

Concern over gross human rights violation of the Uyghurs and demand stop persecution

EBF Report: Speakers at a virtual meeting on the subject, “Why the World should raise voice for Uyghurs and Demand China to stop persecution” expressed grave concern at the reports of gross human rights violation of the Uyghur community members in China and said, ‘China is committing egregious human rights abuses against Uyghur and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang’.

The meeting held on Thursday, 19 November 2021 was organized by the Europe-based Diaspora organization, European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) in collaboration with the Switzerland branch of the International Human Rights Commission. The media partner of EBF, the British Bangla News Channel in the U.K. broadcast the program live on its website, and it was also shown live simultaneously on EBF Face Book and You Tube. While the meeting was on, other members who were watching the it also shared the program in their timeline of their FB page. The program drew huge interest among the members of different faiths and nationalities in Europe and beyond. So far is known there were participants from Thailand, Indonesia, America, Canada, Bangladesh, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, UK, among others.



Those who addressed the one hour and 30 minutes long virtual meeting were: Mr. David Ball, founder and Co-organiser of the Uyghur Solidarity Campaign UK, Ms. Rahima Mahmut, UK Project Director of the World Uyghur Congress, Mr. Harry van Bommel, former member of the Dutch Parliament from Socialist Party for 17 years, Ms. Zumretay Arkin, Program and Advocacy

Manager at the World Uyghur Congress, Munich, Mr. Saleem Samad, media rights defender and recipient of the prestigious Ashoka Fellowship (1991) and Hellman-Hammett Award Samad and Mr. Khalilur Rahman Mamun, President, International Human Rights Commission, Switzerland branch. Dr. Mojibur Doftori, Board member of the Humanist Association of Finland and a writer and human rights activist was the moderator of the meeting. The live program was technically handled by the Dutch IT company, Streambros and the British Bangla News Channel.

Speaking on the occasion Ms. Rahima Mahmut narrated the sufferings and trauma that she and her family members went through in the hands of the Chinese authority in Uyghur. She said, all governments including the UK should stand ready to engage with the judgement of the tribunal when it comes. The plight of my people, she continued, has all the hallmarks of genocide. The world Uyghur Congress has commissioned a new independent People Tribunal shared by the British Barrister Sir Geoffrey who prosecuted the trial of Milosevic in the Hague. He led an enquiry last year revealing China’s barbaric practice of organ harvesting of the Uyghur people.

The Dutch politician Mr. Harry Van Bommel said, together with a few Uyghur people, we launched a face book page in the Netherlands. We established individual contacts with members of the Dutch Parliament and some spokespersons in Foreign Affairs (Ministry) are interested in the case of Uyghurs, when it comes to



asylum and also when it comes to the question of human rights violation in Turkistan. These MPs of the Dutch parliament, he suggested, can host meetings in the Dutch Parliament and I am sure it is quite the same in other European

countries. We are working on a petition where we say that certain shop chain in Europe use force labour from Uyghur. We have identified certain branch chain in this regard. We shall bring this to the Dutch Parliament, so that Dutch parliament can start investigation. The national elections are coming in march next year. May be half of the Parliament members will be removed, there will be many new MPs. The old and new MPs will work together, so that there is a platform and continuity of the work for the Uyghurs is not stopped and continued uninterrupted.

Ms. Zumretay Arkin in her speech shared the stories of repressions of her community members in Uyghur and said, at all levels, atrocities are on, family separation, children are left without parents as parents are taken away to the concentration camps. Everything relating to culture of the Uyghur people are being attacked. Counter terrorism law introduced to suppress the Uyghur community has been subjected to international condemnation. The Chinese government are introducing laws to legalize their all bad practices, also changing Chinese laws because, she said, Chinese constitution guarantee Uyghur people's fundamental freedom such as practice of their religion, freedom of speech.

Mr. David Ball said, Uyghur people like every people around the world should be able to enjoy freedom, justice and human rights. There is intense level of persecution and suppression against the Uyghur people by the Chinese state. Every nation has a right to self-determination and independence if they that wishes. There is a broad support among the Uyghur people for that, Mr. David opined. He alleged that the Chinese state is not allowing the independence of trade union with small exception in Hong Kong and even in HK today we are seeing increasing level of suppression and clampdown on freedom.

