



2018-2019 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT REPORT

*Today's Progress,
Tomorrow's Freedoms*



Letter From Executive Director, Taha Ghayyur

My Gratitude & Hopeful Outlook

Global inequality, poverty and conflict continue to challenge marginalized and disadvantaged communities. Concerning human rights violations test our leadership and humanity each passing day.

But in these unsettling times, the importance of basic human rights, allyship and international law becomes much more pressing. As such, I am pleased to present this report covering an entire two years of Justice For All Canada's promising progress, high-level achievements and our important work for the human rights of millions of unprotected ethnic and religious minorities across the Southern and South-Eastern regions of Asia.

Through our special Burma Task Force, we've played an integral role in shaping the discourse around the Rohingya genocide debate in Canada, particularly at a time when politicians, human rights activists and NGOs would still identify the atrocity as just an ethnic cleansing.

Of course, this progress and development would not have been possible without the generous support of caring donors and supporters. 2018 and 2019 were years marked by historic changes in attitudes and perceptions of global human rights. Thank you for your backing and encouragement of our vision, mission and values.



On behalf of our advocacy team, I'm thankful to former Executive Director, Ahmed Ramadan, for his leadership and sacrifice that promoted critical dialogue and awareness about religious, cultural and human rights, including the rights of Indigenous peoples' preservation of their environment. Ahmed's leadership of our Burma Task Force proposed unique nonviolent solutions to conflicts impacting unrecognized minorities in contested regions around the world.

This report illustrates how advocacy and human rights-based action holds potential for tangible results. The proof has been in increased social consciousness and the engagement of more voices in this collective struggle against human rights violations. I recognize our volunteers, partnerships and activists on the ground, whose tireless work strengthened our actions and results.

The predicaments of 2018 and 2019 reminds us that we must keep promoting good practice, build a united front, and work towards human rights for all.

Taha Ghayyur—
Executive Director,
Justice For All Canada

Executive Summary **Protecting Rights that Matter**

This report outlines some major human rights accomplishments and Canadian foreign policy developments influenced by Justice For All Canada from late 2017 and throughout 2018 and 2019. Former Executive Director of Burma Task Force, Ahmed Ramadan, was among the first advisers to consult with Hon. Bob Rae upon his appointment as Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar. Our major campaigns have also targeted and challenged discrimination and racist violence of Rohingya, Kashmiri and Indian ethnic minorities. Through collective action and relentless campaigning, our impact first began by raising awareness and demanding strategic perpetrator accountability under international humanitarian laws. In the case of the 2017 Rohingya Crisis:

- Alerting the Canadian Government and public about the brutality of crimes against minorities, Indigenous peoples and minorities living in unrecognized or occupied territories
- Campaigning against severe human rights violations of ethnic, racial and religious minorities facing persecution
- Communicating our humanitarian agenda to ensure that the plight of vulnerable, targeted peoples remained on the radar of the Government

Below: Ahmed Ramadan, with Hon. Bob Rae and Ambassador of the Netherlands to Canada Henk van der Zwan.



Our mission to demand action and present solutions led us to hold meetings with critical policy makers and stakeholders, including:

- Foreign Minister Hon. Chrystia Freeland
- Ambassador of the Netherlands to Canada, Hon. Henk van der Zwan
- Canada's Ambassador to Burma, Hon. Karen MacArthur

While working closely with Hon. Bob Rae, we've reinforced the urgent need to resolve the security and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. Our objective remained to shift misconceptions of displaced peoples, reveal refugee experiences, and share suggestions for legal action and aid.

After frequent collaborative consultations with Foreign Policy leaders, the Federal Government took substantial action through a series of legal steps to implicate corrupt Myanmar leadership and human rights violations of Rohingya:

- April 2018—Hon. Bob Rae released a detailed report about the Rohingya crisis
- May 2018—Based on the report's findings and recommendations, the Government pledged \$300 million in aid, announcing a diplomatic strategy to respond to the refugee crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh
- October 2018—We called for the revocation of Aung San Suu Kyi's honorary citizenship in response to her role in gross human rights violations of the Rohingya. Aung San Suu Kyi became the first person to be stripped of honorary Canadian citizenship.

From Left: MP Hon. Omar Alghabra, Hon. Bob Rae, Ahmed Ramadan, Anwar Arkani of the Rohingya Association of Canada



Demanding Accountability

Rohingya in the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

2019 marked more than two years of national advocacy and effective communication with the Government. Justice For All Canada formed human rights coalitions, volunteer networks, and we connected with Canadian Rohingya volunteers, activists and organizations, helping us stay informed about the lived experiences of the Rohingya.

In November 2019, Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Chrystia Freeland welcomed a lawsuit submitted by The Gambia to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). We celebrated Canada's support of these legal proceedings against the Myanmar Government for violating the Genocide Convention. This historic move advanced accountability for the Rohingya genocide, and the August 2017 violence that forced over 740,000 Rohingya to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh, triggering the world's largest refugee camp. Canada's endorsement of The Gambia vs. Myanmar case only magnified their acts of mass murder, systemic discrimination, hate speech and horrific gender-based and sexual violence.

When hardly any knowledge about displaced refugee persecution existed in North America, Justice For All Canada was at the forefront of organizing high-level human rights discussions, arts initiatives, peaceful rallies and demonstrations. We've ensured to focus international attention on human rights crimes, humanitarian needs, while pushing for policy solutions in global regions that often escape government and policymaker attention.

Below: One of many harrowing scenes of the 2017 Rohingya exodus from Myanmar.



Our Human Rights Mission, Vision and Drive

- Exposing underreported crises and atrocities, so no one is left behind
- Speaking truth to power, effecting progress and change
- Advocating for displaced communities in armed conflict
- Standing up for silenced refugees persecuted peoples to amplify their needs
- Working towards advocating and influencing a better future for minorities impacted by genocide, atrocities and crimes against humanity

We've made it our responsibility to promote and uphold principles of equality and human rights, so that defenseless and vulnerable ethnic minority communities are guaranteed respect, recognition and rights.

We campaign for dignity, equality, and for the fair chance of minorities to participate in society with agency and empowerment. Our work is driven by the belief that minorities must be legally recognized, and be given the ability to live without fear of discrimination, persecution, or violence.

In 2018 and 2019, our unique position in Canada's human rights arena has allowed us to communicate these needs, and make a real impact on foreign policy.

Now more than ever, Justice For All Canada uses this platform robustly and strategically.

Our goal of peace, stability and accountability are influenced by moral and faith-based motives rooted in rejecting violence and injustice. Through a Canadian-led effort, our grassroots work challenges the oppression and persecution of vulnerable individuals and communities living under volatile political, social, and economic conditions.

Our advocacy for the global strengthening of human rights has been instrumental in shaping the discourse and outcome of the topic of genocide in Canada. This mindset and strategic approach has also been paramount in key developments of certain political decisions and foreign policy.

Justice For All Canada's scope of activism also promotes anti-racist and anti-discrimination consciousness in Canada. With your incredible help, the achievements detailed in this report has enabled us to be accountable to victims of human rights violations, and the human rights defenders working alongside us.



Right: Art display at Justice For All Canada-organized peaceful demonstration before Parliament



Above: Burma Task Force-organized protest at Parliament Hill

Far-Reaching Targets

60+

Meetings with government officials

20

Rallies and presentations organized

34

Action alerts issued

30,000

Print brochures & action alerts distributed

25

Coalition partnerships formed

70+

Mosques participated in Khutba (lecture) campaign

How We Work

Strength Through Numbers

We've maintained our work involving influencing government and policy-level change in the illegal persecution of Indigenous minorities facing violence and discriminatory targeting. Among the Federal Government, we've increased awareness of these grievances among key Canadian politicians, Members of Parliament, and representatives to the United Nations. Some of our strategic approaches to human rights include:

