

## The Honourable Tulsi Gabbard,

Director of National Intelligence, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Washington, D.C. 20511. USA

Subject: Voice for Global Bangladeshis VfGB's letter to Ms. Tulsi Gabbard, Director General of US National Intelligence,

24.03.25

Dear Director Gabbard,

Subject: Voice for Global Bangladeshis' Letter to Ms. Tulsi Gabbard, Director General US National Intelligence.

I write to you today on behalf of the Voice for Global Bangladeshis (VFGB), a global alliance of Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) professionals from across continents including the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia, Pacific and Europe in reference to your comments on Bangladesh during your recent visit to India.

Allow me to also extend my sincere felicitations on your appointment as the Director of US's National Intelligence in Presidnet Trump's Government, an extraordinary achievement as the first woman of ethnicity and the youngest to serve this important position that not only looks after the United States' national security interests but also its geo-strategic and security partnerships24.03.25 with the rest of the world.

In this connection, I must flag that the VFGB and NRBs globally were deeply disappointed and rather shocked by your official comments regarding alleged persecution of minorities in Bangladesh and your perceived narrative on the rise of 'Islamic terrorism in Bangladesh towards creating an 'Islamic Khelafat'.

Suffice it to say that regardless of political ideology or views, overseas Bangladeshis across the board found your comments not only lacking credible evidence but also unfair and misleading contrary to the globally acclaimed track record and credentials of an otherwise inclusive and communally harmonious Muslim majority nation such as Bangladesh.

Bangladesh, a nation of 170 million, with more than 85% Muslims, has been exemplary in South Asia and globally since its independence for its tolerant, harmonious and inclusive religious and cultural ethos whereby its 15% Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and Sikh citizens as well as other ethnic communities have all enjoyed Constituinally guaranteed and legally enforceable equal rights and freedoms, specially their freedom of worship and religion. All have been coexisting peacefully celebrating their religious festivities and also serving in important positions of the State and the society.

Your comments also particularly overlook and undermines the most sincere efforts undertaken by Nobel laureate Dr Mohammad Yunus, the Head of the Interim Government of Bangladesh who has demonstrated highest political commitment in taking every measure to protect minorities since taking oath on 8 August 2024.



Under his watch, not only the Hindu communities in Bangladesh celebrated their biggest festival the Durga Puja in more that 31000 puja mandaps without any fear or persecution but received highest protections from the government and people from all walks of life over their places of worship setting the rarest example globally. We have also been privy to Dr Yunus's Government's initiatives to bring to justice all those perpetrators who tried to hurt the Hindu community with political motives sending a strong message that the interim government and people of Bangladesh stands firmly with the protection and welfare of all religious minorities in Bangladesh.

The VGFB stands firmly with Dr Yunus and his Interim Government which has been globally praised for rescuing our country of origin from falling into the category of a 'failed State' or a so called 'Next Afghanistan' since 05 August 2024 after the fall of the facist regime of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the face of a student-led mass uprising that witnessed brutal killing of 1400 innocent lives that the UN Human Rights Investigators have categorised as 'Crimes Against Humanity'.

We from the VFGB request you to kindly review your position objectively on the situation in Bangladesh specially given that it impinges upon the excellent strategic, business and trade opportunities that we aspire to witness flourish between Nobel Laureate Dr Yunus's Interim Government in Bangladesh and Presidnet Trump's Government in the US.

It is clear that some vested quarters influenced by the former facist regime have been systematically portraying a false narrative on so called minority persecution in Bangladesh which may have prompted your comments. However, we urge you not to stereotype Bangladesh or its people with those nations which succumbed to extremism, a possibility that we assure you would be unequivocally thwarted by our generation 2.0.

I remain on behalf of the VFGB, at your disposal, for any further discussion or dialogue with overseas Bangladeshi on your concerns on Bangladesh turning into an Islamic Khaliphate.

Yours Sincerely

Dr. Hasanat M. Husain MBE

President.

Voice for Global Bangladeshis VfGB.

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