

Urgent Action Appealed: Help stop forceful conversion to Islam in Bangladesh

Please visit

http://hrcbm.org/news/UA_Putul080502.PDF for a copy of the "urgent action".

Monday, August 05, 2002

HRCBM/Bang/2002/1002/force_conv/Madharipur



Mrs. Parul Rani Malo and Mrs. Doli Rani Malo, mothers of the victim girls bow down their head under the feet of Mr. Ghosh for rescue of their innocent girls from the hands of terrorists, who is consoling them.

Bangladesh: Forceful Conversion of Two Minor Hindu Girls to Islam

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On The Brink

The preview of new documentary film is available in HRCBM web site. The preview of the movie is 26 min long. The actual movie will be in several parts and under preparation for release shortly. Please view "On The Brink" preview now at

http://www.hrcbm.org/NEWLOOK/brink/movie_preview.ram

Do you need the actual version of "On the Brink"? Please send us the request and get on the list. The movie will be on data CD as well as in VCD worth \$5.00 for data CD and \$7.00 for VCD. The proceeds go directly to the welfare of the victims.

Hindu Refugees Fled to India for their lives and honors



"On the Brink" will clearly depict the nature of human rights violation against minorities in Bangladesh and the systematic oppression against minorities there.

The initial movie will be 1:30 in length. Depending upon the demand we will expand the movie in several parts addressing all the issues currently faced by minorities in Bangladesh.

The contents will be very appealing for viewers which include the glimpse of history, anguish and passionate pains. You must have or should have this in your collection.

Contact email: info@hrcbm.org

Stop Religious Violence and Intolerance; Protect the Minorities and Bring the Criminals to Justice

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

Since the October 2001 general election in Bangladesh that brought Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)- Jamat-E-Islam led coalition government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to power for the second time, a new wave of brutality and violence has been unleashed against the minorities, the Hindus, Budhists, Christians and tribal people. The violence against minorities has surpassed that of 1992, when Begum Zia became the Prime Minister for the first time. Hundreds of thousands of minority families have been affected. The violence range from **gang rape & abduction** of minor children to elderly women, **brutality, murders**, attack on **temples, churches & orphanage**, looting, land grabbing, **eviction** and **forced conversion** to Islam. Minorities are being forced to pay **Jizya tax** to live in their own ancestral homes. The law enforcement authorities are not providing protection to the minorities, rather helping the criminals commit their heinous acts of barbaric dimensions. The violence against religious minorities has been going on unabated.



Mr. Ghosh of HRCBM speaking with the local Police officers of Madaripur P.S. for not taking any FIR against the criminals who took away the minor victims from Kulpaddy village.

SECTION 2: FORCEFUL CONVERSION OF TWO MINOR HINDU GIRLS TO ISLAM-ATTACK ON FAMILY MEMBERS

Two minor Hindu girls, namely Miss Sushma Rani Malo (15 year old), daughter of Shri Anil Chandra Malo and Miss Putul Rani Malo (15 year old), daughter of Shri Monoranjan Malo of village Kulpaddy, Police Station and District of Madaripur, were kidnapped from their houses one kilometer from Madaripur police station. The guardians of the victims described in a very heart-rending manner to Advocate Rabindra Ghosh, President HRCBM-Dhaka, Bangladesh, that their minor daughters were students of Class VIII. The minor girls were kidnapped by some Muslims of the same village, led by the Imam of Madaripur Sadar Hospital Mosque. They were forced to sign an affidavit that they are 19 years of age and they wanted to convert to Islam at their own will on 25th of 2 July, 2002. In addition, they were allured and detained and compelled by some Muslims of the same locality, particularly the supporters of Jamal-E-Islami Party, to swear an affidavit by a Notary Public at Madaripur.

The victims, Putul Rani Malo and Sushma Rani Malo, came back to their parents on 25th July, 2002, in the evening. On hearing the news that the two girls had gone back to their parents some Jamal-E-Islamic supporters numbering about 250/300 surrounded the houses of the victim-girls at about 11 P.M. at night. The criminals started assaulting Arun Chandra Malo(26), brother of victim Sushma Rani Malo. Arun Chandra Malo sustained severe injuries on the lower portion of the eyes, which were still visible after 8 days. He was under the treatment of local doctor.

Ultimately those two victim girls were again kidnapped by the Muslim criminals on 26th July, 2002. The police and law enforcement authorities did neither provide any protection to the girls and their families nor arrested the criminals. Not only that the miscreants with the help of some police officials of Madaripur police station tactfully obtained an undertaking from the guardians of the victim girls that they do not like to lodge any complain with the police and they did not take any cases against the criminals

Advocate Rabindra Ghosh finally was successful in filing two F.I.R. 's with the Madaripur Police Station during his visit. As per statements of the guardians of the victims, the following criminals were identified, all of them from the village of Kulpaddy, P.O, P.S. and District of Madaripur, who were primarily responsible for the offence and their names are in the F.I.R.

1. Mohammad Fazlu Master
2. Ali Ahmed (Imam of Madaripur Sadar Hospital Mosque)
3. Zeaul Hoque
4. Nurul Islam (Manna)
5. Beauty Begum wife of Anowar
6. Shanty Begum wife of Sheikh Eskandar Ali
7. Happy Matabbar wife of Ismail.
8. Feroz
9. Shaheen
10. Hayeat Ali
11. Manu
12. Sumi Mullah
13. Badal Mattabar and others

Advocate Mr. Gosh pointed to the Deputy Commissioner that the consent of any minor, according to law, is no consent and the date of birth of the victims proved that they were minors. So the consent obtained by the criminals by an affidavit in the Notary Public has got no force in law. Until and unless the minor becomes 18 years of age she is not capable to give consent as per the latest ruling of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. It is quite astonishing to note that the "No objection certificate" obtained by some police officers tactfully from the simple-minded and law-abiding guardians of the victims are very much unwarranted and without jurisdiction; and for this deceitful endeavor ON the part of any law-enforcing agencies are highly reprehensible and punishable under law. It is also astonishing to note that while the victim girls were kidnapped from a house by the miscreants the police was silent and they were allowed to organize processions in the others in the locality in the

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH

PLACE

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL, CANADA

DATE

17th August, 2002.

CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MONTREAL, AUGUST 17, 2002

Bangladesh's parliamentary elections on October 1, 2001 swept to power a coalition government composed of the BNP (formed by a military dictator in 1978) and three Islamic fundamentalist parties. During the election campaign, and in the months since, there has been a wave of violence by members of those parties directed against Hindus and other religious and ethnic minorities, as well as repression of the political opposition. While the level of violence has not attained that of the incidents in October 1990 and December 1992, those lasted a few days, while this time the violence has continued over a protracted period. Repression of journalists and human rights activists who address the problem has been ferocious, with several murders and charges of treason. The Government of Bangladesh has adopted a posture of denial of the facts, both internally and internationally. One of the facts which they deny is the mercurial rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Bangladesh and the fanatical nature of fundamentalist parties in the coalition.

To inform the Canadian public, the Bangladeshi and South Asian communities and Human Rights activists have organised a

Conference on Human Rights in Bangladesh

The themes of the conference will include:

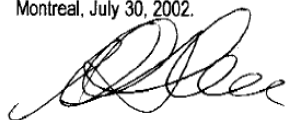
THE RISE OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM IN BANGLADESH
THE WORSENING SITUATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES
POLITICAL REPRESSION

The organisers have invited Human Rights activists from Bangladesh to participate, including SHAHRIAR KABIR, the journalist who was detained last November and charged with treason on his return from filming interviews with Hindu refugees in India.

Other speakers will address the issues in a plenary workshop. They include AYESHA KHANAM, secretary-general of the Bangladesh Women's Federation (Mohila Parishad), DR. MEGHNA GUHA THAKURATHA, executive member of Ain O Salish Kendra, a leading human rights organisation, AMIRUL ISLAM, a human rights lawyer, A.M.A.MUJITH, human rights activist, SYED ABU ZAFAR AHMED, journalist. The conference will also have a multi-media facet, with a documentary film, photo exhibition and slide show.

The conference is scheduled for August 17-18, 2002 at Concordia University in Montreal.

Montreal, July 30, 2002.



William Sloan

name of religion and promote violence and intolerance. Mr. Ghosh requested the Deputy Commissioner of Madaripur to hand over the minor victims to the legal guardians but no actions have yet been taken. A serious tension is prevailing in the area and the minorities fear for their life and security. Mr. Ghosh interviewed and obtained eyewitness accounts of the events from members of the families of the victims, Sushma Rani Malo and Putul Rani Malo, and neighbors on August 2, 2002. A detailed investigative report on the criminal incidents can be obtained from info@hrcbm.org. It may be restated that Advocate Rabintra Ghosh a human rights activist and President of HRCBM-Dhaka, Bangladesh, has been working hard at ground zero to bring the stories of human rights violation to the attention of the UN, other human rights organization and governments of the civilized world. He is a lawyer at the Bangladesh Supreme Court and president of HRCBM, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Recently he was also attacked on July 1, 2002, at the premises of the Supreme Court Bar Association Hall.

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*"Service to mankind is the service to GOD" -
HRCBM.*



Mr. Ghosh of HRCBM with the Muslim orphans who used to take food everyday from Pranabananda Math at Bajitpur, Madaripur Dist. (02.08.2002) Photo.



Muslims are also taking food of Pranabananda math of Bajitpur everyday (Photo. 2/8/2002)

LETTER FROM A DESTITUTE GIRL

Please visit <http://www.hrcbm.org/news/Kakali.PDF>

Dear Honorable Journalist friends,

I am Ms. Kakali Bhattacharjee, Occupation: student, Father: Sri Biswanath Bhattacharjee (Priest), Mother: Srimati Dali Bhattacharjee (retired school teacher) of Halder para, Bhracmanbaria town, Bhracmanbaria hereby stating with due sadness that I am the only daughter of my parents who is studying. As being the only legal heir of my parents and aunts, I am the legal owner of our ancestral property in the city of Bhracmanbaria.

