



Special Online Seminar on

What Future for Rakhine?

End Games for the Arakanese (Rakhine, Rohingyas and Other Co-habitants)

Through the prism of Myanmar's internal colonialism and the triangular ethnic politics among the stakeholders - specifically, Rakhine, Rohingya and Myanmar - the online discussion will take a hard look at the ongoing and foundational issues of Rakhines' revived armed revolt against Myanmar's colonisation of the formerly independent Kingdom of Arakan/Rakhine and the ongoing genocidal persecution of the region's Rohingya minority. The forum brings together a group of leading policy analysts, activists and scholars including Rohingyas and Rakhine who monitor and/or are directly involved in Rakhine affairs. The discussions will touch on the status of the genocide of Rohingyas, the limitations of international law and accountability mechanisms (such as ICJ and ICC); the roles and policies of the most affected neighbouring state of Bangladesh; and the possibilities for reconciliation between Rakhine's two largest co-habiting ethnic communities, namely Rakhine majority and Rohingya minority.

Speakers

Professor Michael W. Charney



Professor Michael W. Charney teaches international security studies and Asian history in the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at SOAS, University of London. His research is on conflict in modern and contemporary Asia, the history of violence globally, and warfare.

Aung Thein Twan

Aung Thein Twan is an Arakanese Rakhine policy analyst and researcher who is active in civil society initiatives inside Myanmar. He read history at Sittwe University and has a keen and active interest in de-colonization and reconciliation among oppressed communities of Myanmar.

Sharifah Shakirah



Sharifah Shakirah was born in Buthidaung Township in Arakan state, Myanmar. When she was six years old, she fled the country to Malaysia along with her family to reunite with her father who had earlier fled the country to escape from persecutions by the Burmese regime. Sharifah Shakirah is the founder and director of Rohingya Women Development Network (RWDN), one of the first Rohingya women-led organizations as well as the first refugee women-led organizations in Malaysia. Currently she is based in US.

Nay San Lwin



Nay San Lwin was born in Buthidaung, and raised in Rangoon. His parents were civil servants in Myanmar. His grandfathers were high-ranking officers in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State. His great-grandfather Mr. Abdul Zolil was officially recognized as an indigenous person in Burma. Nay San Lwin is the co-founder of the Free Rohingya Coalition. For the past 19 years, since his departure from Myanmar, he has been documenting human rights violations and the military campaigns of the Tatmadaw in Arakan State of Myanmar. He is a prolific commentator on Rohingya issues on radio, television channels and other mainstream media outlets. He was publicly attacked by the Myanmar presidential office and State Counsellor's office for his role in disseminating news about military atrocities in the Northern Arakan State.

C R Abrar



Dr. C R Abrar is the Executive Director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), the premier migration think tank in Bangladesh. He taught International Relations at the University of Dhaka for four decades. His areas of research and advocacy include Rohingya refugees, short-term contract labour migrants and citizenship status of the camp dwelling Urdu speaking community in Bangladesh. He successfully filed a writ petition to secure release of Rohingya refugees who served out their sentences for illegal entry but continued to be incarcerated. He is a regular contributor to The Daily Star of Dhaka and writes on refugees, migration and rights issues.

Dr. Maung Zarni



Raised in an extended Burmese military family in Mandalay, Maung ZARNI is a UK-based non-resident fellow of the (Genocide) Documentation Center - Cambodia, co-founder of FORSEA.co, a Southeast Asian activist organization, and Burmese coordinator of the Free Rohingya Coalition, with 30-years of engagement in activism, scholarship, politics and media. As a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he co-founded and led the Free Burma Coalition in 1995 until 2004. In the mid-2000, Zarni initiated Track II negotiations with the Burmese military leadership, but did not come to any fruition.

Dr. Katherine Southwick



Katherine Southwick is an international law scholar and Atrocity Prevention Advisor, Independent Contractor at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on the role of domestic criminal justice systems in atrocity prevention. She previously worked for over a decade on human rights, statelessness, and legal reform in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Islands. She worked for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in Washington DC and the Philippines on programs relating to judicial reform and the ASEAN human rights system. As a research fellow at Refugees International, she conducted research and advocacy on the global problem of statelessness. She has clerked in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and her commentary on the Rohingya crisis has appeared in media and scholarly outlets. Katherine grew up in Africa and holds a B.A. and a J.D. from Yale University as well as a PhD (to be conferred 2020) from National University of Singapore Faculty of Law.