



## Sign the Petition to Stop the Gang Rapes in Bangladesh!

Violence against women and young girls constitute the gravest of human rights abuses in Bangladesh. Such violence includes sexual and domestic violence, gang rapes, acid throwing, and honour killings. Although the country in general is affected by the ongoing onslaught against women and young girls, it is clearly observed that members of minorities are subject to the most extreme and brutal violence.

These types of violence, in particular the gang rapes, are controlling acts that repress women and girls especially those from minority groups who are abducted and raped on a regular basis. Neither infant girls nor elderly women are spared. Unprotected and sometimes attacked by groups with political motives, these women and girls are the most vulnerable and suffer both physical harm and humiliation.

The Bangladeshi government, caught in a power struggle and rampant corruption, remains passive and fails to adequately investigate and charge the perpetrators. Due to unsatisfactory legislation and uncooperative police, it is often impossible for women to obtain justice for these crimes. Indeed, it is not uncommon for surviving women to face violence from the police when they try to obtain justice for the crimes committed against them.

In 1984, Bangladesh ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and therefore has a legal obligation to prevent these crimes.

It is time for the government of Bangladesh to take responsibility and to stop these atrocities!

In particular, Bangladesh must:

- Acknowledge that the violations take place and express a commitment to bring them to an end;
- Take action to investigate and charge the perpetrators of these crimes;
- Train state officials and the police in women's rights and human rights;
- Ensure that legislation provides adequate protection;
- Set up independent inquiries into alleged cases.

I hereby urge the government of Bangladesh to take appropriate action to bring an end to the systematic gang rapes and sexual abuse of women and girls in Bangladesh.

Sincerely yours,

Name

Email

Country

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