



## U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

### Two Years after the Coup: Religious Freedom in a Contested Burma

#### Panel



**Priscilla A. Clapp** is a senior advisor to the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Asia Society. She is a retired minister-counselor in the U.S. Foreign Service. During her 30-year career with the U.S. Government, Clapp served as chief of mission and permanent charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Burma (1999-2002), deputy chief of mission in the U.S. Embassy in South Africa (1993-96), principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Refugee Programs (1989-1993), deputy political counselor in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow (1986-88), and chief of political-military affairs in the U.S. Embassy in Japan (1981-85). She also worked on the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, in the East Asian, Political Military and International Organizations bureaus, and with the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Prior to government service, Clapp spent ten years in foreign policy and arms control research, with the MIT Center for International Studies and as a Research Associate at the Brookings Institution. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies.



**Kyaw Zeyar Win** is a Burma Technical Specialist at the International Republican Institute (IRI). He received the Civil Society Leadership Award (2017) from the Open Society Foundations (OSF) to pursue a master's Degree in International Relations at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. During his graduate studies, he was a Fellow at Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) in the fall of 2018. Before coming to the U.S., he worked at the Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNH) in Yangon as a Program Officer, where he contributed to establishing Early Warning and Early Response

mechanisms as well as conflict prevention efforts between ethnic groups, especially between Rakhine and Rohingya communities in Rakhine State. He also worked as an independent researcher assessing the government policies and legal restrictions on marginalized communities and the religious landscape in Burma. His research paper, "Securitization of the Rohingya in Myanmar," was published by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in 2018. He also volunteered in capacity-building sessions for youth and women from marginalized communities by offering research, strategic planning, conflict analysis, prevention, and transformation training in Yangon. Zeyar received his undergraduate degree from the University of Dental Medicine – Yangon in 2008.



**Zo Tum Hmung** is the Executive Director of Chin Association of Maryland, Inc., which has an advocacy office in Washington, DC. He previously co-founded the Ethnic Nationalities Affairs Center-Union of Burma (ENAC), a research center that supports the peace process and development of democratic institutions in Burma and served as its first Executive Director. Among other publications, he led the efforts by ENAC to publish *Fiscal Federalism: Implications for Future Federal Democratic Union of Myanmar*, May 2018; *Natural Resources of Myanmar (Burma): Ownership, Management, Revenue*

*Sharing, and Impacts*, September 2017; and *The Sectoral Policy Recommendations for Building a Future Federal Union* (English and Burmese Version), December 2014. He also co-authored *Seeking Refuge: The Chin People in Mizoram State, India*, December 2011. He completed his Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School, focusing on foreign policy and negotiations, and he also finished his master's degree from Eastern University's Palmer Seminary on Christian Faith and Public Policy. Mr. Hmung was born in Chin State, Burma and currently lives with his family in Ellicott City, Maryland.



**Wai Wai Nu** is a Burmese activist on Rohingya and women's issues. She is the founder and Executive Director of the Women's Peace Network in Burma. After spending seven years as a political prisoner in Burma, Nu has dedicated herself to working for democracy and human rights, particularly on behalf of marginalized women and members of her ethnic group, the Rohingya. Through the Women's Peace Network, Nu works to build peace and mutual understanding between Burma's ethnic communities and to empower and advocate for the rights of marginalized women throughout Burma, and particularly in Rakhine State. Her work also aims to reduce discrimination and hatred among Buddhist and Muslim communities and to improve the human rights of the Rohingya people through documentation, convenings, and policy advocacy among key leaders in Burma and high-level international fora. Through her work, she has been recognized as a Champion of Prevention by the United Nation's Office of the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect.