2023

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister’s Office

Old Sangsad Bhaban

Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Bangladesh

Email: ps1topm@pmo.gov.bd

Dear Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

As a member/sympathizer of ACAT Belgium, I am writing to you to express my deep concern about the dire situation of human rights in Bangladesh. The emblematic Odhikar case and the legal endless proceedings against the leaders of the NGO is nothing but a regrettable step back, though also a litmus test possibly bearing concrete consequences for the country.

Therefore, I ask the government of Bangladesh to:

* Immediately and unconditionally drop all charges against Odhikar’s representatives and reinstate its registration;
* Cooperate with the UN on establishing a specialized mechanism to investigate the allegations of enforced disappearances, insisting that international observers be permitted to attend court hearings.
* Bring to justice the authors of the violent and particularly appalling murder of the trade unionist **Shahidul Islam** in June 2023;
* Comply with core International Labour Organization standards and implement its labor roadmap, along with the commitment within the enhanced engagement process.

I am furthermore concerned by the mass arrests of opposition representatives as well as the excessive use of force against protesters. Thus, to set up the conditions for free and fair elections in 2024, I call on you to put an end to such practices.

Besides, owing to Bangladesh’s wide violations of international conventions, the preferences systems schemes such as the current enhanced engagement (Everything but Arms preferences (EBA) in force in the country, or any other general scheme of preferences (GSP) are to be brought into question, whereas Bangladesh, in its pursuit of prosperity, needs to reinstate its image as a reliable global partner, respectful of Human rights.

To achieve this goal, your government needs to uphold the country’s international commitments, particularly under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and not least to strictly abide by the UNO convention against torture.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,

Name

Address

Signature

**Copy to:**

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