Mr. Saleem Samad said, The Economist magazine attributes the persecution of Uyghurs as a crime against humanity. It is also the gravest example of a worldwide attack on human rights. Quoting a report by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute he said, this report exposes a new phase in China's social re-engineering campaign targeting Uyghurs, revealing new evidence that some factories across China are using forced Uyghur labour under a state-sponsored "labour transfer scheme" that is tainting the global supply chain. Today the Uyghur population has been marginalised by aggressive colonisation by the Han Chinese majority in Xinjiang. Mr. Saleem was vehemently critical of the Muslim countries for their what he termed 'mysteriously' silence to raise their voice against the atrocities being done with the Uyghur Muslims by the Chinese state. The meeting ended with the thanks giving by the President of the International Human Rights Commission, Switzerland branch, Mr. Khalilur Rahman Mamun.

Bangabandhu's Homecoming: Bangalees got real freedom after he returned home

Bangabandhu's 'homecoming' is the most significant historical event in the history of Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of the nation returned home on 10 January 1972. The day is



remembered by the Bengali nation as Bangabandhu's 'Homecoming Day'. It may be mentioned that 49 years ago, on this day, Bangabandhu returned to the war-torn independent and sovereign Bangladesh. Many leaders across the world have

different histories of returning home from exile but Bangabandhu's homecoming has obliterated all other events of the kind. Bangabandhu's return to the country made the victory in the war of independence complete. On the night of 25 March 1971, the Pakistani forces arrested Bangabandhu from his Dhanmondi 32 residence and kept in jail in Loyalpur, Pakistan.

After the independence of Bangladesh on 16 December 1971, world leaders, especially the then Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi, raised voice demanding the release of Bangabandhu. The defeated Pakistani regime was forced to release Bangabandhu giving way to international pressure. On January 10, after reaching Dhaka, millions of people gleefully greeted him with spontaneous welcome notes from the airport to the Suhrawardi Udyan.

M. Shahinoo Rahman, Professor of English and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Islamic University, Kushtia in an article wrote: Bangabandhu had returned to Dhaka from Pakistan via London and Delhi. Indian diplomat Sashanka Shekhar Banerjee was a sojourn in the entire 13-hour long flight from London to Dhaka. He later recalled: "After being released from prison in Pakistan, Sheikh Mujib arrived at London's Heathrow Airport. I was a fellow



traveller to escort him to Bangladesh from Delhi on the advice of Mrs Indira Gandhi.” On 9 January 1972, at 6:00 am Bangabandhu reached the VIP lounge at Heathrow Airport. He was welcomed by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Officer Ian Sutherland and Indian High Commissioner to London, Apa B. Panth.

“The plane has started flying again after refueling from the Middle East. Bangabandhu squinted at the milk-white clouds. After a while, he stood up and began to sing, ‘Amar Sosnar Bangla, Ami Tomai Valobashi’ (My Bangla of gold, I love you). His eyes got filled with water. He said, ‘Banerjee, you too. Let’s take a rehearsal.’ They sang the song together. Bangabandhu tried to hide the tears and said, “The war-torn country is awaiting a more intense struggle to move forward. My only strength to boost courage in my chest: the



common people of my country.” To the surprise of Sashanka, Bangabandhu suddenly said, “This song will be the national anthem of Bangladesh. Tell me how it will fare.” Sashanka Banerjee responded, “Then, for the first time in history, Rabindranath Tagore will be the author of the national anthems of two countries.”

We become certain about two things from Banerjee’s description. Bangabandhu was very much aware from the

very beginning about the issue of retaining the free and sovereign status of Bangladesh by the removal of any foreign influence over the Bengali nation. And on his way home, with an undetermined inspiration he decided to take the song ‘My Bangla of gold’ as the national anthem of Bangladesh, for this was the song which surged up spontaneously in his mind and voice at that moment. Sashanka Banerjee again said, “The message of West Bengal Chief Minister Siddhartha Shankar Ray came in asking him to halt at Kolkata on the way to his country—the people of Kolkata want to see Bangabandhu. He expressed gratitude and said in a return message that he was grateful for the support of the people of Kolkata in the struggle for independence. But he was impatient to return to Dhaka via Delhi. However, he would come to Kolkata soon. ‘After sending the message, Bangabandhu said, ‘The path seems never-ending. The free skies, people, nature all are calling me. I can’t explain how it feels!’

‘In Delhi, Sheikh Mujib was welcomed by the then Indian President V. V. Giri, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Foreign Minister Sardar Sharan Singh and many others. At the Presidential Palace, he was entertained with the sandesh, samosa, singara and Darjeeling tea brought from Kolkata. In the Mujib-Indira meeting, the issue of the withdrawal of Indian troops from Bangladesh in three months was discussed.’ The homecoming day of Bangabandhu is celebrated every year as a symbol of trust and reliability in the life of the Bengali nation. Hence, the day is very important to the Bengali nation as a beacon of inspiration towards the entanglement with the country in any situation.

Karima Baloch: Pakistani rights activist found dead in Toronto

The body of Karima Baloch, a Pakistani human rights activist, has been found in Toronto, Canada, where she had been living for five years in exile, according to BBC. Ms Baloch, 37, a campaigner from the restive region of Balochistan in western Pakistan, was a vocal critic of the Pakistani military and state. Toronto police issued an appeal after she went missing and later confirmed that her body had been found. Police said there were "not believed to be any suspicious circumstances".



In 2016, Ms Baloch was named in the BBC's annual list of 100 inspirational and influential women for her work as a campaigner. She left Pakistan in 2015, after terrorism charges were levelled against her. She continued to campaign in exile for the rights of people in Balochistan, both on social media and in person. And the threats followed her, according to Lateef Johar Baloch, a close friend and fellow activist who also lives in Toronto. He told the BBC that Ms Baloch had recently received anonymous threats warning someone would send her a "Christmas gift" and "teach her a lesson". Ms Baloch's sister told the BBC Urdu service on Tuesday that her death was "not only a tragedy for the family, but also for the Baloch national movement". "She didn't go abroad because she wanted to, but because... open activism in Pakistan had become impossible," Mahganj Baloch said.

Balochistan province has been host to a long-running separatist insurgency. Ms Baloch was a well-known activist in the region; she was the first female head of the Baloch Students' Organisation (BSO) - a banned activist group.

Activists in Balochistan say thousands of campaigners have gone missing in recent years. The Pakistani military denies accusations that it's brutally suppressing the region's aspirations for autonomy. Several members of Ms Baloch's extended family had been linked to the Baloch resistance movement over the years, and two of her uncles - a brother of her mother and a brother of her father - had gone missing. Their dead bodies were later found.

She joined the BSO in 2006, serving in several different positions in the following years. The group was officially banned by the government in 2013, but its existence continued and Ms Baloch became chairperson in 2015. Only a few months later, she went into exile after terrorism charges were filed against her. In Toronto, she married a fellow activist, Hamal Baloch, and remained active both on social media and in human rights activities in Canada and Europe. Reacting to the news of Ms Baloch's death, the Balochistan National Movement (BNM) announced a 40-day mourning period.

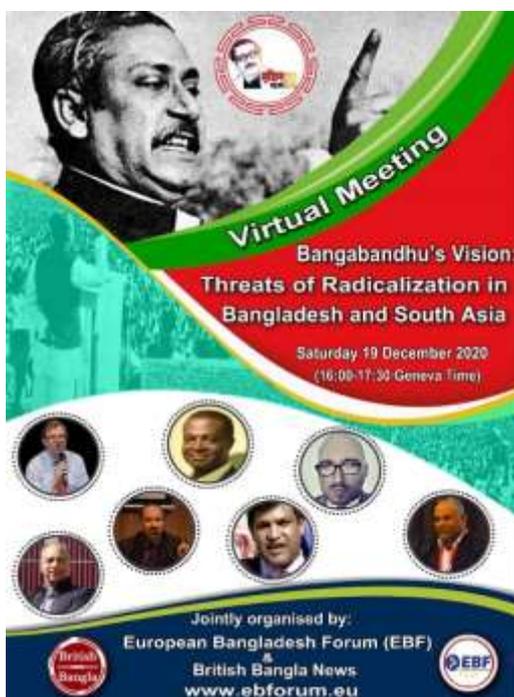
Earlier this year, another former Baloch resident living in exile, journalist Sajid Hussain Baloch, went missing and was later found dead. Mr Baloch, who was related to Ms Baloch, was living in Sweden. Swedish police ruled out any "visible wrongdoing" and the cause of death was ruled to be drowning.

EBF to organise international virtual conference on Bangabandhu's birth centenary

European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) will organize an international virtual conference on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary on Saturday, 27 March 2021. The topic of the discussion is 'The Legacy of Bangabandhu's Secular Political Ideals: Challenges of Radicalization in Bangladesh and the Region'. Experts, researchers, academic, including politicians from Bangladesh and Europe will join the conference as speakers.

