

5th Human Rights in Asia Conference

6-7 June 2013

CONFERENCE REPORT



HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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I. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

6-7 June 2013

Human Rights in Asia Conference

1st day: Daiwa Foundation

The first day of the Human Rights in Asia Conference focused on Burma. The speakers were researchers as well as practitioners who have expertise in human rights, and especially on human rights in Burma. Following the warm welcome by **Prof. Paul Hunt**, the conference started with an Opening Keynote Speech by **Dr. Ahmed Shaheed** (UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran).



Opening Remarks by Dr Ahmed Shaheed on “Human Rights in Asia, Universalism and ‘Asian values’”.



The imprisonment of human rights defenders has become common in many Asian countries where civil liberties are suppressed and the judiciary is controlled. The imprisonment of human rights defenders, the suppression of civil liberties and the domination of hardliners in parliament poses serious challenges for the enjoyment of basic human rights in Iran. The outcome of Iran’s presidential election, scheduled to be held on 14 June of this year, will definitely be unfair as dozens of Iranian journalists are behind bars along with hundreds of political prisoners. The process of disqualifying en mass a large number of candidates hoping to contest the election has not been transparent. This unreasonable barring of candidates clearly violates the right to political participation. A number of high profile politicians will not be able to run in the election.

The approval of only eight of the 686 people registered to stand in the June 14 presidential election by Iran's Guardian Council, and the barring of all 30 expected women candidates from contesting the election demonstrates that the election will not be fair.

The imprisonment of human rights defenders and opposition members has become an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights in the Maldives as well. The situation in North Korea is even worse.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Human Rights Declaration, adopted by ASEAN in November 2012, contains many controversial provisions. For instance, it does not provide for the right to association. The Declaration has undermined universality of human rights accepted in international human rights law. The world expressed a consensus on the universality of human rights at the Vienna Conference 20 years ago, but Asia is trying to reinterpret this. The ASEAN Declaration accepts that human rights can be interpreted in light of regional/national particularities and cultural backgrounds.

In South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as well, the members are not so willing to have a strong regional mechanism; Sri Lanka opposes regional scrutiny of its human rights record as does India. Asian States unlike African States are not willing to strengthen the regional mechanisms for human rights. Culture should be a mechanism to protect the special needs of a society rather than a tool to weaken the universality of human rights.

Panel 1: “Has the process of democratisation in Burma improved human rights, especially civil and political rights? What are the key remaining challenges?”

The panel was moderated by **Dr. Sanae Fujita** (University of Essex) and the speakers were **Tara Van Ho** (Essex Transitional Justice Network, University of Essex), **Ko Aung** (Refugee from Burma, Visiting Lecturer at London South Bank University, and practising lawyer) and **Oliver Spencer** (ARTICLE 19).



The panel started with introductory talk on Transitional Justice by **Ms. Tara Van Ho**. The purpose of transitional justice (TJ) is to recognise the past wrongdoing and ensure non-recurrence. It further attempts to record history and build bridges between those harmed and those who perpetrated harm. Reparations are recognised as an obligation under international law. However, particularly in situation of gross human rights violations or serious breaches of international humanitarian law, there is a problem in addressing reparations for groups. Institutional reform, typically focussed on security sector reform by vetting those responsible for the past atrocities, has tended to focus on civil and political rights. Another dimension of TJ is the prosecution of those responsible for past atrocities and making guarantees of non-recurrence; this is equally neglected in Burmese society. There is a National Human Rights Commission in Burma, established by presidential decree; it has been accused of being Burmese ethnocentric.





The second speaker **Mr. Oliver Spencer** talked about freedom of expression in Burma. The Censorship Board has been closed and replaced with a Press Council. Prior censorship has been scrapped. Despite this, the government still controls broadcasting. Strategically and technically, the National Human Rights Commission in Burma is not yet effective to respect and protect human rights and address the issue of TJ.

The last speaker of the panel was **Mr. Ko Aung**. Speaking on ‘Ending Military Rule? Democratisation in Burma?’, Aung observed that the Burmese people want to have control over the economy and for all ethnicities to be recognized equally, but this has not taken place yet. As the current president is ex-army and there are 25 seats for the army in parliament, any substantial changes in the process of democratisation through parliament is not possible. Military personnel control the constitution and the army is still powerful in the national business sector. A large number of internally displaced persons and refugees living in the neighbouring countries are not in a position to return to their land. The treatment of the Rohingya people is very inhumane. No peace agreement has been made between the government and the Kachin ethnic group. The priority of the Burmese government is business, not democratisation. So transitional justice in Burma is not on the right track. Transitional justice is not a priority of the Burmese government.



