

## Bangladesh Hearing - Speaker Biographies

### Peter M. Manikas

Peter M. Manikas is a senior associate and regional director for Asia programs at NDI. Previously, he was the Institute's chief of party in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malawi. From August 1998 to October 2000 he served in Washington, DC as NDI's regional manager of Southern Africa programs. Mr. Manikas has been associated with NDI, first as a consultant, and later as a senior associate, since 1988. He has been involved in NDI's democratic development work in more than 20 countries.

Before joining NDI full-time, he served as a consultant to the chairman of the U.N. Commission of Experts for the former Yugoslavia, providing advice and research on the law applicable to the conflict. He also served as a senior fellow in International Human Rights Law at DePaul University College of Law's International Human Rights Law Institute in Chicago, Illinois, specializing in international criminal law and human rights. He is the co-author of a major treatise on the law applied by the U.N.'s International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague. He has also served as a consultant to the World Bank, the UN and the United States Agency for International Development on human rights and anti-corruption issues. Earlier, he held the position of research social scientist at Northwestern University's Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research. He is the author of more than 20 publications on international law, elections and public policy.

In 1984, Mr. Manikas served as the executive director of a court reform commission in Cook County, Illinois, appointed by the chief judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, in the aftermath of a judicial scandal involving more than 70 circuit court judges and other court system personnel. He later served in a similar capacity on a statewide basis, directing the work of a judicial reform commission appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Mr. Manikas is a member of the Illinois Bar. He received a JD from De Paul University College of Law, MA from George Washington University and BA from Roosevelt University.

Kimber L. Shearer

Kimber L. Shearer joined the International Republican Institute (IRI) in July 2005 as the Deputy Director of the Asia Division, where she assists the Director of the Division with managing IRI's programs in Asia. Just prior to this, Ms. Shearer served as a political and global affairs officer in the Office of European Union and Regional Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, where she was responsible for managing relations with the European Union on a portfolio of issues that included Justice and Home Affairs, counterterrorism, democracy and human rights, and Latin America.

Prior to that, Ms. Shearer served as the Senior Editor for Europe and Eurasia in the Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. She oversaw the production of 52 of the Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which included maintaining expertise on human rights and democracy issues in the region, and editing and negotiating the final text of the reports. Ms. Shearer also served as the Europe regional coordinator for asylum, where she was responsible for examining and commenting on asylum applications and Convention Against Torture cases for immigration judges, asylum officers and attorneys with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Ms. Shearer is a former Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) with the Department of State. During her time as a PMF, she served on three short-term overseas assignments as the Acting Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, a Legal Officer with the Office of the Legal Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands, and the Acting Assistant Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan. Prior to this, Ms. Shearer worked as a legal intern in the Office of Children's Issues in the Bureau of Consular Affairs where she assisted attorneys in developing and coordinating policies on international parental child abduction and adoption issues.

Previously, Ms. Shearer worked with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) where she assisted in the resettlement of refugees in the U.S., and implemented and coordinated an immigration project that assists refugees in adjusting their residency status. Ms. Shearer also worked for a U.S. Senator at both the central office in Washington, DC and the district office in Pennsylvania, where she supported special projects for the Legislative Director, assisted in constituent outreach, and researched and assisted with

drafting new legislation.

Ms. Shearer holds a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law, where she concentrated on International Law and Public and Governmental Service. She was admitted to the Maryland Bar in December 2001. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from LaSalle University.

Sara  
Hossain, Esq., High Court Lawyer and Human Rights Activist

Sara Hossain is a barrister practicing in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, mainly in the areas of constitutional, human rights, and public interest law.

Ms. Hossain has represented, among others, slumdwellers seeking protection against forced evictions, women in protective custody, and journalists facing contempt of court prosecutions for reporting on judicial corruption, as well as individuals who have faced death threats and fatwas from Islamist groups; she has also been involved in constitutional challenges on censorship of books and films on minority rights issues. She has been involved in many fact-finding missions on human rights violations, including on assaults on indigenous peoples, and forcible land occupations. She currently serves as a member of the International Commission on the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

From 1997-2003, Ms. Hossain headed the South Asia Program at the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS), where she was involved in litigation before international and regional human rights tribunals (including *MC v Bulgaria* (European Court of Human Rights) *Singarasa v Sri Lanka* (UN Human Rights Committee)), training for lawyers on comparative human rights law, and convening judicial colloquia for superior court judges in the region on access to justice. She also jointly ran a multi-country research and advocacy initiative across South Asia, Europe and the Middle East on 'crimes of honour' with a focus on legal and policy reform on the issue of choice in marriage, including advocacy on the rights of dual nationals to obtain consular support in cases of forced marriage.

Ms Hossain's has written and lectured for national and international human rights organisations and at universities in Bangladesh

and the United Kingdom on access to justice, public interest litigation, women's human rights and the rise of the religious right. Her publications include 'Apostates, Ahmadis and Advocates: Use and Abuse of Offences against Religion in Bangladesh' (WLUML, 2005), 'Honour': Crimes, Paradigms and Violence against Women (Zed, London, 2005) (co-edited with Lynn Welchman), "Socio-Economic Rights in South Asia" (in M. Langford, Socio-Economic Rights, (CUP, 2008)), "Confronting Constitutional Curtailments: Independence of the Judiciary in Bangladesh (in Paul Brass (ed) Handbook of Politics in South Asia (Routledge, forthcoming) and Remedies for Forced Marriage in South Asia and the United Kingdom (edited), (Universal Law Books, Delhi, forthcoming).

Regionally, Ms Hossain has been involved in training programmes for lawyers and activists for the International Women's Rights Action Watch (Asia Pacific) and the South Asian Forum for Human Rights. Nationally, she is an Executive Committee member of the national human rights organization, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) ([www.askbd.org](http://www.askbd.org)) and a Consultative Group member of the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust. Internationally, she currently serves as a member of the International Commission on the Chittagong Hill Tracts and is on the Board of the South Asian Women's Fund.

Ms Hossain was educated at Oxford University and called to the Bar from Middle Temple, London.

Ali Riaz, Professor and Chair of  
the Department of Politics and Government, Illinois State University

Ali Riaz is Professor and Chair of the Department of Politics and Government. He joined Illinois State University in 2002. Prior to joining Illinois State University he has taught at Claflin University in South Carolina, and the University of Lincoln in England.

He was an Assistant Professor at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh between 1993 and 1995, and a Lecturer between 1984 and 1987. Ali Riaz earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i in 1993 under the East West Center fellowship.

He also has MA in Communication and MA in Political Science earned in 1989 and 1991, respectively. He was awarded the 'East West Center Honor' Award in 1990.

Dr.

Riaz was a Research Fellow of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. His research topic was the role of telecommunication in economic growth of Malaysia and Singapore.

Dr.

Riaz has an extensive experience in journalism. He has worked for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service for five years, as Producer and Senior Broadcast Journalist.

His

research interests include Islamist politics, South Asian politics, community development, and political economy of media.

He has six books in English and more than a dozen books in Bengali. His publications include *Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh: A Complex Web* (Routledge, 2008), *Paradise Lost? State Failure in Nepal* (with Subho Basu, Lexington Books, 2007), *Unfolding State: The Transformation of Bangladesh* (de Sitter Publications, 2005), *God Willing: The Politics of Islamism in Bangladesh* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004), 'State, Class and Military Rule: Political Economy of Martial Law in Bangladesh' (Nadi New Press, 1993).

Professor

Ali Riaz earned the College of Arts and Sciences first Dean's Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement 2004 and Outstanding College Researcher Award 2005. Riaz received Pi Sigma Alpha Excellence in Teaching Award in 2006.

