

URGENT ACTION

DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE SINCE JULY 2016 CAFE ATTACK

2 July 2017 marks the one year anniversary of Hasnat Karim's arrest and detention. He was caught up in the attack on a restaurant in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka on 1 July 2016 and has been held in jail without charge since. His health is rapidly deteriorating in prison where he continues to be denied specialised medical care by prison authorities.

Hasnat Karim is a dual UK-Bangladeshi national and businessman. Together with his wife and two children, he was having dinner at Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery on the evening of 1 July 2016, when gunmen stormed the restaurant and killed more than 20 people. In the immediate aftermath of the attack, the family was taken into custody by the police for questioning on 2 July, and all except Hasnat Karim were released on 3 July.

Despite repeated requests for information about his whereabouts, the police subsequently refused to provide Hasnat Karim's family or their legal representation with any information about his whereabouts for another month, until he was presented at the Metropolitan Magistrates Court in Dhaka on 4 August 2016. After being held on remand in detention for several weeks, Hasnat Karim was on 2 September 2016 moved to Kashimpur Central Jail outside of Dhaka, where he has remained since.

He was detained under Section 54 of the Bangladesh Code of Criminal Procedure - which allows police to detain anyone suspected of a crime without formally charging them - as a suspect involved in the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery. He has yet to be formally charged with a crime, and has been denied bail six times by different courts, without the reasoning for the decisions ever being provided. On 31 May 2017, police missed their sixth deadline for filing a charge sheet related to Hasnat Karim's case; no new deadline has been set.

In detention, Hasnat Karim's health has since January 2017 rapidly deteriorated, as he suffers from vertigo as well as severe ear and urinary tract infections. Despite repeated requests from the family, prison authorities have not allowed Hasnat Karim to access specialised medical care available only outside jail. Hasnat Karim's family have been unable to obtain a lawyer to represent him; they suspect this is due to fear of reprisal from the authorities to anyone who takes up his case.

Please write immediately in English, Bangla or your own language urging the Bangladeshi authorities to:

- Either release Hasnat Karim immediately or charge him with a criminal offense that is recognisable under international law;
- Urgently grant Hasnat Karim access to the medical care that he needs, even if that requires him to be transferred to a clinic outside the prison, and ensure he has regular and adequate access to his family and a legal representative of his choice while in detention.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 AUGUST 2017 TO:

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister's Office Old Sangshad
Bhaban, Tejgaon 1215
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Fax: +880 2 9133722
Email: info@pmo.gov.bd

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Inspector General of Police A K M
Shahidul Hoque
Police Headquarters 6 Phoenix Road,
Fulbaria 1000 Dhaka, Bangladesh
Fax: +880 2 9563362
Email: ig@police.gov.bd

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

And copies to:

State Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat, Building-8 (1st
& 3rd Floor) Dhaka, Bangladesh
Fax: +880 2 9573711
minister@mha.gov.bd

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 163/16. Further information:

www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa13/4614/2016/en/

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On the evening of 1 July 2016, gunmen stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in the Gulshan area of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The attackers killed at least 20 people during the siege that lasted the whole night, including 18 foreigners and two Bangladeshis.

In the past three years, violent groups in Bangladesh have targeted and killed scores of secular bloggers, activists, academics and members of religious minorities for their writings and activities seen as “insulting Islam.” In 2015 two foreigners were also killed in targeted attacks claimed by violent groups. So far, no one has been brought to justice for these killings except in the case of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider who was killed in 2013. Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Bangladeshi authorities to ensure that those suspected to be responsible are held to account in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty and to end the climate of impunity around these attacks. It is crucial that Bangladesh does not sacrifice human rights in the name of national security, and that the rights of any suspects – including fair trial guarantees – are respected.

Name: Hasnat Karim

Gender m

Further information on UA: 163/16 Index: ASA 13/6629/2017 Issue Date: 30 June 2017