

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

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## **Bangladesh authorities' reaction to criticism of flawed trials and their use of the death penalty**

The reaction of Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, to Amnesty International's recent [press release](#)—on the imminent execution of two opposition leaders who underwent flawed trials—reflects the authorities' desperate attempts to deflect criticism of their depressing human rights record.

Amnesty International rejects unequivocally the accusations levelled against the organization by the Prime Minister, reported in Bangladeshi media [here](#), which are patently false and must be seen within the context of increasing intolerance towards any form of scrutiny of the government's human rights record.

Amnesty International is an independent organization which campaigns for justice and for victims of human rights violations and accountability for perpetrators worldwide, regardless of who they are and any political affiliation they may have.

The organization has defended victims of human rights violations under a series of Awami League and BNP governments, and equally under the Jatiya party government and caretaker governments, [wherever it has been necessary to do so, and irrespective of political affiliation](#).

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty unconditionally, in all cases under any circumstances. Calling for the abolition of the death penalty does not mean crimes should go unpunished. Perpetrators of human rights abuses must be brought to justice in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty.