

Are We Ungrateful As A Nation?

- Sahushi

Independence is our greatest achievement as a nation. We have lost millions of our brothers and sisters in the liberation war. We mourn for them. To respect their sacrifice for our country and for our society we built hundreds of monuments throughout the country. We did the right thing. We should have done even more and we should keep trying to find out ways to show the proper respect to the martyrs of our country. However, are we missing something? Should we have done something long ago and we have not done it yet?

During our liberation war, India supported us generously. In the war through which we got the independence, several Indian soldiers had died. Did we pay proper respect to those Indians who died for our liberation war? I apprehend at this point of the article, some of the readers may think that I am an Indian agent, some others may start considering my writing as a political one. With due respect to the readers I would like to mention that I am neither an agent for anyone of this world, nor do I have any intention to write about any political issue.

As a citizen of Bangladesh and as a member of the Bangladeshi society I asked several questions to myself. One of the questions is 'Are we paying proper tribute to those for whom we achieved the liberty for us?' Apparently I thought, yes we have paid proper respect for the heroes of our country. Then it came to my mind that during our liberation war, we got liberal support from our neighboring country. In the last 35 years, we might not be happy with several decisions of the government of that country, sometimes the role of the government of that country could also be controversial, however, we cannot ignore the sacrifice of some of their soldiers for our freedom. I understand that as a soldier it was his / her responsibility to fight under the command. However when I think that (s)he had to sacrifice his / her life for our freedom, it comes to my mind that (s)he had done much more for us than just obeying his / her supervisor's command. Have we paid proper respect to those Indians who lost their lives for our independence? We may raise some questions against some of the decisions of the governments of some countries, but as a nation should we not pay proper tribute to the individuals who sacrificed for us?

We have built several monuments for remembering the sons and daughters of our land. Why did we not include those Indian fellows who sacrificed for us? Are we ungrateful as a nation? I did not get a good answer to my question. At least I get some consolation when I think about Mr. Ouderland, an Australian whom we honored as a Bir Protik for his courage and bravery. Should we not do the same thing for the citizens of other countries who sacrificed their lives for us?