

UA 229/02

Fea.

**BANGLADESH Rabindra Ghosh (m) Lawyer**

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Rabindra Ghosh, an advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and a leading member of the Hindu community. He has been threatened in recent months and was reportedly attacked on 1 July.

At about 5pm at a Bar Association meeting in the Supreme Court premises in Dhaka, Rabindra Ghosh was attacked as he began to film the proceedings of the meeting. His attackers were three members of the Bar Association, who reportedly manhandled him and shouted abuse at him. They also took his video camera. The exact reason for the attack is not known, though one of the men reportedly accused him of having links with the Indian government, allegedly saying: "if you do not leave the country, we will show you the consequences".

Rabindra Ghosh informed the police of the incident and the confiscation of his video camera by the three men. The police have reportedly started an investigation into the incident, but his video camera has not been returned. The attackers are known but none of them have been arrested.

The attack follows repeated threats against Rabindra Ghosh in recent months. The threats may be connected to his active role in advocating stronger government measures to protect members of the Hindu minority, who had been subjected to attacks, beating and rape following the general elections of October 2001.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

There have been a number of religiously motivated attacks on prominent members of minority communities in Bangladesh. On 16 November 2001, Gopal Krishna Muhuri, a prominent member of the Hindu community and Principal of Nazirhat College in Chittagong was shot dead at his home by four men posing as members of the police detective branch. The assailants, some of whom have been arrested by the police, were reportedly linked to *Jamaat-e-Islami*, a party in the coalition government. On 28 April 2002, a Hindu priest, Madan Gopal Goswami was stabbed to death by a group of men at a Hindu temple in the Khagrachari district. Earlier, on 21 April, a Buddhist monk, Ganojyoti Mohstobir, was killed by armed men after being hit on the head and stabbed at a Buddhist monastery in Roazan, Chittagong District.

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

- expressing concern for Rabindra Ghosh's safety and asking the authorities to ensure that he is protected from further threats and attacks;
- urging the authorities to ensure a full, impartial and authoritative investigation of 1 July attack on Rabindra Ghosh;
- calling for those responsible to be brought to justice, regardless of their party affiliation or political position.

**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**  
**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. Md. Lutfozzaman Babar  
Deputy Minister of Home Affairs  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Bangladesh Secretariat  
Building 4  
Dhaka  
Bangladesh  
**Telegrams:Deputy Minister of Home Affairs , Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
**Fax:+ 880 2 861 9667**  
**Salutation:Dear Deputy Home Minister**

Mr Muddabir Hossain Chowdhury  
Inspector General of 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 3 September 2002.