

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 13/009/2001

18 December 2001

**Further information on UA 314/01 (ASA 13/008/2001, 11 December 2001) - Prisoner of Conscience/Fear of torture**

**BANGLADESH Shahriar Kabir**

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Police revealed where they were holding Shahriar Kabir approximately 24 hours after they took him from jail for interrogation, on 10 December. Despite a High Court order that he should be given access to his lawyer, neither his lawyers nor his family have been able to visit him, and he is still detained incommunicado. He has not been formally charged.

He was held in a joint police and army interrogation cell until 14 December. Police then brought Shahriar Kabir to the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and asked for another three day remand, but the court granted only a one day remand. Several lawyers attended the court hearing but were not allowed to speak to Shahriar Kabir. They heard him complain to the magistrate that during interrogation he had been kept in a cold, dark room and subjected to prolonged sleep deprivation.

On 16 December, Shahriar Kabir was returned to Dhaka Central Jail under the original detention order (under the Special Powers Act).

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern that Shahriar Kabir has not been allowed to meet his lawyers or his family;
- expressing concern that he has reportedly complained to the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court that police kept him in a cold, dark room and subjected him to prolonged sleep deprivation during interrogation, and urging the authorities to ensure that he is not tortured or ill-treated in custody
- urging the authorities to allow him visits from his lawyers and family;
- urging the government to release him immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Gona Bhaban  
Sher-e Bangla Nagar  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Zia, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Fax: + 880 2 811 3243**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

Mr Nurul Huda  
Inspector General of Police  
Police Headquarters  
Fulbaria  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Telegrams: Inspector General Huda, Fulbaria, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Fax: + 880 2 956 3362**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**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 29 January 2002.