

URGENT ACTION

OPPOSITION ACTIVIST ABDUCTED IN BANGLADESH

A local opposition party member, Nazrul Islam, was allegedly abducted on 12 April from his home in Saheb Parha in Joypurhat district, northern Bangladesh. His abductors identified themselves to Nazrul Islam's family as being "from the administration". He has not been seen or heard from since. There are fears he has been taken to an unknown location and is at risk of torture and extra-judicial execution.

Nazrul Islam is the Joypurhat district secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami, a Bangladeshi political party which is currently part of a multi-party opposition alliance. According to members of Nazrul Islam's family and Jamaat-e-Islami, during the night of 11 to 12 April, men in plain clothes identifying themselves as being "from the administration" came to Nazrul Islam's house and took him away in a minibus. His family filed a report with local police, and brought the case to the attention of the District Commissioner and Superintendent of Police. However, local media reported that when contacted, Joypurhat Superintendent of Police, Hamidul Alam, denied that either the police or the Rapid Action Battalion, a special police force implicated in hundreds of killings, had detained Nazrul Islam. His family believe that he was abducted because of his political activism; they have not seen or heard from him since. Nazrul Islam's whereabouts are still unknown, and he may be at risk of torture and extra-judicial execution.

Please write immediately in Bangla, English, or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to launch an immediate investigation into the alleged abduction of Nazrul Islam, and to publish the conclusions of that investigation;
- Seeking assurances that Nazrul Islam's physical safety will be protected and that he will not be subjected to torture or other inhumane treatment should he be found to be in the custody of the authorities;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that, if it is established that Nazrul Islam has been detained by the authorities, that he be released unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 JULY 2013 TO:

Minister of Home Affairs
 Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir
 Ministry of Home Affairs
 H-16, R-25, B-A, Banani
 Dhaka-1213
 Bangladesh
 Fax: +880 2 7164788
 Email: mkalamgir@yahoo.com /
minister@mha.gov.bd
Salutation: Dear Home Minister

Inspector General of Police
 Mr Hassan Mahmud Khandker
 Bangladesh Police HQ
 Dhaka-1000
 Bangladesh
 Fax: +880 2 7125840
 Email: ig@police.gov.bd
Salutation: Dear Inspector General

And copies to:
Prime Minister
 Sheikh Hasina
 Prime Minister's Office
 Old Sangsad Bhaban
 Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
 Bangladesh
 Fax: +880 2 811 3244
 Email: pm@pmo.gov.bd /
ps1topm@pmo.gov.bd /
psecy@pmo.gov.bd
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Reports of enforced disappearances have frequently surfaced in the Bangladesh media in recent years. Bangladeshi human rights organizations have investigated and reported on dozens of such cases. In 2012 alone, Amnesty International received credible allegations that at least 10 people had disappeared.

The disappearances have followed a clear pattern. Most abductions are done by people in civilian dress who identify themselves to witnesses as being from the security forces. Nothing is then heard about the abductees - so far all men. In some cases, usually when there was no witness to the abduction, the body of the victim is found in a different location to the place where he was abducted.

Most abductees appear to be members of opposition parties, but people with no political affiliation have also been abducted. The pattern of official responses appears to reinforce families' suspicions that police have been responsible for the abductions. Police have denied that they have been involved but they have also persistently failed to disclose what they have done to establish what has happened, and who was responsible for the abductions. There has been no news of a credible investigation by the police into these and other disappearances.

For example, trade union leader Aminul Islam went missing on 4 April 2012. He was found dead a day later in Ghatail town, north of Dhaka. His family saw evidence of torture on his body and believe he had been abducted by security forces. He had previously been arrested and beaten by members of the National Security Intelligence for his trade union activities.

Name: Nazrul Islam

Gender m/f: m

UA: 145/13 Index: ASA 13/008/2013 Issue Date: 3 June 2013