1. **Community Education**—Raising awareness among Canadians about the plight of indigenous minorities through seminars, panel discussions, art exhibits, event booths, webinars, social media, newsletters and print publication
2. **Community Organizing**—Mobilizing volunteers to take collective action to end genocide through peaceful demonstrations, rallies, letter-writing campaigns and action alerts
3. **Media Monitoring**—Ensuring to keep the concerned cause alive across media outlets. Monitoring the media to ensure factual and unbiased reporting on the cause
4. **Coalition building**—Working with our allies in human rights, social justice, advocacy, anti-racism, anti-war, interfaith and across a spectrum of diverse communities in Canada

Below: Executive Director, Taha Ghayyur, leading Kashmir education event alongside coalition partners.



Summary High-Level Achievements

Over 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled genocidal violence in Myanmar, seeking refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh. The cruel persecution of Rohingya and their inhumane humanitarian conditions reinforced our mandate to advocate for this displaced community's peace and security. Our meetings with the Government, action alerts and strategic campaigning amplified the pinnacle of Myanmar's crimes against humanity, helping prompt the Government to demand meaningful accountability:

- Testifying at Parliament's Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (SDIR)
- Testifying at Parliament's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE)
- Holding influential meetings with Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chrystia Freeland, Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar, Bob Rae, including Toronto City Councillors
- Delivering a series of presentations, speeches across GTA-events and protests

Below: Ahmed Ramadan at press conference on expert roundtable co-chair summary event and report finding.



Our Timeline of Canadian-led Human Rights Achievements

April 2018

We co-chaired an Experts' Roundtable Discussion alongside 40 experts representing humanitarian and human rights organizations, including doctors, lawyers, government officials, and statesmen. From this roundtable discussion, the Rohingya crisis was added to the G7 Ministerial Summit's agenda on the plight of the Rohingya.

May 2018

Canadian Federal cabinet ministers pledges \$300 million in funds, diplomatic leadership, and a promise that Canada will spearhead international efforts to stop the campaign of ethnic violence against Myanmar's ethnic Rohingya people.

September 2018

Canada's parliament unanimously adopts a motion recognizing the brutal crackdown against Rohingya Muslim minorities in Myanmar as an act of genocide, engaging in accountability and impunity measures of Myanmar officials through targeted sanctions.

October 2018

Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's Civilian leader, becomes the first person to be stripped of honorary Canadian citizenship for her role in gross human rights violations against the Rohingya people.

Below: Ahmed Ramadan at a 2019 roundtable event at the University of Toronto's Munk School



Raising the Status of Unrecognized Muslim Indigenous and Ethnic Minorities

Major Human Rights Violations and Crimes Against Humanity We've Challenged:

Discrimination & Racism: Religious minorities face the brunt of discrimination and racism. We've helped bring international attention and aid to victims of religious and ethnic discrimination, violence and state-sanctioned marginalization

Violence: Thousands of Kashmiris have lost their lives to violence in the region. At the centre of this conflict lies discriminatory citizenship policies and police inaction. Through strategic identification, we monitor and alert international legal systems of persecution and violence of people in Kashmir

Genocide: Targeted attacks on Uighur and Turkic minorities include political indoctrination, illegal surveillance, imprisonment, torture and arbitrary detention at so-called re-education camps. We've been one of the first human rights groups circulating awareness and demanding action from Canada's government on the issue of targeted Uighur Muslims

Arbitrary Detention: Minorities must live without fear of disappearance. In Kashmir, several thousand people were illegally detained. In East Turkestan, over 1 million Uighurs have disappeared due to their religious beliefs. We campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of anyone detained without having committed a real crime



Digital and Marketing Engagement

103,354

TOTAL SOCIAL MEDIA
POST IMPRESSIONS

559.64%

560.17 AVERAGE DAILY USER
REACH (SOCIAL MEDIA)

119,742

SOCIAL MEDIA OVERALL
IMPRESSIONS

508.96%

9,445 TOTAL SOCIAL
MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

80,506

SOCIAL MEDIA ORGANIC
IMPRESSIONS

Our reliance on online platforms has allowed us to mobilize support and efficient responses to human rights violations. Through our social media pages, newsletters and or Google-indexed webpages, we've been able to communicate with supporters, document crimes against humanity, release action alerts and build coalitions.

