



Raju Kumar Dash

## Govt urged to submit documents on Rohingya persecution to ICC

Legal experts today urged the government to submit documents and written observations about Myanmar's persecution on Rohingyas before the International Criminal Court (ICC) within June 11 next. They came up with the call at a discussion titled 'Accountability: ICC and the Rohingya Crisis' at Nawab Nabab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University. Centre for Genocide Studies of DU, Centre for Peace and Justice of BRAC University and ActionAid Bangladesh jointly arranged the discussion to sensitise the Bangladesh government to put pressure on Myanmar over Rohingya issue. Justice Refaat Ahmed, Australia's former Attorney General and Hornsby Shire Mayor Phillip Maxwell Ruddock, former Election Commissioner Brigadier General (ret'd) Sakhawat Hussein, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh Farah Kabir and Executive Director of the Centre for Peace and Justice and Chair of ActionAid Bangladesh Manzoor Alam, among others, addressed the discussion with Director of Centre for Genocide Studies Prof Imtiaz Ahmed in the chair. Justice Refaat Ahmed said the information and evidences the ICC asked for should be submitted before it so that the court can conduct investigation as per the Rome Statute. He said many people were killed in Myanmar and more than seven million people were forced to leave the country while half of them were children. "ICC may exercise its judicial powers by taking the crimes against humanity into consideration as there are sufficient evidences of the crimes. Bangladesh can play its role as a state party," Justice Refaat added. Phillip Maxwell Ruddock stressed the need for imposing sanctions on Myanmar again to resolve the long-pending issue. "We have enough information and evidence to say this as genocide. So, action must be taken against Myanmar. Everyone, including the UN Security Council, must work together. Security Council can intervene directly in this regard," Ruddock said. On May 7, the ICC requested Bangladesh government to submit written observations on the issue of jurisdiction by June 11 this year and set June 20 for hearing. Different aspects of ethnic cleansing on Rohingya were discussed at the programme. Earlier, an application, signed by 400 Rohingya women, was submitted to ICC at The Hague in the Netherlands. The experts think that the ICC is the only hope for getting justice over Rohingya persecution.-  
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