

MYANMAR'S SLOW BURNING GENOCIDE OF THE ROHINGYA

A SPECIAL SESSION AT

BUILDING SOVEREIGNTY, PREVENTING HEGEMONY : The Challenges for Emerging Forces in the Globalised World

**International and Multidisciplinary Conference of commemoration of the 60th
anniversary of the 1955 Bandung Asian-African Conference
Jakarta-Bandung-Jakarta, Indonesia, October 27-31, 2015**

In the early spring of 2015, the world watched with horror and outrage TV images of thousands of Rohingya including babies and elderly people, being adrift at high sea in Southeast Asia. These Rohingyas are not economic migrants in search of greener pasture: they are running away from the unbearable sub-human conditions in their ancestral home in Myanmar. As a matter of policy, and with popular domestic support, Myanmar is attempting to wipe of the entire ethnic minority of Islamic faith - numbering over 1 million. Successive governments have stripped the Rohingya of their citizenship and nationality, revoked their once official ethnic identity, imposed severe restrictions on their physical movements, marriage, family size, access to food, basic medicine and emergency care, livelihood opportunities, schooling and participation in the national or local life of the country. While attempting to periodically blocked any international humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya, the Burmese regimes have also offered blanket impunity to anyone or network that participates in any state-backed or sponsored mass violence against the Rohingya.

A growing number of credible international figures including former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar Tomas Ojea Quintana, Professor Amartya Sen, financier and political philanthropist George Soros, Desmond Tutu and 7 other Nobel Peace laureates have openly articulated their concern and named the root cause of the 'boat people' crisis: a genocide. George Soros who escaped the Nazi-occupied Hungary in 1944 visited Rohingya neighborhoods and drew an alarming parallel between Nazi Genocide and Myanmar's Rohingya persecution. Since Myanmar's official persecution of the Rohingya began nearly 40 years ago, half of the population of the Rohingya have fled the country. To date, over 140,000 are kept in refugee camps in their own home town from which they could not move about. According to the UN HCR, nearly 100,000 Rohingya have fled he country by boat across the Andaman Sea since the last bout of mass violence against them was launched in October 2012.

This special session on Myanmar's persecution of the Rohingya Muslims brings together a diverse group of eminent speakers - made up of a high level diplomat, a grass roots humanitarian, a Rohingya representative and scholars specializing in state crimes - who will explore in-depth the root causes of the refugee crisis, that is, Southeast Asia's newest 'boat people' making "irregular movements at sea". Based on their first-hand knowledge and/or grounded research, the panelists will look beyond the humanitarian dimensions of the refugee crisis and bring the focus to how and why Myanmar's successive military and quasi-civilian governments have singled out the Rohingya for extermination over the last nearly 4 decades. The panel will also discuss what the international community - not just ASEAN - including the Security Council can and should do in order to stop Myanmar's state-sponsored crimes against the Rohingya, including genocide and ethnic cleansing.

MODERATOR

Dr. Maung Zarni, Organizer of *Oslo Conference to End Myanmar's Persecution of the Rohingya*, May 2015 & Co-author (with Alice Cowley) of *The Slow Burning Genocide of Myanmar's Rohingya*, *The Pacific Rim Law and Policy Journal*, Spring 2014.

PANELISTS

Shwe Maung, A Rohingya, and a prominent Rohingya Member of the Parliament, Myanmar & Vice President of the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (confirmed)

Adnin Armas, Chair, the Coalition for Caring for Rohingya, Aceh, Indonesia (tbc)

Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar, OIC Special Envoy on Myanmar and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia (tbc)