

Bio of Patrick Burgess

Patrick Burgess is an Australian Barrister who has lived and worked in South East Asia for the past 25 years. He is the President of Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) an international human rights and rule of law organization based in Jakarta, Indonesia. AJAR's core mandate is to contribute to building a movement for justice and accountability in the Asia region, and to help to break the cycle of violence in contexts that have experienced mass human rights violations. Current programs include Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Southern Thailand and Mindanao in the Philippines. Patrick is also an expert the root causes of violent extremism, with recent work in this area including Libya, the Philippines, Southern Thailand, Indonesia and Myanmar.

Patrick's previous positions include Senior Member and Acting Principal Member (head) of the Australian Refugee Review Tribunal, Director of Human Rights for two UN peacekeeping missions to Timor Leste, Principal Legal Counsel of the Timor Leste Truth and Reconciliation Commission. For five years he was Asia Director for the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ,) leading teams in Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. He has also been Team Leader for a number of large-scale emergency programs including the refugee camps of Zaire (DRC) after the Rwanda genocide in 1994, in the tribal areas of Central Yemen, Burundi and post tsunami Aceh, Indonesia.

Recent work also includes the use of mass media, particularly television drama series designed to increase the understanding of core issues such as justice, rights, and tolerance to a broad popular audience. Patrick co-created and wrote the series titled *The Sun, the Moon and the Truth*, primarily funded by DIFID in Myanmar. The first series of this rights-based drama/ soap opera has been watched by over 7 million viewers. The second series is in production and a new series of 20 episodes has been written and produced for Timor Leste, supported by the EU and due to be launched on August 18 2017.