

## Reflect on a photograph – pt 1



© Saiful Huq Omi

This boy looks like he is so happy. No matter what.

I get upset because he looks very poor. He is very bony, he doesn't have a t-shirt and has been wearing those shorts forever. He looks like he hasn't eaten in a very long time.

He is also in a very deserted environment. I wonder how long it takes for him to get water and walk all the way back.

And yet he is smiling such a happy smile.

This picture makes me feel a bit awkward, because we have so much and he has so little. I feel bad that we ask our parents to buy us things. We always want more.

If I could speak to him, I would ask him if he wanted any water or anything to drink. I would ask him how he sleeps at night and what kind of food he eats. I would ask him if he is alone, and where his family is. I would ask him how he crossed to Bangladesh, how long it took, and how he did it.

I would tell him my name and I would say that if he wanted, he could come and stay with us. I would tell him that he looks like my little cousin.

When I hear that he is stateless, it makes me think 'how can you not have a country?' Everybody has a country! If you didn't have a country, you wouldn't be born on land. You would be born at sea, and

all your parents and ancestors would also have been born at sea. If you or your parents were born in Burma or Bangladesh, you should have a country. This is unfair. You can't force people away from their country because of a name. Just because you are Rohingya. What if the future president was to be a Rohingya and you didn't know it? What if a good citizen was born and you just pushed them out because they were Rohingya? I don't think it is fair to judge a person by his name.

I guess you can't find anything good in a place like that. I guess if you were born like that and grew up like that, you would be more used to it. But if I was in that situation it would be very difficult.

I don't know if I would be able to smile like him.

**Kithmi**

Age 10