Call for Abstract Submission

6th International Conference
on
Bangladesh Genocide and Justice
With Special Focus on the Rohingya Persecution

14-16 November 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Organized by
Liberation War Museum
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Prologue
Liberation War Museum (LWM) is going to organize the 6th International Conference on Bangladesh Genocide and Justice on 14-16 November 2019. In this regard, LWM invites scholarly articles from national and international academics, researchers, jurists, rights activists, artists and persons associated with the cause of justice for international crimes. During the conference, there will be a parallel event titled as ‘poster presentation’, exclusively for young students and early career researchers to present their ideas and begin critical discussion on the issues related to genocide and justice. The conference will be held at a time when Bangladesh along with the global community is preparing to observe next year the 50th Anniversary of 1971 Bangladesh Genocide. In this background, the aim of this conference is two-fold: firstly, to provide empirical as well as theoretical insight into the existing challenges to international justice institutions in dealing with the crime of genocide and other international crimes; and secondly, to propose different avenues for strengthening transitional justice mechanism (specially, international criminal justice system and reparatory justice policy) in the post-conflict scenario. Though the conference theme is broadly related to Bangladesh Genocide, the conference will give special focus, among others, on the issue of genocide against the Rohingyas in the North Rakhine State of Myanmar - the fact of which now demands for greater international action to ensure justice and dignified return of the Rohingya victims to their homeland.

Background to the Conference
Bangladesh, as an independent state of the Bengali nation, emerged in the global map after a nine-month long war of liberation back in 1971. The brutal annihilation of 3 million people, displacement of 10 million citizens and wide-spread torture, rape and destruction resulted in the genocide of Bangladesh which is now a part of world history. Unfortunately, Bangladesh Genocide became a forgotten genocide for the world community and not much immediate effort has been taken to ensure justice for the victims of atrocity crimes committed during the Bangladesh Genocide.
Immediately after independence, the government of Bangladesh undertook measures to try the war criminals and adopted International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 in the parliament. This was a landmark legal document to try perpetrators of genocide formulated at a time of global inertia to promote justice. After assassination of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the 15th of August 1975, however, these initiatives were suspended, the local collaborators as well as the religious fundamentalist forces became part of the ruling coterie, and the undemocratic elements initiated and continued a culture of impunity on the nation for a long period of time. The nation made a historic turn around in 2008 national election when the voters overwhelmingly endorsed the demand for the trial of war criminals of 1971. In March 2010, forty years after the genocide, the newly elected government established a domestic tribunal under the 1973 Act to adjudicate cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in 1971. The end of impunity and the process of justice in Bangladesh have important national and global significance. Being a national tribunal, the International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh has set an unique example for many victim-nations who are still struggling to ensure justice for the victims of atrocity crimes, that ‘no crimes should go unpunished’. Despite various national and international politics, the tribunal is still serving the cause of justice and reminding the perpetrators and the global community that they have the duty to recognise what atrocious events happened in 1971 in the territory of Bangladesh.

As the field of genocide prevention studies is flourishing across the globe, the recent eruption of the Rohingya crisis in 2017 and the massive influx of the Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh have put forward a new challenge before the global community to confront the ongoing genocide. The massive influx of the Rohingya refugees now numbering more than a million has resulted in grave humanitarian tragedy as well as a threat to the environment which calls for urgent action to be taken.

At this backdrop, proposals are invited for papers and posters broadly related to the conference theme. Scholarly presentations on under-researched genocides, comparative analyses, and critical and creative work aiming to challenge or revise current conceptions of genocide and genocide studies are likewise encouraged. It is expected that the conference will shed light on these pertinent issues, but not limited to:

1. Understanding Genocide with Special Focus on Peace Education and Prevention
2. The Politics of Conflict/Violence and Amnesia
4. Recognition, Restitution, Rehabilitation of the Victims of Sexual Violence
5. Justice for Past and Present Atrocity Crimes: Bangladesh Genocide of 1971 and Rohingya Genocide of 2017
6. Bangladesh standing by the Victims: The Work and Challenges of Support Bangladesh is providing to the Stateless Rohingyas
7. Grave Humanitarian and Environmental Crises for both Bangladesh and the Rohingyas in the context of the aftermath of the Rohingya Genocide
9. Recognition of Bangladesh Genocide and the Role of Civil Society, Museum and Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT)
10. Rethinking the Application of International Humanitarian Law in the Context of Genocide and Mass Crimes
11. The Politics of Denial of Past Crimes and the Selective Recognition to Genocide
12. Hatred Leading towards Violence and Conflict and the Role of Mass Media
14. Genocide Research with Special Focus to Oral History as a Method and its Challenges

At the end of the conference, a public statement (including conclusions, follow-ups, call for actions to national and international bodies and governments and commitment by participants) will be made drawing attention to the need of justice and humanitarian assistance for the victims of ongoing mass atrocities in different part of the world including the Rohingya victims.

**Important Dates**

Abstract submission (Both for papers and posters): 30 September 2019
Notification of Abstract Acceptance: 7 October 2019
Conference Registration Deadline: 20 October 2019
Full Paper Submission (Both for papers and posters): 20 October 2019
Conference Dates: 14-16 November 2019

**Please check the conference website for further information:**
http://www.liberationwarmuseumbd.org

**Participation Requirement**
Academics, researchers, professionals and experts from both national and international arena are invited to submit their research work. Only the students from Bangladesh will be allowed to present posters. A maximum number of three students will be considered for each poster. In that case, the rules for paper presenters will be applicable for the poster presenters too.

**Submission Process**
A 500-word abstract (including title, data, figures and references) must be submitted to participate in the conference. It is required to include a list of five keywords that describe the research at the bottom of the abstract to assist the reviewing process. A maximum number of two authors will be allowed to submit the abstract. Selected participants will be invited to present their papers in the conference. Authors must include the following information on the abstract: (1) name(s) of author(s); (2) institutional affiliation(s); and (3) email address. A short biography not exceeding 100 words should also be attached.

**Deadline**
Authors are requested to submit their abstracts in electronic form (in word format) as an email attachment to <csgj.bangladesh@gmail.com> by no later than 30 September 2019. The subject of the e-mail should be as follows: Name of the author, title of the manuscript.

**Publication and other Opportunities**
All abstracts will be published in the conference proceeding. Selected papers (following blind review process) will be published as a conference volume. There is no presentation fee for those selected to present full papers and posters.

Travel support and local hospitality are available for limited number of international participants. Accommodation with special rate will be offered by the organizer.

Visit to the Rohingya camps, a day prior to the conference will be organized for those interested to do so. Air travel to Cox’s Bazar, trip to the camps, overnight stay etc. will cost US$ 200.00 per person.

For any query relating to the conference, please send an email to <csgj.bangladesh@gmail.com>.

With thanks,

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&
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