The Rohingya refugee crisis is a contentious issue that has strained Myanmar-Bangladesh relations since the late 1970s. The Rohingya crisis emanated from the military junta’s widespread violations of human rights in Myanmar against the Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine. Rendered stateless, the Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh and other neighboring countries to take refuge. Years of negotiation have failed to resolve the Rohingya refugee crisis. This research note proposes the need for intensive bilateral and multilateral negotiations, a prospect which is likely to be facilitated by the process of democratization in Myanmar.

* In 1989, the military government changed the English translations of many names dating back to Burma’s colonial period. Among others, Burma was changed into Myanmar, Arakan into Rakhine and so forth. The research note uses the name Myanmar in accordance with the practice of the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. For consistency, the research note refers to the country’s name as Myanmar. For names of places, the new names are given first and the old names are in parentheses.