

BURMA

TASK FORCE USA

WHAT: Justice for All/Burma Task Force Coalition Files lawsuit against visiting Officials for Genocide and Crimes against Humanity

WHEN: Friday, October 2, 2015 at 11 am

WHERE: 4 West 43 Street New York NY (Blue Room Suite)

**Addressing Genocide, Summons issued by U.S. Court against Myanmar President
*Burma Task Force to hold press conference on Friday, October 2, 11 am***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2015

New York City:

US Federal Court for the Southern District of New Court has issued summons against President Thein Sein and ministers for their role in genocidal policies targeting the Rohingya, a Muslim minority in Burma/Myanmar, to coincide with the government of Burma's speaking at the United Nations.

The lawsuit has been filed by the Burma Task Force USA (BTF) a coalition of 19 Muslim American organizations that is managed by Justice for All (JFA), a non-profit human rights NGO affiliated with the United Nations and working to bring to justice perpetrators of mass violence and genocide. The law has been filed under Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA) and the Torture Victim Protection Act (TVPA).

Seeking compensatory and punitive damage, the complaint charges the defendants with crimes against humanity, extra-judicial killings, torture, mental and physical trauma. The lawsuit is filed by BTF/JFA along with three plaintiffs, US resident refugees who have experienced torture, discrimination and displacement along with their families in Burma. One of the plaintiffs will speak at the press conference.

BTF is providing legal support and advice to the survivors in their effort to hold the leaders of Burma accountable for genocidal human rights restrictions and policies that have resulted in the loss of lives and trauma in the survivors' families, and caused them irreparable emotional and financial harm.

These harms have been well documented by human rights organizations as well as the UN Special Rapporteur to Burma. In recent years this minority population has also lost the right to travel freely, receive education, and marry as they choose. The situation is worsening. In 2015 over 1 million Rohingya lost their right to vote in the upcoming November 8 election, and recently xenophobic marriage laws were instituted by Parliament.

The President of Burma has called for the entire Rohingya population to be relocated to a third country. And this past week in New York City, the Foreign Minister minimized the anti-Rohingya policies as being merely similar to United States' immigration laws.

Burma Task Force USA • www.BurmaMuslims.org

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“Much of the media is focused on the migrants from Syria, and understandably so. But how many hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees have been fleeing persecution in Burma?” asked Shaik Ubaid of the Muslim Peace Coalition, a supporter of Burma Task Force USA. “This year seven Nobel Peace Laureates called this situation a “textbook case of genocide in which an entire indigenous community is being systematically wiped out by the Burmese government.” This mass suffering is a slow burning genocide, one that we can still arrest in its deadly forward motion but only if we have the political will to do so.”

“UN Development Goals cannot be achieved when a segment of the population of Burma is rendered stateless,” stated Adem Carroll, New York Director of Burma Task Force USA. “A peaceful future depends on an embrace of pluralism and a rejection of the politics of fear.”

Rallies are scheduled afterwards across from the United Nations.

CONTACT: P Adem Carroll (646) 251 0402 and adem@burmamuslims.org
Website: www.burmamuslims.org