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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

September 27, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

I write to you out of concern regarding the January 2005 assassination of Shah A.M.S. Kibria, the former Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary and Finance Minister.

Bangladesh has become increasingly plagued by political violence and instability. According to the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights, Bangladesh is afflicted by corruption and judicial inefficiency. The January assassination of Shah A.M.S. Kibria, as well as the hundreds of coordinated attacks across Bangladesh that occurred on August 17, 2005, illustrate the depth of the problem of political violence in Bangladesh. If the violence and corruption continue to increase, there could be serious consequences for regional peace and security as well as international terrorist activity in the region.

As one of the only Muslim democracies in the world, a stable, properly-functioning democratic Bangladesh is in the best interest of the United States. I appreciate the role the State Department has taken in urging the Bangladeshi Government to conduct a thorough and effective investigation into the assassination of Shah Kibria, but I believe assistance from the international community is necessary to ensure that this goal is achieved. I support a full, fair, and independent investigation into Shah Kibria's assassination and urge that such an investigation be proposed to the United Nations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

SMC:kvs