

URGENT ACTION

BANGLADESHI POLITICAL LEADER EXECUTED

Motiur Rahman Nizami, leader of the political party Jamaat-e-Islami, was executed on 10 May in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Supreme Court rejected his review petition on 6 April. Motiur Rahman Nizami refused to seek clemency from Bangladesh's President.

Motiur Rahman Nizami, former chief of the Bangladeshi opposition party Jamaat-e-Islami, was convicted and sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in October 2014. The ICT is a Bangladeshi court set up by the Government in 2010 to investigate mass scale human rights violations committed during Bangladesh's 1971 War of Independence. Motiur Rahman Nizami was convicted of murder, rape and the mass killing of intellectuals during the War of Independence.

Motiur Rahman Nizami appealed the ICT's decision and on 6 January 2016 the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld his death sentence. After the full verdict was released on 15 March, Motiur Rahman Nizami petitioned the Supreme Court for a review of its ruling. On 5 May the Supreme Court rejected his latest appeal. This has exhausted his legal options since the number of reviews available for ICT cases is lower than for ordinary cases. Motiur Rahman Nizami refused to seek clemency from the President of Bangladesh, and he was hanged at Dhaka Central Jail on 10 May.

The proceedings of the ICT in previous cases were marked with severe irregularities and violations of the right to a fair trial. During Motiur Rahman Nizami's trial the prosecution was allowed to call on 22 witnesses, while the defence was arbitrarily limited to only four. According to Motiur Rahman Nizami's legal team, the defence was prevented cross-examining a key prosecution witness. The defence team was also only given three weeks to prepare for trial, while the prosecution were granted 22 months to conduct their investigation.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the second update of UA 66/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ASA13/3974/2016/en/>

Name: Motiur Rahman Nizami

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 66/16 Index: ASA 13/4098/2016 Issue Date: 24 May 2016

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