

Rohingya

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family emigrated long ago and who owns several businesses in the Portland area, there are about 100 Rohingya families in the Portland metro area, and about 5,000 in the United States. The largest concentrations of Rohingya families are in Wisconsin and Chicago, but Portland's community has become a leading

in the last two months, with as many as 400,000 Rohingyas fled the country.

In September, Merkley released a statement on the ongoing persecution of Rohingyas in Burma, and he told *The Skanner* he is working with colleagues in the Senate to draw more attention to the issue.

Portland's community has become a leading voice in calling for action

voice in calling for action to help Rohingya people overseas.

The term "Rohingya" refers to a mostly-Muslim ethnic group that has lived in predominantly-Buddhist Myanmar for centuries. Rohingya people have long been oppressed by Burma's government, denied the right to free movement and education; according to Iqbar, a small percentage of Rohingyas currently living can read and write, and few of those living in the United States can read and write English.

In October of last year, Myanmar has drawn criticism from the United Nations, Amnesty International and others for ongoing attacks on Rohingya people. These have included the reported burning of villages, rape of Rohingya women and extra-judicial assassination of Rohingya men without warning or explanation. Ali's nephew was killed. Portland resident Chit Khing, who just arrived four months ago, lost a cousin in an extrajudicial killing by soldiers.

The crisis has escalated

"The State Department is missing in action right now. They should be really protesting ethnic cleansing and assault on that community," Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) said last week in a meeting with *The Skanner* News.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson did comment on the issue in a September with British Prime Minister Theresa May and Foreign Minister Boris Johnson. He called the current crisis a "defining moment" and said, "I think it is important that the global community speak out in support of what we all know the expectation is for the treatment of people regardless of their ethnicity," he added. "This violence must stop, this persecution must stop."

But the U.S. has otherwise been quiet on the issue. Local advocates are hoping for United Nations intervention, as well as a reinstatement of sanctions imposed under the Obama administration – and an embargo on weapons sales to the

Read the full story at
TheSkanner.com

Bond

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staff and student spaces across all campuses.

Special attention was given to PCC's southeast campus, which doubled its size from 94,000 to 200,000 square feet.

With 85 percent of PCC's operational budget going towards staffing, little is left over to finance major renovations and new buildings. That's where bond measures come in.

"What we're trying to do is to provide relevant education on technology and equipment for those jobs that are going to be in demand in our region," said Kelley.

In particular, PCC says Measure 26-196 will improve equipment and facilities in the training of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) jobs.

"We're trying to create jobs that we know will be sustainable," added bond program director Linda Degman. "And, for example, we know there's a rising need for health care workers."

PCC's Sylvania campus is its oldest, with some buildings nearing 50 years. The bond monies would renovate its

Health Technology building, which houses classrooms for both STEAM and health professions. The renovation would include science and biology labs, nursing education suites, and faculty workspace.

PCC's Portland Metropolitan Work-

Passing the bond measure will not cost taxpayers anything extra

force Training Center will also get a facelift if the bond passes.

"That project really focuses on bringing together services and re-training people to allow them to have living-wage jobs," said Degman on the importance of bringing the site up-to-date.

In addition to reviving job training centers and facilities, the bond will invest in the safety and security of PCC campuses, as well as expand child care

services for students with children.

"We have a high level of support for what we do in this region," said Kelley. "I'm confident that the polling we have done over the past couple of years indicates that, because about 60 percent of the population in this region has either attended PCC or has a family member that's attended."

According to the bond's official campaign consultant, Angela Martin, over 70 percent of voters with a relationship to PCC favor the measure. But voter approval is still over 50 percent for those who have no connection to the college.

"Our only opposition is apathy," said Martin, who added that PCC campaigns are among the most positive she's worked with.

Voters in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Columbia or Yamhill counties can vote on the bond in November.

The college is also hosting a series of free forums to unpack the bond for the voting public.

Each will begin at 5:30 p.m. and include a short presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY

OHS Rescues Displaced Texas Pets

A flight of 80 pets that survived Hurricane Harvey touched down in Portland Oct. 13 helping to relieve the pressure on flood-ravaged shelters in areas hit by the hurricane. The Oregon Humane Society, along with the Lucy Pet Foundation, chartered the flight when they heard the SPCA of Brazoria County (SPCA-BC) in Texas is in urgent need of help. The SPCA-BC, located about 51 miles south of Houston, sent approximately 40 dogs and 40 cats on the flight. The pets arriving in Portland have all been released for adoption by their owners who, for various reasons, are unable to continue to care for them.

Settlement

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Matter hashtag on social media. Johnson, who had tweeted using that hashtag and a reference to the hip-hop group Public Enemy, learned that a colleague had created a file monitoring his online activity.

Last week the state announced it had settled with Johnson for \$205,000. Also as a condition of the settlement, Johnson cannot work for the state of Oregon for five years.

The investigator who created the file, on the other hand, had his job reinstated by the state arbitrator earlier this year.

James Williams, using a tool called Digital Stakeout, created files on others using the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag. He was terminated and later sued the state, saying he was following instructions given by supervisors.

In an interview with Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Think Out

Loud" earlier this week, Johnson said Williams' reinstatement and his termination is an example of systemic racism in Oregon, not a problem with any specific indi-

I'm proud of the work we achieved together to reach out to diverse communities throughout Oregon

vidual.

"This will happen again," he told host Dave Miller.

"Erious has been a part of the DOJ team for over three years, and we are sad to see him leave. It is both a personal loss and a loss for all of DOJ. I will miss his wise counsel as our Civil Rights Director, but I'm proud of the work we achieved together to reach out to diverse communities throughout Oregon," attorney general Ellen Rosenblum said in a statement emailed to *The Skanner*.

Johnson's wife, Nkenge Harmon Johnson, who is currently President and CEO of the Urban League, reached a settlement in a separate lawsuit with the state

the same day.

Harmon Johnson filed a legal claim in 2016 relating to the termination of her job as then-governor John Kitzhaber's communications director. She has said she was fired in 2014 after raising questions about Kitzhaber's fiancée, Sylvia Hayes, and her involvement with policy issues in his campaign. Kitzhaber resigned from office after extensive reporting of alleged influence-peddling by Hayes. Harmon Johnson will receive \$70,000 from the state.



If passed, bond funds would renovate job training centers as well as update facilities.

- Monday, Oct. 23, in the Oak Room, College Center, Sylvania Campus, 12000 SW 49th Avenue
- Tuesday, Oct. 24, Room 213, Building 5, Rock Creek Campus, 17705 SW Springville Road
- Wednesday, Oct. 25, Rooms 203-204, Student Union, Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth Street
- Thursday, Oct. 26, Community Hall, Southeast Campus, 2305 SE 82nd and Division