Asif

Saleh, Executive Director and Founder, Drishtipat

Asif Saleh recently retired as a Vice President at Goldman Sachs in London to be the full-time managing director of Drishtipat, a Bangladesh human rights organization he founded in 2001. Drishtipat is an active force in the Bangladesh diaspora, with branches in nine cities on four continents, and numerous programs and fundraising initiatives that focus on human rights and humanitarian relief. Drishtipat's blog has been named one of the most influential in Bangladesh by leading newspaper The Daily Star, and members of the Drishtipat Writers' Collective are frequent contributors to numerous print publications. Asif writes regularly for leading daily newspapers in Bangladesh and in international magazines on society and politics. His articles and editorials have been published in The Guardian, Himal, The Daily Star, and New Age, among other publications. In August 2008, Asif was selected as the delegate representing Bangladesh for the Asia Society's "Asia 21 Young Leaders" program in Tokyo.

Shapan

Adnan, Associate Professor of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

My academic and research

background is as follows. After schooling in Bangladesh, I studied at the University of Sussex and obtained B.A. Honours with major in Economics. I then taught successively at the University of Dhaka and the University of Chittagong, and began fieldwork-based research exploring social, economic and political aspects of the peasantry, based on studies of specific village communities. After this spell of immersion in empirical research, I worked on theoretical aspects of the peasant economy and capitalist development for a Ph.D. in Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge. I then returned to teaching at the University of Chittagong, during which I also undertook a major fieldwork-based study of the peasantry in north Bengal. In the subsequent period, I conducted research in a number of institutions including the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), the Shomabesh Institute and Research and Advisory Services (RAS) in Dhaka. Interspersed among these, I also spent an academic year at the University of Oxford, conducting research under the South Asian visiting scholars programme of Queen Elizabeth House.

My research interests fall under the broad domains of political economy and political sociology, combining general theoretical analysis with empirical research. A great deal of my work has been concerned with changes in the agrarian structure and the social, economic and political organization of wet-rice growing peasant communities of Bangladesh. The specific topics include differentiation of the peasantry, the peasant economy and its capitalist transformation, the bases of domination and inequality in peasant societies, as well as the dynamics of peasant mobilization and resistance against local-level power structures, state interventions and counterproductive development programmes. In recent years, I have been able to extend my field research to swidden-cultivating ethnic minorities living in the hilly and forested terrain of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeastern Bangladesh (adjoining Myanmar and eastern India), where I have analyzed the roles of in-migration, market control and the state power in causing poverty, land alienation and ethnic conflict.

My research interests include a number other issues, as follows. I have worked on the theoretical and empirical aspects of the determinants of human fertility, and participated in the debate on explaining the paradoxical aspects of fertility decline in Bangladesh. A related area of interest has been the influence of economic, social and demographic changes in bringing about significant shifts in women's position and gender relations. I have also undertaken research and policy analysis on the impact of development interventions on people, natural resources and the environment. One issue that I have pursued at some length is the socio-economic and ecological impact of flood control structures on the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta and the resultant contestations between the state and the floodplain peasantry. Other issues include the underlying factors and consequences of deforestation and brackish-water shrimp farming in coastal areas. These various research activities have enabled me to analyze issues such as the determinants of poverty, land alienation and social and political conflict, as well as make critical evaluations of the roles of the state, the market, and the national and

international development apparatus.

## Publications

### Selected Books and Monographs

Adnan, *Migration, Land Alienation and Ethnic Conflict: Causes of Poverty in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh* (Dhaka: Research and Advisory Services, 2004).

Adnan, *Annotation of Village Studies in Bangladesh and West Bengal: A Review of Socio-Economic Trends Over 1942-88* (Comilla: Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, 1990).

### Selected Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Adnan, 'Agrarian Structure and Agricultural Growth Trends in Bangladesh: The Political Economy of Technological Change and Policy Interventions', in Rogaly, Harriss-White, and Bose (eds.), *Sonar Bangla?: Agricultural Growth and Agrarian Change in West Bengal and Bangladesh*, (New Delhi: Sage, 1999).

