

Save Bangladesh

Move Forward, Not Backward

**Top Quran Scholar Sentenced to Death
200,000 Detained; About 3,000 Injured or Dead
514 Journalists Killed or Injured; Fears of Civil War**



Muslims shooting at a Masjid with the words "God is Great" written above the entrance? Yes, that is what this photo is showing. This is Bangladesh police firing at Baitul Mukarram, the national mosque of the country. This shocking act accompanied a killing spree and attacks against Islamic scholars, Muslim institutions, media and labor leaders. It is a stunning testimony of how anti-religious the current government has become in a nation where government supporters are allowed to rally, but soldiers shoot at unarmed civilians in peaceful rallies.

Khaleda Zia Calls it a Genocide & Refused to Meet Indian President

Khaleda Zia, former three time Prime Minister has called the government's brutality genocide. She was responding to the police killing 156 unarmed protesters, including women and children in two days-something which has never happened in last 42 years. Zia declined to meet the visiting Indian president. The governing Awami League is considered extremely pro-India, whereas she is trying to liberate Bangladesh from undue Indian interference. India has been trying to eliminate Jamaat-e-Islam. In September 2011, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that "25 percent of Bangladeshis swear by the Jamaat, are very anti-Indian..."

What is Right With Bangladesh? Bangladesh is the Third Largest Muslim Country in the World

More than 90 percent of Bangladeshis are Muslims. Every year it holds Tablighi Jamaat Bishwa Ijtema near Dhakka. It is considered the largest Muslim gathering in the world after Haj. Women in Bangladesh have made massive gains. Both the current Prime Minister and the main opposition leader are women. Bangladesh is world's second largest exporter of readymade clothes. The model of Gramin Bank is followed around the world. Bangladeshi economy is one of the few that made steady growth during recent worldwide recessions. All that progress is at stake because of the government fascism.

Bangladesh is Burning

The Awami League government of Bangladesh has turned the country upside down through revenge policies. First it fired the icon of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel Laureate. Then its forces killed labor leaders, journalists and the opposition. Now it is announcing death sentence after death sentence to hang all the top Islamic opposition leaders. It allows its members to rally freely while firing live bullets at opposition rallies. It is eliminating its opposition through torture, abduction and murder. In the last four years 152 opposition leaders have been kidnapped, 1,600 tortured, and about 200,000 detained, as 12 journalists were killed and 502 journalists were injured. We have developed this informational packet to brief Muslims of the situation in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh government must not be allowed to eliminate the Islamic leadership using a corrupt court filled with political appointees who are literally allowing prosecution to write their decisions even before the case is heard. Only due process, international standards and a truth and reconciliation commission can save Bangladesh and avoid the civil war.

Adding Fuel to the Fire: Demanding Death to Allah

The pro-government bloggers rallying for the death penalty to Islamic scholars are using non-printable language about Allah and the Prophet (PBUH). We are sharing a couple of excerpts. Our response to evil must follow Allah's command: "Repel evil, with something better. We are fully aware of what they describe." (Quran 23:96) The Awami League is not an anti-God party. However, a large number of communists and now aggressive atheists are leading the charge against Islam itself along with demanding death to Islamic scholars.

"if Allah comes down he will be hanged too."
(Co-blogger of Tamanna Jhumu)

*"Shame, the Allah loving people were feeding drugs to Allah and now you are making Allah do S*** (Asif Mohiuddin)*

"I believe that Allah is a creation of Muhammad. When Muhammad used to hallucinate he used to think that Jibrael has come, therefore he created the story of Allah." (Arifur Rahman)

Be Alert!



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A Chronology of Struggle Between Islam and Politics in Bangladesh

