



Dr. Muhammad Yunus,
Honourable Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of the People's Republic of
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20 November 2025

Re: Intensifying threats to Advocate Mohammad Alamgir and rule of law concerns

Dear Chief Adviser,

I am writing on behalf of the Law Society of England and Wales (the 'Law Society'), the professional body representing over 200,000 lawyers in England and Wales. Our purpose is to support our members and to defend the rule of law and independence of the legal profession in our jurisdiction and around the world. As part of this, our international rule of law programme includes a focus on lawyers at risk.

The Law Society is concerned about the recent attempted arrest of Advocate Mohammad Alamgir, Secretary General of JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF), which is indicative of the ongoing targeting of legal professionals in Bangladesh simply for conducting their professional duties or exercising their right to freedom of expression. Such interference with legal professionals, gravely undermines the rule of law and independence of the legal profession in Bangladesh.

The Law Society has been informed that, on 8 November 2025, at approximately 1am, a team of police officers from Akhaura Police Station, accompanied by several local members of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), raided Advocate Alamgir's village residence in Ruti, Akhaura Upazila, Brahmanbaria District. The operation appeared to be aimed at arresting Advocate Alamgir, who was not present at the time. The police reportedly instead arrested one of his neighbours, creating fear among the local community.

This incident reflects an ongoing pattern of harassment, intimidation, and reprisals against Advocate Alamgir whose legal practice involves documenting human rights violations and representing political figures and vulnerable groups, including religious, ethnic, and LGBTQI+ minorities. He has also served as an Assistant Public Prosecutor representing the former government, Bangladesh Awami League. Over the past year, he has faced death threats, extortion demands and acts of physical violence. We have been informed that these threats have primarily originated from individuals affiliated with BNP-Jamaat political groups and Islamic fundamentalist networks. The direct involvement or complicity of law enforcement officers in the November 2025 raid raises concerns about politically motivated persecution.

The Law Society is aware that the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), of which the Law Society is a member, has written on multiple occasions regarding politically motivated arrests, prosecutions, physical attacks, and other reprisals against lawyers in Bangladesh for their professional activities or holding a differing political opinion. We are gravely concerned that the increase of these patterns appears to suggest a concerted policy to prevent lawyers from exercising their profession independently, undermining the administration of justice and the rule of law in Bangladesh.

As a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Bangladesh has an obligation to ensure, inter alia, that no one is subject to arbitrary arrest or detention (Article 9).

In accordance with the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, governments must ensure that lawyers can perform all their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; and shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognised professional duties (Principle 16). Furthermore, governments must provide adequate protection where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of their work (Principle 17) and lawyers, like everyone, are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly, in particular, to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, administration of justice and human rights (Principle 23).

In light of the above, we respectfully urge you and relevant authorities in Bangladesh to:

- Ensure that a full, independent and impartial investigation into the actions against Advocate Alamgir is conducted as a matter of urgency, and put in place all necessary measures to ensure the safety of Advocate Alamgir and his family;
- Drop all charges against lawyers brought against them in connection with their professional activities and halt all acts of intimidation and reprisals against legal professionals;
- Ensure that all members of the legal profession in Bangladesh are able to carry out their professional duties without undue interference or intimidation, in line with the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers;
- Consider signing and ratifying the new Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, which will open for signature by non-Council of Europe member states once it has come into force.

The Law Society will continue to monitor the situation of Advocate Mohammad Alamgir and other lawyers in Bangladesh.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Evans
President
The Law Society of England and Wales

Sent in cc to:

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