



Statement on Gambia's lawsuit and ICJ's public hearings

November 20, 2019

The World Kachin Congress, a network of Kachin organizations and communities around the world, welcomes Gambia's lawsuit against the Burmese government for its genocidal actions against the Rohingya people, in violation of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ)'s public hearings from December 10, 2019 to December 12, 2019 at the Peace Palace in the Hague.

As in Arakan State, our brethren in Kachin and Northern Shan States have been subjected to arbitrary arrests, detention, and extrajudicial killings. Kachin women and girls have been sexually assaulted, raped and killed by Burmese soldiers. Innocent villagers have often been abducted, interrogated and tortured, while Kachin lands have been seized and occupied, and churches and houses pillaged and burned down. All these criminal acts, committed by units of the Burma Army, have been going on for decades, and the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

Like the Rohingya, Kachins have been forced to flee their homes for fear of persecution and human rights violations. Since the war resumed in Kachin areas in 2011, over 100,000 Kachins have been internally displaced and are living in IDP camps, unable to return to their homes due to the Burma Army's continued presence in and around their villages. Furthermore, Kachin IDPs in remote areas are still deprived of basic humanitarian needs, as the authorities have blocked aid from reaching their camps.

The World Kachin Congress, therefore, strongly supports Gambia's efforts to bring the perpetrators of genocidal crimes against ethnic minorities in Burma to justice, and pledges assistance, to the fullest of its capacity, to help bring all responsible criminals to account.

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