

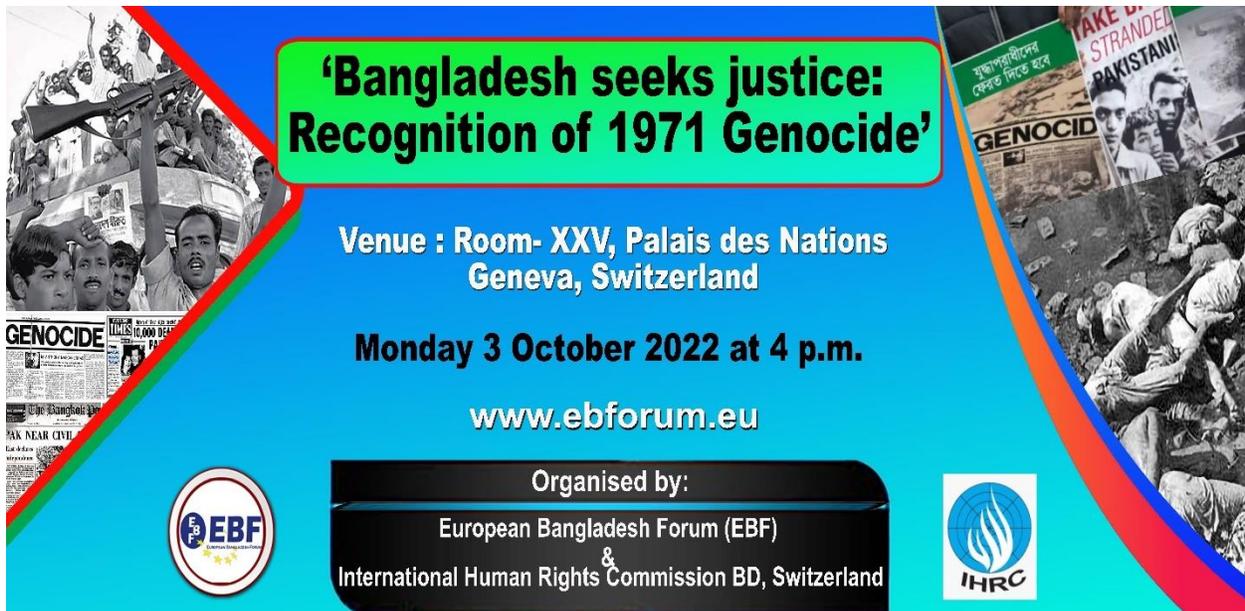
REPORT

SIDE EVENT

on

'Bangladesh Seeks Justice: Recognition of the 1971 Genocide'

During the 51st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council



**'Bangladesh seeks justice:
Recognition of 1971 Genocide'**

Venue : Room- XXV, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Monday 3 October 2022 at 4 p.m.

www.ebforum.eu

Organised by:
European Bangladesh Forum (EBF)
&
International Human Rights Commission BD, Switzerland



Monday 3 October 2022 : 16:00 – 17:00 CEST
Venue: Room XXV, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland



Background & Justification of the Conference

European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) has relentlessly continued campaigning at the European level demanding international recognition of the 1971 Genocide and an unconditional apology from Pakistan for the crime it committed in 1971 in Bangladesh. EBF has also been campaigning to bring the perpetrators to justice. It may be mentioned that the 1971 Genocide in Bangladesh committed by Pakistan is one of the worst mass atrocities that the world witnessed in the 20th century. In nine months, the Pakistani occupation army killed approximately three million people, violated over two hundred thousand women, and forced ten million people to cross the border and take shelter in India. Unfortunately, the Bangladesh genocide has today become a forgotten chapter in the history. Pakistan has not yet acknowledged the crime or offered a formal apology to Bangladesh despite the world-wide demand by the people of Bangladesh and other nationals, including Baloch, Kashmiris who suffered similar atrocities by Pakistan. Due to lack of international recognition, the history of that horror, the 1971 Bangladesh genocide, has faded in today's world. We feel that the 1971 GENOCIDE should be recognised to give justice to the victims of the atrocities meted out by Pakistan and its political leadership. It is high time for the United Nations and the world to recognize Bangladesh genocide to stop any future genocide in the world and to put an end to the culture of impunity.

SPEAKERS PROFILE

Justice Syed Asif Shahkar: is the recipient of ‘Friend of Bangladesh’ award, is a former High Court Justice in Sweden. Justice Syed Asif was an ardent supporter of Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 and a vehement critic of Pakistan government and military rulers for the atrocities committed by them in Bangladesh. As a result he was arrested, tortured and sent to solitary confinement in Pakistan jail for six months. Later, he went on exile in Sweden in 1977 and ever since has been living over there. Justice Syed Asif Shahkar during his student life took active part in the struggle against Field Marshal Ayub Khan and later General Yahya Khan. After surrender of Pakistani soldiers in Dhaka in 1971 Butto came to power and he was released from jail. But later he was again threatened and harassed in Pakistan for what he termed by the ‘fascist government’ of Bhutto, because of his role in 1971 for Bangladesh. He was the first Pakistani to go to Dhaka to receive the award in 2012. He was the General Secretary of the Students front of National Awami Party (Muzaffar) of Panjab Students Union, a nationalist organisation in Pakistan. Justice Syed Asif did M.A. in Philosophy and joined Pakistan Television as Producer. He wrote 14 books, he is the most read Panjabi columnist and writes in Bangladeshi newspapers including ‘Prothom Ali’. Bangladesh is in his heart and he wants to be buried in Bangladesh.



Professor Ms Dr. Tazeen Murshid, D.Phil. Oxon: is a historian and is the author of several books including The Sacred and the Secular: Bengal Muslim Discourses, 1871-1977, (Oxford University Press, 1995). As a professor in International Politics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles she taught in the field of human rights and comparative politics. She has also taught graduate and undergraduate students of history, politics and gender studies at the University of Oxford, University of North London, the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, as well as at East West and BRAC Universities in Dhaka. She researches on intellectual history, women and law, governance, and human rights. She has a distinguished record in academia, and has been awarded various Fellowships during her career. Most notably, in 1999-2000, she was elected a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg, Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin to undertake socio-legal historical research on Women and Law. She runs the Centre for Development Research Cooperation, a research and advisory think tank on politics, governance, and culture, focusing on contemporary socio-economic and, political development, issues of education, race, gender and social disadvantage in addition to conflict resolution, as its Director. Prof Tazeen Murshid is a 1971 genocide survivor along with other members of her family. As a refugee she has worked as a volunteer in various capacities in refugee camps, for the radio and in collecting and compiling news on the war. She has been recognized by the Government of Bangladesh as a Voice Soldier.



Ms. Sanchita Haque, a career diplomat of Bangladesh, is currently serving at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva as CDA, and Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh mission in Switzerland. She has deep knowledge and experience in multilateral diplomacy particularly on development issues such as SDGs, climate change, financing for development, graduation, LDC matters, migration and so on. She represented her country in the negotiations on many global documents including 2030 Agenda and SDGs, Paris Agreement, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Earlier Haque served in the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in New York and Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi. At the Headquarters, she worked in different capacities including as Director, Multilateral Economic Affairs and Director, Foreign Minister’s Office. Haque obtained a Master’s degree in International Affairs from the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia and a Master’s degree in English Literature from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Mr Chris Blackburn: is the Communications Director of Swiss Interstrategy Group (SwissISG). He started his



career in the Middle East and moved his focus to South Asia in 2003. In 2005, He helped setup the US National Intelligence Conference and Exposition (INTELCON) and The Intelligence Summits, both major conferences which were part of the United States 9/11 Commission's public outreach programs. His investigations into Al-Qaeda's political and charity networks have proved invaluable to the reduction in the groups impact around the world. He has been a strong supporter of democracy and human rights in Bangladesh. In 2010, he was a recipient of a 'Friend of Bangladesh' award by the Bangladesh government for his work in counter-terrorism and supporting the need for war crimes tribunals. In 2022, Chris was officially acknowledged

by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, for his work in international relations and security. He's worked closely with Channel 4, BBC Panorama, Voice of America, The Epoch Times, The Global Order, and other media outlets. He is the Head of European Outreach at Global Friends of Afghanistan (GFA), a US non-profit which helps Afghans across the world.

Mr Daniel Seidl: is the Author of 'Celebrating 50 Years of Bangladesh', Munich, Germany. He could be described



as an inventor and innovator with 25 years' experience in Bangladesh. Having served many years as the Executive Director of the Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka, he went on as the Country Director of the Foreign Trade Association in Bangladesh. Together with McKinsey & Company Daniel published one of the the most important studies on the RMG industry of Bangladesh. Among others he worked on projects with the ILO and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He is an independent writer and former anchor for CNN Germany's business news, and was awarded the distinction 'Brand Ambassador of Bangladesh' by the Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce. Mr Daniel is also the Executive Director of German Bangladesh Business Forum, Munich, Germany.

Mr. Munir Mengal: is the President of Baloch Voice Association NGO based at Paris, France. A Political



analyst and a researcher, also engaged in lobbying for the Baloch people Rights. An active human rights activist Munir Mengal working on issue of Baloch missing persons, tortures, killings, summary executions, and human rights abuses by the Pakistani State Forces in Balochistan.

Mr. Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri: is the exiled Chairman of United Kashmir Peoples National Party



(UKPNP), now living in Switzerland since April 1999. Since 2002, he is Secretary General of International Kashmir Alliance (IKA), which is comprised of secular political parties struggling for the independence of Kashmir, Gilgit & Baltistan. He did B.Sc. in 1980 and then Bachelor of Laws in 1982 and Master of Islamiat in 1985 from Karachi University, Pakistan. During student career at Karachi, he struggled for the educational and democratic rights of the students and organised many demonstrations and strikes in order to put administration's attention on the matters. He was several times in jail in Pakistan and Pakistani occupied

Kashmir. Amnesty International declared him a prisoner of conscience when he was abducted by ISI in 1994 and 1998.

Mr Bikash Chowdhury Barua is the Chairman of BASUG- Diaspora and Development, (www.basug.eu), a diaspora organisation registered in the Netherlands, Germany and Bangladesh. He is also the President of European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) Netherlands. He did B.A. with Honours and M.A. in English literature and language from the University of Chittagong. He started his career as a journalist and worked with The Bangladesh Times, Press Institute of Bangladesh in Dhaka, Inter Press Service (IPS) in Amsterdam and later worked with Novib (now Oxfam-Novib) and Swiss organisation HEKS for some time in early 90s as Consultant on Bangladesh. He worked with the Royal Mail Netherlands as head of the Office of Exchange department for 18 consecutive years. Mr. Chowdhury has extensive expertise on migration and development issues and is a member of the International Steering Committee of Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Civil Society. He is also one of the founding Directors of the Global Academy on Migration and Development (GAMD <https://www.globalacademymnd.org/>) and authored four books and writes a regular weekly column in a daily newspaper in Bangladesh.



