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Malaysia set to return thousands of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar

CHENNAI – 25 Nov, 2026 Malaysia will send more than 6,500 Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar in a new round of repatriations, said Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

The announcement on Tuesday comes five days after the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled that Myanmar's security forces committed genocide against the Rohingya minority.

Malaysia has historically offered safe haven to exiles from Myanmar but has grown increasingly frustrated by large numbers of refugees, saying that hosting them has become a financial burden and security risk.

In late September, around 1,500 migrants were sent back to war-torn Myanmar in an opaque scheme that concerns rights groups.

Addressing the Malaysian parliament, Anwar said 1,500 Myanmar nationals will be returned on three navy vessels from December 6 to 7. "For the month of December, 5,303 will be brought back by aircraft at the expense of the Myanmar government," he said.



As of August, there were 225,740 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the UNHCR in Malaysia, around 90 percent of them from Myanmar, according to the agency's data.

The UN's highest court ruled last week that Myanmar authorities must "allow and facilitate the safe, voluntary and dignified return" of refugees displaced either within Myanmar or abroad.