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DEEP CONCERN

ALLEVIATE DIRE SITUATION FACING ROHINGYA, SAYS PM

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Najib says govt is urging Myanmar to tackle crisis through holistic approach

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday echoed the call made by United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres for calm and restraint to prevail in Myanmar's Rakhine State, where unrest has displaced thousands of Rohingya.

In a tweet yesterday morning, Najib said the government was urging Myanmar's security forces to seek a holistic approach to address the crisis.

"We urge for calm and restraint. The dire situation facing our Rohingya brothers and sisters must be alleviated for (the) good of Myanmar and the region," he said.

On Saturday, Guterres warned that the situation in Rakhine, unless checked, could lead to a "humanitarian catastrophe".

He expressed deep concern



Datuk Seri Najib Razak



Rohingya refugees carrying their belongings as they board lorries in Ukhiya, Bangladesh, on Saturday. AFP PIC

about reported systematic violence committed on ethnic Rohingya villagers in the state following the Aug 25 attacks on police posts in the area.

"The secretary-general is deeply concerned by the reports of excesses during the security operations conducted by Myanmar's security forces in Rakhine State," a statement issued by

Guterres's office read.

It is the Myanmar authorities' responsibility, he added, to provide security and assistance to those in need and to allow UN and its partners to give humanitarian support.

It was reported that hundreds of men, purportedly from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, ambushed Myanmar police posts using knives, guns and homemade explosives, killing at least a dozen security forces on

Aug 25.

Nearly 400 people have died in the violence, while 11,000 ethnic Rakhine Buddhists, Hindus and other minority groups have also been internally displaced.

Page 1 pic: A group of Rohingya refugees carry their children as they wade across water after travelling over the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Teknaf, Bangladesh, last Friday.