Recently, a person namely Humayun Kabir has forcefully confiscated portion of our ancestral property and now trying to forcefully evict us. I have immediately filed a case (case no 14/98) in the local court against the miscreants due to their forceful occupation and using fraudulent power of attorney to grab my property. The miscreants along with ruling party cadres are now started to torture us and recently physically assaulted my father. The miscreants have threatened to kill my father as a result he is not coming back to home and currently in hiding. After the said incident, I have filed a general diary in the local police station (GD no 1797 dated 07/27/02, a copy of which is attached). Then police came in and told the miscreants not to threaten us. But that night, those miscreants bar me from entering the house latter police help me to enter the house.

Regarded Journalists brothers and sisters,

It is very sad that after the registration of my case in the local police station, the miscreants namely Bachir, Amran, Asad and Atik along with others broke into my house at 12 midnight dated 08/01/02 and beat me up with sticks. Then they started to kick, smack and punch me. The miscreants also clutched my mother's throat while she came to my rescue. The also prevent us from going to police. Last 08/02/02, I went to the hospital and visited police station by 08/03/02 but police registered the case of assault as separate GD (general diary), the GD no is 139 dated 08/03/02, copy attached). The police officer told me that they will investigate this matter later and will suggest me accordingly.

**SECTION 3: URGENT ACTION DEMANDED**

The Human Right Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) vehemently protests and condemns the kidnapping and forceful conversion of minor Hindu girls to Islam. We express our grave concern about the safety and security of the minor girls, their parents and the religious minorities of Bangladesh as a whole.

We urge you to order your government authorities to provide immediate protection to victim minor girls, their families and the minorities of the village of Kulpaddy, Madaripur. We urge that the laws of the land and a free democratic society must be implemented, communal harmony must be restored and basic human rights of all citizens enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be guaranteed. The criminals and those who propagate violence and religious intolerance must be arrested and given exemplary punishment so that nobody dares to commit violence against the minorities again. The minorities must be protected.

APPEAL TO:

Honorable Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
Office of the Prime Minister
Gano Bhaban

Sher-e Bangla Nagar
Dhaka

Bangladesh

Telgrams: Prime Minister Zia, Dhaka

Bangladesh

Fax: 88028113243

Email:

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister or Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Mr. Modabbir Hussain Chowdhury

Inspector General of Police

Police Headquarter

Fulbaria

Dhaka

Bangladesh

Telegrams: Inspector-General Huda

Fulbaria, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Fax: 88-02-9563363, 88-02-9563362

Salutation: Dear Sir

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY:

You may please fax or mail your appeal. Contact us at info@hrcbm.org for any question and further details.

Latter, I visited to Superintendent of police who assure me that the additional SP will take action in this regards after the proper investigation but yet there is no response from the investigating officer.

Dear Journalists friends,

Presently, we are unable to stay at night in the house due to ongoing assault by the miscreants.

We stay at our relative's house. It is to be noted that the forceful occupant Humanyun kabir is the brother of local BNP (ruling party) MP (Member of Parliament). Dear journalist friends I want to let the country and the leaders of the country about my ordeal through you.

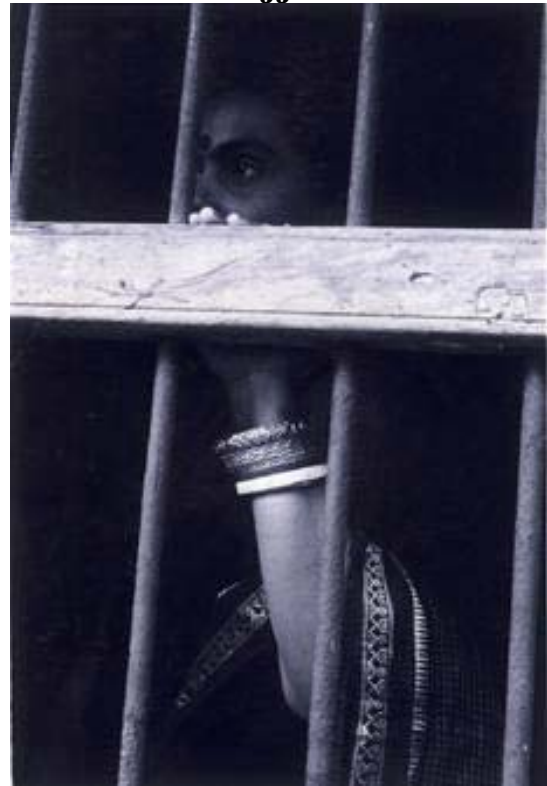
Hope that your newspaper will convey this to Honorable home minister and Prime Minister who then can take initiative to endow justice in my case.

I am hereby through your newspaper appealing to our honorable Home Minister to safeguard us and let us live in our ancestral land peacefully.

Thanks for your kindly listening to my statements.

with regards,
Kakali Bhattacherjee,
Halderpara, Bhrammanbaria
Bangladesh

Lajja !!



Help us help them, make your tax deductible donation to
Bangladesh Minorities Relief Fund (BMRF)

C/o
HRCBM
P.O. Box 5493
Santa Clara
CA 95056
USA

Tel 212-592-3627
Fax: 212-202-7683

