

ANTI-ROHINGYA LAWS TIMELINE



A police checkpoint with closed-off Rohingya area, Rakhine State, 2014. (WikiCommons/Adam)

1942
 1942
 British Burma is occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army. Muslim Rohingya in the Rakhine (formerly Arakan) State are armed in support of the British, while the Buddhists of Rakhine support the Japanese.

1948
 January 4, 1948
 Burma's Independence from Great Britain.

1962
 March 2, 1962
 Myanmar becomes a dictatorship ruled by the military (Tatmadaw).

1978
 1978
 "Operation Dragon King": Tatmadaw launches a "clearance operation" against the Rohingya causing more than 200,000 to flee Myanmar and go to refugee camps in Bangladesh.

1982
 October 15
 Citizenship Law: the Rohingya are no longer recognised as one of the 135 "national races" and become stateless.

1988
 August 8
 "8888 Uprising": failed pro-democracy protests bring Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Burmese independence leader Aung San and leader of the newly formed National League for Democracy, into the public spotlight.

1992 - 1997
 Attempts by Burmese and Bangladesh governments to repatriate Rohingya from Bangladesh refugee camps to Myanmar. More Rohingya flee Myanmar at the same time as conditions there have not improved.

2012
 June 2-14 and October
 Rakhine State Riots: a series of riots in the state of Rakhine after a local ethnic Rakhine woman was allegedly raped and murdered by three Rohingya and a Rakhine mob murdered ten Muslims in response.



Map of Myanmar. The coloured areas represent the country's different regions. (WikiCommons/NordNordWest)

2013
 2013
 A law prohibiting inter-ethnicity and inter-faith marriages is passed. The same year, another law prohibits Rohingya families from having more than 2 children.

2014
 2014
 Census: A nationwide census is held for the first time since 1983; the government omits "Rohingya" from the census and excludes the Rohingya population from the count.

2015
 May 23
 Population Control Healthcare Law: women in some regions are subjected to three-year birth spacing by the government.
 August 26
 Buddhist Women Special Marriage Law: marriage between Buddhist women and non-Buddhist men must be applied for and approved by government authorities. A Buddhist wife also has the right to divorce her husband should he attempt to convert her to his religion, or insult Buddhism.
 August 28
 Law Concerning Religious Conversion: religious conversion must be overseen by government authorities.
 November 8
 The National League for Democracy, headed by Aung San Suu Kyi, wins the general election and brings the country under a civilian government for the first time since 1962.

2016
 October 9
 2016 "Clearance Operation": Tatmadaw launches a "clearance operation" against Rohingya villages in response to attacks committed by a Rohingya militant group. Villages were burned and civilian inhabitants were brutalized, raped, and murdered. Around 90,000 Rohingyas are displaced, many of whom flee to Bangladesh.

2017
 August 25
 "Clearance Operation": after another series of clashes with a Rohingya militant group, Tatmadaw conducts another "clearance operation". The number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh reaches over 723,000.

2018
 March 2018
 Villages are burnt: Human Rights Watch Satellite imageries confirm the Burmese government is bulldozing the burned remains of the villages.
 August 24
 UN's Independent Fact Finding Mission concludes that top military leaders of men must be applied for and approved by government authorities. A Buddhist wife also has the right to divorce her husband should he attempt to convert her to his religion, or insult Buddhism.
 September 20
 The Canadian Parliament recognises the murders of the Rohingya as genocide.
 October 2
 The Canadian Parliament revokes Aung San Suu Kyi's honorary Canadian citizenship.