Panel 2: Burma, ethnic minorities and refugees

The second panel addressed ethnic conflict and the rights of minorities in Burma. The panel was moderated by **Dr. Julian Burger**. The speakers in the panel included: **Mr. Aung Myo Thein** (the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners), **Ms. Ayano Kikuchi** (Shanti Volunteer Association), **Amal de Chickera** (Equal Rights Trust), and **Mark Farmaner** (Burma Campaign).



The first two speakers participated via a Skype connection, speaking from Burma.

Mr. Aung Myo Thein, from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) explained what the organisation does in Burma. Members of the organisation are former political prisoners and they support ex-political prisoners and their families through medical care, scholarships programs, trauma healing, internship programs, legal aid, etc.

The speakers pointed out that currently political prisoners incarcerated in Burma are facing trial under the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, as well as under other laws. The AAPP demands the recognition of the existence of political prisoners in Burma. The organisation has also set up a Network for Human Rights Documentation, which aims to collect data on human rights violations in Burma. According to AAPP, democratisation in Burma is facing serious difficulties and the Burmese people are afraid of becoming a second Yugoslavia.

Ms. Ayano Kikuchi from Shanti Volunteer Association explained that the process of the ceasefires progressed after the 2010 election and the major active ethnic armed groups have signed ceasefire agreements. Nevertheless the situation is not very stable. In the southeast of Burma there are 230,000 internationally displaced persons and 130,000 Burmese refugees. In the Kachin state there are more than 100,000 IDPs and in the

Rakhine state between 115,000 and 140,000 people have been displaced by inter-communal violence since June 2012. After 2006, refugees in Burma have not been registered; therefore, less than 60% of the actual number of refugees are actually registered as refugees. There is a big debate taking place regarding the possibility of the return of refugees to Burma; many activists and organisations maintain that the current situation in Burma is not safe for them. There are still many challenges to face before Burma becomes safe for the refugees' return.



Amal De Chickera, from The Equal Rights Trust (works on the issue of stateless people).

Rohingya are stateless in Burma. They have been victims of violence by Rakhine. The historic and systematic persecution against the Rohingya has been characterised as crimes against humanity by various actors including the Equal Rights Trust. Most recently, Human Rights Watch reported that the recent violence against the Rohingya amounted to ethnic cleansing.

In 1982, a new citizenship law rendered the Rohingya stateless. Approximately 800.000 are currently living in Burma and well over a million are living in exile. The propaganda of the Burmese state and Rakhine groups labels the Rohingya as illegal migrants, thus undermining their identity too. There have been instances of Rohingya being required to register in IDPs camps as Bengali.

Mark Farmaner, from the Burma Campaign started off his presentation with a presentation of the history of minorities in Burma. Burma was a country of many ethnicities in pre-colonial times and minority ethnicities were severely oppressed by the Buddhist king. When Burma gain independence, agreements were made by the leader of the independence Aung San, but just before the formal independence was announced, the

leader was assassinated and the Buddhist government took power and failed to address the requests of the ethnic minorities. This failure can be identified as the root cause of the current violence. More than half of the Rohingya population live outside the country – some have been outside the country for more than 10 years. There are many political prisoners; we do not know the precise number of them or where they are being held, if they are even still alive. History is repeating itself. Most people in Burma believe that this is a transition to an authoritarian regime rather than a process of democratisation as the Burmese government is putting in place a few token reforms in order to silent the international community.



Panel 3: Emerging human rights problems in Burma: development, investment, business and human rights



The final panel of Day 1 focused on the emerging topic of foreign investment in Burma. The moderator of this panel was **Ms. Sara Bailey**. The speakers in the panel were: **Dr. Sanae Fujita** (University of Essex), **Mr. Salil Tripathi** (Institute for Human Rights

and Business: www.ihrb.org), **Chris Kip** (Independent researcher, formerly Essex University human rights programme), and **Ms. Anna Bulzomi** (International Peace Information Service).

The first speaker in Panel 3 was **Dr. Sanae Fujita**. She talked about the development banks as well as Official Development Aid (ODA) from donor agencies of developed states, such as UK's DFID and Japan's JICA. Sanae highlighted some negative practices of these bodies. It has been reported that some ethnic minorities in Burma have been evicted in the name of development. Human rights violations involving forced evictions have also been perpetrated in the case of Thilawa's Special Economic Zone, one of JICA's projects. 900 households were subjected to threats and evicted to make way for the project. It is difficult to hold Burma accountable for violations as it is not a party of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). As in the case of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, donor states are not complying with human rights norms and Japan's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment was not adequate.



The second speaker **Mr. Salil Tripathi** then talked about foreign investment in Burma. Burma is called the 'last frontier' in which many states are interested in the country's economic prospects. However, the fear is that only those who are rich will benefit from foreign investment while the poor will be further marginalized. Salil noted that there have been allegations of human rights violations in the form of forced labour in the oil industry against corporations such as Unocal, although the allegations were never proven, and this happened before the recent move towards democratisation began. He highlighted the need for the human rights framework for business and foreign investment. States have a responsibility to protect and regulate corporate behaviour. Corporations also should comply with their human rights responsibility to do no harm and respect human rights by conducting due diligence. Impact assessment is necessary and companies should track and monitor their performance. Salil noted that establishing a framework to regulate foreign investment is important for Burma's future.

The third speaker was **Chris Kip**. He said that human rights violations connected to foreign investment are due to poor governance.

In Burma, there are human rights violations such as land confiscations related to political instability, a lack of transparency, and corruption. Chris also pointed out that the military's power to control the economy is still strong in Burma. The military authorities have



directly received revenues from foreign investment by setting up their own industries. As investment is only possible through military holdings or co-interest of the state, there is a fear that it is not the local population who is benefitting from foreign investment, but military bodies. Moreover, the unresolved refugee crisis still causes instability for investment. Foreign investment is necessary for the future development of Burma, but there should be an effort to mitigate the human rights concerns in the country.



The last speaker of the panel was **Anna Bulzomi**. She presented the cases of human rights violations caused by CNPC, the Chinese oil company. CNPC in Chad has been connected to human rights violation such as a failure to consult the community about the projects and the displacement of the local population. In Burma, there is also a CNPC project which led to negative consequences for the local community, as in Chad. The project led to the forced relocation of the community and land confiscations from the ethnic minorities. The use of military force toward the minority populations by the Burmese regime also makes the situation worse. Anna made

the following recommendations for foreign investment in developing states such as Chad and Burma: (1) regulatory frameworks to strengthen due diligence for human rights should be enhanced (2) companies should refrain from projects that can result in human rights violations, and (3) the capacity of local communities should be strengthened.

Concluding Remarks

The 1st day of the Conference was closed with concluding remarks by **Chika Hosoda**, the Chair of the Organizing Committee of the Human Rights in Asia Conference 2013.

Chika highlighted the long tradition of the Human Rights in Asia Conference which was started by students of the University of Essex four years ago.

She noted the importance of the panel discussions on the 1st day of the Conference.

Burma, the focus of the Conference, is threatened by human rights violations. The country is moving towards democracy, with the sanctions from western states lifted. Both western and Asian companies are looking for investment opportunities as Burma is rich in natural resources. However, the political system is still weak with unsolved ethnic conflict.

Without care, the foreign investments and development projects could worsen the lives of people in Burma. Thus, it is important to look at human rights in the context of development. This conference has provided a valuable opportunity to discuss this important issue.

On behalf of the organizing committee, Chika expressed gratitude to the supporters of the Conference and thanked all the guest speakers and participants who gave interesting perspectives and shared their expertise for the conference, the School of Law and the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex for their support, and Prof. Rainer Schulze Prof. Paul Hunt, and Dr. Sanae Fujita for giving advice at various points. Special thanks goes to Dr Sanae Fujita who not only helped the students organise the conference, but contributed to the conference as a moderator and speaker. Chika then thanked the other moderators, Dr. Julian Burger and Ms. Sara Bailey and expressed her thanks to the Daiwa Foundation for providing such a nice venue. Lastly, Chika thanked her colleagues for their support and then closed the 1st day of the Human Rights in Asia Conference and invited the speakers and participants to the 2nd day, due to be held in Colchester at the University of Essex.

Day 2: University of Essex

The second day was mainly for the students and staff of the University of Essex. It consisted of three sessions with eight presentations in total. All of the speakers were students at Essex and they gave various interesting presentations on human rights problems in Asian countries.

