

ISIS.FORUM

PUBLIC LECTURE OF THE
TUN HUSSEIN ONN CHAIR IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT ISIS MALAYSIA

"REFORMING THE LAW TO MEET CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES"

18 December 2020 | 10.30am UTC+8 | Via Zoom



Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Hj Shad Saleem Faruqi is the Fourth Holder of the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at ISIS Malaysia for the period July 2019 to June 2021. Emeritus Prof Shad is also currently Holder of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Chair at the Faculty of Law, University of Malaya.

He is a member of the Judicial Appointments Commission; Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia; a member of the post GE-14 Government's Institutional Reform Committee; and a member of the MA63 Committee. He is Emeritus Professor of Law at Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam. He has also served as Visiting Professor at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang; Associate Professor at Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM); and Adjunct Professor at New England University, Australia.

He is the author of ten books, including *Document of Destiny: The Constitution of the Federation of Malaysia* (2008); *Reflections on Life and the Law* (2017); and *Our Constitution* (2019). In four and a half decades in the law, he has authored more than 600 articles in journals, periodicals and newspapers. He has done many national and international consultancies, including the drafting of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives in 1992.

OVERVIEW -

Behind laws stand purposes. Beyond laws stand consequences. Even the best-intended laws often lead to a coterie of undesired and undesirable results. If social and economic data is gathered, a wide gap between theory and reality is always discernible. Periodically, this gap needs to be narrowed by law reform. Though there are existing modalities to keep the law dynamic, Malaysia needs to invest more in institutional and financial support for keeping the law abreast of the felt necessities of the times. An independent Law Reform Commission or Law Institute is needed to provide a principled and imaginative review of laws, institutions and procedures and to examine systemic and structural problems. In the post-GE14 political and social atmosphere, there is an urgent need to strengthen our check and balance institutions, promote openness and transparency in government, weed out elite corruption, boost economic growth, tackle poverty, adopt new growth models, and promote inter-communal tolerance. Effective measures towards these ends will help to restore faith in government.

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