

MUSLIMS IN MYANMAR

Muslims of Myanmar have been living in the country for more than one thousand years; yet their identities remained unanswered. Their lives are full of challenges and the frequent clashes between them and the Buddhists signify an uncomfortable atmosphere. Their life is an example of identity crisis prevailing in our contemporary world. Currently, their economic life, educational level, social, religious and political status is below the recognized standard. The alarming numbers of poor, jobless, destitute, uneducated, illiterate, refugees and locally displaced Muslims are on the rise. Once the social and moral values are at desperate level, maintaining Islamic identity for the Muslims of Myanmar is unthinkable. Since 2012 Myanmar has shown its desire to participate in democratization whereas many reform activities have taken place. However, the contributions of Muslims are still unacknowledged whether they themselves are inactive or are put aside. The current violence pertaining to Rohingya in the western part of Myanmar highlighted again the ailing episode of Muslims. The violence is seen frequently in Myanmar. It is suggested that the reason of affliction against the Muslims is Islamophobia. This book suggests to the Muslims of Myanmar that they need to solicit the minority status on the basis of religion so as to officially claim the right of minority as well as to enhance their literacy rate and educational standards, particularly in tertiary education by which they can be considered as an indispensable community in the process of democratization of the nation paving the way for ending disputes and see prosperity of the Muslims again.

MAULANA AKBAR SHAH @ UTUNAUNG is a Myanmar citizen, an Asst. Professor, at (FIDS), IRKHS, IIUM, from 2009 till date. He obtained BSc. in Chemistry, (R.A.S.U.), Myanmar in 1982, and B.A., in Islamic Studies from Jamia Darul Uloom, Rangoon in 1998. He also received M.A., and Ph.D. in Usuluddin and Comparative Religion from IIUM in 2010 and 2013 respectively. He had also worked for the United Nations World Food Programme for about ten years. He also served as a Secretary General of the organization of Jamiyyat al-Ulama al-Islam of Myanmar from 2000-2007. He is engaged in many organizations as Head of Research Committee, Department of FIDS, IRKHS, (2) Member of Research Committee for Faculty of IRKHS, (3) the president of Myanmar Muslims Intellectual Forum (MMIF), (4) volunteer at International Advanced Islamic Study (IAIS), Malaysia. (5) Advisor for Myanmar Muslim Community in Malaysia, (6) Associate Editor and Reviewer of ICSAI. org's International Journal of Language, Literature, Culture and Education, (7) Reviewer of Journal of Islam in Asia, (8) Visiting Lecturer for Darul Arqam and Singapore Islamic Scholars and Religious Teachers Association, (9) Advisor for Global Community Club, CFS, (10) Advisor for Intellectual College, franchised College of International Islamic college, Malaysia (IIC).

THAMEEM USHAMA is a Professor in the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (IRKHS) at International Islamic University Malaysia. He has a Bachelor Degree in Chemistry, University of Madras. Arabic - Masters Degree, University of Madras. Islamic Studies - Masters Degree, Aligarh Muslim University and Islamic Studies - Doctor of Philosophy, Aligarh Muslim University. He is an active contributor to the field of knowledge.

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