Mr Ansar Ahmed Ullah: is the co-President of European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) and a community leader who has lived and worked in the UK since late 1970s. He has worked as a youth, social and community worker and has been an active anti-racist campaigner. Ansar has worked in local government, social services and in regeneration department in London in conjunction with various communities, engaging in consultation processes, gaining experience within deprived areas. Country coordinator of BASUG UK, Ansar Ahmed Ullah has organised a number of workshops and seminars for BASUG on Migration and Development, Remittances, Women empowerment and Democracy in Bangladesh, Germany and Nepal. He also maintains BASUG and EBF's contacts with the British mainstream politicians and British Euro parliamentarians.



Khalilur Rahman Mamun: is the President of the International Human Rights Commission Bangladesh, Switzerland. A journalist & human rights defender, Khalilur Rahman is also the President of the International forum for Secular Bangladesh, Geneva, Switzerland and Country Coordinator of the international Diaspora organization BASUG, European Coordinator of Isabela Foundation. He is also a successful entrepreneur and runs business in Geneva.



THE REPORT

Geneva, 3 October 2022 : Speakers at the Side event at the United Nations in Geneva on 2 October 2022 reiterated the demand for the international recognition of Bangladesh genocide in 1971 committed by Pakistan and urged the global community including the United Nations to recognise the 1971 genocide without any delay.

They said, the time is right for recognition of Bangladesh Genocide adding, it is of great importance and an absolute necessity to honour the victims of 1971 genocide and their descendants through recognition. Unfortunately, Bangladesh genocide has today become a forgotten chapter in the history.



Organized by the Europe-based diaspora organisation BASUG, in collaboration with European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) and Switzerland Human Rights Forum Bangladesh the conference was held at a time when the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council was going on at UN in Geneva. A 2 minutes documentary film made by Amra Ekattor, Projonmo Ekattor and BASUG was screened in the program.

Chaired by BASUG Chairman Bikash Chowdhury Barua, the side event was addressed by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva Sanchita Haque, former High Court Justice in Sweden Justice Syed Asif Shakar, Director of Development Research Cooperation, Brussels Professor Tazeen Murshad, Brand ambassador of Bangladesh Daniel Seidl, Communications Director of Swiss Interstrategy Group, Zurich Chris Blackburn, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, President of Baloch Voice Association, France Munir Mengal, EBF UK President Ansar Ahmed Ullah, Organising Secretary of All European Muktiyoddah Sangsad Miah Abul Kalam and President of International HR Commission BD, Switzerland Rahman Khalilur Mamun.

Participants in the side event were members of the Bangladesh community in different European countries, European academics, researchers and human rights activists from other civil society organisations in Europe.

The event was live telecast by London-based British Bangla News channel and watched in different cities across the world including Dhaka and New York.

Addressing the event Justice Syed Ali Shakar said, for the international recognition of the 1971 genocide and to ensure justice to the victims and their family members, we must form an international commission including representatives also from Pakistan. Justice Syed Ali Shakar who is originally a Pakistani and now exiled in Sweden is an ardent supporter of Bangladesh and was vehement critic of Pakistan government and the military rule for their roles in Bangladesh in 1971 for which he was sent to jail for six months.

In her speech Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN in Geneva Sanchita Haque said, under the leadership of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of Bangladesh fought against discrimination, injustice, and oppression before their liberation in December 1971. During the culmination of our struggle, the horrendous ‘Operation Search Light’ was carried out by the Pakistani military on 25th March 1971 targeting unarmed civilians. In the following nine months, the Pakistan Army unleashed brutalities including mass murder, rape, looting, and torture upon the civilians, including children and women in a deliberate manner to eliminate the Bengalis from the-then East Pakistan, which is proudly Bangladesh now.



She added, in Bangladesh, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide. And the ICT is still continuing. The Bangladesh Government has declared 25th March as Genocide Day. Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voice against genocide and demand justice and

accountability for the victims of genocides. We will also continue working for the recognition of 1971 genocide, she concluded.

Prof Dr. Tazeen Murshid said, the demand for international recognition should never stop. The West Pakistan military sought to destroy Bengalis, their political leadership, the intellectual and professional middle classes, who were the backbone of society, and students, who are the future torch bearers of their heritage. It sought to annihilate the Hindu population, and work with loyalists willing to do its bidding. They thus unleashed their ‘kill and burn’ strategy on the population at large, while recruiting allies from extremist religious groups, Bihari minorities and other loyalists.

She added, if an international tribunal is not possible, there could be a public trial in a People’s Court, even if no verdict can be carried out. The aim would be to document both individual and collective crimes, to debate them and pass sentences in order to provide a moral victory and closure. Or it could take the form of a Truth Commission. The evidence so gathered should be disseminated widely and at every opportunity.

The Friend of Bangladesh awardee Chris Blackburn said, Bangladesh wants international recognition for the crimes against humanity. It’s probably the most promising time to achieve that goal. The United Nations like, the United States must also recognise the conflict as genocide, not just acknowledge the bravery of Archer K. Blood for standing up to the Nixon administration. Blood said it was a genocide. The

UN should too. He appealed to the international community, history of 1971 is also our future. Please do the right and just thing. Recognise the genocide of 1971.

Notably, BASUG and European Bangladesh Forum along with their partners have been continuing advocacy and campaign for nearly a decade for the international recognition of the 1971 genocide through media talks, side events, seminars, conferences in Brussels, the Hague, London, Geneva and other European cities.

SIDE EVENT DISCUSSION

Bikash Chowdhury Barua, President, EBF Netherlands: Good afternoon everybody! I, on behalf of BASUG and the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) welcome you all, to this very important Side Event at the United Nations in Geneva, today, at a time when the 51st Human Rights Council Session is going on.



Dear Participants, Today's topic is '*Bangladesh seeks justice: Recognition of 1971 Genocide*'. Genocide- It is an issue, which still remains, unresolved, unattended, unnoticed and sadly, ignored by the international community. That is the reason, we, the Bangladeshi diaspora in Europe, are here today, to draw the attention of the international community, to one of the worst atrocities, the world witnessed, in the 20th century.

In 1971 Genocide in Bangladesh, the Pakistan occupation army killed, 3 million people, violated over 200,000 girls and women, and forced 10 million people, to cross the border and take shelter in India.

The 1971 Genocide, is well documented and reported in the international media and also in the diplomatic correspondences, during that period. Unfortunately, 50 years after this, world has totally remained silent to this issue

Every genocide, every crime against humanity, deserves, to be recognized. It helps the victims, and the generations, that follow. Simply, we need to start talking about it: at schools, at work, with your friends and with your families. It is shocking, when people hear it, for the first time, but it is important, to break the silence and raise awareness. As an individual, but also collectively. As a community.

We need to strengthen our efforts, to open the eyes of the global community. This effort, would be an important tool, to seek justice and redress. Worldwide recognition, should be our goal. 'A genocide not recognized, is a genocide denied.' This makes it, a global issue for our time.

One nation, must be the first to recognise, the genocide of 1971. Those that follow, that brave nation, should find it pretty easy. The evidence is clear. It has been for decades. We want to encourage that first nation, other than Bangladesh, to recognise the horrors, that took place in 1971. By raising our voice, by standing by the victims, and by recognizing, what happened in 1971, we are one step closer, to global peace. Let's break the silence!

Chris Blackburn: Communications Director of Swiss Interstrategy Group (SwissISG): I would like to thank the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) for inviting me to speak today with such distinguished guests and friends. Friends who have made justice and accountability for 1971 a central part of their lives. I thank you all.



I'm the Communications Director of the Swiss Interstrategy Group, we are based in Zurich. Switzerland is like my second home. Geneva is a magnificent place for the world to come together to work through our problems to build a better future. It's an

international city. Hopefully it will be the city that helps the rest of the world to come to terms with the past in Bangladesh.

I'm a great supporter of the United Nation's family. The work the UN transforms people's lives on a daily basis. It's been there to support humanity since its inception in 1945. The UN was formed while the globe



was still fresh with cries of, 'never again'. The UN was created in the shadow of the Holocaust. It was setup to prevent exactly what happened in Bangladesh during the Liberation War of 1971.

Today, I want to highlight the many brave men and women of South Asia, who help to provide security and shelter to people in danger around the world. The armed forces and police of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh put aside their differences to wear the blue helmets of the United Nations to help humanity together. As someone who studies South Asia, it fills me with immense pride.

Bangladesh has many supporters around the world like the Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, who fell in love with the spirit of the Bangladeshi nation and people. But Bangladesh's foreign friends often shy away from the Genocide issue. It's a shame.

Bangladesh has often been referred to as, "the little engine that could". A far cry from the horrible moniker that Henry Kissinger gave it in the 1970s- he called it 'a basket case'. However, there are other countries in South Asia that are probably more fitting of the term today.

In June this year, US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken honored the memory of Archer K. Blood, a US diplomat who stood up to Nixon and Kissinger in 1971 for not condemning the genocide in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Blinken is a shrewd person. The creation of a conference hall in Blood's name at the heart of the US State Department is a sign that the US wants to get back to being an unimpeachable force for human liberty and the rule of law¹.

Let's face it foreign policy realism during the Cold War and the US led *War on Terrorism* led to many international ideals and standards going out of the window for short term gains. It's something the US is trying to repair. Rightly so. It's also put the UN's moral compass under scrutiny too.

¹ <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/06/24/henry-kissinger-archer-blood-state-department-00041932>

It has been a long road to justice for the victims of 1971. We should all be proud of Bangladesh and how far it has come. But there is still work to do. The United Nations knows there were mass rapes and a genocide in Bangladesh. They know because they sent emergency abortion teams to Bangladesh to deal with the aftermath.

We want the United Nations to come clean about their assessments on what took place in 1971. We want them to publish their documents and make them accessible to the world public. If we want the UN to recognise the genocide, we should advise them that they should start right there. Look at the UN archives. Show the public the UN meetings and notes. How much did the abortion teams cost? Which countries helped to pay for them? We want to know.

Today, I want to focus on 4 issues which we must look at while moving forward. The first, **Attacks on Women**, second **Genocide Denial**, third **Attacks on Hindus and** fourth **Deliberate Attacks on Civilians**.

It's important to be able to use highly focussed themes to help us raise awareness for victims. These features are very important to how Bangladesh processes the war crimes issues.

There have been difficult moments. But we should all be proud of the work we have done. I remember long ago when a US think tank said nobody in Bangladesh wants war crimes tribunals apart from a handful of old communists with axes to grind against Jamaat-e-Islami. They were wrong. Bangladesh was right to delve back into its bloody past. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Social history is important, as is justice. Historians and activists need to be able to keep history alive for future prosperity. Bangladesh has suffered mainly due to a lack of resources to keep the *Spirit of Liberation* alive. That's hopefully changed as Bangladesh are putting its neighbours to shame.

Why is it important to recognise the genocide?

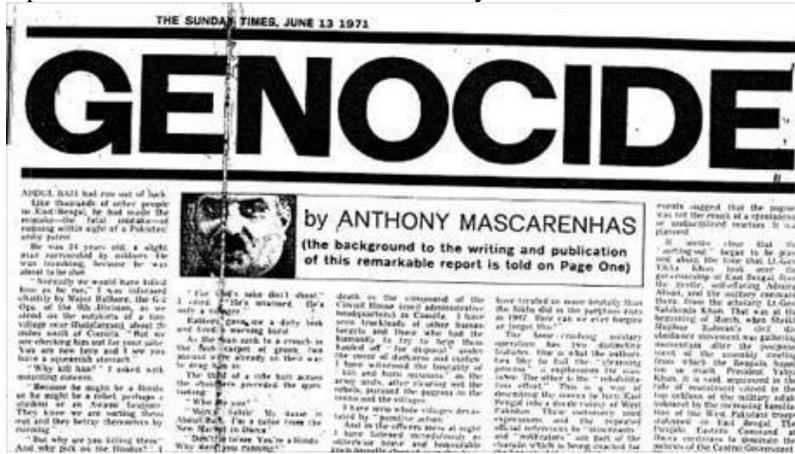
In 2013, when the Shahbagh movement grew across the world, we knew that a new generation of Bangladeshis wanted justice and accountability. It was not just a handful of leftists and communists settling old scores. Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children took to the streets asking for justice for their relatives and friends that had been directly affected by the horrendous actions of the Pakistani army and their proxies.

Why is making Pakistan accountable important? It is because Pakistan continues to flaunt international laws. The lack of accountability for the death squads they created and the systematic brutality of their armour and infantry has made it invincible from justice and accountability.

Bangladeshis were the first major victims of Pakistan's use of jihadi radicals. That dangerous trend, consolidated in 1971, has become a global horror story. Afghans, Sindhis, Kashmiris, and Balochis are all experiencing the same type of horrors as Bangladeshis did during 1971.

We must learn from our mistakes too, so we can carry the torch to the next generation. If we rest on our laurels, we will find that future generations will also be suffering from the impunity that Pakistan currently enjoys. Afghans and Pakistani minorities are still suffering today. The United Nations has to become an avenue to fix that or be damned to irrelevance.

How can we live in a world where people turn their eyes and ears away from crimes against humanity? It's a dagger in the heart of the victims of 1971. Victims of Pakistan's brutality continue to suffer because of a lack of accountability and justice. The perpetrators aren't being punished for their behaviour. Pakistan is in a permanent state of chaos and instability.



“Let sleeping dogs lie” was one of the arguments I heard against Bangladesh’s war crime tribunals. In 2010, I was dismayed to see that Former US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton’s close aides ran cover for Jamaat. Whitewashing their history of crimes against humanity. Why? What has Pakistan or Jamaat done to deserve such impunity? Was it their help in delivering a blow to the USSR during Operation Cyclone? Was it

because of their support for UN designated terrorist groups and nuclear proliferation? We can only guess. But it continues to frustrate the rest of the globe that believes in justice and fairness.

Bangladeshi activists deserve great credit for pressurising Pakistan figures to acknowledge their brutality against their Muslim and Hindu brothers. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was the first main figure to argue for Pakistan to officially apologise for the genocide of 1971. However, over the years Imran “Taliban” Khan as he is now dubbed by the media. Has become something of a loose cannon. His recent comments about the Taliban freeing Afghans from the “shackles of slavery” has shown his true colours to the world. Pakistan is still trying to deny what took place in 1971. Why should we let them? We don’t let Serbs or, even Kosovan Albanians who were their targets, get away with crimes against humanity.

Attacks on Women

Birangona were systematically raped with numbers of up to 200-400,000 affected during the Liberation War. Aid agencies set up abortion centres to deal with unwanted pregnancies. Bina D’Costa and others have documented the abuses carried out by the Pakistani army and their auxiliaries. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the United Nations combined to help perform late-term abortions in Bangladesh after the war ended.

In an interview with researchers, Dr Geoffrey Davis of the IPPF said:

“...Probably the numbers [200-400,000] are very conservative compared with what they did. The descriptions of how they captured towns were very interesting. They’d keep the infantry back and put artillery ahead and they would shell the hospitals and schools. And that caused absolute chaos in the town. And then the infantry would go in and begin to segregate the women. Apart from little children, all those who were sexually matured would be segregated. And then the women would be put in the compound under guard and made available to the troops...Some of the stories they told were appalling. Being raped again and again and again. A lot of them died in those [rape] camps. There was an air of disbelief about the whole thing. Nobody could credit that it really happened! But the evidence clearly showed that it did happen.”²

There has been a major focus on the Birangona over the last few decades. Women Studies are a growing feature of western social sciences and law. A major benefit of this is that a new generation of women and

²Anushay Hossain, Forbes Magazine, May 21, 2012, [1971 Rapes: Bangladesh Cannot Hide History \(forbes.com\)](https://www.forbes.com/2012/05/21/1971-rapes-bangladesh-history.html)

human rights activists are concentrating on the horrific treatment of women during the liberation war. Plays and documentaries have been focusing on the treatment of women. It's a very important area of study.

We need to highlight this important work.

Genocide Denial

Genocide denial is caustic. Especially when the evidence is overwhelming. Victims and perpetrators are denied the right to move on. It denies victims and their families from having much-needed closure. A nation cannot heal when justice is twisted and denied. Genocide denial from within the Muslim world, Bangladesh itself and aided by “mischievous historians” like Sarmila Bose helped to perpetrate genocide denial. Bose was rewarded with a prestigious scholarship position at Oxford University because of her revisionism. Her dubious work on 1971 and calls for aiding the Pakistani military through US sales of F16s are her *magnum opus*. She was given a position she did not deserve. Oxford University should have been ashamed.

Attacks on Hindus

The liberation war was an attack on the weakest in Bangladeshi society. Senator Edward Kennedy wrote a report that was published by the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on November 1st 1971. The report read:

"Hardest hit have been members of the Hindu community who have been robbed of their lands and shops, systematically slaughtered, and in some places, painted with yellow patches marked 'H'. All of this has been officially sanctioned, ordered and implemented under martial law from Islamabad."

Pakistan wanted Hindus out of Bangladesh. At the time, the Hindu community were under Pakistan's protection. The brutal targeting was just as bad as any Nazi inspired or Balkan tragedy.

Colonel Nadir Ali, a retired Pakistani Army officer became a renowned poet in Pakistan, he has stated that he was officially ordered by his superiors to, “Leave no Hindu alive”. Pakistan's attack on Bangladeshi society was multifaceted. They went after intellectuals and those that wanted a plural society in East Pakistan.³

A theme common for Islamists and dictators is the attack on a mysterious “fifth column”, usually this is manifest in powerless minorities. A common trick is to give these defenceless minorities a power they simply don't possess. They become dehumanised, isolated, and threatened as a result. They become the cause of all a nation's ills in the minds of those that want to remove them. This is when genocide and hate crimes become prevalent. Hindus in Bangladesh are still targeted due to this type of thinking. They are often called RAW or Indian agents by radical Islamists. Recent violence has shown that Pakistan inspired elements are still intent on creating chaos in Bangladesh⁴

The recent violence during a Hindu festival was carried out to cause communal tensions. It was instigated by people who want Bangladesh to be more like Pakistan. These people are dangerous and pose a serious threat to community harmony and political stability in Bangladesh.

Attacks on Civilians

Operation Searchlight was the name for highly coordinated attacks on those that would have helped Bangladesh to thrive--- the civilian population. Pakistan's attacks on civilian leaders and intellectuals were spiteful, evil, and calculated. They wanted to deny Bangladesh from having a chance. Those that were at the top of society were collectively punished. But they also slaughtered students in their dormitories.

³[Probir Kumar Sarker](#), The Dhaka Tribune, October 25th 2021, [How Hindus were targeted in 1971 | Dhaka Tribune](#)

⁴ Gloria Methri, RepublicWorld.com, November 24th 2021, [Bangladesh minister claims 'Pakistan's ISI strengthening terror roots in Dhaka' \(republicworld.com\)](#)

Teachers in their schools. People shopping, working, trying to survive daily life. Doctors and nurses were shelled in their hospitals and medical centres.

Al-Badr and al-Shams created lists of people that the Pakistani military wanted to be removed. We know that convicted criminal Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin used his role as a journalist, to help death squad organisers to compile lists of those who were deemed a threat to Pakistan. He informed on his associates and colleagues. He also went out with squads to pick up targets from their homes and places of work.

Conclusion

Why are people too scared to follow Archer K. Blood's lead? Why are they scared to show the same bravery that Pakistani journalist Anthony Mascarenhas showed when he wrote GENOCIDE in capital letters on the front page of a British newspaper- The Sunday Times?

We can't rest while people keep telling us to forget the past and just move on, the issue of recognition for the genocide of 1971 is important for global justice and accountability. Why are the perpetrators being protected? We know that this issue has been fought over and sabotaged.

Pakistan needs to apologise. The United Nations needs to recognise what happened during 1971 if it wants to help heal history. If the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken can recognize, what happened in 1971. The UN should too.



As activists we need to keep having meetings like these. We need to keep informing people about 1971.

Bangladesh wants international recognition for the crimes against humanity. It's probably the most promising time to achieve that goal. The United Nations like, the United States must also recognise the conflict as genocide, not just acknowledge the bravery of Archer K. Blood for standing up to the Nixon administration. Blood said it was a genocide. The UN should too.

History of 1971 is also our future. Please do the right and just thing. Recognise the genocide of 1971.

Justice Syed Asif Shakar (Former Justice in Sweden and recipient of Friend of Bangladesh award): I am grateful that the people of Bangladesh have given the honor to be in this conference, and before I proceed, I'd like to tell you, why I'm here!



I am here because of this magic piece of award which was given to me in 2012. And why, because in 1971, when the freedom fight was going on in Bangladesh, it was horrible to talk about this massacre in Pakistan, and that time I was in Lahore, Punjab, and student leader of one nationalist Punjabi party during this moment. And I arranged a protest against that and I was a poet, I wrote some poems against that, and result of that I was arrested.

It was not simply arrest, it's sort of torture, and I was put into solitary confinement for a long time. The worst possible punishment was that, I was labeled as a traitor and people spitted on me, because I was supporting Bengali people, and I was Indian agent, I was Bengali agent. And other types of punishment which I suffered many years, that I was hated from the Bengali people, because when they knew, I am a Punjabi, they said to me, that hey you are brutal Punjabi, I could not explain to them, that I am not brutal Punjabi, I suffered for you, and I am stamped for whole life as a traitor but anyhow, my salvation came in 2012, when I was recognized by the state of Bangladesh as a freedom fighter, and I was given this award (as Friend of Bangladesh). I am happy that I was compensated in one way that all the hatred which I received by the Bengali people being a Punjabi, I was compensated with enormous love.

And the Bengali people they have given me enormous, emotional love and I was considered as a sort of a national hero in Bangladesh, when was over there. I thank to Bengali people and I praise for them.

Now I come back to the genocide issue, because I have limited time. As writer, as a humanist, I condemn all type of genocides, which were committed in the history. And all genocide which will be occurred in future, they must be stopped. There should be no more genocide in the world. And it should be the duty of every human being and rather the whole world that no more genocide in the world.



