

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 13/004/2003

13 January 2003

Further Information on UA 354/02 (ASA 13/019/2002, 09 December 2002) and follow-up (ASA 13/003/2003, 9 January 2003) – Possible prisoners of conscience/Fear of torture/Incommunicado detention

BANGLADESH

Saber Hossain Chowdhury (m)]
Mukul Bose (m)] politicians
Sheikh Bazlur Rahman (m)]
Tofael Ahmed (m)]
Muntasir Mamun (m) - journalist

Saber Hossain Chowdhury was released on 12 January 2003 after the High Court declared his detention illegal. There are fears that he may be at risk of re-arrest in connection with further politically motivated charges. Sheikh Bazlur Rahman was released on the same day.

Muntasir Mamun and Mukul Bose were released on 9 January, four days after the High Court declared their detention illegal and ordered their immediate release.

Tofael Ahmed has reportedly been granted bail by the High Court, but he remains in detention. There are fears that the authorities are trying to implicate him in further criminal cases and that they may ignore the bail order in order to press further charges against him.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- welcoming the release of Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Muntasir Mamun, Mukul Bose and Sheikh Bazlur Rahman;
- urging that the authorities immediately release Tofael Ahmed whose release has been ordered by the High Court;
- urging that Saber Hossain Chowdhury is not subjected to any further harassment from the authorities;
- urging the authorities to ensure the safety of other opposition politicians and respect their fundamental human rights.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
Office of the Prime Minister
Gona Bhaban
Sher-e Bangla Nagar
Dhaka
Bangladesh

Telegrams: Prime Minister Zia, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Fax: + 880 2 811 3243 / 3244 / 1015 / 1490
Email: pm@pmobd.org or psecretary@pmobd.org
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Mr Altaf Hossain Chowdhury
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat

Building 4
Dhaka
Bangladesh

Telegrams: Minister of Home Affairs Chowdhury, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Fax: + 880 2 861 9667

Salutation: Dear Home Minister

Mr Muddabir Hossain Chowdhury
Inspector General of Police
Police Headquarters
Fulbaria
Dhaka
Bangladesh

Telegrams: Inspector General Chowdhury, Fulbaria, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Fax: + 880 2 956 3362

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Bangladesh accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 February 2003.