**Bangladesh says Briton arrested over murders of secular bloggers**

Security forces claim a UK citizen of Bangladeshi origin, Touhidur Rahman, was main planner of fatal attacks on Avijit Roy and Ananta Bijoy Das

Bangladesh’s security forces have arrested three suspected Islamist militants over the murders of two prominent secular bloggers, including the “main planner” who they say is a British citizen.

The Rapid Action Battalion said it had arrested Touhidur Rahman, 58, and two other “active members” of Ansarullah Bangla Team, which was banned in May over a [series of killings of bloggers](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/14/two-suspected-islamists-arrested-over-killing-of-secular-bangladesh-blogger).

“We’ve arrested them in the capital today. We can confirm that Rahman is a British citizen of Bangladeshi origin. He is the main planner of the attacks on Avijit Roy and Ananta Bijoy Das,” Major Maksudul Alam of the RAB said on Tuesday.

“He told us that he is a British citizen,” Mufti Mahmood, the head of the RAB’s legal and media division, said, adding that the three would be paraded before the press later.

Four secular bloggers have been hacked to death in [Bangladesh](http://www.theguardian.com/world/bangladesh) since the start of the year, including Roy and Das.

Roy, a US citizen who was born in Bangladesh, was [murdered in February by a gang wielding machetes](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/27/american-atheist-blogger-hacked-to-death-in-bangladesh) in an attack in Dhaka.

[Das, 33, was killed in similar fashion](http://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2015/may/13/another-secular-blogger-hacked-to-death-in-bangladesh) as he headed to work at a bank in the north-eastern city of Sylhet on 13 May.