased.

Basically none of the thousands of Yakhine-Buddhists living in surrounding villages escaped the warlike wholesale slaughter.

Not even a single mongrel dog escaped the slaughter - let alone a human being."

(eyewitness accounts finished)

ULTIMATUM

Now, in 1946-7, as the war was over and the British came back in, temporarily, until independence, the British were aghast at all of the mayhem that had happened against the Buddhists. They demanded that the Muslims let the Buddhists back in to populate those villages again. The Muslims refused, and they had a lot of World War II weaponry now in their hands - Japanese, American and British. In 1948, just as the brand new government of Burma took over, one of the first things they had to do was respond to an ultimatum by the Muslims - the ultimatum is written in English, and it demands that the land be declared an autonomous Islamic State, immediately, in 1948. And there were many other conditions, like all Muslim prisoners be released - these are people who were captured for the mass murder of 30,000 Buddhists, and other unreasonable conditions - and, let it not be forgotten that the Muslims were, by far, a minority in Arakan, and beyond that, were not considered indigenous by the British, the Burmese, and the Arakanese - whose homeland it was.

The brand-new government of the brand-new nation of Burma, sent two official emissaries to talk to the Muslim leadership about the ultimatum, and the threats implicit if not granted. They arrived, they were at the welcoming dinner table in Maungdaw, and they were both knifed to death at the dinner table. That was the message to the new Government of Burma from the Muslims. Then, obviously, the government rejected the ultimatum, and the Muslims immediately formed what they named themselves as the Mujahideen Party and Mujahideen Army. Mujahideen - an Arabic term - is the plural form of mujahid, and means 'holy warrior(s) for Allah'. They then fought a guerrilla war, for decades, and, as you can see, continues to this day. At first, in the late 1940s and 1950s the Muslims controlled much of the area, and the brand new country of Burma, beset with problems, could hardly send any forces to Arakan.

RAKHINE DIFFICULT TO SUPPLY

Rakhine State, you have to realize, is quite far from Central Burma, and even further from Yangon (then called Rangoon). On a map it looks like there is easy access, but the Yoma mountains are very rugged between Rakhine State and the rest of Burma, and still to this day there's only two bad roads across those mountains and they're both hellacious, and they both get lashed with one of the worst monsoons on earth - a couple hundred inches of rain in just a few months. There's no easy way to supply Rakhine State from Burma proper, especially at that time.

THE BENGALI MUSLIMS STATED GOAL

The Bengali Muslims have had that stated goal on paper - to have an Islamic State there - even though, at that time, when they made that ultimatum, they were a minority of the population. Maungdaw town was majority Muslim - however - that was a result of them killing 30,000 Buddhists there in 1942, and driving out so many other Buddhists by sheer intimidation and fear. The Muslims were not a majority in the state, even the northern half of the state, but they were demanding that they must have a Muslim-only state? Just because they have a different religion and their religion will not accept any other religion as valid, and their religion deems all others infidels whom can be killed, and their god would be pleased with that.

BENGALI MUSLIMS TRIED TO JOIN EAST PAKISTAN (NOW BANGLADESH)

At first the Bengali Muslims thought they might be able to join with East Pakistan - now Bangladesh - as India got independence from Britain, and at the same time had to carve out and create two Muslim areas which became East and West Pakistan. However, the Bengali Muslims of Arakan were ruled out from trying to break away from Burma and join East Pakistan because Ali Jinnah (Muslim leader in India, who drove the demand for partition), decided not to include it, basically because he thought it would make too much trouble with another country's (Burma) sovereignty etc.

And, by the way, both the British and Gandhi were appalled that the partition of India was forced upon them, and in the first time in history a nation (Pakistan, with two halves) would be created solely upon religion.

BORDERS - FLEXIBLE THEN FIXED

Realize, that basically after WW II, and the decolonization, and independence of many parts of the world, borders were now FIXED, PERMANENT, NOT TO BE CHANGED, for the first time in history. Dwell on that for a moment. Prior to WWII borders, anywhere on earth borders changed frequently, for many different reasons, or simply did not exist. So, in the past people warred because there was no such thing as fixed borders, or warred because there was NOT a border, and nowadays people war BECAUSE of borders.

