



Rights & Risks Analysis Group

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08 November 2024

To

1. Ms Mariam bint Abdullah Al-Attiyah

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C/O National Human Rights Committee of Qatar
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2. Ms Amina Bouayach

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7. Mr Vladlen Stefanov

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Subject: Request to suspend membership of National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh from GANHRI after effective dissolution of the Commission through forced resignation of all its members on 7 November 2024

Excellencies,

The Rights and Risk Analysis Groups (RRAG) is writing to seek urgent intervention of the Global Alliance of the National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) to take immediate

measures to suspend the membership of the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh following forced resignation of all members on 07 November 2024.

On 5th November 2024, the NHRC of Bangladesh released its monthly report for October 2024 and the report based on the facts highlighted a rise in crimes such as mob beatings, rapes, and other offences as well as political harassment, assaults on political leaders, and other violent acts. This has become the offence for the members of the NHRC of Bangladesh and they were forced to resign.¹

As per the media reports including [Bdnews24.com](https://bdnews24.com) yesterday, all members of Bangladesh's NHRC including Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed and five other members i.e. Md Salim Reza, Aminul Islam, Kongjari Chowdhury, Biswajit Chanda, and Tania Haque submitted their resignation letters to the President of Bangladesh. The resignation was confirmed by Yusha Rahman, spokesperson of the Commission.

The NHRC of Bangladesh at present has no members. Furthermore, this action of the Interim Government of Bangladesh to create an absolutely untenable situation wherein all members of the NHRC were forced to resign; and this also means that no independent members to the Commission can be appointed in the future. This action of the Interim Government of Bangladesh is unprecedented and akin to dissolution of the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

The absolute absence of any possibility to appoint any independent members of the NHRC of Bangladesh can also be assessed from the fact that on 10 August 2024, a mob surrounded the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan and five other senior judges of the Supreme Court had to resign.² Furthermore, on 16 October 2024, 12 judges of the High Court (HC) were removed from discharging judicial functions after several hundred students under the banner of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement besieged the HC premises seeking removal of "pro-Awami League fascist judges!"³ If the judges are not safe under the Interim Government of Bangladesh, there cannot be any safety for the members of the NHRC of Bangladesh.

The forcible resignation of the members of the NHRC of Bangladesh means that victims of human rights violations including women, children, indigenous peoples and religious minorities have been left to the mercy of the ruling mob without any institutional protection.

The GANHRI needs to take firm action to address this extraordinary situation. Under similar circumstances, the GANHRI Bureau had suspended the membership of the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan in July 2022 and Myanmar Human Rights

¹. All members of National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh resign, Bdnews24.com, 07 Nov 2024, <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/f731f0f8da2a>

². Bangladesh chief justice agrees to resign amid new student protests, Aljazeera, 10 August 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/8/10/bangladesh-chief-justice-agrees-to-resign-amid-new-student-protests>

³. 12 HC judges barred from judicial activities amid student protest, The Daily Star, 16 October 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/12-hc-judges-barred-judicial-activities-amid-student-protest-3728991>

Commission, Niger Human Rights Commission and the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation in July 2023.

In the light of the above submission, the RRAG requests the GANHRI to take the following measures:

- Register the present complaint and take measures for suspension of the membership of the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh from the GANHRI; and
- Take any other measures as the GANHRI deems fit and proper.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Suhas Chakma

Director, Rights and Risks Analysis Group

Member, [Core Group on Human Rights Defenders and NGOs, National Human Rights Commission of India](#)

Encl: Relevant newspaper clippings

Copy to:

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Bangladesh

All members of National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh resign

The resignation comes after a report highlighted a rise in crimes and political violence in the country



Staff Correspondent bdnews24.com

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All members of Bangladesh's National Human Rights Commission, or NHRC, have resigned, three months after the interim government took the reins.

Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed and five other members, submitted their resignation letters to the president on Thursday.

The commission's spokesperson Yusha Rahman told bdnews24.com that the commission resolved to resign on Thursday afternoon, and the resignation letters were subsequently delivered to the president.

When asked to clarify the reasons for the resignations, Yusha said: "I am unaware of the reason."

In his resignation letter, NHRC chief Kamal said: "I hereby submit my resignation under Section 6(4) of the National Human Rights Commission Act 2009, requesting to be relieved from my position as chairman. I respectfully ask for your acceptance of this resignation."