Below: Our special Burma Task Force present at public events, connecting with the public on human rights matters.



In the Media

Our impact and reach in the media has placed Justice For All Canada on the map as an influential human rights defender against genocide and atrocity crimes. The news coverage received by our awareness campaigns and lobbying efforts brought us closer to promoting peacebuilding and progress. In one example, we publicly questioned Canada's Ambassador to Indonesia when he tweeted an insensitive, out-of-touch message about the Rohingya plight in Myanmar. The subsequent pressure placed on ambassador Peter MacArthur caused Global Affairs Canada and CTV News to investigate the situation further.



WORLD

Rohingya genocide prosecution faces legal hurdles, Canadian envoy Bob Rae says

MB

By **Mike Blanchfield** The Canadian Press

▲ Mon., Aug. 27, 2018 | ⌚ 2 min. read

Burma Task Force Strongly Condemns The Actions Of Canadian Ambassador To Indonesia For Ill-informed Tweet On New Year's Day

Canada must acknowledge the genocide taking place in Myanmar. Minister Freeland has referred to the atrocities in Myanmar as ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

WORLD, AMERICAS

Canada to host Rohingya genocide remembrance

Events geared to prod countries to stop atrocities in Myanmar

24.08.2018

Our Broad Events

I Am Rohingya: Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Feb 2018 - We partnered with STAND Canada and Amnesty International Canada to screen Al Jazeera English's documentary, I am Rohingya, followed by a panel discussion on the complexities and urgency of Canada's response to the Rohingya crisis.

I AM ROHINGYA

a film by **CONTRAST**™ and **A+**

Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion

January 25th, 2018 6-8 PM

OISE Room 4418 | 252 Bloor Street W

ROHINGYA IN CRISIS

THURSDAY, MAY 17
7 P.M. (DOORS OPEN 6:30 P.M.)

FREE (ALL WELCOME)

Wolfe Performance Hall,
Central Library

MODERATOR
Prof. Michael Lynk

Panelist
Kevin Malseed (formerly Inter-Pares)
Ahmed Ramadan - Burma Task Force

Rohingya in Crisis (London, ON)

May 2018 - A panel discussion featuring representatives from human rights groups Inter Pares, Human Rights Watch, and the Rohingya Association of Canada

Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day (Toronto)

August 2018 - Marking the 1st anniversary of Rohingya expulsion. Along with The Canadian Rohingya Development Initiative (CRDI) and our allies, we called for a united, worldwide day of action, education, and empowerment of the Rohingya.

ROHINGYA GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE

25 AUG 2018



Panel on Justice for Kashmir: Decolonize! Resist! Dignify! (Toronto)

Nov 2019 - We organized a thorough group discussion on the 70+ year Kashmiri suppression and struggle. During the event, Kashmiris articulated their demands for justice and dignity of Kashmiris caught in the siege.

JUSTICE FOR KASHMIR DECOLONIZE! RESIST! DIGNIFY!

Sunday Nov 3, 2019

1:00-4:00 pm, TRS-1067

Ted Rogers School of Management Building,
Ryerson University, 55 Dundas St West,
Toronto



Kashmiris have a longstanding history of resistance to genocidal colonial violence. But Kashmiri voices have been suppressed and ignored through the 70+ years of struggle. What has this resistance

Speakers:
Idrisa Pandit
Narby Bai

FREE WEBINAR

WHO SHOULD ALL CANADIANS KNOW

IN THIS LIVE WEBINAR:

- LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE SIEGE
- HEAR UPDATES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN KASHMIR
- DISCOVER WHAT CANADIANS CAN DO TO HELP END THE SIEGE AND SUPPORT KASHMIRIS

REGISTER AT: JUSTICEFORALLCANADA.ORG/FREE-KASHMIR

LIVE: Understanding Kashmir Conflict: What can Canadians do? (Online)

Nov 2019 - We brought action and awareness to the 90 day mark of the Siege of Jammu and Kashmir by the occupied Indian army, including how Canada can play an important leadership role in this human rights and social justice cause.