Panel 1: Human Rights in Asia: Country focus Taiwan and Bangladesh

The 2nd day started with a session focused on human rights in two Asian countries: Taiwan and Bangladesh. The panel was moderated by **Mr. I-Liang Wahn**. The speakers in this panel were **Mr. Tsung-Li Yang** (University of Essex) and **Mr. Daniel Dempsey** (University of Essex).



Mr. Tsung-Li Yang, executive committee member of the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP) addressed the death penalty abolition campaign in Taiwan. Mr Yang said



that even though some executed convicts had been proved to be not guilty, 80% of the public in Taiwan still support capital punishment and insist that it can bring security from crime in Taiwan. TAEDP comprises various NGOs and research institutions; their work includes (1) Advocacy and lobbying (2) Human rights education and awareness, (3) Research, and (4) The death watch project. Mr Yang concluded with a speech emphasising the importance of international assistance towards abolition of death penalty in Taiwan.

The second speaker, **Mr. Daniel Dempsey**, a carbon change advisor, as well as an MBA candidate at the University of Essex gave a presentation on business and human rights in Bangladesh. He began with the Saver tragedy as an example which highlights the terrible human consequences caused by organisations who fail to act responsibly towards their supply chain and the people who work in it. There remain a number of human rights problems in Bangladesh, such as corruption in relation to factory inspections and labour rights activists being subject to torture by the government. In the last part of the presentation, Daniel spoke about the University of Essex's engagement with the garment industry (through its sales in branded clothes); although there is no completed audit checking, all clothes sold are made from fair trade cotton and the shop is now running a supplier audit.



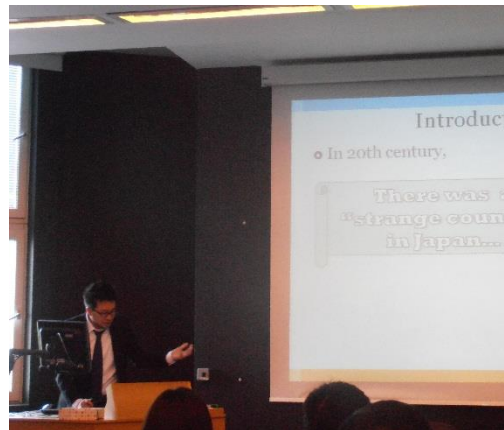
Panel 2: Health and Human Rights

Panel 2 was about human rights and health in the two Asian states, Japan and Nepal. **Dr. Andrew Fagan** moderated the panel. The speakers in the panel were **Mr. Yousuke Sakurai** (University of Essex) and **Mr. Tejman Shrestha**, (University of Essex).



Mr. Yosuke Sakurai, an LLM student at the University of Essex, introduced the human rights problems, such as discrimination, related to persons affected by Hansen's disease. First, he explained their situation in Japan during the twentieth century. Subsequently, he

illustrated the features of the disease and the reasons for the discrimination, and he stated that patients have been discriminated against because of misunderstandings and physical appearance. Next, he introduced a Japanese landmark case. According to this case, authorities have the obligation to abolish discriminatory laws and to take measures to eliminate discrimination, and these obligations are mentioned in a General Assembly Resolution as well as a Global Appeal held by the Japan Foundation. He concluded that discrimination still remains and therefore States have an obligation to take remedial measures.



The second speaker was **Mr. Tejman Shrestha**, an LLM student studying Human Rights at the University of Essex. He introduced domestic legal efforts toward health problems in Nepal. Firstly, he explained that domestic laws provide basic health services free of charge as provided for in the law. He also mentioned Nepal's commitments, such as its ratification to international instruments. With regard to the responsibility of the State to provide drugs and essential materials, he outlined some domestic cases in which the State's responsibility regarding health services became a disputed point. Lastly, he pointed out the domestic challenges of regarding the enjoyment of health, such as inadequacy of laws, level of awareness and lack of accountability.

Panel 3: Country focus: Japan and Thailand

The last panel of Day 2 was also moderated by **Dr. Andrew Fagan**. The panel focused on human rights in Japan and Thailand. The speakers included: **Mr. Yasuyuki Kitagawa** (University of Essex), **Ms. Tara Van Ho** (University of Essex), and **Ms. June Sirikan Charoensiri** (University of Essex). **Ms. Karin Frode** also joined her presentation.



