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Holocaust Memorial Center brings attention to genocide in Myanmar

By Stephanie Preweda



Adem Carroll will speak March 7 about the Rohingya refugee crisis at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills. He is the New York and United Nations program director for Burma Task Force.

Most people hear the word genocide and think of Nazi Germany during World War II in the 1940s. But that's hardly the last genocide we've seen. Even in 2019, genocide's gnashing teeth tear into people's lives.

The Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills is shining light on attacks against the Rohingya culture in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

The Center will host a Community Conversations seminar at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7, featuring guest speakers John Ciorciari, director of the Weiser Diplomacy Center and International Policy Center

If You Go

- Preventing Genocide: Rohingya Update
- 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7.
- Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.
- Guest speakers John Ciorciari and Adem Carroll.
- holocaustcenter.org.
- 248-553-2400 ext. 130.

at the University of Michigan, and Adem Carroll, New York and United Nations program director for Burma Task Force.

The Memorial Center was founded 34 years ago to honor the victims of Nazi policies 1933-1945, and to teach about the murders of millions, and why everyone must stand up for the rights of others to prevent future discrimination, hate crimes and genocide.

“In keeping with our mission to educate, engage and empower by teaching the lessons of the Holocaust, we are proud to host meaningful programming year-round,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO of the Holocaust Memorial Center. “We’re honored to host guest speakers that shed light on some of the most pressing issues in the world today.”

The United Nations and human rights groups have accused the Burmese military of persecuting the Rohingya Muslim minority with ethnic cleansing and human rights violations including gang rapes, arson and infanticide.

The 2015 Rohingya refugee crisis occurred following the mass migration of people fleeing Myanmar, in southeast Asia. In the last two years, about 750,000 people have fled their homes in the eastern part of the country, heading to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.



John Ciorciari will speak March 7 about the Rohingya refugee crisis at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills. He is associate professor and director of the University of Michigan’s Weiser Diplomacy Center at the School of Public Policy.

Ciorciari said the issue has not received much attention in the United States for several reasons: Myanmar censors information; Western powers have not dealt well with human rights challenges; and communities lack networks to assist refugees.

“Hopefully the audience will gain better understanding why this immense humanitarian tragedy has gotten so full of tension internationally and so little response in major

governments and international organizations,” he said.

The best way to help the cause, Ciorciari said, is sponsoring awareness campaigns such as this and inviting the public to learn more. Doing so will throw the crisis into public awareness and raise a sense of urgency, he said.

“Working on international human rights concerns is a challenge — a challenge to get the news out and not be drowned out by sensational domestic events when really, more important things are happening in the world,” Ciorciari said.

- If You Go: Guest speakers John Ciorciari and Adem Carroll will discuss "Preventing Genocide: Rohingya Update" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at the Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Call 248-553-2400 ext. 130, or visit holocaustcenter.org.