

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority group who live in the North Arakan State of Burma, adjacent to Bangladesh. There are presently over 2 million Rohingyas in the world, and most of them work as casual laborers, farmers and fishermen. The Burmese Junta has always viewed the Rohingya people as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, even though they had settled in Burma for centuries. The Rohingyas' vulnerable and marginalized status worsened when the 1982 Burma Citizenship Law was enacted rendering them stateless. The Rohingyas started to flee to Thailand in 1991s. It's in the range of the monsoon waves settle down between October and February of each year. Due to Burma government discrimination, coercive measures and lack of economic opportunities, poverty is widespread in Rohingya communities. The Rohingyas low economic status and high birth rate have resulted in food shortages and poverty. These, along with mistreatment and or persecute intention by the Burmese government, have caused many Rohingya attempt to leave the country and escape to Thailand as a transit point before continuing to smuggle to Malaysia for their life and safety. It is very dangerous to enter Malaysia directly. There is a risk of being shot by the Malay military that are much stricter than the Thai military. Departing from Chittagong District of Southeast Bangladesh by boat is the most popular route because these areas are

suitable for preparing boats and food, without interference by the Burmese military. It takes about 10-14 days. They usually come ashore in the provinces of Ranong, Phang-Nga or Phuket, Thailand. There are 20,000 Rohingya in Thailand. However a survey conducted under the initiative of the Thai National Human Rights Commission in 2008, on the legal status of Rohingyas in Thailand, revealed approximately 3,000 Rohingyas spread out over Thailand, particularly in Bangkok, Mae sot, Ranong and the southern provinces.

Since the entering of Rohingyas in 1991-2010, Thai government turns their eyes of refugees matter. When Thai navy found them at the shore then they mostly push the rohingya refugees back to the sea. Due to Thai government at that time considered the Rohingya as an illegal immigrant. Therefore, there is no law to protect them. Thai government didn't consider them as a refugee. However, during Yingluck era, she changed the policy by allowing a temporary stay in Thailand within 6 months. there were many complex factors which caused her decision.

The international press media keep reporting on the problem of Rohingya refugees which become the international hot issue because it's also a part of countries which may concern. The international organizations play role and force Thai government in order to change its policy such as Reuter and BBC, the very well-know presses. They report on how Thai navy rejects the rohingya refugees at the Thai shores and

Thai authorities are also concern the human trafficking. Moreover, there were organizations trying to oppress Thai government in helping rohingya as a refugees and provide them a camp especially UNHCR and Human Right Watch who play the main role. Besides, The domestic factors has big influence in helping Rohingya especially Islamic group who consider Rohingya as a brotherhood because of the same religion. Furthermore, there were domestic NGOs, Human right movement groups who have much influence towards the government.

Related to this undergraduate thesis, I would like to recommend that Thai government should reconsider the Rohignya status and let them become a legal worker due to the ASEAN opening in 2015 many illegal workers went back to their countries. Therefore, now Thailand is facing labor lacking. Thailand should sign the 1951 UN Convention and accept the recommendation of UNHCR in order to make this problem become easier. However, even though, how much the Rohingya refugees may has impact on national security but as we are same born to be human then we cannot just see our friends are dying. Thanks to Thai government on letting thr Rohingya even temporary stay.

