



Représentant les avocats d'Europe
Representing Europe's lawyers

24/04/2007

Prof. Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed
President of Bangladesh
President Office
Bangabhaban,
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Bangladesh
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Re: Concerns regarding the case of Haider Hossein

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 700,000 European lawyers.

The CCBE, through its Human Rights Committee, places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CCBE is particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

The CCBE writes to express its serious concerns over the recent assassination of Haider Hossein, who was killed as he came out of a mosque after prayers near his home in the southern Bangladeshi town of Jhalakathi.

As you will know, Mr. Hossein was a special public prosecutor in the case of the murder of two judges during a wave of bomb attacks in 2005, carried out by a banned Islamic group, Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

Especially worrisome is that Mr. Hossein had warned the authorities that he was receiving threats some days before his murder, and no action was taken.

In this context, the CCBE wishes to draw your attention to the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Human Rights Defenders (1998) issued by Resolution 53/144 of the General Assembly, in particular Article 12 § 2:

"The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection (...) against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration".

In view of the above, the CCBE respectfully urges you to take immediate and effective steps to guarantee the safety of all prosecutors and others involved in the administration of justice in order to preserve the independence and integrity of the rule of law.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Tyre QC
President

Conseil des barreaux européens - Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe

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