

## **Myanmar's Democratic Transition:**

### **What does that mean for the Persecuted Rohingya?**

*One-Day Open Research Conference, the University of Oxford*

Most sessions will be webcast LIVE.

Date: 11 May 2016 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Venue: Auditorium, Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UD

<https://www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/>

***Hosted by the South Asian Research Cluster, Wolfson College, Oxford University***

Registration begins at 8 am and the conference, at 8:30 am.

**\*\*\*\*\* RSVP required. To RSVP email [fanon2005@gmail.com](mailto:fanon2005@gmail.com) \*\*\*\*\***

Objectives:

1. to continue shining the spotlight of university and independent research onto what is increasingly recognized as Myanmar's slow genocide of the Rohingya among international genocide and legal scholars as well as world's icons such as Desmond Tutu, George Soros, Mairead Maguire, Amartya Sen, the Dalai Lama etc.;
2. to call urgent attention to recent research into the deplorable human conditions under which over 1 million Rohingya live in 'vast open prisons' (i.e., Rohingya villages and towns) and the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, which the New York Times call "the 21st century concentration camps";
3. to present evidence to persuade Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi government to prioritize the end of decades-long state persecution of the Rohingya minority; and
4. to brainstorm critical and constructive ideas which may enable Myanmar's democrats to remove one of the greatest obstacles to genuine democratization – the continued persecution of an entire ethnic minority in Western Burma

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

**Conference Host's Welcome** 8:30 am -8:35 am

**Emeritus Professor Barbara Harriss-White**, Co-ordinator, SARC, Wolfson College

**Introduction** 8:35 am – 8:40 am

**Dr Maung Zarni**, Research Scholar, The Sleuk Rith Institute, a permanent documentation centre, Cambodia & the author of “Why do Burmese Generals reform? Or do they?” (*forthcoming*, Yale University Press)

**1ST MORNING SESSION (8:40 am – 9:25 am including 10-minutes for each speaker, with 15 min. of Q & A)**

### **On History and Politics of Identity**

Chair: **Emeritus Professor Barbara Harrell-Bond**, Founder, Refugees Studies Centre, Oxford University & Director, Fahamu Refugee Programme, Oxford

**Daw Khin Hla**, a Rohingya refugee and former middle school teacher from Rakhine or Arakan State

*On Being A Rohingya in Myanmar*

**Professor Michael Charney**, Professor of Asian and Military History, Department of *History*, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), U. of London,

*State and Society in Arakan since the Fourteenth Century: From Inclusion to Polarisation and Exclusion*

**Maung Bo Bo**, PhD Candidate from Myanmar, Department of History, SOAS

*Rohingya identity and presence in Arakan, according to Burma's Official Sources*

**2nd MORNING SESSION (9:30 am - 10:15 am, 10 minutes for each speaker, followed by 15 minutes of Q & A)**

### **Public Health, Exploitation, and Human Trafficking**

Chair – **Professor Shapan Adnan**, Associate with Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme, Oxford University & Former Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore and Professor at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh

**Dr S. Saad Mahmood**, MD, Lecturer, Harvard University School of Medicine, Boston, USA, *Public Health Situation of the Rohingya: Findings from a Harvard Study*

**Dr Ambia Perveen**, MD, consultant pediatrician at Sankt Marien Hospital in Dueren, Germany and Rohingya activist with the European Rohingya Council, *Myanmar's Denial of Public Health Services to the Rohingya*

**Matthew Smith**, Executive Director, Fortify Rights, *International Crimes in Rakhine State: Prevention and Accountability*

**TEA/COFFEE BREAK 10:15 AM – 10:45 AM**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS 10:45 am – 11:25 am**

(30-minute keynote followed by 10 minutes of Q and A)

Chair – Emeritus Professor Barbara Harriss-White

**Why The World Must Listen to the Rohingyas**

**by**

**Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak**

University Professor, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University and a Founding Member of Post-Colonial Studies

**3RD MORNING SESSION (11:30 am to 12:15 pm, 10 minutes for each speaker, followed by 15-minutes of Q and A)**

**Myanmar's Policy and Practices of Rohingya Persecution**

Chair, **Professor Daniel Feierstein**, past President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (2013-15), Argentina & Director, Centro de Estudios sobre

**Professor Penny Green and Thomas McManus**, co-authors of the report *Genocide in Myanmar: Annihilation of the Rohingya*, (Oct 2015), International State Crime Initiative, Queen Mary University of London

**Dr Maung Zarni** (with Alice Cowley), co-author, *The Slow Burning Genocide of the Rohingya in Myanmar*, Pacific Law and Policy Journal, University of Washington School of Law (Spring 2014)

**LUNCH, Haldane Room, Wolfson College (12:15 pm – 1:15 pm)**

**1ST AFTERNOON SESSION (1:15 pm – 1:25 pm)**

**The Slow Genocide of the Rohingya**

A Videotaped Presentation by **Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize Winner in Economics (1998)**

Thomas W. Lamont University Professor and Professor of Philosophy and Economics, Harvard University, (recorded at the conference on the plight of the Rohingya, Harvard University, 4 Nov 2014).

**2ND AFTERNOON SPECIAL SESSION**

**(1:25 pm – 2:10 pm, 20-minutes roundtable followed by 25 minutes of Q and A)**

**Genocide Roundtable:**

**The Politics of the United Nations, International Human Rights and Sociology of Genocide**

Chair – **Professor Penny Green**, Professor of Law and Globalization & Director, International State Crime Research Initiative, Queen Mary University of London

**Professor Daniel Feierstein**, past President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (2013-15) & Director, Centro de Estudios sobre at the National University of Argentina and author of *Genocide as Social Practice: Reorganizing Society Under the Nazis and Argentina's Military Juntas* (Rutgers University Press, 2014)

**Tomas Ojea Quintana**, Human Rights Lawyer & former UN Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Myanmar, (2008-2014)

**3RD AFTERNOON SESSION (2:15 pm – 3:00 pm including 15 minutes of Discussions)**

**Rohingya Persecution, External Players and Perspectives**

Chair – **Dr Maung Zarni**, Sleuk Rith Institute, a permanent documentation center – Cambodia

**Dr Azeem Ibrahim**, Rothermere American Institute Fellow, Oxford University and author of *The Rohingyas: Inside Myanmar's Hidden Genocide* (Hurst, 2016).

**Professor Shapan Adnan**, Associate with Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme, Oxford University & Former Associate Professor, National University of Singapore (NUS) & Professor, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh

**Azril Mohd Amin**, Lawyer & Chief Executive, Centre for Human Rights Research & Advocacy (CENTHRA), Malaysia

**COFFEE/TEA BREAK (3:00 pm – 3:30 pm)**

**CLOSING AFTERNOON SESSION (3: 30 pm – 4:30 pm)**

**What can the international community do to end the Rohingya genocide?**

Chair – **Mark Farmaner**, Director, Burma Campaign-UK

**Tun Khin**, President, Burmese Rohingya Association UK

**Nurul Islam**, Rohingya Lawyer and Human Rights Activist, UK

**Dr Hla Kyaw**, Rohingya doctor & activist (European Rohingya Council)

**Buffet Dinner**