

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 13/008/2003

20 January 2003

Further Information on UA 354/02 (ASA 13/019/2002, 09 December 2002) and follow-ups (ASA 13/003/2003, 9 January 2003; ASA 13/004/2003, 13 January 2003) - Possible prisoners of conscience/Fear of torture/Incommunicado detention

BANGLADESH

Tofael Ahmed (m)

Tofael Ahmed was released on 17 January, three days after the High Court declared his detention illegal. He had been in detention for more than a month.

Tofael was arrested in December 2002 at the same time as several other opposition politicians. There are credible reports that some of them were tortured while on remand. While most of them have now been released on the orders of the High Court, there are fears that they may face further harassment from the authorities. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation closely.

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