



The Senate Human Rights Caucus
Co-Chairs Senator Chris Coons and Senator Thom Tillis
invite you to join us for a special briefing:

Forced to Flee Burma: Stories of Rohingya in Bangladesh

Tuesday, July 25 | 2 - 3 PM
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 385

Rohingya Muslims in Burma's Rakhine State have historically been subjected to forms of ethnic and religious discrimination, including restrictions on movement and the denial of citizenship, education, and employment. In response to attacks on three border posts in the northern Rakhine State in October 2016, Burmese security forces conducted security clearance operations in the area. The operations resulted in widespread displacement and human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, rapes, torture, kidnappings, and destruction of property. The United Nations estimates that 168,000 Rohingya have fled Burma since 2012, including 74,000 who have crossed the border into Bangladesh since the crackdown began in October 2016. Please join us to examine conditions for the Rohingya in Burma, hear directly from human rights advocates about their interviews with Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and discuss recommendations for U.S. policymakers.

Panel

Daniel Sullivan is the Senior Advocate for Human Rights at Refugees International (RI), focusing on Burma, Central America, and other areas affected by mass displacement. Dan joined RI in 2016 and was previously a Senior Policy Analyst and then Director of Government Relations for United to End Genocide. He has over a decade of human rights and foreign policy experience having worked for the Brookings Institution, Human Rights First, and the Albright Stonebridge Group. Dan holds a M.A. in International Conflict Management from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. in International Relations from Harvard University.

Andrea Gittleman is a program manager for the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide. Previously, she was interim director of U.S. policy and senior legislative counsel at Physicians for Human Rights and an Arthur Helton Global Human Rights Fellow with the Burma Lawyers' Council in Mae Sot, Thailand, where she coordinated an international advocacy campaign for criminal accountability in Burma. Prior to attending law school, Andrea served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mauritania where she managed gender and development programs. She holds a J.D. from the New York University School of Law and a B.A. in political science and international studies from the University of Chicago.

Richard Weir is currently the Alan R. and Barbara D. Finberg Fellow at Human Rights Watch, where he works to document and expose human rights abuses in Burma. He also serves on the board of directors of The African Middle Eastern Leadership Project. Previously, Richard worked with the International Refugee Assistance Project to successfully resettle Afghans and Iraqis from their respective countries to the United States. Richard is a member of the Truman National Security Project's Defense Council and served as a U.S. Marine. He holds a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law and a B.A. in political science, summa cum laude, from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Moderator with Remarks

Tina Mufford is a senior policy analyst at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, focusing on the East Asia-Pacific. Previously, she served as deputy director for Asia at the International Republican Institute (IRI). Her global experience at IRI includes serving as a rapporteur at The Sixth Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy held in Indonesia in 2010 and as an election observer in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Before joining IRI, she spent eight years working in the U.S. House of Representatives. Tina holds a M.Sc. in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a B.A. in Political Science from Binghamton University.

Honorary Co-hosts: The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

