بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Myanmar Begins Releasing Ethnic Rakhine Nationals Returned from Malaysia

Myanmar's military authorities have begun releasing ethnic Rakhine nationals who were previously repatriated from Malaysia. This step was taken after the Malaysian government asked for official clarification on the news of the returnees' detention.

The Irrawaddy media reported that the release process began two days after Malaysia's Foreign Minister, Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, gave a statement in the Dewan Rakyat regarding the condition of the repatriated Myanmar nationals. Based on information from the Khamee Youth Unity Association and the testimony of residents, those with complete official identity documents were allowed to return to their respective homes after the families submitted the required documents.

Previously, Malaysia repatriated 1,476 Myanmar nationals at the end of September using Myanmar Navy ships. Of the total returnees, about 400 of them are ethnic Rakhine. While the majority of other returnees were allowed to return home upon arrival, ethnic Rakhine – including 26 members of the Khamee community – were detained and interrogated at military detention facilities in Yangon's Thanlyin and Hlaingthayar regions.

Responding to reports of the detention of about 300 citizens, Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan confirmed that Malaysia contacted Myanmar authorities and ordered businesses in Yangon to monitor their safety. The gradual repatriation targeting up to 5,000 people was initially initiated on the basis of assurances of safety from Myanmar. However, the United Nations and various human rights organizations continue to warn that the armed conflict that has taken place in Myanmar since the 2021 military coup still does not guarantee safe conditions for refugees.

Thai Government Revokes Rabbi Yosef Chaim's Citizenship Office

The Thai government has officially revoked the citizenship of Rabbi Yosef Chaim Kantor, a prominent rabbinical leader who has been naturalized since 2013. The revocation order was signed by the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Anutin Charnvirakul, under the Citizenship Law of 1965.

The firm took the drastic step after the Office was proven to have repeatedly used its U.S. passport—at least 16 trips to Australia and the U.S.—despite Thai law prohibiting naturalized nationals from using their previous citizenship.

The move comes as the Thai government tightens immigration rules against foreigners. Previously, local authorities had also raided three Jewish organizations in Bangkok, including where the Office worked at Chabad House, which was found to be employing three Myanmar workers without official permits.

In response to this decision, a representative of Chabad House expressed his concern considering that the Office has been settled in Thailand for more than 30 years. Nevertheless, the organization emphasized that the relations of the Jewish community in Thailand remain harmonious and do not feel threatened.

False One reason for Thailand's decision is part of a response to Thai protests against the attitude of Jewish immigrants who are unsettling to locals for their various behaviors.

Police Inspect 97 Corporations and Designate 20 Forest and Land Fire Suspects

The National Police of the Republic of Indonesia (Polri) through the Criminal Investigation Branch is investigating 97 corporations for forest and land fires (karhutla) cases throughout Indonesia. Of these, 20 companies have been officially designated as suspects, consisting of 16 domestic investment companies and 4 foreign-invested companies.

The Head of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the National Police, Komjen Asep Safrudin, stated that the number of corporate suspects still has the potential to increase as the investigation progresses. The corporation was charged with Articles 98, 99, and 108 of the Environmental Protection and Management Law related to intentional violations and negligence in environmental destruction. The threat of punishment reaches 15 years in prison and a maximum fine of 15 billion rupiah.

In addition, the police have recommended the revocation of business licenses for 23 corporations that are proven to have experienced repeated fires, do not have adequate firefighting facilities, or have burned land areas exceeding 500 hectares.

Overall, the National Police received 104 reports involving corporations with a total of 29,168 hectares of burned land. The West Kalimantan region recorded the most reports. Meanwhile, for individual cases, the police have processed 287 reports covering 5,859 hectares of burned land and designated 245 people as suspects.

ASEAN Special Envoy Scheduled to Visit Myanmar

ASEAN special envoy to Myanmar who also serves as Philippine Foreign Secretary Maria Theresa Lazaro is scheduled to make an official visit to Naypyidaw on Wednesday and Thursday. According to Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow, the visit aims to expand access to humanitarian assistance amid the ongoing civil war conflict since the 2021 military coup.

Until now, it has not been confirmed whether Lazaro will be allowed to meet with Myanmar's former democratic leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. The Philippines' previous request for "brief access" to meet the 81-year-old was rejected by Myanmar's military authorities.

This visit was prepared so that the special envoy could convey the latest developments at the meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Manila ahead of the ASEAN Summit.

Meanwhile, the dynamics surrounding Suu Kyi showed little improvement after her son, Kim Aris, was allowed to speak to her by phone for the first time in more than five years. Despite reporting that her mother's condition appeared to be healthy, Aris admitted that she still felt worried for Suu Kyi's safety and well-being.