

Rohingya Justice Initiative



THE ROHINGYA JUSTICE INITIATIVE (RJI)

is the only Rohingya initiative that investigates and documents grave human rights violations committed against Rohingya survivors. RJI was founded and run by Rohingya men and women, a persecuted group of people and survivors of international crimes. It aims to directly benefit Rohingya survivors by strengthening the justice efforts being carried out in our name, through a survivor-centered approach.

As a human rights group, RJI considers that human rights exist for all people, regardless of color, race, gender, or religion. We are steadfast in upholding human rights for all and contributing to an equal world. In particular, as a Rohingya-led organization, we advocate for the rights of ethnic minorities. Aware of the importance of taking an intersectional approach, RJI is focused on the active inclusion of groups within the Rohingya community who are further marginalized as a consequence of various factors, including gender, sexuality, disability, and age.

With these guiding principles in mind, RJI documents human rights violations committed against the Rohingya in Arakan State, Myanmar, and to assist justice mechanisms which seek accountability for these violations. RJI also advocates for a sustainable resolution to the Rohingya situation that will allow the Rohingya to return to their homeland in Myanmar.

In this context, RJI has been assisting the investigation and legal teams in relevant cases before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). We also engage with the UN's Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), including by facilitating access to the Rohingya community in both the Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh, and Myanmar's Arakan state. In this way, RJI serves as a bridge between Rohingya victims and the ICJ, ICC, IIMM teams, order to provide evidence, and also to ensure that victims are kept informed of the progress of the investigations and cases that affect them. RJI also have partnerships in place with the Victim Advocates International (VAI), Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) and the Duty Legacy (DL).



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In order to gather this evidence, RJI has been engaged in human rights documentation since 2021. RJI members have collected testimonies from victims in a Rohingya owned, victim-centered process that adheres to international documentation standards. Our victim-driven approach puts Rohingya human rights documenters at the center of the documentation process, managing the entire documentation process and engaging in interviews and data collection. Given that our documenters are Rohingya, we are able to engage with victims and witnesses who have been unwilling to speak to international investigators.

RJI documenters have designed a process for documentation that centers victims and their stories in a way that fully appreciates the context and the cultural intricacies of Rohingya storytelling and the lived experiences of the Rohingya. RJI has then established a cloud-based database system for storing and organizing interviews.



The RJI database team is responsible for tracking all the collected interviews, storing, and managing them on the database in a way that allows it to be shared with justice mechanisms.

Our efforts have resulted in more than a thousand testimonies that our international partners have recognized for their quality and comprehensive nature. The quality of our documentation has enabled its sharing with both the IIMM and the legal team acting in the case against Myanmar at the ICJ. RJI has also shared its work and expertise with H.E Prosecutor Karim AA Khan of the International Criminal Court and H.E Dr Beth Van Schaack, at large Global Criminal Justice Ambassador of the Office of the Global Criminal Justice, Department of State.

RJI's documentation activities emphasize the need for recognition and protection of rights for all, and in seeking to center victims' voices in the documentation of human rights, violations committed against the Rohingya, RJI works to ensure that these voices are inclusive of all elements of the Rohingya community.

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RJI recognizes that minority groups often face unique challenges and heightened vulnerabilities and incorporates this awareness into the entire documentation process, for example, by taking specific security and safety precautions when interviewing relevant individuals, using specific psycho-social support practices during interviews, accommodating access needs, and other measures.

RJI's documentation processes are designed to be inclusive, ensuring that both men and women, as well as individuals of diverse gender identities, have equal opportunities to share their experiences and participate in our programs. RJI comprises female members who are women leaders in the community and highly skilled in conducting gender-sensitive outreach and documentation. Gender-sensitive training is provided to our team to enhance their understanding and response to the specific needs and rights of women and girls, and gender-sensitive documentation that includes the lived experiences of people of all genders including the Hijra community.



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RJI is composed of an elected board, secretaries, and committees, and RJI's work is guided by a number of elected positions:

- President,
- Vice-President,
- General Secretary,
- Organizing Secretary,
- Information Secretary,
- Database Management Committee,
- Advocacy Committee,
- Truth Telling and Memorialization Committee,
- Community Engagement and Awareness Committee.

Additionally, RJI enjoys the support of a number of pro bono international independent advisors.

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