Threats of radicalisation in Bangladesh & South Asia remain: EBF virtual conference

London: European Bangladesh Forum (EBF), a Europe-based diaspora organisation organized a virtual conference on "Bangabandhu's Political philosophy & Vision: Peace and Threats of Radicalization in Bangladesh and the Region" on Saturday, 19 December 2020. The conference was scheduled to be organized at the Geneva Press Club in Geneva ON 19 March 2020, but due to Covid-19 it had to be postponed. Speakers from across Europe addressed the virtual conference which was hosted by the London-based British Bangla News Channel and was live on its website and YouTube. Speakers in the conference expressed their concern at the rise of radicalism again in the South Asia saying, 'many in South Asia are fearing the rise of radicalism again. Pakistan's ultra-nationalists in the military and their allies in the Taliban are finding their feet.' Speaking on the operations of Jamaat-i-Islami in Europe, North America, Pakistan and Bangladesh they said, 'Jamaat is often referred to as 'South Asia's Muslim Brotherhood' and need to be cautioned about their behaviour'.



The conference was addressed by the British journalist, Chris Blackburn, a recipient of 'Friend of Bangladesh' award in 2010 for his work in counter-terrorism & supporting the need for war crimes tribunals, Dr. Wolf-Peter Zingel, Associate member of the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University, Germany, C.D. Ugochukwu, Member, Swiss Federal Commission Against Racism & President, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland, Dr. Mojibur Doftori, Board member of the Humanist Association of Finland and a writer and human rights activist, Finland and Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President EBF. Journalist B. Chowdhury moderated the conference.

Presenting his paper on '*Nationalism, socialism, democracy, secularism: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his founding principles of a Free and Secular Bangladesh*', Dr. Wolf-Peter Zingel said, 'the Pakistan army's broken promise of democracy led to the Liberation war; the Bangladesh army's coup d'état of 1975 brought 15 years of military rule; democracy returned in 1990'. He said, 'Secularism became an early victim, when the ruling class started mobilising communal and sectarian sentiments. It was dispensed in Bangladesh, reinstated and is

again under threat'.

British journalist, Chris Blackburn presenting his paper on '*Jamaat-i-Islami in South Asia: Revolutionaries and Renegades*' said, 'it is no surprise that Jamaat's student politics are littered with historical examples which mirror and ape the behaviour of Nazi brownshirts. Chris Blackburn disclosed that the Turkish government has been hosting meetings with the convicted war criminal Chowdhury Mueen Uddin in Ankara. They have posted tweets which refer to him as the Secretary General of Jamaat-i-Islami in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Mojibur Doftori said, 'after 1975 the policies of the military rulers who tried to make Bangladesh another Pakistan, introducing religion-based politics in Bangladesh and they increased mushrooming of religious education in Bangladesh. Those were seeds planted in the post-75 period in Bangladesh Dr. Doftori said adding, 'but those seeds are now poison trees which are challenging the whole Bangladesh, especially politics and economics'. Paying rich tributes to Bangabandhu C.D. Ugochukwu, Member, Swiss Federal Commission Against Racism said, 'he was a man who struggled for independence. But most importantly for the economic and political emancipation of the downtrodden masses, he believed that by limiting the democratic stricts on autocratic regimes, these regimes ultimately lead the country towards radical and terrorist politics.

Pakistan conspiring to derail democratic process in Bangladesh

Brussels: Belgium-based think tank, Bangabandhu International Research Centre (BIRC) organized a virtual international seminar on 27 December 2020 on “Sheikh Hasina government and development of Bangladesh”. It was chaired by Prof Abul Hashem, Vice President of UK Awami League, while BIRC Coordinator, Bazlur Rashid Bulu who is also the President of one fraction of Belgium Awami League moderated the program.

Speakers in the seminar highlighted the success stories made by the Hasina government and said, from a bottomless basket, Bangladesh is today moving ahead to be a tiger economy in near future. They were critical of Jamaat and BNP and said, they were still conspiring to turn Bangladesh Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Chief guest former Justice Shamsuddhin Chowdhury Manik said, Pakistan, its embassy and its allies in Bangladesh were directly involved to derail the democratic process in Bangladesh. In this regard, he mentioned about the expulsion of two Pakistani diplomats in Dhaka, who were found involved in anti-Bangladesh conspiracies. The seminar was addressed among others by Dr. Habib Millat, Member of



Parliament from Bangladesh, Mosarraf Hossain, Bangladesh ambassador in Germany, Mr. William van der Geest, a senior economist in Belgium, Siddiqur Rahman, President, USA AL, Dr Shampa Dewan, Chairman, Silpokola Academy London), Helena Zahangir, Adviser Kumilla Awami League, Dr Abu Golaam Zakaria from Germany, Advocate Sirazul Haque President, Australia AL, Dr. Rezaul Karim, of King Fahad University KSA), Hasnat Mia, honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Germany and Dr. Mahbubul Alam, President Melbourn AL.

French court finds 14 accomplices to Charlie Hebdo attackers guilty

A French court found guilty 14 accomplices of the French Islamist militants behind the January 2015 attacks on the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine and a Jewish supermarket in Paris. Among the 14, was Hayat Boumeddiene, former partner of Amedy Coulibaly who killed a policewoman and then four people in a Jewish supermarket. One of three suspects to be tried in absentia, Boumeddiene was found guilty of financing terrorism and belonging to a criminal terrorist network. She is thought to be alive and on the run from an international arrest warrant in Syria, where she joined Islamic State.

Coulibaly was himself an associate of the gunmen behind the deadly attack at the Paris offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in January 2015. The accomplices were found guilty on different charges, ranging from membership of a criminal network to complicity in the attacks. Terrorism-related charges were dropped



for several of the defendants who were found guilty of lesser crimes. Sentencing will follow shortly. The trial has reopened one of modern France's darkest episodes, with the attacks marking the onset of a wave of Islamist violence that has killed scores more since.

Call to reform open-border Schengen area

The threat of terrorism is a European reality that needs a coordinated and quick answer, French President Emmanuel Macron said recently. Macron also told reporters that Europe must work on a re-think of its open-border Schengen area. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was urgently necessary for Europe to reform the open-border Schengen area in light of recent terrorist attacks. "I want to mention the entry-exit system in the Schengen area, which should be ready in 2022," she said after a meeting with other European leaders on Tuesday. "It is vitally necessary to know who comes in and who leaves the Schengen area. (Reuters).

‘China is violating human rights in Uyghur’: European Foundation for Democracy

The European Foundation for Democracy, a Belgium-based think tank organized a zoom meeting on “China’s human rights violations: Persecution of the Uyghurs” on 13 October 2020 in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Belgium and the U.S. Mission to the EU.

The key speakers were: Mr. Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Member of the European Parliament, Vice President of the ALDE Party, Ms. Rushan Abbas, Founder & Executive Director of Campaign for Uyghurs and Ms. Vanessa Frangville, Director of the Research Center for East Asian Studies, ULB. It was moderated by Ms. Roberta Bonazzi, Director of European Foundation for Democracy, Belgium.

Speaking on the occasion the MEP Mr Ilhan Kyuchyuk called for sanction on China to force the regime what he termed to stop repression on the Uyghur Muslims. But he said, it is not an easy task to deal with China. He underscored the need for religious and ethnic dialogue to achieve common understanding. He said, my religious conviction forces me to fight for the Uyghur people. He told the meeting that he was involved in the approval of the EU resolution on this issue a year ago. He said, EU is now more aware of the grave situation in China than 4/5 years ago. ‘We need to act together to counter the authoritarian regime in China. European Council has to come with a common approach, he added. But he said, to address this issue, not only the European Parliament, the national parliaments should also come forward to take action. We need to find out strategy to counter the false propaganda.



Ms. Rushan Abbas, a Uyghur living abroad narrated her personal loss in the hands of the Chinese regime. Her sister was abducted and till now she does not know her whereabouts, she said. China is violating human rights in Uyghur, which is tantamount to genocide, she added.

Ms. Vanessa said, more scholars should do research on the suppression of the Uyghur Muslims in the hands of the Chinese authorities. She said, academic freedom is attacked in China. Even foreign scholars who are working on the issues are becoming target by the Chinese authorities abroad. She said, when her University (ULB) published on its website report on Chinese repression the university authority received angry letter from China asking them to remove the motion (report) from the University website. If not withdrawn the friendship between Belgium and China would be threatened, the Chinese authority threatened, according to her.

EBF to hold conference on Uyghur issues in mid-March 2021

After the successful conference on EBF plans to organize a follow-up international virtual conference on *'China's Persecution of Uyghur Muslims: The Silence of the World'* in mid-March 2020 during the UNHCR sessions. The meeting will invite speakers from the leading international Uyghur organisations in Europe and America, Europe-based Research centres, human rights organisations, journalists, activists and members of different diaspora communities.

Mr. Dolkun Isa, President of the World Uyghur Congress has agreed to join the conference as the chief guest while former Dutch MP Mr. Harry van Bommel will join as special guest.

Eight Years of Ramu Attack: Buddhists still wait for justice

Justice is yet to be delivered for the mindless communal attacks on the Buddhist community in Cox's Bazar's Ramu upazila in Bangladesh in 2012 although three separate probe reports identifying the attackers and inaction of nonchalant local officials were placed before the High Court seven years ago.

The probes were done in line with HC orders, following separate writ petitions filed as public interest litigations by two Supreme Court lawyers after a mob destroyed 12 pagodas and more than 50 houses in Ramu on this day in 2012. The HC is yet to hold the final hearing on the writ petitions and deliver a verdict on them due to reconstitution of its bench and apparent lack of willingness of the lawyers concerned in moving the petitions before the court.



On October 2 and 3, 2012, Supreme Court lawyers Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua and Advocate Eunus Ali Akond separately filed the two writ petitions, seeking actions against the perpetrators responsible for the attacks and the negligence of local administration in preventing the incidents. The probe reports were submitted to the HC bench, led by Justice Mirza Hussain Haider, who is now a judge of the Appellate Division of the SC. Before the elevation of the judge, the jurisdiction of the bench was reconstituted by the chief justice.

One of the probe reports submitted to the HC on May 16, 2013 blamed the failure of the local administration and intelligence and law enforcement agencies in preventing the

mindless attacks. The probe, conducted by a judicial body, identified 298 people as responsible for the attacks. It also made 20 recommendations that include helping improve the competence and standards of the administration, restricting posts on social media, and awakening a sense of patriotism in people, HC sources said.

Another probe led by police blamed the then superintendent of police of Cox's Bazar and officer-in-charge of Ramu Police Station for their failure. While the probe committee recommended action against the then OC AK Nazibul Islam, it did not suggest any action against the then SP Selim Md Jahangir. The final probe report,

by the home ministry, mentioned that 205 people were involved in the mayhem, which was planned at least 10 days ahead in four phases.

The police have reportedly submitted seven charge sheets against 385 people to the lower court concerned in Cox's Bazar, in connection with the cases filed with Ramu police station over the incident. However, the people accused in the charge sheets do not include any officials in the police, local administration, and intelligence agencies. Only some leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP, including Tofail Ahmed, chairman of Naikhyangchhari upazila of Bandarban, have been named in the charge sheets. Barrister Jyotirmoy said, almost all of the accused in the Ramu violence cases are now out on bail.

2012 RAMU VIOLENCE

On September 29 and 30, 2012, a group of zealots unleashed violence on the Buddhist community in Ramu by spreading a rumour that a Facebook post derogatory to the Holy Quran was made on the Facebook page of a local Buddhist youth, Uttam Barua.

An investigation by The Daily Star revealed that the Facebook profile, with the picture demeaning the Holy Quran which apparently instigated the violence, had been faked.

The bigots set fire to Buddhist temples and houses, vandalising and looting more than 50 houses in Ramu. They also attacked Mushurikhola crematorium at Khurushkul village in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila and tried to attack the houses of the Hindus in Kharulia village. The following day, the zealots attacked and ransacked five Buddhist temples in the bordering Ukhiya upazila and damaged two Hindu temples in Palongkhali union of the upazila. They also set alight and ransacked Buddhist houses in Hoaikong union of Teknaf upazila. (by-Ashutosh Sarkar)

Irene Khan, new UN Special Rapporteur

Former secretary general of Amnesty International, Irene Khan has been selected as the next United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Khan is the first woman to be appointed to this mandate in its 27 years of existence.

The United Nations Special Rapporteurs are independent investigators who examine the situation of human rights all over the globe. They report directly to the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly but do not receive any remuneration for their efforts to maintain their independence.

Khan will be taking up the position in August 2020, and will maintain it for three years. She will be taking the responsibility of documenting violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.



She would also be responsible for gathering information on threats, violence, harassment, persecution or intimidation directed at persons seeking to exercise or to promote the right to freedom of opinion and expression, especially the persecutions of journalists or other professionals in the field of information.

She will also be advising governments, advocating on behalf of those whose rights are affected, and mobilising international support for the cause.

Her responsibilities would also include mobilising international and national communities, including civil society, governments and international organisations, to address the human rights issues.

Khan was also the first woman to head Amnesty International. She had also served as the director-general of International Development Law Organisation, an inter-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of rule of law.