The commission's full-time members—Md Salim Reza, Aminul Islam, Kongjari Chowdhury, Biswajit Chanda, and Tania Haque—also tendered their resignations.

The commission had been appointed by former president Md Abdul Hamid in December 2022.

Following the dissolution of the Sheikh Hasina administration on Aug 5 and the establishment of an interim government, several governmental departments underwent substantial reshuffles and saw numerous resignations.

Earlier, in its monthly report, the NHRC highlighted a rise in crimes such as mob beatings, rapes, and other offences in October.

It also documented political harassment, assaults on political leaders, and other violent acts.

Two days after the report's release, all commission members tendered their resignations.

News | Protests

Bangladesh chief justice agrees to resign amid new student protests

Hundreds protest outside the Supreme Court calling for Obaidul Hassan, seen as loyal to ex-PM Hasina, to step down.

Students demanded the resignation of Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan in a protest outside the Supreme Court in Dhaka [Luis Tato/AFP]

10 Aug 2024

The chief justice of Bangladesh's top court has said he agreed "in principle" to resign after an ultimatum from protesters, days after [Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled](#) to neighbouring India.

Obaidul Hassan, who was appointed to helm the Supreme Court last year and is seen as a loyalist to Hasina, was told to step down on Saturday by protesters who gathered outside the court in the capital, Dhaka.

RECOMMENDED STORIES

New Bangladesh government says working to 'resolve' attacks on minorities

Students, other Muslims protect temples, churches amid Bangladesh unrest

Bangladesh president orders release of ex-PM Khaleda Zia

At least 90 killed as Bangladesh protesters renew call for Hasina to quit

Al Jazeera's Tanvir Chowdhury, reporting from Dhaka, said students decided to take to the streets when they heard reports that Hassan was holding a meeting with justices of the Appellate Division.

"They viewed this as a judicial coup in the making, so they quickly gathered at the Supreme Court and demanded that he immediately resign," Chowdhury

said.

A formal letter confirming Hassan's decision to step down was expected after consultations with President Mohammed Shahabuddin. The students believe the Supreme Court to be highly politicised and want the other seven members to also resign, according to Chowdhury.

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[Awami League](#) party leader Hasina, 76, fled by helicopter to India on Monday. Her government was accused of widespread human rights abuses including the extrajudicial killing of thousands of her political opponents.

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Hassan oversaw a much-criticised war crimes tribunal that ordered the execution of Hasina's opponents, and his brother was her longtime secretary.

Cabinet ministers left blindsided by her sudden fall have gone to ground, while several top appointees have been forced out of office, including the national police chief and the central bank governor.

On Friday, the bank's governor, Abdur Rouf Talukder, resigned from the post, citing personal reasons. Protesters had stormed the central bank's headquarters amid the political upheaval that led to the end of Hasina's 15-year rule.

[Muhammad Yunus](#), who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his pioneering work in microfinance credited with helping millions of Bangladeshis out of poverty, is leading a transitional government, another demand by the student leaders.



Muhammad Yunus visited the house in Rangpur of student Abu Sayeed, who was killed by police during the p
[AFP]

The economist took office on Thursday as “chief adviser” to a caretaker administration comprised of civilians bar one retired brigadier-general. He said he wants to hold elections “within a few months”.

Yunus appealed for religious unity on Saturday as he embraced the weeping mother of the first student shot dead by police during antigovernment protests last month.

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“Don’t differentiate by religion,” he told reporters. “Our responsibility is to build a new Bangladesh.”

Speaking of Abu Sayeed, Yunus said the slain 25-year-old was now “in every home”.

“The way he stood, we have to do the same,” he said as he paid his respects alongside members of the advisory cabinet.

“There are no differences in Abu Sayeed’s Bangladesh,” he added.

12 HC judges barred from judicial activities amid student protest



Photo Palash Khan

The Supreme Court (SC) today decided to bar 12 High Court judges from conducting judicial activities when the court reopens on October 20.

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed took the decision after several hundred students under the banner of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement besieged the HC premises seeking removal of "pro-Awami League fascist judges" today.



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"Twelve [HC] judges will not be allocated benches for now, meaning they will not be allowed to take part in judicial activities when the court reopens from October 20," Supreme Court Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan said today without mentioning the names of the judges.

He made the announcement in front of the protesting students on the SC premises. The agitating students then postponed the movement till Sunday