1905 to 1912: East Bengal is established with a Muslim majority.
1906: All India Muslim League forms in Dhaka.
1940: The Pakistan Resolution is moved by Bengal's Prime Minister Moulavi Haque in the Muslim League's Lahore conference.
1947: A Muslim state comprising of East and West Pakistan is established, separated by about 1,000 miles of Indian territory.
1952: The Bengali Language Movement gains momentum as Awami Muslim League, later renamed the Awami League, successfully leads efforts to make Bangla the official language.
1970: A cyclone kills 500,000 people, weeks before elections.
1970: The Awami League, under Sheikh Mujib, wins overwhelmingly in December elections. Instead an invitation to form the government, Sheikh Mujib is arrested. Massive unrest begins.
1971: Pakistan Army Major General Ziaur Rahman declares independence of Bangladesh, armed struggle begins. As the Pakistani Army tries to suppress armed rebellion, a war between Pakistan Army and Bangladesh-India Allied Forces led to liberation of Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujib leads the government.
1973: Sheikh Mujib grants general amnesty to purported war criminals from the 1971 Liberation war.
1974: Sheikh Mujib visits Pakistan to repair relations.
1975: Sheikh Mujib is assassinated in a military coup.
1977: General Ziaur Rahman becomes president, passes a decree removing secularism from the preamble of the constitution and sets in "absolute trust and faith in the Almighty Allah".
1979: General Zia's Bangladesh National Party wins election.
1981: General Zia is assassinated.
1982: General Hussain M. Ershad comes on power in military coup, declares Islam as state religion.
1986: Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh works with Awami League to oppose the military regime.
1988: Parliament amends the constitution, declaring Islam as the state religion.
1991: BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia becomes prime minister.
1996: Awami League wins. Sheikh Hasina Wajed, daughter of Sheikh Mujib, becomes prime minister.
2001: Sheikh Hasina loses to Khaleda Zia's BNP. Motiur Rahman Zizami and Ali Ahsan Mojaheed, of Jamaat-e-Islami, are appointed ministers of the coalition government.
2008: Awami League wins; Sheikh Hasina becomes prime minister.
2010: Supreme Court restores the term Secularism to the constitution.
2012: Ten Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, including its president Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, are charged with war crimes related to the 1971 war.
2012: The Economist magazine in London writes that the decision to hang war criminals was written before the trial even began, and the prosecution actually wrote the judge's decision.
2013: Maulana Delwar Sayeedi is sentenced to death by hanging. Protests break out throughout the country.
2014: General elections are to be scheduled.

Select Resources & Websites on Bangladesh

1. The Economist, December 15, 2012, "Trying War Crimes in Bangladesh: The trial of a birth of a nation". (<http://tiny.cc/BD01>)
2. Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org/asia/bangladesh
3. Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org/en/region/bangladesh
4. www.bangladeshcrisisgroup.com
5. The BangladeshWatch: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheBangladeshWatch>
6. Dead Reckoning, Sarmila Bose, 2011, C Hurst & Co
7. deshrights.org
8. www.bdinn.com
9. www.hrwbd.org
10. www.facebook.com/standingforbangladesh

The Other Victims of the Bangladesh Government's Fascist Behavior

It is not just the Islamic scholars that the Awami government is targeting; anyone who speaks against the government, the labor leaders, the journalists, and other opposition leaders have been targeted by fascist means. They either mysteriously disappear or are killed. The government's Rapid Action Battalion as well as private Awami League militia have been publicly killing leaders. Here are some the significant victims of the Awami League.

An Organizer Fighting for Labor Tortured & Killed

Aminul Islam was a grassroots labor organizer. The opposition leader Khaleda Zia blamed the military intelligence DGFI for his death. The local police chief Mr. Haq told journalists, "He was murdered. His legs had severe torture marks including a hole made by a sharp object."



Here is what New York Times wrote about this AFL-CIO organizer in Bangladesh.

"...workers ... came with..Unpaid wages. Abusive bosses. Mr. Islam, a labor organizer, fought for their rights.

...His phone was tapped, the police regularly harassed him, and domestic intelligence agents once abducted and beat him, his co-workers and family say. More than once, he was told his advocacy for workers was hurting a country where garment exports drive the domestic economy."

Read the full New York Times report at: <http://tinyurl.com/NYTimes786>

Oppose India; Get Killed 156 Opposition Leaders Kidnapped or Killed



Missing leader Ilyas Ali's wife Tahsina Rushdir Luna, demanding investigations.

Ilyas Ali was a very popular BNP leader and a former MP. Now he is listed among the 156 opposition leaders of BNP who have disappeared or killed. He led a series of mass rallies and strikes against the Indian move to build Tepaimukh Dam, which will devastate two-thirds of Bangladesh. He also led Bangladeshis to the Indian border, demanding that Indians stop killing Bangladeshi farmers. On Tuesday the 17th of April, 2012, Ilyas Ali disappeared. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is opposed to Awami League's pro-India policies. <http://tinyurl.com/amnesty786>

Journalists Murdered



The husband-and-wife team of TV journalists Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi were murdered Feb. 2012. They were investigating corruption when they were killed. The families of the two journalists are now demanding an international investigation. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/TV0786>

A Flawed Tribunal Opens Old Wounds and Threatens Bangladesh's Future

The founder of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib declared a general amnesty to suspected war criminals in 1974. Reconciliation continued when President Zia ur Rehman allowed Jamaat-e-Islami to operate. Since then, Jamaat has worked with the Awami League and has served in the Bangladesh National Party ('BNP') coalition with its Ameer serving as minister. None of those currently facing trial were included in the list of suspects to be tried in the first war crimes tribunal, which was constituted in 1973 but was later abandoned. So why is the Awami League only pressing forward on war crimes now when it didn't do so in the 1970s and 1990s when it was in power? Here is a brief summary of how justice is slaughtered in Bangladesh today:

The Problems with the Tribunal:

- o The tribunal is called "international," although it is not based on international law and has been severely criticized by the International Bar Association, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.
- o The judges, prosecutors and investigating officers are political appointees.
- o The Tribunal only targets the government opposition
- o International lawyers were denied entry into Bangladesh to defend the accused.
- o When the Tribunal did not give the death sentence to one of the accused, the government retroactively changed the law to ensure a death sentence.

The Funny Judges:

- o The Economist reported that "Of the three judges sentencing Mr. Sayeedi, one had heard only some of the prosecution's evidence, another had heard none of it. The third had heard no evidence whatsoever."
- o The judgments were written before the trials began.
- o The Economist exposed the complicity of chief judge Mohammed Nizamul Huq with the government, with evidence

of Mr. Huq stating that the government was forcing him to rush his decision. Mr. Huq resigned as a result.

- o The reported evidence of blatant collusion between the judges and prosecutors remained un-denied.

Problem with Witnesses:

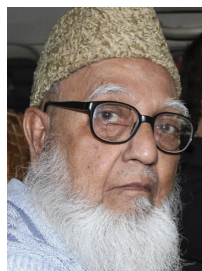
- o According to eye witnesses, law enforcement agencies abducted key defense witness, Sukhranjan Bali right from the court room gates. He was to give evidence against the prosecution and expose the fact he had never given the statement written up by the investigating officer. [<http://tinyurl.com/cj7vayn>] There is still no news about Bali's whereabouts.
- o While the prosecution could bring any number of witnesses, defense witnesses were restricted.
- o Prosecutors and investigators blatantly lied to the Tribunal about not being able to present witnesses in court when there is proof to suggest otherwise.
- o The prosecution provided false written testimonies of behalf of absent witnesses.



Maulana Sayeedi, 73, will be hanged to death in six weeks. This most popular Quran teacher of Bangladesh does something very unique in the Muslim world: At times he teaches three hours a day for five days while hundreds of thousands of people sit in attendance. His public classes were presided over by Awami League leaders among others before he joined the largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami, in 1987. He is currently its deputy president and served as a member of the National Assembly of Bangladesh for twelve years from 1996 to 2008. On 28 February 2013, he was sentenced to death by hanging by a controversial court with politically appointed judges, which has been criticized by all human rights organizations.

Other Islamic Scholars Detained to be Hanged

Professor Ghulam Azam, 91, was the President of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh until 2000. In 1994, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh restored his citizenship. On 27 November 1948, as the General Secretary of Dhaka University Students' Union, he presented a memorandum to Pakistan's Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan demanding Bangla to be the state language of Pakistan. Due to his role in the language movement he was arrested three times. On January 11, 2012, he was arrested on the charges of war crimes in 1971. <http://ghulamazam.net>



Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, 70, is the current President of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh. He served as Minister of Agriculture and Industry. (Oct. 2001 to Oct. 2006) Previously, in 1991, he was elected as a Member of Parliament and was Jamaat's Parliamentary Party leader until 1994. He supported keeping Pakistan united. He was arrested on May 4, 2011, by the controversial court that has been criticized heavily by all international human rights organizations.



There are ten other leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP who are facing the controversial court, where Awami League's politically appointed judges are handing out death sentences without any due process. <http://tinyurl.com/af5yg6z>

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

"If cool heads don't prevail, Dhaka could dissolve into uncontrolled violence."

Seven Things We Can Do Today To Save Lives in Bangladesh

There are many Muslim causes. If you are already devoting time to those causes, then we thank you and request that you remember Muslims in Bangladesh in your dua. However, if you can pick any of the following actions, you can help us a lot.

1. Make Dua

Please make dua that Allah keep Muslims in Bangladesh safe and together.

violence.

Ask Allah that He change the hearts of wrong doers and give comfort to the victims of

Ask Allah that He guide Bangladesh toward true justice, reconciliation and peace.

Please ask your imam for dua.

