

URGENT ACTION

TWO MEN EXECUTED DESPITE UNFAIR TRIAL CONCERNS

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury were executed on 22 November. The authorities declared that both men filed a clemency appeal in which they admitted their guilt, which was rejected by the President of Bangladesh. The families of the two men deny that a clemency appeal was made.

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury were executed on Sunday 22 November after the highest court in Bangladesh upheld their death sentences on 18 November.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's defence team highlighted serious flaws in his appeal hearing. In one instance, the Supreme Court failed to dismiss the statement of a witness known as "PW-6". The witness testified that a person who could corroborate his statement was dead, when in fact the individual was alive and had even submitted a signed affidavit to the court to prove it. Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed's appeal to the Supreme Court failed to dismiss the prosecution's claim that he had instigated his subordinates to commit human rights abuses, when no subordinates had either been identified or testified on record.

After the executions, the Bangladeshi Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs claimed that both men had filed a clemency appeal in which they admitted their guilt and asked for presidential pardon. The clemency appeals were allegedly rejected by the President of Bangladesh, and consequently the executions were carried out. The families of Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury reject these claims and insist that no clemency appeals were made to the President.

No further action is required from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 262/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa13/2903/2015/en/>

Name: Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury

Gender m/f: Both male

Further information on UA: 262/15 Index: ASA 13/2982/2015 Issue Date: 19 November 2015

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