The Fleeing People of South Asia

Selections from Refugee Watch
Anthem South Asian Studies

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The Fleeing People of South Asia

Selections from Refugee Watch

Edited by
Sibaji Pratim Basu

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THE FLEEING PEOPLE OF SOUTH ASIA

GDP
Gross Domestic Product

GOSL
Government of Sri Lanka

HRW
Human Rights Watch

HSC
Hindu Students Council

IB
International Border

ICESCR
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ICRC
International Committee of the Red Cross

IDP
Internally Displaced Person

IOM
International Organization for Migration

IRB
Immigration and Refugee Board

IRO
International Refugee Organization

ISI
Inter-Services Intelligence

KNA
Kuki National Army

KNU
Karen National Union

KPP
Kamtapuri People’s Party

LDC
Lease Drivers Coalition

LOC
Line of Control

LTTE
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

MCRG
Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group

MDGs
Millenium Development Goals

MKSS
Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

MLAA
Migration Legislation Amendment Act

MQM
Muttahida Qaumi Movement

MSF
Medicines Sans Frontiers

NEFA
North-East Frontier Agency

NGO
Non-governmental Organization

NSCN
National Socialist Council of Nagaland

NWFP
North-West Frontier Province

NYTWA
New York Taxi Workers Alliance

OHCHR
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

PIP
Prevention of Infiltration from Pakistan

PIPFPD
Pakistan–India Peoples’ Forum for Peace and Democracy

PPV
Permanent Protection Visa

PSEPC
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada

RCMP
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

RW
Refugee Watch

SAARC
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

SAFHR
South Asia Forum for Human Rights

SAFRON
Ministry of States and Frontier Regions
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>SASG</td>
<td>South Asia Solidarity Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPGRC</td>
<td>Stranded Pakistani General Repatriation Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>Taxi and Limousine Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBLF</td>
<td>United Bengali Liberation Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>ULFA</td>
<td>United Liberation Front of Asom</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHRC</td>
<td>United Nations Human Rights Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s (Emergency) Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>VHP</td>
<td>Vishwa Hindu Parishad</td>
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<td>VHPA</td>
<td>Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>WPDA</td>
<td>Water and Power Development Authority</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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Foreword
by
Ranabir Samaddar

_Refugee Watch_ came into the world in 1998 – exactly a decade ago – for the task of documenting the flows of forced migration in South Asia. It was probably the first such initiative in this region followed by an imaginative publication from Dhaka, and then other publications and initiatives. _Refugee Watch_ while being a proud member of the human rights community of the region, which is aware of its responsibility towards victims of forced migration, continues to be a unique publication. From its inception, the initiative marked its regional coverage in its structure, authorship, news and style. It gradually brought before the readers the news of other regions, the relevant analyses, informed comments, and commentaries on campaigns and events relating to forced migration. It also aimed to be distinct, and readers will realize that this remains the case till now, on two counts. First, it did not want to be a scholastic publication. It brought out creative writings, narratives, critical legal opinions, experiences of the refugees themselves along with commentaries on partition refugees in a comparative light, and above all fresh perspectives infused with a sense of history. In this sense it aimed at not only being inter-disciplinary, but also at crossing the divide of academic publication and commitment bound writings and presentations. Second, in _Refugee Watch_ the _refugee_ appeared not only as a particular category of the displaced, but also as a figure of all kinds of displacement and forced migration. Thus, articles on internal displacement, trafficking in women, statelessness, immigration control regimes, humanitarian practices of protection, and many other associated themes were published in the journal, a glimpse of which the readers can get now through this superb editorial work by Sibaji Pratim Basu, the editor of _Selections_. Indeed, _Selections_ not only present the current histories of the flows of forced migration in South Asia but also