

Press Release

23/7/2017

ICSF's Academic and Community Engagements on Genocide at 3 Australian Cities

Between 9-13 July 2017, a four-member team of the International Crimes Strategy Forum (ICSF) comprising of Dr Ahmed Ziauddin, Dr Rayhan Rashid, M Sanjeeb Hossain and Barrister Shah Ali Farhad attended the 13th Meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars in Brisbane, Australia ("the IAGS Conference 2017"). This happens to be the largest and the most prestigious conference relating to genocide issues in the world.

There, an ICSF Panel comprising of M Sanjeeb Hossain and Dr. Rayhan Rashid presented two separate papers relating to the Understanding and Recognition of Genocide in the context of Bangladesh. M Sanjeeb Hossain's paper was titled "Understanding 'Genocide': Contribution of the International Crimes Tribunals of Bangladesh", and Dr Rashid's paper was titled "Genocide Recognition within the Framework of the UN: Meaning, Purpose, and Consequences". This exclusive panel was chaired by Dr Ahmed Ziauddin.

Apart from presenting papers, ICSF carried out extensive engagement over five days with around 200 fellow genocide scholars and activists from around the world for international recognition of the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide, as part of its #Recognise1971Genocide campaign. 300 folders from ICSF containing materials on Bangladesh Genocide, the International Crimes Tribunal-Bangladesh (ICT-BD) and the recognition campaign were distributed among the delegates and observers of the conference.

Video messages were also collected from scholars, academics and experts present at the conference in support of international recognition of the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide. Throughout the duration of the conference, ICSF explored new avenues for collaborative projects with the stakeholders from around the world.

The ICSF team, comprising of Dr Rashid, Dr. Ziauddin and Barrister Farhad, also participated in a briefing followed by a question and answer (Q&A) session with Bangladeshi expatriates and Australian-Bangladeshis in Brisbane for involving them more in the campaign for securing international recognition of the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide. ICSF's documentary titled: "1971: A Creed for Justice" was also screened during this meeting. This event was organized by Bangladesh Association in Brisbane (BAB), Brisbane Bangla Radio and Brisbane Bangla School.

As part of the same tour, ICSF also presented at other cities of Australia. On 17 July, two members of ICSF participated in a seminar organized by 'Bangladesh Studies Circle' titled: "National Prosecution of International Crimes: The Example of International Crimes Tribunal Bangladesh" at the Western Sydney University, Sydney, Australia. Dr Rashid presented on 'Recognition of Bangladesh Genocide' and Dr Ziauddin spoke on the 'Bangladesh Genocide in the Asian Context'.

The papers and presentations were followed by question and answer session. Apart from the ICSF presenters, the event was also addressed by: Professor Rafiqul Islam (Macquarie University), Dr Masudul Haque (Convenor, Bangladesh Studies Circle), Professor Steven Freeland (Dean, School of Law, Western Sydney University), H.E Kazi Imtiaz Hossain (High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji), Serajul Haque, and Ahmed Abidur Razzaque Khan.

On 19 July, Dr. Rayhan Rashid made a presentation at the University of Canberra on "Global Recognition of Bangladesh Genocide: Strategic Considerations" in a discussion session titled: "Genocide and Humanity". ICSF members also carried out engagement with Bangladeshi expatriates and Australian-Bangladeshis at both Sydney and Canberra.

ICSF expresses its thanks to the Bangladeshi expatriate communities in all three cities for the support accorded to the team and the enthusiasm shown for getting involved in the international recognition campaign for the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide.