

In Others' Words

Editor's note: In this department, we highlight resources outside of the IJFM: other journals, print resources, DVDs, web sites, blogs, videos, etc. Standard disclaimers on content apply. Due to the length of many web addresses, we sometimes give just the title of the resource, the main web address, or a suggested search phrase. Finally, please note that this January–March 2015 issue is partly composed of material created later in 2015. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience caused by such anachronisms.

Modi's India Shuts Down 9000 NGOs Which Accept Foreign Funding

As reported in a [New York Times editorial](#) May 7th, close to 9000 Indian NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) who accept foreign funds have had their registrations canceled this past April 2015 by the Indian government—ostensibly for their activities “stalling development.” Despite rumblings of this occurring [even two years ago](#), this [crackdown](#) appears to have greatly accelerated with the election of popular prime minister Narendra Modi of the BJP, the Hindu nationalist political party. The government is partially upset because some [Indian NGOs](#) have been campaigning against nuclear reactors, genetically-modified crops, and religious fundamentalism. Nevertheless, the *New York Times* article claims that an NGO as highly regarded as the Ford Foundation is now on the government watch list—and required to get government approval for every grant to an Indian organization—for other more chilling political reasons. Indeed, one of the recipients of past Ford Foundation grants, the Sabrang Trust, used some of the Ford money to “hold meetings and workshops on religious violence, including [the deadly sectarian riots](#) that shook Gujarat in 2002,” when Modi was the Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat.

Delhi Rape Documentary Raises Powerful Questions

India's Daughter, a [new controversial documentary](#), first aired this past March 8th on International Women's Day. Its theme is the brutal gang rape of an Indian medical student in New Delhi in 2012 which aroused huge protests all over the country. One has to ask whether the conscience of a western country which experiences similar gender-based violence would have been similarly roused. So why has the Indian government [banned the film](#)? In a powerful article in the *Atlantic* called “[I Am Not India's Daughter](#),” an Indian journalist describes a culture of pervasive misogyny. A double rape and hanging of two young girls in Uttar Pradesh last year led another Indian filmmaker to lodge a strong accusation of [the connection between rape, racism, and caste](#). Further complicating issues of caste are [the newest efforts](#) on the part of Hindu nationalists to [re-convert Christians](#)

and Muslims to Hinduism. According to a Dec. 23, 2014 article in the *New York Times*, the “homecoming” ceremony called *ghar wapsi* supposedly has welcomed thousands back to Hinduism with promises that [the new converts can choose their own caste](#), something the *Times* calls “an extraordinary offer that would seem to overturn thousands of years of a system in which birth determines caste.”

The Newest Boat People

Religious extremism is on the rise: not just Muslim, and not just Hindu. Now a budding virulent Buddhist nationalism is gaining ground in Myanmar. According to a [Time magazine article](#) June 4th, the Buddhist government widely thought to be reformist is trying to either exterminate or drive out an entire people group, a Burmese Muslim minority people called the Rohingya. Desperately fleeing across the Bay of Bengal to Malaysia and Indonesia, the Rohingya, the world's newest boat people, is a group of 1.3 million Burmese Muslims who have had their citizenship revoked, have been placed into camps, or summarily executed. This year [more than 90,000](#) tried to escape their native land with the result that tens of thousands were trafficked aboard smugglers' vessels, or left to drown at sea.

From Paper State to Caliphate

A lengthy new Analysis Paper was published in March 2015 by the Brookings Project on US Relations with the Islamic World entitled “[From Paper State to Caliphate: The Ideology of Islamic State](#).” Author Cole Bunzel, a PhD candidate studying under esteemed Princeton University professor Bernard Haykel, is also a frequent contributor to the blog *Jihadica*. Readers of *IJFM* may remember that Haykel was extensively interviewed by Graeme Wood for his groundbreaking article “[What ISIS Really Wants](#)” (March 2015) mentioned in the *IOW* in *IJFM* 31:4. Alexander Thurston also weighed in with a blog entitled “[The Islamic State's Intellectual Genealogy](#)” in which he mentions ten Muslim thinkers from different periods of Islamic history whose writings have been used extensively by ISIS to justify and validate their goals and actions.

A Missiologist Responds to Harley Talman's “Is Muhammad Also Among the Prophets?”

Warrick Farah, in his *Circumpolar* blog (March 30, 2015) published a [thoughtful response](#) to Harley Talman's lengthy article “[Is Muhammad Also Among the Prophets?](#)” (*IJFM* 31:4) Farah suggests that Talman's nuanced article should be “a must read for all those interested in an evangelical theology of Islam.” Farah then goes on to raise some excellent questions of his own. Read his blog and then [Talman's meticulous answers to Farah](#) in a later *Circumpolar* blog, April 6th. **IJFM**