



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0605**

July 27, 2023

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield  
United States Ambassador to the United Nations  
United States Mission to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Madam Ambassador,

We write to you today to express our concern with Sheikh Hasina's government in Bangladesh, and her government's reported terrorizing, torturing, and even murdering of Bangladeshi citizens. A large number of human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, and Reporters Without Borders, have documented human rights abuses by Sheikh Hasina's government in Bangladesh, including <sup>1</sup>intimidation, assault, false imprisonment, torture, disappearances, and even extra-judicial killings.

In addition, UN human rights experts have repeatedly warned that Bangladesh is guilty of "protracted prosecution of journalists and human rights defenders."<sup>2</sup> The particularly egregious alleged abuses by the paramilitary Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) also include torture, enforced disappearances, and extra-judicial killings; demanding immediate condemnation.

In 2021, the United States sanctioned seven current or former officials of the RAB, including the country's police chief, Benazir Ahmed. However, those sanctions have not slowed the Hasina government's reported reign of terror, as the alleged government-instituted intimidation and violence has only increased.

Over the past 6 to 8 months, thousands of peaceful and courageous protesters have demonstrated in support of free and fair elections. These demonstrations have often been met by violence, tear gas, and brutal assault by police, other state actors, and supporters of Hasina.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/bangladesh/bangladesh-enforced-disappearances-amount-to-crimes-against-humanity>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/02/un-experts-urge-bangladesh-end-judicial-harassment-journalists>

Given its history of election fraud, violence, and intimidation; we are highly skeptical that the Hasina government will permit fair and transparent elections. For these reasons, and many other claims of corruption, tyranny, violence, and abuse, we urge the following:

- That the U.N. act immediately to suspend Bangladesh's membership on the United Nations Human Rights Council, pending an impartial and transparent investigation into the various acts of violence Sheikh Hasina's government has alleged to have committed against journalists and political opponents.
- That the U.N. Department of Peace Operations temporarily prevent any member of Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) from deploying in UN peacekeeping operations until full and transparent investigations into their record on human rights abuses have concluded.
- That the U.N., in combination with impartial governments around the world, participate in supervising and conducting free and fair elections in Bangladesh. This should include the provision of peacekeeping forces to prevent intimidation, harassment, or assault of voters.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We stand with the people of Bangladesh who seek free and fair elections, and an end to the violence perpetrated by state authorities.

Sincerely,



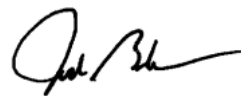
Bob Good  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



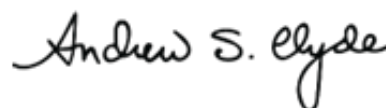
Anna Paulina-Luna  
Member of Congress



Josh Brecheen  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Andrew Clyde  
Member of Congress



Eli Crane  
Member of Congress




Cory Mills  
Member of Congress



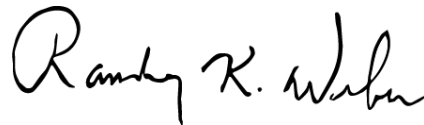
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
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Glenn Grothman  
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CC: Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix