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Bangladesh: Human rights defenders join forces

Individuals and groups working to promote human rights in Bangladesh have come under severe threat from governments, armed groups and various sections of society. To address these challenges, Amnesty International will be hosting a workshop for human rights defenders in Dhaka on 23 and 24 March 2001.

Around 50 defenders working on a wide spectrum of rights, from civil and political rights to economic, social and cultural rights, are expected to attend the workshop. While the groups involved in the workshop are diverse, their shared experiences make them one community and demonstrate that human rights are interdependent and indivisible. The workshop is an opportunity for this community to work together to protect each other, regardless of their ideological differences.

Particular problems faced by vulnerable groups such as women and ethnic and religious minorities will also be discussed.

For further information about the workshop please contact Amnesty International in Dhaka on +88 2 9348754/ 88 2 9348283 or cell-phone +88 18 220725.

Since 1996, Amnesty International has prioritised the protection of human rights defenders in Africa, Central America and South Asia. In South Asia, workshops have been held in India and Nepal. Amnesty International also played a leading role in the lobbying and drafting of the United Nations declaration on human rights defenders; the

*"Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and
Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human
Rights and Fundamental Freedoms."*

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