

Go Back To Where You Came From

Transcript



Jodi's Journey Clip 3: Living Behind The Wire

NARRATOR: SITTWE, THE CAPITAL OF RAKHINE STATE IN WESTERN BURMA.

THIS IS HOME TO MOST OF BURMA'S ESTIMATED ONE POINT THREE MILLION ROHINGYA.

TWENTY YEARS AGO SHOMSUL ESCAPED FROM HERE ON A REFUGEE JOURNEY THAT ULTIMATELY LED TO AUSTRALIA.

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ROHINGYA STILL ESCAPE EVERY YEAR.

JODI: There's just police everywhere, sitting there with guns.

RENEE: I can't figure out what the barbed wire is for though.

NARRATOR: WITH ONGOING ANTI-MUSLIM VIOLENCE, POLICE KEEP THE BUDDHIST AND MUSLIM POPULATIONS APART.

BUT IT'S THE ROHINGYA WHO LIVE BEHIND THE WIRE.

IN JUNE TWENTY TWELVE, BUDDHIST MOBS ATTACKED LOCAL MUSLIMS. TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE KILLED. MANY HACKED TO DEATH.

AUNG WIN: Hello.

RENEE: Hello. I'm Renee.

JODI: Hello.

NARRATOR: AT THE RUINS OF A DESTROYED MOSQUE THEY MEET ROHINGYA ELDER AUNG WIN.

DAVY: What happened here?

AUNG WIN: Very bad thing. Very terrible thing happen, in downtown Sittwe there is thirteen Rohingya villages was burned down.

JODI: Thirteen villages.

AUNG WIN: Thirteen villages. Like you know holocaust, you know. One of my brother in law was choked in front of their family members. Another was you know beaten to death.

NARRATOR: A STAGGERING ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY THOUSAND ROHINGYA WERE FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES. IT WAS ANOTHER FLARE UP IN DECADES OF PERSECUTION AGAINST BURMA'S MUSLIM MINORITY.

JODI: We met a Rohingya refugee in Sydney Australia and he was from Rakhine state, and he fled by boat. How many people are leaving now by boat?

AUNG WIN: After the 2012 violence, nearly 60-thousand people, 60-thousand people.

Jodi: Sixty thousand people are leaving by boat.

AUNG WIN: Sixty thousand have already left. Already left. Many more will leave to the third country, because the situation is very bad here. The government is doing nothing here for the Rohingya people.

JODI: What about you?

AUNG WIN: So I am born and brought up here. So now I am 60 years old. But I am a non-citizen of this country. What shall I do at this point?