

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 13/03/96

6 March 1996

Further information on UA 48/96 (ASA 13/02/96, 27 February 1996) - Legal concern / Fear of ill-treatment

**BANGLADESH Begum Motia Chowdhury  
Mohammed Nasim  
Moudud Ahmed  
Tofael Ahmed  
Abdul Kader Mollah  
and dozens of other opposition activists**

---

According to Agence France Presse reports, Mohammed Nasim, Tofael Ahmed and Abdul Kader Mollah, three of the opposition leaders arrested and detained recently, were released on 5 March 1996 from Dhaka Central Jail. Their arrests followed a three-day strike called by the main opposition parties, which began on 24 February 1996. There has been no further information regarding the situation of the remaining prisoners in this case.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English/Bengali or in your own language:**

- welcoming the news that three opposition leaders have been released;
- seeking further information about Begum Motia Chowdhury, Moudud Ahmed and the dozens of other opposition activists also arrested in connection with the recent general strikes;
- seeking assurances that all those remaining in detention are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards for detention;
- urging that unless there is demonstrable evidence of involvement in a recognizable criminal act against those still being detained, they should be released immediately and unconditionally.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Abdur Rahman Biswas  
Office of the President  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
**Faxes: +880 2 869 160 (Minister of Foreign Affairs: mark for attention of President)**  
**Telegrams: President Biswas, Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
**Salutation: Dear President**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
**Faxes: + 880 2 813 244; + 880 2 811 015**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Bangladesh accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 April 1996.