

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 261/04 (ASA 13/018/2004, 06 September 2004) Fear of torture

BANGLADESH

Rafique al Islam (m), aged 44, anti-landmines campaigner

Rafique al Islam has been released on bail. He is not believed to have been tortured or ill-treated while in detention.

The Bangladesh representative of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Rafique al Islam was arrested without a warrant on 21 August in Cox's Bazaar, in southern Bangladesh. He was subsequently taken to the Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka, an interrogation centre notorious for the use of torture.

Gravely concerned for his safety, Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action on his case. A few days after the release of the Urgent Action, Rafique al Islam was transferred from the Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka to the relative safety of judicial custody in Cox's Bazar Jail.

He was released on bail on 19 September. He is not believed to have been tortured or ill-treated during his time in the Joint Interrogation Cell.

"We would like to thank everyone who wrote a letter or sent a fax on behalf of Rafique al Islam", Amnesty International's researcher on Bangladesh commented. "We will continue to monitor the case, and will inform members of the Urgent Action network if more action is needed. To protect people from being tortured in Bangladesh, it is necessary to act fast – and that is just what this Urgent Action helped us to do."

Thank you for taking action on this case. No further action from members of the Urgent Action network is necessary at this time.