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24 August 2022

Indrika Ratwatte  
Director for Asia and the Pacific  
UNHCR

**Subject: Ensure protection of Saiful Arakani and his family in Bangladesh**

Dear Mr. Ratwatte,

I am writing to you regarding the threats and attacks on Saiful Arakani, 26, a Rohingya youth and his family members by both state and non-state actors operating within the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. It has been brought to our attention several times by Saiful and others since August 2021 that he and his family are facing constant threats and are in urgent need of protection.

We appreciate the support and protection services that UNHCR offers to the nearly one million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The UNHCR has communicated to us that it has been closely monitoring the situation of Saiful Arakani, his brother and other members of their family and about the different steps they have taken to ensure their safety and security.

While we appreciate the efforts of UNHCR to support the Rohingya refugees, we are alarmed by the concerns shared by Rohingya refugees about [violence in the camps](#) committed by armed groups and allegations of crackdowns by security forces. The brutal murder of prominent Rohingya civil society leader [Mohib Ullah](#) and several others only make them further uncomfortable and unconvinced about their safety in the refugee camps.

In this context, we find the allegations of threats and attacks against Saiful and his family members deeply concerning. We are further alarmed by the [detention](#) of Saiful's father and brother-in-law on 15 July 2022 by Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion (APBn) for possession of money.

We call upon you to take immediate actions to ensure the safety and protection of Saiful Arakani and his family members, by investigating the allegations of harassment by state and non-state actors and call on Bangladeshi authorities to immediately release the two individuals unless they can be prosecuted under a recognizable criminal offence substantiated by evidence.

We urge you further to reiterate in your communication with the government of Bangladesh the importance of having a transparent and rights-respecting policy framework about the participation process of Rohingya refugees in the decisions that affect their lives, which include service provisions in the camps, relocation, and repatriation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yamini Mishra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yamini Mishra  
South Asia Director