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## Ongoing Detention of Myanmar Refugees in India Sparks Rights Concerns

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Indian authorities are continuing to detain Myanmar nationals who have crossed the border to escape the ongoing military crackdown in their home country, prompting concern from international human rights organizations. Critics argue that the detentions may breach established principles of asylum and migration rights, particularly those protecting individuals fleeing conflict and persecution.

Reports from rights groups indicate that many of those detained had entered India through border states such as Mizoram and Manipur, seeking refuge from violence and political instability following Myanmar's military takeover. Some detainees are reportedly being held in detention centers for extended periods, with limited access to legal aid or formal refugee status determination processes.

Officials have justified the detentions on grounds of immigration law violations, citing the absence of valid travel documents or visas. They maintain that all entrants are subject to existing legal frameworks and that national security considerations are a priority.

However, humanitarian advocates point out that India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, which leaves asylum seekers in a legal gray area. Without a dedicated refugee protection law, treatment of those fleeing conflict is handled under general immigration statutes, allowing for detention and deportation even in cases where individuals face credible threats in their home country.

Civil society groups have urged Indian authorities to adopt a more humanitarian approach, especially toward those escaping the Myanmar junta's widespread human rights abuses, which include arbitrary arrests, forced conscription, and military attacks on civilian areas. They have called for the immediate release of detainees with verified protection needs and for collaboration with international agencies to ensure safe shelter and due process.

The United Nations and several global rights bodies have expressed concern that deporting detainees back to Myanmar could place them at risk of persecution or death. They emphasize that the principle of *non-refoulement*, which prohibits returning refugees to places where they face danger, is a cornerstone of international human rights law.

As the crisis in Myanmar shows no sign of easing, activists warn that continued detentions will not only harm the refugees but also strain India's relations with humanitarian organizations. They stress that a policy framework balancing border security with human rights obligations is essential to prevent further violations and uphold India's longstanding tradition of providing refuge to those in need.