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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister's Office
Old Sangsad, Bhaban, Tejgaon
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin
3510 International Drive, NW
Washington, DC 20008, USA

Dear Prime Minister Hasina and Ambassador Ziauddin:

We at the Secular Policy Institute, together with the below signed member organizations, are deeply saddened by the recent wave of violence in your country toward those who have written blogs critical of religion. The world has taken notice of these murders and as a leading voice in the global secular community, we would like to arrange a meeting with Ambassador Ziauddin to establish a constructive dialogue regarding the pursuit of fair prosecution for those involved in the attacks against people placed on the kill list of terrorist Ansarullah Bangla.

As an advocacy organization in support of a more rational world, we find Sheikh Mujibur's implementation of a secular Bangladesh, its 2010 reestablishment by the High Court, and further development by the Awami League as led by the Honorable Sheikh Hasina, to be beacons of light for those in the process of secularization. Despite these advances, however, new challenges encumber these pursuits. Democracy requires the protection of political speech and discussion. This includes the right to question the role of religion in public policy and decision-making. The Honorable Prime Minister has carried her father's torch in advancing secularism and human rights. Both Bangladesh's bold "Vision 2021" and "Digital Bangladesh" represent progressive steps in this direction. But the realization of these visions will require ongoing efforts to promote a more reason-minded society.

In support of this goal, we seek justice for those non-violent writers who were murdered for expressing their beliefs, and to assist in addressing those policies and processes that constrain Bangladesh in its efforts to become a flourishing secular democracy by its Golden Jubilee Deadline.

Sincerely,

Edwina Rogers

Signatories

Apathetic Agnostic - USA
Association Française Transhumaniste - Technoprogram - France
Atheist Advocates of San Francisco - San Francisco, California, USA
Atheist Alliance International - Washington, DC, USA
Atheist Community of Rochester - Rochester, NY, USA
Central Colorado Humanists - Colorado, USA
Centre for Humanist Ethical and Worldview Education - Holland
Centro por la Libera Ricerca OnLus - Italy
Conway Hall Ethical Society - London, UK
Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain - UK
East Bay Atheists - East SF Bay Area, California, USA
Freethought Society - Pocopson, PA
Hispanic American Freethinkers, Inc. - Reston, VA
Humanist Association of San Diego - San Diego, CA
Humanist Association of Toronto - Toronto, Canada
Humanist Chaplaincy at American University - Washington, DC, USA
Humanist India - India
Humanists of North Central Florida - Florida, USA
LaCrosse Area Freethought Society - Wisconsin, USA
Muslimish - Plymouth, MI
National Secular Society - London, UK
Northern Ohio Freethought Society - Ohio, USA
OMAHA (Omaha Metro Area Humanist Association) - Nebraska, USA
One Law for All - UK
Ontario Humanist Society - Ontario, Canada
Pink Triangle Trust - UK
Red River Freethinkers - Fargo/Moorhead, ND
San Francisco Atheists - San Francisco, CA
Secular Events - Chicago, IL, USA
Sidmennt - The Icelandic Ethical Humanist Association - Iceland
Skepticity - Georgia, USA
Sociedad Humanista Etica Argentina "Deodoro Roca" - Argentina
United Church of Bacon - Nevada, USA
United Coalition for Reason - Washington, DC, USA
Watford Area Humanists - UK