

Bangla Alert

Move Forward, not Backward!

Protest Detention of Editor and Press Seizure

Bangladesh has arrested the editor of popular Amar Desh, the only newspaper which remains independent and challenges government action. Mahmudur Rahman, the acting editor was arrested and his printing press was seized by the government without any judicial process. He will be detained for up to 13 days for questioning on sedition charges.

Instead of accepting responsibility for the breakdown of peace, the government is accusing Mr. Rahman for inciting violence through his news coverage of events that were also covered by reknowned Economist magazine.

The Media is being silenced! In the past couple of weeks the media has reported on riots in Bangladesh, emanating from anti-government supporters. At the same time, government forces including the police and the rapid action battalion have fired indiscriminately and killed hundreds of unarmed protestors.

There is no democracy without a free press. We need to fight for Media Freedom- NOW!

Action Items

- 1) Write to and call Reporters Without Borders and tell them what is happening. ASK that they petition for Mahmudur Rahman's release and that Amar Desh be allowed to run without threat. (Contact is: +1 202-256-5613, asia@rsf.org)
- 2) Write to and call the media outlets listed below and ASK that they write statements condemning the silencing of the media in Bangladesh.
- 3) Ask that their journalists cover the news on Bangladesh from the perspective of both sides- the government supporters, and the opposition parties.

Contact Info:

New York Times: (212) 556-1234, The Executive Editor, The New York Times, 620 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10018

Washington Post (202) 334-6000 Martin Baron, Executive Editor, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington DC 20071

Al Jazeera: Bureau Chief New York Office, Al Jazeera International Inc, 405 E 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017-350

Associated Press: Howard Goldberg: Chief of Bureau, HGoldberg@ap.org, (212) 621-7932
John Pain, Chief of Bureau, JPain@ap.org, (202) 641-9660

Copy and distribute this alert to your friends and relatives

We work together as a small network to help Bangladesh move forward instead of sliding backward because of political conflicts. Whether you're ready to lend a hand at one of our activities or have photos or articles to share about Bangladesh moving forward, here's the place to do it.

Join us: <http://www.facebook.com/BDAlert> • Tweet with hashtag #save #Bangladesh

Be Alert! • BD Alert • www.BDAlert.com