The first speaker of Panel 3, **Mr. Yasuyuki Kitagawa**, a Japanese lawyer (barrister and



solicitor) studying for the LLM at the University of Essex talked about nuclear accidents and human rights, focusing on the accident in Fukushima two years ago. A film taken by CCTV cameras showed the

destructive power of the huge tsunami to the audience. He briefly summarized a press statement by the UN special rapporteur on the right to health who strongly recommended Japan to comply with internationally agreed upon standards and guidelines after his visit to Fukushima in November 2012.

The second speaker, **Ms. Tara Van Ho**, member of the Essex Transitional Justice Network ("ETJN") and a Project Associate with the Essex Business and Human Rights Project, also

made a presentation about Fukushima, focusing on business and human rights in the exclusion zone. She used to live in one of the evacuation zones, the city of Naraha, as an English teacher. Her living experience added reality and a sense of urgency to her presentation.

The third speaker, **Ms. June Sirikan Charoensiri**, who is undertaking her LL.M. in International Human Rights Law at the University of Essex, made a joint presentation with her colleague **Ms. Karin Frode** who worked in Thailand as a volunteer a few years ago. The joint presentation focused on the right to freedom of expression in Thailand under the lese majeste law, especially the article 112 of Thai Criminal Code. Strange crimes, vagueness of provisions and disproportionality of penalty surprised audiences.



Concluding Remarks

The Human Rights in Asia Conference 2013 came to an end. **Valeria Bizzarri** who was a crucial member of the organising committee gave concluding remarks.

Firstly, Valeria congratulated the winner of the Essex Human Rights Alumni Association Award and thanked the Alumni Association for choosing the Conference to announce the award.

She then said that the Conference provided the opportunity to take a Human Rights trip around Asia, passing through Taiwan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Japan and Thailand. The panel discussions examined issues of civil and political rights violations, as well as economic, social and cultural rights violations in Asian countries. The Conference is a powerful means to bring the attention of students at the University of Essex and, more generally, in European Universities, to the big Asian continent.

She stated that the real necessity of such an event, bringing together experts' and students' knowledge and experiences of human rights in Asia is what has motivated the students to maintain the tradition of the Conference. Although the Conference is modest, it required a lot of work and many contributors. She sent a big thank you to the speakers who contributed their perspectives and experiences.

Valeria, as a member of the organizing committee of the Human Rights in Asia Conference, expressed her gratitude to all the supporters, saying 'Thank you to our moderators who facilitated the presentations, and to my colleagues, with whom I shared some hard, and some funny, times to arrange all of this. A big big thank you to Sanae who supervised our work and, with her determination, and to Prof. Rainer who initiated this year's Conference by introducing us to the Conference tradition. Thank you to the Human Rights Centre and the School of Law, which economically supported us, and to their directors, Lorna McGregor and Geoff Gilbert, who believed in our team. Thanks to the Sasakawa Foundation for their financial support, and, finally, to Prof. Paul Hunt, who came to the rescue at a difficult moment and stayed with us.

II. APPENDIX. I

PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Programme for 6 June

Venue: Daiwa Foundation, 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QP

9:30-10:00	Registration and coffee
10:00-10:15	Human Rights Centre welcomes participants by Prof. Paul Hunt
10:15-11:00 Keynote address followed by Q&A	Dr Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran, speaking on human rights in Asia, universalism and 'Asian values'.
11:00-12:30 Panel 1 Moderator: Dr. Sanae Fujita (University of Essex)	<p><u>Has the process of democratisation in Burma improved human rights, especially civil and political rights? What are the key remaining challenges?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Burma and Transitional Justice: What do we mean by Transitional Justice?, Tara Van Ho (Essex Transitional Justice Network, University of Essex) • Ending Military Rule? Real Democratisation in Burma?, Ko Aung (Refugee from Burma, Visiting Lecturer at London South Bank University, and practising lawyer) • Freedom of Expression and Information in Burma, Oliver Spencer-Shrestha (ARTICLE 19)
12:30-1:30	Light lunch to be provided
1:30-3:00 Panel 2 Moderator: Dr. Julian Burger (University of Essex)	<p><u>Burma, ethnic minorities and refugees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Situation including Ethnic Minority Area, Mr. Aung Myo Thein (the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners) • Ethnic Minority Living in Refugee Camps along Thai-Burma Border, Ms. Ayano Kikuchi (Shanti Volunteer Association) • Human Rights Protection of Stateless Rohingya, Mr. Amal de Chickera (Equal Rights Trust)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Burman Buddhist country or a multi-ethnic multi-religious county?, Mark Farmaner (Burma Campaign)
3:00-3:15	Coffee and tea
3:15-4:45 Panel 3 Moderator: Sarah Bailey (University of Essex)	<u>Emerging human rights problems in Burma: development, investment, business and human rights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Activities of Donor Agencies and Human Rights in Burma, Dr. Sanae Fujita (University of Essex) • The Role and Responsibility of Business in the new Myanmar, Mr. Salil Tripathi (Institute for Human Rights and Business: www.ihrb.org) • Foreign Investment and Human Rights in Burma, Chris Kip (Independent researcher, formerly Essex University human rights programme) • Business and Human Rights Challenges in the Pipeline: an Analysis of CNPC Investment Strategy in Chad and Burma, Ms. Anna Bulzomi (International Peace Information Service).
4:45-5:00	Closing remarks
5:00-6:00	Drinks

