

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 13/009/2003

20 January 2003

**Further Information on UA 342/02 (ASA 13/017/2002, 27 November 2002) and follow-ups (ASA 13/018/2002, 3 December 2002; ASA 13/20/2002, 16 December 2002; ASA 13/001/2003, 3 January 2003)
- Fear of torture/ill-treatment/prisoners of conscience/legal concern**

BANGLADESH

Saleem Samad (m), Bangladeshi journalist

Saleem Samad was released on 18 January 2003 after spending nearly two months in detention. His release came four days after the High Court ordered his immediate release on 14 January.

The High Court declared his detention illegal and initially ordered his release on 23 December 2002. The government however, placed a detention order on him under the Special Powers Act in order to keep him in jail.

There are credible reports that Saleem was tortured while in detention, and that his family were subject to harassment from the authorities during this period.

No further action is required from the UA Network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.