



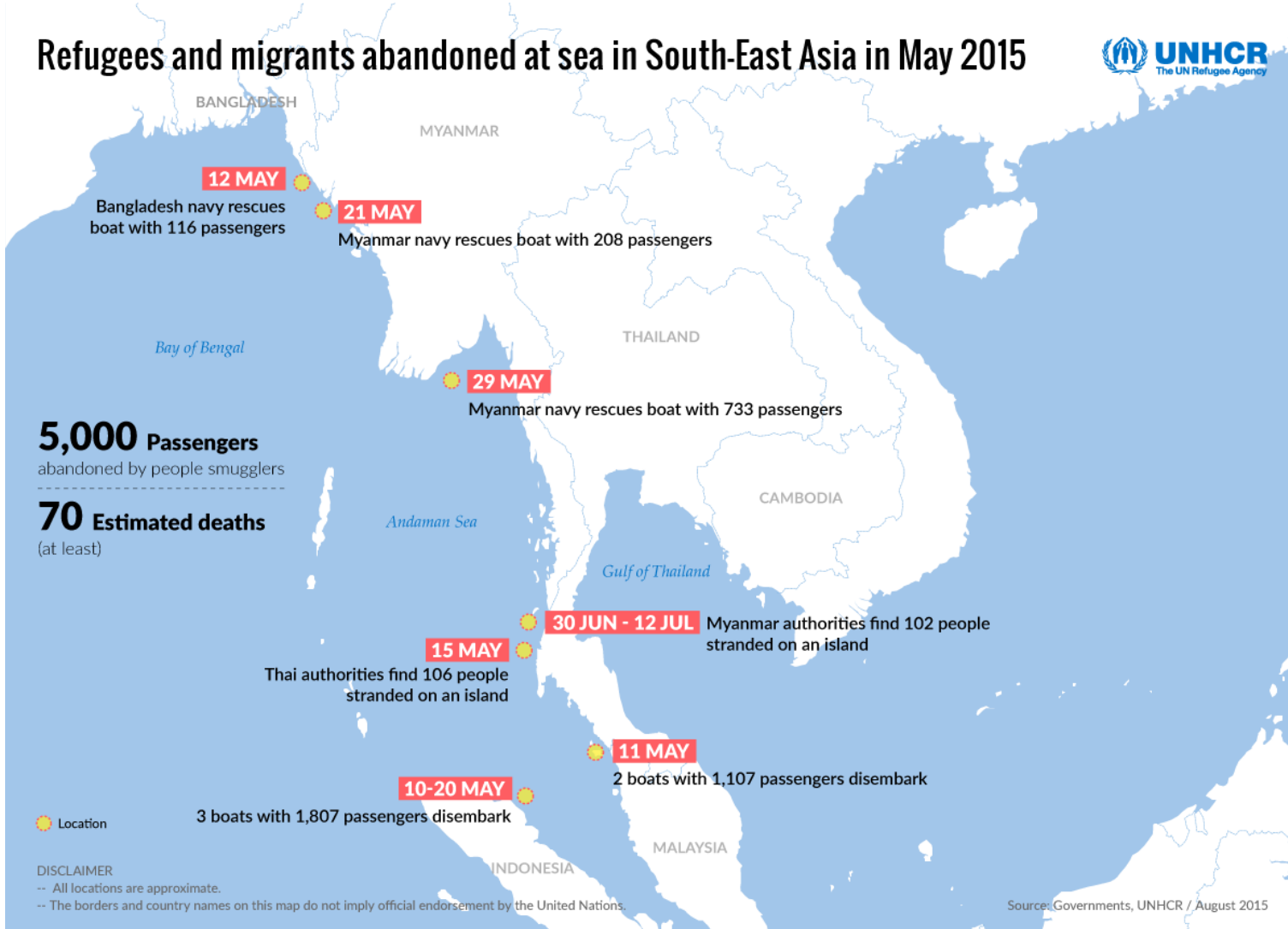
Facets of hospitality towards Rohingya refugees in Aceh:

Welcoming the victim, the stranger, the brother, or the aid recipient?

Structure

1. What happened during the Andaman Sea “crisis”
2. Shifting expectations: from regional to local “solutions”?
3. Treatment of AS/REF in Indonesia: the rules
4. Insights from Aceh: the exemptions
5. Facets of hospitality

Refugees and migrants abandoned at sea in South-East Asia in May 2015



- At least 5,000 refugees and migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh stranded at sea
 - smugglers and ship crews who had promised to take them to Malaysia abandoned them
 - Many people remain unaccounted
- Police officials involved in the smuggling and trafficking networks



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-20/south-east-asia-nations-hold-crisis-meeting-over-migration/6482426>

The need for “solutions”

- **Regional:**

- one of the weakest normative frameworks for refugee protection

- Hosts more than 2 million AS/REF/stateless people/IDPs

- **National:**

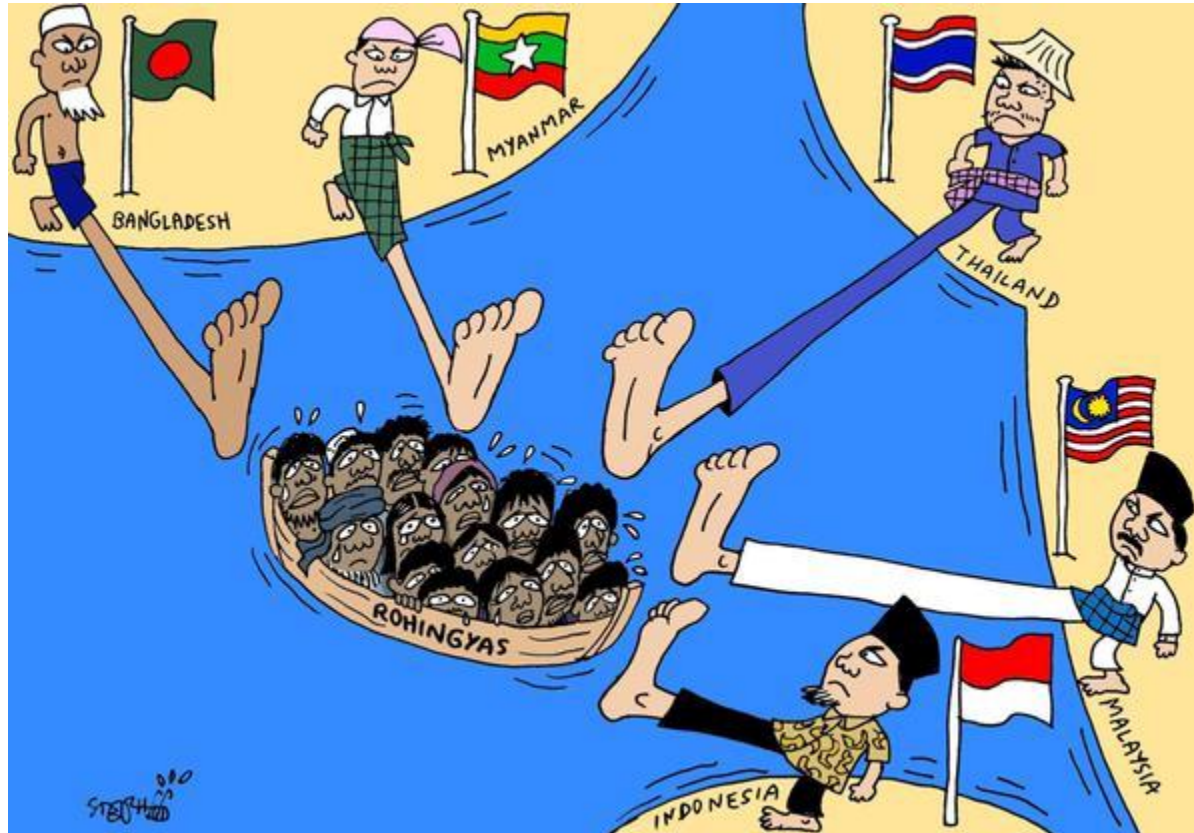
- Indonesia has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention

- offers only repatriation or resettlement as durable solution but not local integration

- **Sub-national?**



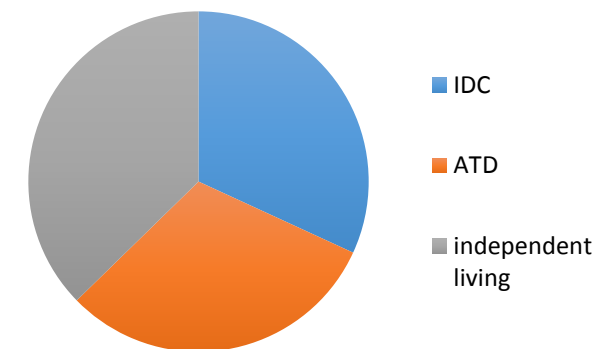
ASEAN and the Bali Process: lack of “solutions”



- Special Meetings on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean
- ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime
- The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

Indonesia: no place for refugee protection

- No comprehensive legal framework for refugee protection
- Presidential Decree 125/2016 on Handling Refugees from Abroad
- Immigration detention
- Nov. 2016: 14,191 AS/REF (960 Rohingya) registered with UNHCR Jakarta



<http://www.rappler.com/world/regions/asia-pacific/indonesia/english/160808-refugees-protest-jakarta>

Initial hospitality in Aceh



<https://en.tempco.co/read/news/2015/05/12/055665575/Indonesian-Navy-Says-It-Sent-a-Boat-of-Rohingya-to-Malaysia>



<https://www.dawn.com/news/1182517>



Aceh: experiences from hosting the Rohingya



- No detention centers in Aceh
- 4 makeshift camps: very different conditions
- Repatriation of the Bangladeshi
- Absconding (to Malaysia)
- Few resettlements

Aceh



Photos by Antje Missbach

Hospitality

- *tamu adalah raja* (the guest is king),
- *Peumulia Jamee* (Acehnese for honoring the guest)
- The need for departure?
- rights to residence imply the establishment of a home: guest-turned-resident → sharing goods and resources



Facets of hospitality

1. hospitality as gift economy for returning favors;
2. hospitality as cosmopolitan (re)alignment strategy;
3. hospitality as resistance with the “weapon of the weak”; and,
4. hospitality as a means of income generation



Hospitality and the gift economy: returning the favor

- moral, ethical and religious duty to rescue
- Social security networks for people living in disaster-prone environments (fishermen)
- Reciprocity:
 - tsunami
 - exile in Malaysia and Sweden
- Host \leftrightarrow refugee



Hospitality as cosmopolitan (re)alignment strategy

- Showing to the world → Aceh's reputation as *darussalam* (abode of peace)
- High expectations towards external actors (great powers)
- Acehnese cosmopolitanism offers the potential for local integration for refugees



Hospitality as resistance: a “weapon of the weak”?

- hospitality is political practice *par excellence*
- *bandits d’honneur*
- subtle and not-so-obvious acts of disobedience
- Using Rohingya to test Jakarta’s patience?



<http://www.lintasnasional.com/2016/02/22/maret-2016-muslim-rohingya-di-kuala-langsa-dieksekusi-ke-shalter/>

Hospitality as means of income generation for NGOs

- Rohingya refugees as new issue for Indonesian/Acehnese NGOs (but hardly anywhere else in Indonesia)
- Former post-tsunami aid networks are still in place
- Clashes and collaborations between NGOs and local government officers
- “lessons learned” from Aceh as blueprint for managing AS/REF in the future throughout the region



Conclusion

- Anticipate further arrivals in the future
- Set up consistent mechanisms and guarantee protection
- NGOs cannot fill the protection gap

Thank you for your attention!

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