And those genocides, which have occurred and taken place, they should be investigated by the international committee. And they should take the action. And one thing which I convey through this conference that if

some organization, some commission is formed, there must be some Pakistani included in that commission, and if it can be possible, some generals and judges. Because I want to make it clear that most of the Bengali people believe that all Pakistani people they are anti-Bengali, they are inhuman that's not true. There were people in Pakistan, who stood for the Bengali people and supported them. And I still believe there are people, who will say the truth. One example is Hamoodur Rahman. Hamoodur Rahman is a Pakistani, he has written a report, which is the best document about this genocide. So, there could be more Hamoodur Rahman in Pakistan.

At the end, I want to thank Hasina Wazed and pray for her, because she has taken very appreciable steps towards the traitor, collaborators and they deserve it, and I hope she will continue in the future also.

Prof. Dr. Tazeen M Murshid, Director of Development Research Cooperation, Brussels: I had just started university studies. Our class was involved in rehearsing for a department play for Fresher's welcome when we heard that the Assembly session had been postponed, again. People became agitated, tense, fearful. This was the 25th of March.



Some firebrand students had burnt the flag of Pakistan a few days earlier. Frustrated with the stalling nature of negotiations for the transfer of power to elected civilians, they were urging Sheikh Mujib to hoist the flag of an independent Bangladesh. He refrained. But he had, on the 7th of March, rallied the nation for a non-violent, non-cooperation movement in protest against the military's cancellation of the first Assembly session due to be held on the 3rd of March. In an electrifying speech, he had asked the nation, that had overwhelmingly elected him by giving his party 70.45 per cent of the votes and 167 of the 169 seats, to be prepared for any eventuality. However, he stopped short of declaring unilateral independence.

We had inexplicable forebodings. The rehearsal stopped and we all hurriedly returned to our separate homes. Our brothers took longer to return, they were checking for signs on the roads. Some people had started erecting road blocks with trees, upturned vehicles and stones. An eerie silence had enveloped the streets. Even the birds had stopped calling.

Our father, who had been instructed by colleagues to stay away from home for a while, had remained indoors that fateful night. As an advisor to Sheikh Mujib, he could be a likely target for vengeance. My mother, a directly elected Member of Parliament, was not so advised. As a woman, it was unthinkable that she could be harmed.

That night as we slept, we were rudely awakened around midnight by the sounds of machine gun fire. The skies were lit with military tracer lights. *Operation Searchlight* had started. We lived in the Dhaka University Campus housing estate on Fuller Road, one of the first areas to be targeted by military action. From our windows we saw neighbours being taken away and shot. We saw fire coming from the slums alongside the Nilkhet railway line.

We changed into our day clothes and waited for that fateful knock on the door. It did not come. Months later, we learnt why. According to the Army master plan, our house was marked as located at the second gate to the right when entering Fuller Road from Nilkhet Road. But unbeknown to them, on the 22nd of March that gate had been sealed off because a young widow on the ground floor was afraid of the street agitation virtually on her doorstep. The second gate thus led to another building behind ours, where blood was spilt. We got a second chance, a borrowed life.

When the curfew was lifted, my brother and father took a walk in the campus and saw the carnage with their own eyes: The University Teachers Club, Madhu's Canteen, student hostels like Iqbal Hall and Jagannath Hall were riddled with bullet holes, the walls and floors were blood streaked. Rokeya Hall was set on fire and those trying to escape were shot. A hand or a body part protruded from the hastily dug mass

graves in the campus grounds. The corridors were littered with student possessions: books, id cards, pictures. The students were all gone, massacred. They were not trained to take on a professional army!

INTERNALLY DISPLACED

It was clear that we could no longer stay where we were. We became internally displaced. We first found ourselves pushed from house to house in Dhaka, and then toward the villages and finally towards the border with India, driven by fear of reprisals among the extended family who provided us with shelter and by aerial strafing of the countryside.



An exodus began. Reports were coming through of a rising resistance movement that every young person wanted to join. It gave us hope. We left our last sanctuary in our village home and headed for the unknown on April 14, 1971. It was a stormy night. The *kalbaishakhi* had struck with thunder and lightning. I woke up in a sweat, wanting to be inside my mother's womb again, to feel safe, protected. We were going to stay the night at a boatman's house next. But on the way by boat on the Teesta river, a student of my father recognized him and took us to the empty house of a relative near the Agartala border in Shingarbil. We abandoned this place after a few days: we were falling ill due to lack of food and potable water; but primarily because our neighbours warned us that if the army came looking, they would inform on us. They were frightened. Our last act before we finally crossed the border into the unknown, was to take a handful of earth with us.

REFUGEE

As witnesses to crimes against humanity, we saw numerous refugee camps in India along its borders with East Bengal. From across the border, we saw schools where barely clad young women were kept as comfort women. Sometimes they were paraded naked along the border to taunt the Bengali men and freedom fighters for their ineptitude.

I became a volunteer to help the war effort in any way I could.

[I taught primary age refugee children in Kalyani camps; for a while I joined a group of musicians from old music school, Chhayanaut, that went from training camp to camp to raise the morale of the Mukti Bahini freedom fighters. Next, with other young volunteers, I began indexing news reports on the war at Bangladesh Information Bank established at Netaji Bhavan, Kolkata. Simultaneously, I prepared news briefs and presented the English news on *Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra*.]

[Interestingly, we also got news about the free zones from inside Bangladesh, sometimes through diaries that were smuggled out. I learnt that my mother had been sentenced in absentia with 14 years rigorous imprisonment and a shoot on sight order for offences of rape, arson and murder! She came to the limelight when she addressed both the houses of the Indian Parliament on the situation in Bangladesh.]

STARK REALITY HITS AFTER INDEPENDENCE

After independence, I met many of the young comfort women who were pregnant and in the care of the Ministry of Social Welfare or in the homes run by Mother Theresa. They looked vacant. Some convinced themselves that they had been married. Others just looked away.

