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RBF Standards of Professionalism

The Remembrance Forum (RBF) aims to foster the common values of tolerance, democracy and peace by providing unbiased information and analysis of events around the world. As such the RBF is a non-partisan, impartial organization that seeks a balanced account of events.

Presenters at the hearing on „Religious Violence in Myanmar: the Dark-side of Democratization?“, are requested to adhere to RBF’s professional standards of fairness, objectivity and impartiality



RBF Germany e.V.
Kurfürstendamm 21
D-10719 Berlin
mail: Info@rbforum.eu



Unser Blick in die Vergangenheit soll der Zukunft dienen

Reflecting the past helps to build a better future

Hearing

„Religious Violence in Myanmar: the Darkside of Democratization?“

on Thursday, 5th of June 2014, from 6 to 8 p.m.
followed by a dinner (buffet)
at the Deutsche Parlamentarische Gesellschaft (DPG),
Entrance: Dorotheenstraße 100



RememBrançeForum
Building a Better Future





Participating Experts

Dr. Khin Zaw Win served with the ministries of health in Myanmar and Malaysia, and later with UNICEF Yangon. During the one-party state and stagnant economy before 1988 he failed to initiate a new development path through civil society.

1988 the political system changed and for his engagement for human rights work he became a political prisoner from 1994 to 2005. Khin Zaw Win still sees the country in a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation brought about by mismanagement within the country and by punitive measures from abroad.

Without belonging to any organization, political or otherwise, he continued his civil society work, specifically in advocacy for humanitarian assistance. At the same time he became involved in advocacy for conflict resolution and peace-building in recognition of the tenuous and fragile 'peace' following ceasefires with ethnic paramilitaries which began in 1989.

Khin Zaw Win is part of the Analysis and Strategy Group set up by Shalom Foundation, one of Myanmar's leading local NGOs. A peace building committee, of which too he is to be a member, has been proposed to the military regime but approval has not been forthcoming.

Dr. Hans-Bernd Zöllner, born 1942, studied Theology and Sociology. He received his PhD in South Asian Studies in 1998 from the University of Hamburg with a doctoral thesis on Burma. From 1983 to 1990 he worked as a protestant pastor in Thailand and knows Burma/Myanmar from first-hand experience since 1984. He publicized widely, and is the author of 'The Beast and the Beauty' which offers an analysis of the conflict between the military and Aung San Suu Kyii in Myanmar since 1988. His book 'Fetish Democracy' discusses the Arab Spring against the backdrop of events in the Ukraine and in Myanmar. He has initiated various projects, one of which aims at consolidating peace in Myanmar.

Tomas Ojea Quintana is a lawyer, with more than 20 years of activities in the field of human rights. He has worked at the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights. He was also the Executive Director of the OHCHR Program for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Bolivia. He represented several Human Rights NGOs, including "Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo". He is member of the Advisory Board of Fortify Rights. He just completed his six-year term as Special Rapporteur for the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar. He was also a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Special Proceeding Mechanisms. He is a Professor in University of Buenos Aires, in University for Peace in Costa Rica, and he teaches at the Diplomatic Institute in Argentina.

Dr. Kristina Roepstorff is a lecturer at the Institute for Asian and African Studies at Humboldt University Berlin. She has many years of international research experience in the field of peace and conflict studies with a regional focus on South Asia. For her research on Northeast India she was awarded a Government of Canada Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. Most recently, she was a Visiting Fellow in the Asia Division of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin where she worked on Indian foreign policy and the current peace process in Myanmar. Furthermore, Ms Roepstorff works as a freelance analyst, consultant and trainer.

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5.30 pm Reception

6.00 pm Welcome: Jochen Feilcke,
Vice Chairman of Remembrance Forum Germany, MdB a.D.

6.05 pm Welcome: Michel Gourary,
Chairman of Remembrance Forum Germany

Chair: Dr. Kristina Roepstorff

Participating Experts

Tomas Ojea Quintana,
UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar
(*via Skype*)

Dr. Hans-Bernd Zöllner,
Coordinator of Myanmar Studies, University of Bonn
„A Sleeping Anti-Muslim Racism – Buddhists in Myanmar“

Dr. Khin Zaw Win,
Tampadipa Institute, Myanmar