Programme for 7 June

Venue: University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park Colchester, CO4 3SQ (Room 1N1.4.1)

9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:10	Welcome by Dr. Sanae Fujita
10:10-11:10 Panel 1 Moderator: Mr. I-Liang Wahn (University of Essex)	<u>Human Rights in Asia: Country focus Taiwan and Bangladesh</u> The Past anti-Death Penalty Campaign and Strategy in Taiwan, Mr. Tsung-Li Yang, University of Essex Business and Human Rights: from Bangladesh to the University of Essex, Daniel Dempsey, University of Essex
11:10-12:10 Panel 2 Moderator: Dr. Andrew Fagan (University of Essex)	<u>Health and Human Rights</u> People with Hansen's Disease in Japan, Mr. Yousuke Sakurai, University of Essex Right to Health in Nepal and Legal Protection, Mr. Tejman Shrestha, University of Essex
12:10-13:10	Light lunch to be provided
13:10-14:10 Panel 3 Moderator: Dr. Andrew Fagan (University of Essex)	<u>Country focus: Japan and Thailand</u> Nuclear Power Plant and Human Rights: after 3.11 Earthquake in Japan, Mr. Yasuyuki Kitagawa, University of Essex "TEPCO's Responsibility for Human Rights in the Fukushima Exclusion Zone", Ms. Tara Van Ho, University of Essex Thai's Lese Majeste Law and Freedom of Expression in Thailand, Ms. June Sirikan Charoensiri and Ms. Karin Frode, University of Essex

14:10 -14:25	Announcement of Essex Human Rights Alumni Award by Prof. Paul Hunt
14:25-14:40	Closing Remark

III. APPENDIX II.

PROFILES OF THE SPEAKERS

DAY1

Dr Ahmed Shaheed is an internationally recognised expert on human rights, foreign policy and democratic reform, particularly in Muslim States. He has twice held the Office of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Maldives and he played a central role in the democratic transition of the Maldives and its human rights reform process.

He was appointed as UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights situation in Iran by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011. In this role, he is independent from any government or organisation and serves in his individual capacity.

Dr Shaheed is now spending a year at the University of Essex as a visiting Professor of human rights practice.

Tara Van Ho is a member of the Essex Transitional Justice Network ("ETJN") and a Project Associate with the Essex Business and Human Rights Project. She is currently finishing a PhD looking at the intersection of the fields of transitional justice, international investment law and business and human rights. Her experience is wide-ranging and includes conducting workshops on business and human rights in emerging authoritarian regimes. She lived and taught English in the town of Naraha, Japan for two years. Her other travels include South Korea, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Singapore. Two years ago, she spoke at the Human Rights in Asia conference on the issues of transitional justice and business & human rights in Western Asia after the Arab Spring. She returns this year to present transitional justice in Burma. She is a licensed lawyer in the US State of Ohio, and has a B.A., J.D., and an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law.

Ko Aung is a human rights defender and practicing solicitor, and teaches International Protection of Human Rights to Development studies, LLB and LLM students as a visiting lecturer at the Department of Law, London South Bank University. Ko Aung is a prisoner of conscience, holds refugee status and is proud to be a political refugee from Burma. He is fighting for freedom, dignity, justice, equality, human rights, peace

and democracy in the mother land and is waiting for a return to the mother land with dignity.

Oliver Spencer-Shrestha joined ARTICLE 19 in 2008 where he heads the Department of Communications, Advocacy and Campaigns, which includes managing a series of projects and the organisation's Myanmar office. He holds degrees in Communications, South Asia Studies and Human Rights and Development. Currently he is an independent expert to the UN Special Rapporteur on Culture and he has written a number of publications on artistic expression, defamation laws, South Asian politics and laws, and freedom of expression in Myanmar, among other subjects.

Aung Myo Thein was involved in the 1988 uprising as a people's strike organiser in his native township (Bahan Township). He became a strike leader in the collation strike committee of 48 several organization in Bahan Township. After the military coup, he continued working in the student and youth movement and extended the network around the Rangoon area.

Aung Myo Thein worked together with ABSFU and other student and youth organization. He was arrested on 1st August 1989 and charged 5(J), 17/1 and 17/2 for 8 years sentence by Court Marshal No.5. He spent 6 years and 6 months incarcerated and was released in December 1995. In 2002, he had connection with one of inside AAPP-B person and work together with him up to 2007 before 88 student generation group arrested. He arrived to Bangkok on 27 December 2007. He worked in AAPP-B as a IT person, Advocacy and Campaign group member and FBPPN campaign web master on March 2008. He is working in Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma) as AAPP-B representative since August 2009 and as a data manager since 2012 up to now. Recently I'm working in AAPP-B as an Officer In-charge.

Ayano Kikuchi is a graduate of Essex University and is currently involved in a library project in the refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border as a Coordination Officer at the Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA). The SVA is headquartered in Tokyo and runs educational and cultural projects in several countries in Asia.

Amal DeChickera is Head of Statelessness and Nationality Projects at the Equal Rights Trust (ERT). Amal has provided the lead on ERT research and advocacy work on statelessness and detention over the past four years. He was lead researcher and author of the ERT's 2010 publication "Unravelling Anomaly: Detention, Discrimination and the Protection Needs of Stateless Persons", drafter of ERT's "Guidelines to protect stateless persons from arbitrary detention", and of the "Commentary to the Guidelines". He is currently coordinating a research and advocacy project on the human rights of the Rohingya in six countries. Amal is a steering committee member and law and policy focal point of the European Network on Statelessness, serves on the advisory board of the International Detention Coalition, is a member of the UK Detention Forum and its Working Group on Indefinite Detention, and is a member of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network. His work at ERT includes research, advocacy, training, awareness raising, network building and policy development on statelessness. A member of the Sri Lankan Bar, Amal holds an LLM (Distinction) from University College London and an LLB (Hons.) from the University of Colombo.

Mark Farmaner is the Director of Burma Campaign UK, where he has worked for thirteen years. He has been involved in advocacy for human rights, development and the environment for twenty-five years. He has visited Burma more than 20 times, including ethnic conflict areas such as Kachin, Karen and Shan states. Mark has been invited by governments, universities and NGOs to speak at conferences and seminars worldwide. He is also a regular media commentator on Burma, appearing on the BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, ABC, Fox and many others. Previously, Mark Farmaner worked in the policy and media departments of development agency Christian Aid, one of the largest aid agencies in the UK, specialising in fair trade rules, third world debt, HIV/AIDS and climate change. He has also worked for the Anti-Racist Alliance in the United Kingdom, and was involved in the campaign against Apartheid in South Africa.

Dr. Sanae Fujita is a member of the School of Law/Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, where she is the module director of the postgraduate course entitled 'Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region' and an adviser for the annual

student-led Human Rights in Asia conference. She is also a visiting scholar at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan. Her area of research is human rights and development, with a particular focus on the activities of International Financial Institutions. She has been engaged in policy reviews of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and regularly teaches her area of expertise both in the UK and Japan. She holds a PhD in Law and an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex as well as an MA in International Development from Nagoya University, Japan.

Salil Tripathi is the director of policy at the Institute for Human Rights and Business in London. He has longstanding experience in advancing the business and human rights agenda: as a researcher at Amnesty International (1999-2005) he participated in the negotiations that created the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, represented Amnesty in the Voluntary Principles for Security and Human Rights process from its inception until 2008, and undertook research missions to Nigeria and Bosnia; as senior policy adviser at International Alert (2006-2008), he played a key role in the process that developed the Red Flags initiative, and worked on conflict assessment projects in Colombia. At the Institute he is engaged with its activities in Myanmar, including the proposed Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business, and its work on the Internet, free expression, and human rights. He sits on the external advisory corporate citizenship panels of GE and Exxon. Salil is also a writer, and serves on the board of English PEN, co-chairing its Writers-at-Risk Committee.

Chris Kip is a business and human rights analyst with past experience at the United Nations and the non-financial risk industry. As principal human rights analyst for a leading political risk firm, he advised multinational companies and international financial institutions on human rights risks and impacts in foreign investment activities, with a particular focus on Southeast Asia. He was also responsible for the management of the company's labour standards reports that identify reputational and operational labour rights risks in global production and sourcing networks. Previously, Chris worked as a consultant at the United Nations where he supported research on UN-business relationships, including the UN Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. He also interned with the International Business Leaders Forum in London and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for

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DAY2

Tsung-Li Yang is studying for his postgraduate programme in the department of sociology at University of Essex. Before his studies in the Essex, he was working with Taiwan Free Burma Network, Judicial Reform Foundation, and Amnesty International (Taiwan section). Currently, he is also the executive committee member of Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty

Daniel Dempsey works as a Carbon Change Advisor at University of Essex and is also studying for a part-time MBA. He has been working in sustainability since 2005 and joined the University of Essex as Carbon Change Advisor in 2011. His role involves developing environmental strategy and ensuring compliance with environmental legislation for the University. Daniel began studying for his MBA, at Essex Business School in 2011, his dissertation involves an exploration of environmental decision making in organisations. His interest in Human Rights in

Bangladesh comes from his research into how organisations manage their supply chains. The tragedy in the garment factory in Savar has highlighted the terrible human consequences caused by organisations who fail to act responsibly towards their supply chain and the people who work in it.

Yosuke Sakurai is studying for his postgraduate programme in LLM International Human Rights Law at University of Essex. He studied law and peace studies in Japan, and has participated in NGO's activity which is supporting patients of Hansen's disease (leprosy) segregated by government in China. Now his research focuses on the right to the highest attainable standard of health.

Tejman Shrestha is a candidate, LLM in International Human Rights Law at the University of Essex. He has worked as a human rights officer at National Human Rights Commission of Nepal for seven years. He has extensively worked on protection and promotion of human rights with particular interest in economic and social rights; transitional justice and peace building. He has also worked as a researcher on social inclusion of Dalit Women in Nepal. He holds LLM in Constitutional Law and International Law from Tribhuvan University, Nepal and has litigated at the Supreme Court of Nepal.

Yasuyuki Kitagawa is a lawyer (barrister and solicitor) from Japan. He is studying at the University of Essex as a representative of Japan Federation of Bar Association. He had worked for 3 years in Tohoku Area which includes Fukushima. He visited Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant in April 2013.

Tara Van Ho is a member of the Essex Transitional Justice Network ("ETJN") and a Project Associate with the Essex Business and Human Rights Project. She is currently finishing a PhD looking at the intersection of the fields of transitional justice, international investment law and business and human rights. Her experience is wide-ranging and includes conducting workshops on business and human rights in emerging authoritarian regimes. She lived and taught English in the town of Naraha, Japan for

two years. Her other travels include South Korea, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Singapore. Two years ago, she spoke at the Human Rights in Asia conference on the issues of transitional justice and business & human rights in Western Asia after the Arab Spring. She returns this year to speak on business and human rights in the Fukushima Exclusion Zone, which includes her beloved Naraha. She is a licensed lawyer in the US State of Ohio, and has a B.A., J.D., and an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law.

June Sirikan Charoensiri is undertaking her LL.M. in International Human Rights Law at University of Essex. She holds an LL.B. from Thammasat University and a lawyer license in Thailand. She previously worked with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative for 2 years on human rights in Southern Thai conflict. She was also consultant for the Association for the Prevention of Torture and organized training for lawyers on the prevention of torture. June also worked with the International Commission of Jurists as an intern in a legal and administrative capacity and as a volunteer with the Human Rights Lawyers Association in Thailand.

Karin Frodé is currently undertaking an LLB in Law and Human Rights at the University of Essex and has completed three out of four years of study. She has previously interned with various human rights organizations in Thailand, including Campaign Committee for Human Rights and Community Resource Centre where she assisted lawyers and human rights defenders with various campaigns, and trial observations on issues including the right to a fair trial, corporate responsibility and freedom from torture. She has also interned with Prachatai.com, an independent online newspaper where she worked with Ms. Chiranuch Premchaiporn, a news editor who has suffered charges and conviction for *lese majeste*. Karin has conducted research into the area of Thai *lese majeste* law and the historical use of similar laws in the UK as well as contemporary use of such laws in Europe. This summer she will undertake a legal internship with ARTICLE 19 in London, an NGO specializing in freedom of expression.

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