#FreeKashmir: What You Can Do To End The Conflict & Siege

Held at the Jaffari Community Centre, our info session covered the history of the occupation in Kashmir, what was happening in Kashmir, and recommendations on how Canadians can help end the suffering of the Indigenous Kashmiris.

FREE KASHMIR WHAT YOU CAN DO TO END THE CONFLICT AND SIEGE

HISTORY OF THE OCCUPATION IN KASHMIR
THE CURRENT SITUATION | HOW TO END THE SUFFERING

GUEST SPEAKER BR. TAHA GHAYYUR,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOUND VISION CANADA AND JUSTICE FOR ALL CANADA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019 @ 7:30 P.M.

JAFFARI COMMUNITY CENTRE
9000 BATHURST STREET,
VAUGHAN, ON L4J 8A7

Partnerships in Solidarity

Our reach was reinforced by solidarity from social movements, civil society organizations and student groups. Our coalition partners helped us fulfill our mission to pursue human rights defined by protection and respect. We extend our gratitude to the allies and friends, who proved instrumental across awareness events, speaking engagements, educational workshops and webinars.

Al Nadwa Institute
Al-Falah Islamic Centre
Amnesty International Canada
Anatolia Islamic Centre
Canadian Association of Muslim Women in Law
Canadian Rohingya Development Initiative (CRDI)
Canadians in Support of Refugees in Dire Need (CSRDN)
Dar-al-Tawheed
History of Persecuted Muslim Minorities
Human Rights Watch Canada
Inter Pares
Kashmir Gulposh
LUSO Community Services
Montreal Institute for Genocide and
Human Rights Studies
MY Voice Canada
No More Silence
Noor Cultural Centre
Rohingya Association of Canada
Scarborough Campus Students' Union—SCSU
SCSU Racialized Student Collective
STAND Canada @ U of T
Young Artists For Syria

Below: Speaking with the Government about the fallacies of the Burmese Government towards persecuted Rohingya.





Thank You Canada Gratitude Dinner

Concluding 2018, our Burma Task Force thanked specific Muslim community leaders, political leadership, coalition partners, volunteers and donors who together placed a spotlight on genocide. The event was attended by Canadian national organizations, including the Muslim Council of Peel, Canadian Council of Imams, the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC), the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Canada, and more. We gathered to share experiences and lessons learned. Distinct Canadian policymakers and stakeholders were awarded for their pivotal contribution to the Rohingya cause, including (but not limited to):

Hon. Bob Rae

Hon. MP Omar Alghabra

Hon. MP Iqra Khalid

Hon. MP Salma Zahid

Hon. MP Rob Oliphant

Hon. MP Garnett Genuis

Hon. MP Gary Anandasangaree

Hon. Senator Salma Ataullahjan

Below: MPs Salma Zahid, Rob Oliphant, Iqra Khalid, Gary Anandasangaree, Imam Refaat Mohammed, Rabia Khedr, Sharaf Sharafeldin, Imam Adnan Balihodzic, and Arif Zia







Justice For All Canada wishes to give special thanks to our generous community donors, for their support and encouragement, both of which have been crucial in our operations and actions.

Thank you to the Canadian and international human rights organizations, human rights advocates, students and Rohingya Canadians who enriched our experience with new friendships, life-long knowledge and shared experiences.

We are truly grateful to Ahmed Ramadan, former Executive Director of Burma Task Force Canada, for his leadership and activism during these historic years that shaped Canadian political narratives, perception and attitudes towards genocide and the refugee experience.

Most importantly, we relay our utmost gratitude to the dedicated volunteers; without their valuable time and talent, our collective human rights advancements would not be possible.



Educate. Advocate. Donate.

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Education
Advocacy



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