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BANGLADESH: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REQUESTS FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING TASLIMA NASRIN

Taslima Nasrin, the 32-year-old writer alleged to have criticised the Koran in an interview with a Calcutta daily newspaper almost a month ago, has reportedly been charged with blasphemy under Bangladeshi Law. A warrant has been issued for her arrest.

Amnesty International has today written to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, seeking clarification of reports that have appeared in the international press. The human rights organization has particularly requested information concerning the exact charge brought against Taslima Nasrin.

"If she were to be detained solely as a result of the peaceful exercise of her right to freedom of expression, we would regard her as a prisoner of conscience and call for her immediate and unconditional release," Amnesty International said.

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