July 20, 2024

We, the Bangladeshi students at institutions all over the USA, condemn the atrocities committed against Bangladeshi students and citizens by the regime, with a current death toll of at least 105.  
  
For the past few days, university students across the nation have been participating in protests demanding a reformation of the government job quota system to ensure fair employment opportunities, which allocates 56% of jobs disproportionately to special groups. They were exercising the essential rights of free speech and the right to criticize public policy without fear of retribution. What started as a peaceful protest, escalated quickly due to brutality by the police and unmitigated violence by pro-government political wings like Chhatra League, Jubo League, etc. More than 100 students have been reported killed in the last three days, including middle and high schoolers, with thousands more injured. The government has intensified its crackdown on the protest by deploying the army on the streets and imposing a nationwide curfew.

Currently, the government has blocked internet access nationwide and jammed cellular networks in an attempt to suppress the protesters, another violation of human rights. As a result, Bangladesh is almost completely disconnected from the rest of the world. We are unable to communicate with our families and loved ones living in Bangladesh, and we are deeply fearful for their safety.  
  
Free speech, debating public policy, and criticizing the government should be basic rights in any democracy. No one deserves to be killed for exercising these rights. These violations have led us to call the government's actions autocratic. A democratic country should not witness the tragic deaths of citizens for peaceful protest.

We express our deepest condolences to the victims and their families and demand justice and accountability from the police, political wings of the regime, and those in power. However, given they have full control over the judiciary, justice is not possible under this regime. All the students and activists will suffer dire consequences, including death and disappearance, if the regime can take back control over the situation through negotiation of any sort. Therefore, we demand that Autocrat Hasina step down and pave the way for democracy. We call on the international community to support Bangladeshi citizens in their fight for civil liberties, democracy, and justice. We urge the international media to highlight these critical events and amplify the voices of those striving for justice and human rights.

In solidarity,  
Bangladeshi Students of XX University in the YY Country

(You may attach your school/ org logo here)

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