2. Contact Your Representatives

Express concern against the unfair Tribunal and Mob Justice in Bangladesh by contacting your Congressperson. Find your congressman at <http://www.house.gov/representa->

tives/find/ Ask that Bangladesh be tabled by the Foreign Affairs Committee and is made to adhere to human rights standards and to stop shooting at peaceful protestors.

3. Give Feedback to Media

Follow the news to ensure that your side of the story is reported. If you see an article that is biased, go to the 'Contact Us' page of the media outlet and

express your concern. Tell us about it so that we may follow up with the news agency. Also appreciate when they write well.

4. Give This Flyer to 10 Other Muslims

We need to inform other Muslims what is happening in Bangladesh. Kindly take ten copies of this flyer and give it to other Muslims. Please don't put

it on some shelf, hand distribute it after salat or at a party you might attend. Thank you.

5. Connect on Facebook

Every day we put up an action you can take on Facebook. So please connect with us at [Facebook.com/BDAAlert](https://www.facebook.com/BDAAlert) for

daily action. With Sabr, Insha Allah, we will be able to repel evil with something better.

6. Sign Up For Our Newsletter

Our newsletter provides weekly updates on the situation of Muslims in Bangladesh as well as an action item. Sign up at www.BDAAlert.com.

The whole leadership of Muslims along with Islamic scholars are in prison. It will take a patient and sustained effort to help them go free.

7. Volunteer

We have five committees working on saving Bangladesh from sliding backward into the politics of revenge and conflict. Please volunteer today so that

we can use your talent in the best possible manner. Please sign up at <http://www.bdalert.com/volunteer.php>.

www.BDAAlert.com  /BDAAlert

Tweet with the hashtag #saveBangladesh

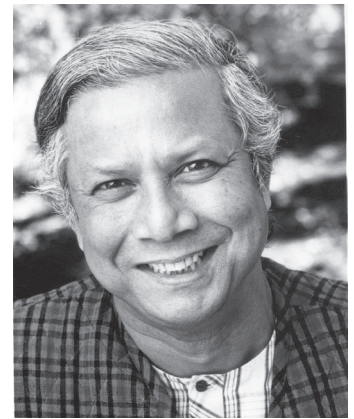
Sheikh Mujib Gave Amnesty

Reconciliation, Not Revenge, is the Way Forward

While Bangladeshis are fighting over the war crimes, the founding father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujib, declared an amnesty for the suspected war criminals. He said:

"I believe that the brokers, who assisted the Pakistanis during the liberation war has realized their faults. I hope they will involve themselves in the development of the country forgetting all their misdeeds. Those who were arrested and jailed in the Collaborator act should be freed before the 16 December 1974."

A total of 195 Pakistani soldiers were charged with war crimes along with about thirty thousands others as per 1973 War Crimes Act. None of the present Jamaat leaders were on that list. The 195 accused Pakistani war criminals were released by tri-party treaty between Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Later on Shaikh Mujib pardoned the rest of accused in order to build up new country and establish peace among the people.



The Firing of Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the Noble Laureate Icon of Bangladesh

Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel peace laureate, is the world icon of Bangladesh but was sacked by the current Awami League regime from the bank he established for poor women, all because of one comment he made criticizing the government. This Nobel laureate is loved by everyone except the current Bangladesh government. Dr. Yunus helped millions of Bangladeshi women move up economically by giving the world the "micro financing" system. Now 58 countries, including the US, Canada, France, Netherlands and Norway, follow Dr. Muhammad Yunus' model of micro financing.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Human Rights Watch About Bangladesh: Word by Word

Bangladesh's overall human rights situation worsened in 2012:

- as the government narrowed political and civil society space,
- shielded abusive security forces from accountability,
- and ignored calls to reform laws and procedures in flawed war crimes and mutiny trials.
- The security forces disguised extrajudicial killings as "cross-fire" killings.
- Opposition members and political activists "disappeared."
- Flawed trials against those accused of war crimes in the 1971 war for independence continued.
- When Rohingya refugees fled to Bangladesh from persecution in Burma, the government pushed back boatloads of refugees, insisting that it had no obligation to provide them sanctuary. <http://www.hrw.org/asia/bangladesh>



Sister Ayesha's photo was taken when she was being rejected by Bangladesh. Her husband was killed by Burmese forces and, when she arrived on a crowded boat, she was pushed back to the sea by Bangladeshi forces. Most of these rejected refugees cannot go back to Burma, since they have been denied citizenship papers in their own ancestral home since 1982. Many Rohingyas are dying at sea, wandering in unsuitable boats, looking for refuge in any country possible. Hundreds of them die at sea.