CHITTAGONG - BUDDHIST HISTORY, BUDDHIST GENOCIDE

Chittagong area, in Bangladesh, was very Buddhist (a legacy of the great Buddhist Kingdom of Arakan which ruled it and more for centuries), and still is a hub of Buddhism in Bangladesh, however, are you aware of the plight of Buddhists in Bangladesh? Do you know how few Buddhists are left in Bangladesh? Bangladesh has a population of 160 million right now. There are 1 million Buddhists. Now, that sounds like a lot, but compute that – it's about 0.07 per cent of the population. Less than 1 per cent of the population is Buddhist, and those Buddhists in Bangladesh are in a true on-going genocide all the time. If you don't know what's happening there, it is genocidal: ongoing and ongoing. Those Buddhists are going to disappear soon, or be totally annihilated, because all the time their villages are burned, their land is confiscated, women are raped, Buddhists are killed and sent fleeing. They live up in the Chittagong hills - know as CHT, Chittagong Hills Tract. When the British were in power there, the Muslim population did not like hills, they only liked flat land near the ocean, for fishing and farming and so on. At the time of partition, the Chittagong hills were around 98 per cent Buddhist. Now, the Buddhists there are a minority; over-populated Bangladeshi Muslims are sanctioned, very often with army and government assistance, to come in and just simply take villages, houses, etc, and they force the Buddhist out or kill them. Many of them come over the border into Rakhine State, where they are welcomed and given the help they need. They most often speak the same or similar Arakanese language, practice the same form of Buddhism, and of course, there is zero violence or any problems from them.

1977 PLOT WITH LIBYA TO SEIZE ARAKAN

The Muslim world has already, several times, nearly invaded Burma. In 1977, Mujahid rebels and members of ARNO - the Arakan Rohingya National Organization (perhaps the first of such groups to use the new, unknown term 'Rohingya') - led by Sultan Mahmud, sent select members to Libya and met with Libyan leader Colonel Qaddafi. Some of us remember those times, when Qaddafi thought of himself as the leader of the Arab Muslims and in his megalomania he projected himself as the leader of Muslims around the world. Sultan Mahmud's group explained their their intention was to transform Arakan into an Islamic State - to be called Arkistan - and they asked for Colonel Qaddafi and Libya to help them and the other resistance groups to wage a well-armed jihad against the Burmese central government. Shortly after that visit to Libya, a serious plot to elicit a full-blown Muslim insurrection throughout Burma and overthrow the government of Ne Win was discovered by the Burmese government. Bangladesh, and Libya were covertly involved in the conspiracy. However, subversive attempts to spark their nefarious plans failed as they were stopped by Burmese authorities. Many local Muslim conspirators were arrested, and others then feared arrest or harm, and many fled back to Bangladesh. The plan had been that on a given day in 1978 Muslims based in virtually every town and city in Burma would try to assassinate the leadership of that town. Mayors, regional leaders, military leaders - any leaders, so that the whole country would fall into such chaos, and then at that moment an army of trained ARNO fighters, with the help and blessings of Libya and Bangladesh would storm in and seize

Arakan. Now, that plot started to unravel when Ne Win's secret police actually arrested some people, and found long lists of names, contact info, addresses, and so on - the Muslims were careless - and they started arresting these people who were involved in the plot, and then that turned into the Naga Min exodus.

NAGA MIN EXODUS 1978

Now, of course, Bengalis point to that horrific time when the Burmese military pushed them out, but, they are very good at that kind of ploy, and that is crying and getting sympathy from a world of suckers, but not saying anything concerning why that happened. Well, the Burmese military was arresting leaders from those lists left, right and centre, and then so many of them and their families and relatives started to flee. The Burmese military called it the Naga Min Sitsin Yae (King Dragon Operation). The operation focused on rooting out the Mujahid rebels, who were fighting for an Islamic state in Northern Rakhine State.

The operation began February 6, 1978 in the village of Sakkipara in Sittwe district, where there were mass arrests and torture of alleged collaborators and sympathizers of the Mujahid rebels, who had been waging a bloody and vicious guerrilla war for decades. Over three months, approximately 150,000 to 200,000 Muslims fled to neighboring Bangladesh, where the Muslim government of Bangladesh offered them shelter in makeshift camps. The United Nations recognized them as refugees and began a relief operation.

Very much the same thing as now. The world knew nothing of the fact that the Bengali Muslims nefarious plans - to seize Arakan involving genocidal ethnic extermination - and saw only refugees who - like today - cannot or will not assume any responsibility, or see any cause and effect. A repatriation plan was put together, and they Muslims largely returned to Burma, in what seemed like greater numbers than those who had fled.

SAUDI ARABIA PLAN A MUSLIM ARMY TO INVADE 1992

Prince Khaled Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, the commander of the Saudi Arabian forces during the first Gulf War called on the UN [mainly the 56 Muslim countries] to do for the 'Rohingyas' 'what it just did to liberate Kuwait'. Fortunately, as the U.S. and other countries heard that 'war-cry' the Prince was persuaded to abandon that plan. If a Muslim invasion of that sort ever happened it can be assumed that the slaughter of Buddhists and the destruction of Buddhist statues, temples, monuments, and monasteries would have been absolutely genocidal. There were reports, around that time, that 'Rohingya' insurgent groups were being funded by Middle East countries and organizations such as the OIC and the Muslim World League (Rabita al-'Alam al-Islam) to buy arms from the Cambodia–Thailand border areas and the Afghanistan–Pakistan border areas, which were awash with weaponry, smugglers, and brokers.

RSO TERRORISTS INVADE MAUNGDAW, 1994

In 1994, around midnight on April 28, about 120 RSO (Rohingya Solidarity Organization) Mujahideen militants entered the Maungdaw Township area from opposite directions - about 80 militants entered from the south, while another group of 40 fighters entered from the north. Within hours unprecedented and frightening explosions began to rock Maungdaw. Nine bombs - at various locations in and around Maungdaw - had exploded. Another 3 bombs, found the next day, had failed to detonate. The southern terrorist group burned down 26 houses and injured and killed several people. The militants coming in from the north burned and destroyed 13 houses, and planted landmines which very seriously injured two civilians when they stepped on mines planted by those terrorists. The Burmese military, members of the Border Enforcement, local Police, and local residents - a combined force of 26,000 people - encircled the entire area and blocked the escape routes and began to hunt down the terrorists. Over a 20 day period there were 13 encounters with the terrorists - eventually 52 terrorists were killed. The authorities also captured and arrested eight local terrorists involved in helping the planting of the bombs in Maungdaw. Nearly 60 Mujahideen terrorists escaped. The authorities confiscated: 16 assorted guns, 3,611 rounds of assorted ammunition, 1,418 assorted mines, 522 hand grenades, 10 40-mm shells, and five communication devices. The hand grenades, mines, guns, and explosives were provided by foreign terrorist organizations.

70+ YEARS TRAINING FOR WAR, NEVER FOR PEACE

For more than 70 years, since the 1942 massacre in Maungdaw, Bengali Muslims have engaged in training for, preparing for, and fighting war to achieve their goal of taking Arakan land, cleansing it of all other type of people, and breaking it off from the country of Burma / Myanmar. In more recent times there have been numerous Bengali Muslims captured in Afghanistan - in battle, or at terrorist training camps. Intelligence services of several countries have reported such items as:

- 90 members of the Arakan Rohingya National Organization (ARNO) were selected to attend a guerrilla warfare course, explosives course, and heavy-weapons courses held in Libya and Afghanistan in August 2001.
- 5 members of ARNO attended a high-ranking officers' course with Al Qaeda representatives in May 2000. They discussed military affairs, weaponry, and getting financial help from Osama bin Laden.
- Numerous contacts and connections and assistance from Islamic jihad groups in southern Thailand, southern Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and others.

AL-QEADA, TALIBAN TRAINING

Among the more than 60 videotapes that were found in the raid and killing of Osama bin-Laden, one marked “Burma” (Myanmar) purports to show Bengali Muslims training in the jungles and mountains of northern Arakan and the adjacent Bangladesh border area. The video shows the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO), at a camp located near the town of Ukhia, southeast of Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh.

Bengali and other Muslims went to Afghanistan to join with the Taliban and al-Qaeda. The Rohingya, especially, were given the most dangerous tasks in the battlefield, such as clearing mines. According to intelligence sources, Rohingya recruits were paid 30,000 Bangladeshi taka (US\$525) on joining and then 10,000 taka per month. The families of recruits killed in action were offered 100,000 taka. While these appear to be small sums in dollar terms, they are princely amounts in a country where the annual per capita income works out to a bare \$380. Recruits were taken mostly via Nepal to Pakistan, where they were trained and sent on to military camps in Afghanistan. It is not known how many people from this part of Bangladesh – Rohingyas and others – fought in Afghanistan, but the number is believed to be quite substantial. Others have gone to Kashmir and even Chechnya to join forces with militants there. In an interview with CNN in December 2001, American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh relates that the al-Qaeda-directed Ansar (Companions of the Prophet) Brigades, to which he had belonged in Afghanistan, were divided along linguistic lines: Bengali, Pakistani (Urdu) and Arabic, which suggests that the Bengali-speaking component – Bangladeshi and Rohingya – must have been significant

2012 VIOLENCE AND MY REPORT

Briefly let’s mention the 2012 explosion of violence - clearly systematically planned by the Bengali Muslims (aka Rohingya) who, launched multiple surprise attacks upon the Buddhists. And, similar to the recent violence, it was nearly universally blamed on the Buddhists! The Muslim World Media was instrumental in quickly putting out the manipulated and fake news, with the Al-Jazeera English network in the forefront, feeding stories to the Western media. The Asian media can be quite different - as it was then, and as it is now. Much of the Asian media could see that the aggressors were undoubtedly the Muslims, and they could compare the situation to their own dilemma with Islamic violent and supremacy - in southern Thailand, India, China, Singapore, etc.

After the explosion of violence, I wrote a 200 page report about it, in English, and translated into Burmese, and it still stands, I believe, as the best report about the situation. I wrote it for the Arakan Human Rights and Development Organization (AHRDO). There’s nothing in it that anybody can say is wrong. Everything I’ve put out is pretty studied, and it may be daring - but it is true. Nobody has ever come up with something that I have said or printed that is not

true. And nobody has the experience that I have in Rakhine State and the entire nation of Myanmar for 37 years.

Upon completion of the huge report in 2013, we had a press conference in Yangon, and, and passed it out to embassies and aid groups and so on.

TWO ROHINGYA LEADERS IN INDONESIA ASK FOR BOMB-MAKING INSTRUCTORS

Two Rohingya leaders travelled to Indonesia, in June 2013, to meet hardline radical extremist militant Islamic groups in the hope of enlisting their support and assistance. The militants were in the market for more guns, explosives, jihadi fighters, cash and importantly - bomb-making instructors.

Abu Arif, a Rohingya Ulama (high Islamic cleric and scholar) and militant commander Abu Shafiyah, linked to the militant Islamic Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) - known as the most extreme, radical and fanatic of the various Rohingya Mujahideen militias. There are numbers of Muslim countries where official and/or non-official efforts are recruiting men eager to fight, as a mujahideen warrior, to kill the Buddhists. Sympathy for the Rohingya runs high in Indonesia, where the authorities have managed to prevent large-scale terror attacks in recent years, but extremist militancy remains a concern.

On June 19, 2013, Abu Arif, 'the high Islamic cleric and scholar' spoke at a forum in Petamburan, Central Jakarta, and expressed that Muslims, anywhere in the world, should view the Rohingya cause as 'Jihad fi sabilillah' (mandatory Holy War requested by and fought for Allah). He made it clear, *"There should be no diplomacy whatsoever, we Muslims must fight. We the Mujahideen of Rohingya have hope in the Muslim brothers in Indonesia. If there are those who could help, then help in the form of Mujahideen warriors, firearms, funds and medical teams."*

Abu Shafiyah, the commander of the extreme militant terrorist Laskar Mujahideen, explained that the Rohingya Mujahideen need bomb instructors - people who are experts and can train the Mujahideen to assemble bombs. *"We need the Mujahideen from Indonesia to train and supply the Mujahideen in their training camp in Rohingya, especially in bomb making,"* Abu Shafiyah pleaded. He also explained how the Mujahideen of the RSO have performed 'i'dad' (military training for *jihad fi sabilillah*) and this was done to fight against the enemies of Allah. "The Mujahideen of the RSO are ready to wage jihad in the land of Arakan to establish the religion of Allah." affirmed Ustadz Abu Arif - another terrorist leader. The enthusiasm of the Indonesian jihadis is very high - they watched the training video and listened to the explanation by Abu Shafiya. Now they are determined to go to Arakan to conduct *jihad fi sabilillah*, fighting for the Rohingya by the request of Allah.

FOREIGN MILITANTS TRY TO JOIN BENGALIS

There are a lot of foreign attempts to get into contested areas there. I have some video of foreign instructors teaching ARSA members, and the only thing that's keeping most foreign fighters out is that it's hard to get there. By land it's hard. Bangladesh, at least, has a government that is anti-terrorist, that does not want this to go on. Sheik Hasina, the woman leader of Bangladesh has a government policy is that is anti-terrorist - because they know that there are other factions in Bangladesh that if they took over power would allow Al Qaeda and every one to come in, and their plan then is to attack India from both sides. That's the big plan - they want to topple India and rule it again - as the Muslims did for 800 years, at an estimated cost of 80 million Hindus and Buddhist lives. Sheik Hasina has had 11 assassination attempts on her in just a few years. So, things can change any day. And, there are parts of the Bengali government who are aiding the terrorists, and most likely plotting assassinations, coups, Jihads, etc.

2016 ATTACKS - 10 MONTHS BEFORE 2017 ATTACKS - VERY SIMILAR

This violence erupted again in October 2016, with a new terrorists group called 'Harakah al-Yakin (translated from Arabic as: the Faith Movement, or the the Movement of Certainty). On March 29, 2017, the group released a press statement using the new name of 'Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army' (ARSA), perhaps a savvy move to have an English name, and therefore minimize the Arab and Islamist connection, and to use the term 'Arakan' to strengthen the propaganda that the Bengali 'Rohingya' Muslims are indigenous to the land of Arakan. One disturbing thing, among many others: while they are planning and fighting to make the northern part of the state an autonomous Islamic State, their logo shows the entire state, thereby showing their hypocrisy, and their long-term agenda. And, the two guns certainly show their militancy, and not any effort to live in harmony, with respect and tolerance of others - because that is absent. Their Wahabist Islamic ideology has no mercy, at all, for any infidels, only intolerance, supremacy, and death.



In the early hours of October 9, 2016, leader Ata Ullah led about 400 insurgents to the border area of Bangladesh and Myanmar where, in three groups, they launched simultaneous surprise attacks on three Burmese Border Guard Police (BGP) bases in Maungdaw and Rathedaung townships, near the border with Bangladesh. One of the targets was a BGP headquarters, a major installation in Kyee Kan Pyin (just north of Maungdaw town) that was overrun in a carefully planned multi-phase attack, and from where many weapons were looted. In another indication of the preparation level, the group planted an improvised explosive device (IED) and set an ambush on the approach road to the headquarters, delaying reinforcements and damaging vehicles. The two other targets were a BGP sector headquarters at Nga Khu Ya in north Maungdaw and a BGP outpost at Koe Dan Kauk in

Rathedaung, just south of Maungdaw township. Ata Ullah had instructed that after attacking the bases, the attackers should murder the members of the police, take their weapons and equipment, and use those weapons in further attacks on nearby army and police bases. The Muslims killed 9 officers, and carried away many weapons and large quantities of ammunition. Over the next few days 5 more soldiers were killed in further attacks, ambushes, and firefights. On the afternoon of October 10, heavily-armed ‘Rohingya’ Jihadis ambushed an army column on the road between Kyee Gan Byin and Kyane Gyaung killing five soldiers.

On October 10 and 11, Burmese army units entered Myo Thu Gyi, Yay Dwin Byin, and U Chint Bengali ‘Rohingya’ Muslim villages in northern Maungdaw area and cleared the Bengali militants who were armed with some of the stolen guns, as well as guns smuggled in from Bangladesh. Several stolen weapons and quantities of ammunition were recovered. On October 13, another operation was made in the Bengali village of War-bate. One stolen gun and more than a thousand rounds of ammo were recovered from the village ruins after the Muslim terrorists set the village on fire and fled towards the nearby border with Bangladesh. Similar operations were made against several Bengali villages suspected of hiding local villagers who had taken part in the October 9 attacks, and harboring jihadis who had snuck in from Bangladesh. According to unofficial sources altogether 40 Muslim terrorists were killed and more than 200 were captured and now being detained and interrogated in Sittwe Prison. A captured Bengali ‘Rohingya’ named Mamud Eslam said, while being interrogated,

“When we arrived at the mosque the Imam persuaded us to join the militant group. We were told that we must conduct violent attacks in collaboration with the men from Bangladesh.”

