

URGENT ACTION

DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE SINCE JULY 2016 CAFE ATTACK

2 July 2017 marks the one year anniversary of Hasnat Karim's arrest and detention. He was caught up in the attack on a restaurant in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka on 1 July 2016 and has been held in jail without charge since. His health is rapidly deteriorating in prison where he continues to be denied specialised medical care by prison authorities.

Hasnat Karim is a dual UK-Bangladeshi national and businessman. Together with his wife and two children, he was having dinner at Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery on the evening of 1 July 2016, when gunmen stormed the restaurant and killed more than 20 people. In the immediate aftermath of the attack, the family was taken into custody by the police for questioning on 2 July, and all except Hasnat Karim were released on 3 July.

Despite repeated requests for information about his whereabouts, the police subsequently refused to provide Hasnat Karim's family or their legal representation with any information about his whereabouts for another month, until he was presented at the Metropolitan Magistrates Court in Dhaka on 4 August 2016. After being held on remand in detention for several weeks, Hasnat Karim was on 2 September 2016 moved to Kashimpur Central Jail outside of Dhaka, where he has remained since.

He was detained under Section 54 of the Bangladesh Code of Criminal Procedure - which allows police to detain anyone suspected of a crime without formally charging them - as a suspect involved in the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery. He has yet to be formally charged with a crime, and has been denied bail six times by different courts, without the reasoning for the decisions ever being provided. On 31 May 2017, police missed their sixth deadline for filing a charge sheet related to Hasnat Karim's case; no new deadline has been set.

In detention, Hasnat Karim's health has since January 2017 rapidly deteriorated, as he suffers from vertigo as well as severe ear and urinary tract infections. Despite repeated requests from the family, prison authorities have not allowed Hasnat Karim to access specialised medical care available only outside jail. Hasnat Karim's family have been unable to obtain a lawyer to represent him; they suspect this is due to fear of reprisal from the authorities to anyone who takes up his case.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- Either release Hasnat Karim immediately or charge him with a criminal offense that is recognisable under international law;
- Urgently grant Hasnat Karim access to the medical care that he needs, even if that requires him to be transferred to a clinic outside the prison, and ensure he has regular and adequate access to his family and a legal representative of his choice while in detention.

Contact these two officials by 11 August, 2017:

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister's Office Old Sangshad Bhaban
Tejgaon 1215
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Fax: +880 2 9133722
Email: info@pmo.gov.bd
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin

Embassy of Bangladesh
3510 International Drive NW, Washington DC 20008
Fax: 202 244 2771 -OR- 202 244 7830
Phone: 202 244 0183
Contact form: <http://www.bdembassyusa.org/index.php?page=contact>
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 163.16*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On the evening of 1 July 2016, gunmen stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in the Gulshan area of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The attackers killed at least 20 people during the siege that lasted the whole night, including 18 foreigners and two Bangladeshis.

In the past three years, violent groups in Bangladesh have targeted and killed scores of secular bloggers, activists, academics and members of religious minorities for their writings and activities seen as “insulting Islam.” In 2015 two foreigners were also killed in targeted attacks claimed by violent groups. So far, no one has been brought to justice for these killings except in the case of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider who was killed in 2013. Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Bangladeshi authorities to ensure that those suspected to be responsible are held to account in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty and to end the climate of impunity around these attacks. It is crucial that Bangladesh does not sacrifice human rights in the name of national security, and that the rights of any suspects – including fair trial guarantees – are respected.

Name: Hasnat Karim
Gender m

Further information on UA: 163/16 Index: ASA 13/6629/2017 Issue Date: 30 June 2017