Adnan, 'Class, Caste and Shamaj Relations Among the Peasantry in Bangladesh: Mechanisms of Stability and Change in the Daripalla Villages, 1975-86', in Breman, Kloos, and Saith (eds.), *The Village in Asia Revisited* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997).

Adnan, 'Birds in a Cage': Institutional Change and Women's Position in Bangladesh', in Federici, Mason, Sogner (eds.), *Women's Position and Demographic Change* (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1993).

Adnan, 'Peasant Ideology and Societal Maintenance: Conflicting Patterns from Bangladesh', in ADAB News, Vol. XV, No. 4, July-August, 1988.

Adnan, 'Weber on the Market and Economic Rationality: A Comparative Review in terms of Marx's Problematique', in Islam, Khan, Jahangir (eds.), *Karl Marx and Max Weber: Perspectives on Theory and Domination* (Dhaka: Dhaka University, Centre for Advanced Research in Social Science, 1988).

Adnan, 'The Conditions of the Peasantry in Bangladesh', in Mencher (ed.), *Social Anthropology of Peasantry* (Bombay: Somaiya Publications, 1983).

Adnan, Rahman, 'Peasant Classes and Land Mobility: Structural Reproduction and Change in Rural Bangladesh,' *Bangladesh Historical Studies, Journal of the Bangladesh Itihas Samiti*, Vol. III, 1978.

Adnan, Khan, Kamal, Muqtada, 'The Preliminary Findings of a Social and Economic Study of Four Bangladesh Villages,' *Dacca University Studies*, Vol. 23, Part A, 1975.

Adnan, 'Fazlul Huq and the Bengal Muslim Leadership', *Bangladesh Historical Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1974.

## Research

A Comparative Review of the Transformation of the Peasantry in South Asia

## Modules

Sachi  
G. Dastidar, Professor of Politics, Economics & Law at the State University of New York, Old Westbury

Professor Dastidar has been teaching and working in the fields of urban planning, public administration, and economic development for over thirty years. Partition, independence and subsequent socio-political changes in newly independent South Asian nations are of special interest. Professor Dastidar has lectured widely, taught in the United States, Kazakhstan, and India, and is the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, including the Distinguished Service Professor award of the State University of New York and a Senior Fulbright grant to Kazakhstan.

Professor Dastidar received his doctorate in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University at Tallahassee, his Master's of City Planning from the Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur, and his Bachelor of Architecture from the Bengal Engineering College of Calcutta University, India.

Selected publications include the following:

Books:

Empire's  
Last Casualty: Indian Subcontinent's Vanishing Hindu and Other Minorities,  
Firma KLM

Publishers,  
Kolkata (Calcutta), India, 2008.

Living  
among the Believers: Stories from the Holy Land down the Ganges, Firma KLM  
Publishers,

Kolkata  
(Calcutta), India, 2006.

Articles:

"From the First Indian War of  
Independence (1857) to Another War of Independence to more Wars

of Independence: The 150 year Lesson of Union, Division to Further Vivisection," in First War of Independence, edited by History Department of Peshawar University, Peshawar, Pakistan (Forthcoming)

"One Hundred Years of Banga-Vanga - The Partition of Bengal: 1905-2005," in Bengal - Past and

Present, a forthcoming book in memory of Prof. Priti Kumar Mitra, History Department,

Rajshahi University, Bangladesh, 2008.

"October 16, 1905: A Forgotten Date of Indian/Bengali History," Journal of the Annual Conference

of Campaign Against Minorities in Bangladesh, February 11-12; Kolkata (Calcutta), 2006.

"On Centenary of Colonial Religious Partition: British Administration Partitioned Multireligious

Bengal into 'Muslim' east and 'Hindu' west," News-India Times, October 14; 2-3, 2005.