Report on 2nd Winter School

Center for the Study of Genocide and Justice (CSGJ), Liberation War Museum

Center for the Study of Genocide and Justice (CSGJ) of Liberation War Museum (LWM) organised its 2nd Winter School on "Genocide, Justice & the New Generation" from December 17-24, 2015 at Proshika HRDC, Manikganj. A total number of 40 students from various disciplines (including Law, International Relations, Peace and Conflict etc) from 12 universities and professionals including academics, judges, lawyers and media personalities participated in this week long residential training.



Resource persons in the school included numbers of faculties of law, history and social science from the USA, Australia and Bangladesh. Julian Francis, "Friends of Liberation War Honour" awardee; Amy Fagin, Executive Director of Beyond Genocide; Professor Dr. M Rafiqul Islam of Macquarie Law School; Chief Investigator Md. Abdul Hannan Khan and Prosecutor Dr. Tureen Afroz of International Crimes Tribunal-Bangladesh (ICT-BD); war baby and descendants of martyred intellectuals spoke in different sessions of the school. Among them, Amy Fagin, Executive Director of Beyond Genocide; Professor Dr. M Rafiqul Islam of Macquarie Law School were invited as the International Resource Persons in this schooling.



Through various interactive discussion, brainstorming, group exercise, field visit, documentary film screening, theatre art and mock trial, the participants explored the concept of genocide and justice process from the perspective of Bangladesh and beyond.



While emphasising on the dissemination of liberation war history to new generation, the school also focused on transitional justice, victimization, trauma and sufferings of Beerangonas (Victims of sexual Violence) and war babies as well as their effective reparation and social acceptance for ensuring justice and rejuvenation of Bangladesh.



The participants visited battle fields as well as killing fields of Dhamrai. They got the opportunity to interact with the local freedom fighters who shared their experience of liberation war and victims and witnesses who narrated their horrific suffering brought by barbaric Pakistan army and their collaborators in 1971. Participating in non-judicial hearing was one of the learning experiences for the participants with a multi-disciplinary approach; in order to perform as commission, prosecutors, defence counsels, victims, and civil society-media.

Later on, a Declaration of Intent were presented by all the participants who pledge to conduct research as well as disseminating the glorious history of the liberation war among common people and new generation through internet and social media; to confront the misconceptions regarding the trial procedure and the analysis of the judgments of International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh.

The closing ceremony was honoured with the presence of eminent writer Professor Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal; Mofidul Hoque, Trustee of LWM and Director of CSGJ; Ziauddin Tariq Ali, Trustee of LWM.The participants, volunteers and residential mentors were given certificates upon completion of the programme. Iftekhar Sahariar of Rajshahi University and Mahboob Sobhani of CMM Court jointly received the Best

Performance Award while S M Pizuar Hossain of BRAC School of Law received the Academic Excellence Award and Laila Tasmia of Dhaka University received the Best Performance in Non Judicial Hearing Award.