Another detainee, Saw Du Aarr Mane said, *“Our group was armed with clubs, machetes, and slingshots. There was a plan to loot guns (in the surprise attacks on the BGP bases) and then attack the Burmese army and police forces when they arrived.”*

Another Bengali being interrogated told what he witnessed, *“On October 13, we Muslims set fire to villages. I saw about 100 houses burning.”* Ei Ar Har admitted.

TEACHERS RESCUED

There were nearly 2,000 Rakhine and Burmese Buddhist teachers staffing 183 government schools in Maungdaw and 217 schools in Buthidaung townships. Most Buddhists living in northern Maungdaw were trapped behind ‘Rohingya’ terrorists and their only hope was to wait (in great fear) as the Burmese army slowly advanced out from the town of Maungdaw to clear the rugged area of ‘Rohingya’ terrorists, or to be rescued by helicopters.

On October 13, the Burmese Army sent at least ten helicopter gunships into troubled areas north of Maungdaw and airlifted out nearly 2,000 Buddhists, mostly females, back to Maungdaw town and then to their hometowns in other parts of Rakhine State. They were mainly teachers, doctors, nurses, and government staff serving in the schools, clinics, and

government offices located in Bengali Muslim villages. Three helicopter gunships in several trips managed to airlift 90 teachers who were trapped inside Taung Byo Let Wei Muslim village, with only a small BGP patrol for protection. Other Buddhists took refuge in nearby Rakhine Buddhist villages, which were most often surrounded by a overwhelmingly larger population of Bengali 'Rohingya' Muslim villages.

FURTHER CLASHES IN NOV 2016

A further serious escalation on November 12 made it clear that the October attacks on security forces were not one time events, and that HaY was still operational despite a month of intensive military operations against them.

At 6:45 am, an army column clashed with some 60 members of the armed HaY group in a valley near Pwint Hpyu Chaung village; one soldier died and several were wounded; six attackers were reportedly killed. There were several other skirmishes as the attackers retreated to Gwa Son village. When troops approached the village, the HaY militants shot at them. Several hundred villagers, armed with whatever they had at hand (knives and farming implements), spontaneously supported the attackers. A Burmese lieutenant-colonel was shot dead, and the troops retreated, calling in air support from two attack helicopters with mounted machine guns.

The same day, there were at least two IED attacks on government forces in the area. A BGP convoy was struck as it crossed a bridge, then came under attack by armed combatants; the authorities report the attackers were repelled and that there were no casualties. In the second incident, an army column was struck by an IED, reportedly damaging a vehicle but without casualties. The authorities have reported several other IED incidents and said that explosives/IEDs were also used tactically in the initial attack on the BGP headquarters.

2 SAUDIS PLANNERS 2016

Two Saudi Arabia-based senior leaders of Harakah al-Yaqin spent the month of August, 2016, in northern Rakhine State, selecting targets for a much larger coordinated attack and determining how and when the attacks would take place. Once they left, the intention was to obtain weapons and ammunition for the hundreds of trainees. Plans were also made to deploy at least four experienced doctors with medicines and supplies and to train locals as medics to assist them. From late August, 2016, there was an increase in the killing of known informers within the Rohingya community, in an attempt to keep the plans secret.

THE OBJECTIVE 2016

The claimed objective of the upcoming operation was to take complete control of Maungdaw township, cut off communications with Buthidaung to the east and establish military posts on the ridges of the Mayu range between Maungdaw and Buthidaung, creating a defensible liberated area. After this, the intent was to attack the northern part of Buthidaung – a very ambitious plan that would give complete control of the Bangladesh border – as well as parts of Rathedaung.

INFORMERS ARE KILLED

In early September, 2016, after the two senior leaders left, two informers in U Shey Kya village-tract, close to Nga Khu Ya where one of the 9 October attacks occurred, revealed the identities of eight local HaY members to the BGP, which arrested them on September 12. They were interrogated and finally divulged shocking and frightening information about the secret plan. HaY managed to bribe their members out of jail, learned who the informers were, and on September 30 killed the two informants. The Burmese and Rakhine authorities subsequently began large payments to informers in north Maungdaw to draw up lists of villagers in their area involved with terrorist and separatist groups, which prompted many to flee into Bangladesh.

Additionally, local people say, an IED that accidentally exploded in Ngar Sar Kyu village-tract around October 7 while it was being prepared drew the attention of the security forces. According to members of the group, HaY saw that the net was closing and decided that though its preparations were not yet complete for the larger attack plan, it had to make an emergency plan and launch a smaller operation on October 9 - ahead of schedule.

Though done hastily, the attacks showed some sophistication, including diversionary tactics; blocking reinforcements with a complex attack (IEDs plus armed assault) on a convoy some distance away; and felling of trees across roads to halt military vehicles. It is unclear where the explosives came from, but a foreign expert described the IEDs as crude but not completely amateurish.

The group was able to organize widely, pay numerous potential informers in northern Rakhine State prior to the attacks to keep them quiet and large bribes to the security forces to free detained militants. Now that it has established its legitimacy and capability with attacks, it is likely to be able to get funding much more easily, from the Rohingya diaspora and major private donors in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East - all of whom like to see their money result in quick and powerful events. HaY may also attract much larger terrorist groups to come and join their warfront.

ATA ULLAH'S PHONE TAPPED

Ata Ullah who is, or was, the leader of ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) on the ground there, had his phone tapped just a few weeks before the big attacks in August - (unknown to him) because Burmese troops had raided a militant camp in the Mayu Mountains. The Burmese military captured some people, and one of them had a scrap of paper in his pocket with Ata Ullah name and phone number on it. And, so, they gave it to Indian intelligence because Indian intelligence has the better way to monitor something like this in the area. Indian intelligence tapped his phone, and I have transcriptions of some of those calls.

Three very revealing calls were done one day before the attacks. Two of the calls were from a Pakistan general to Ata Ullah and then third call was from an ISIS leader in Syria. Now, here is the interesting thing about the phone calls. First of all, they're mostly in Arabic because Ata Ullah was born in Pakistan and then raised in Saudi Arabia, so he knows Urdu, he knows Arabic etc, and the Pakistan general and the ISIS leader would not know Bengali. So, anyway, it was translated, and apparently the attacks were launched early than scheduled - they were planning to do the attacks three or four weeks later, after a big shipment of automatic weapons was going to come to them. Now, when they launched the attacks, they didn't have a whole lot of automatic weapons. They had some, and some groups had more than others, but the reason is because they were premature. And why were they premature?

Their original plan for the attacks, later in September, was to attack more than 100 police posts, and more, at the same time, and by then they would have much more firepower from the big arms shipment they were expecting. But, the first call from the Pakistan general was of course all the usual Arabic at first, and then "We need the attacks to be moved up to tomorrow", then Ata Ullah, who is kind of surprised, says "Tomorrow? I don't think we can do that," and he says "But you must, you must. We want the attacks to come out tomorrow at the exact same time that the Kofi Annan report is released". And Ata Ullah says "Okay, but we're not using any electronic communication right now because we're so close, we're only using runners." Little did he know that his own phone call is being tapped right then. So, only runners, to avoid any chance electronic devices could be tapped and expose their long and systematic plan. Then, a few hours later the Pakistani general calls again and says "Ok, just do whatever you can. We still need the attack to be tomorrow." So Ata Ullah says "Ok, I'll do my best, blah, blah, blah", and then the third call from the ISIS leader was just kind of a pre-congratulatory call saying "Oh Allah, yes, very good, congratulations on the attacks that are going to start tomorrow" etc, like that.

So, then the attacks happened early that morning. It happened half a day after the release, so close enough. But, because the runners were involved, the further places, in Buthidaung and Rathedaung, the big attacks did not happen on August 25th, they happened one day or two days later, after runners finally got there with the message to launch attacks. A couple of

days later, as the attacks obviously didn't do what they thought they would, and the terrorists and their families and villages were on the run, Ata Ullah put out a Whatsapp message on the 27th of August, where he is kind of pissed, and said "Just burn all the villages, burn all the villages, burn, burn" - that's what he said on Whatsapp.

by Rick Heizman, May 22, 2018, San Francisco

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