
MALAYSIA SAYS 5,000 ROHINGYA WON'T BE RETURNED TO MYANMAR IF SAFETY IS AT RISK

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Saadet Gokce

Malaysia on Wednesday said plans to repatriate an initial group of 5,000 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar would not proceed if they faced a risk of persecution or threats to their lives upon return.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said the authorities were assessing the proposed repatriation plan and would identify the refugees involved, according to the Malaysian daily The New Straits Times.

"Malaysia, as a responsible country, will not send the 5,000 Myanmar refugees back if they are likely to be persecuted or if their lives would be at risk," he said, adding that there are several matters that "must first be examined during discussions with Myanmar's junta government before we proceed."

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