Several of our close friends, relatives and teachers had been killed, or were missing. Those youths who had been recruited into the auxiliary forces of the Pakistan Army, such as the Razakaars and Al-Badr, went into hiding.

The real horrors of the war began to come to light: of reckless and indiscriminate killing of old and young, men and women, children and infants; of barbaric rape and murder of pre-pubescent girls, the elimination of women forcibly impregnated; of villages and slums being burned and razed to the ground; of death squads searching for students and political activists; of professors and journalists being picked up from their homes; and auxiliary forces doing the bidding of the military command, including procuring women for them, no matter how they were treated.

FACT SHEET

The destruction of human capital in East Pakistan, which had a very small middle class at the time is incalculable. The figures often quoted include:

- 10 million refugees,
- 30-40 million internally displaced,
- 3 million killed,
- 942 killing fields with skulls and bones of 1000 to 10000 in each,
- between 200000 to 400000 women raped,
- 170000 abortions among raped women
- 5000 war babies given up for adoption
- 30000 suicides among raped women
- 1100 intellectuals, professors, journalists, writers, lawyers and physicians killed

WEST PAKISTAN's WAR OBJECTIVES:

The West Pakistan military sought to destroy Bengalis, their political leadership, the intellectual and professional middle classes who were the backbone of society, and students, who are the future torch bearers of their heritage. It sought to annihilate the Hindu population, and work with loyalists willing to do its bidding. They thus unleashed their 'kill and burn' strategy on the population at large, while recruiting allies from extremist religious groups, Bihari minorities and other loyalists.

By targeting the political party, the Awami League, and its supporters, the army eyed 70.45 % of the population that had voted for that party, i.e, the majority of the population of East Pakistan, considering that the AL had a landslide victory in a massive voter turnout, and won 167 out of 169 seats allocated to East Pakistan.

The educated section of the population constituted a small fraction of the total at the time. By targeting them, the professors, teachers, students and professionals like doctors, lawyers and physicians for elimination, the Generals sought to destroy that entire middle class. The rest of the population would then be virtually enslaved for menial work, who would be managed by staff and personnel brought in from West Pakistan, a process that had already begun in 1971, because Bengali staff could not be found.

IMPUNITY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES:

The rape of Bangladesh was accompanied by impunity. Impunity of the auxiliary forces, impunity of the military on the ground, impunity of the military high command. And at the apex of the ladder were

Pakistan's international patrons. International norms of conduct and accountability were flouted at every stage. Impunity went hand in hand with the arrogance of power.

For Bangladesh, this has had devastating consequences: continuation of an ideology conflict, ongoing political assassinations, coups, countercoups, and rising terrorism. The death squads of 1971 have taken new forms.

Pakistan lost an opportunity to set its house in order and return the army to the barracks where it belongs in a democracy. Instead, it continues to create and train terrorist cadres in Afghanistan and elsewhere as it did in East Pakistan with the continued backing or at least, non-chalance of its foreign patrons.

GENOCIDE

In the popular imagination of Bengalis, a *Gonohatya* has taken place, meaning multiple massacres in a pre-planned, pre-meditated way on the basis of a master plan, intended to tame and subdue the Bengali population. That there was intent to kill Bengalis is evident from the actions of the army, the orders of General Niazi to his troops: 'This is enemy territory, take what you like', or questions asked to soldiers like, 'How many Bengalis or Hindus have you killed today?' The Hamoodur Rahman Commission, while down playing the serious nature of Pakistan's actions, nevertheless admits to atrocities and unlawful killings. Ten million Bengalis would not have fled to refugee camps in India, where a tenth of them had died, if they had felt safe at home.

It is immaterial how many exactly were intentionally killed, maimed, tortured, brutalized in the terrible war that was unleashed. What is material is that the nature of the crimes be clearly recorded and acknowledged by all parties to the conflict and most certainly by the perpetrators. It must be recognized that heinous, inhuman crimes were perpetrated on an unarmed, sleeping population by its own government. While fraudulently negotiating the transfer of power to elected representatives, it gained time to amass weapons and bring in thousands of military personnel to pursue a final solution. The point of no return was reached when the massacres began. And while the press, locally stationed diplomats and the international community were fully cognizant of the unfolding genocide, the international community is yet to publicly acknowledge that fact.

JUSTICE, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CLOSURE

After fifty years of the Genocide and the War of Liberation, the people have only received partial closure from the trials of some of the Bangladeshi war criminals since 2010. The culpability of the military led Pakistan government is yet to be acknowledged by the international community despite overwhelming proof. We seek justice for our martyrs and demand that the perpetrators take responsibility for their actions in the cause of a peaceful future for us and the world. It is our legal right as members of the world community. It is our moral right as human beings.

Kissinger offered the war criminals a lifeline, by suggesting that though the army committed excesses they had the right to restore internal order. However, crimes against humanity have no national borders. Nor do actions the consequences of which are genocidal.

It has been argued that intent to destroy a particular group constitutes genocide, by which count the genocide of Hindus can be proven, but not of the larger Bengali Muslim population. However, the term 'intent' is a subjective term that is hard to define, but actions demonstrate intent vividly. From the persistent nature of the violations, the cruel and degrading treatment of victims, of arbitrary killings and massacres of people without following due process, the destruction of entire villages and the rape of hundreds and thousands of women and children, suggest the intention was genocidal, and the consequences genocidal. But that is a task for lawyers and jurists.

From a moral perspective, I see the sheer magnitude of the attempt to change the beliefs and way of life of Bengalis to be genocidal. For Bengalis were considered inferior, referred to as 'chickens', or monkeys and

so, not fit to rule. They faced discriminatory treatment in the share of jobs and access to resources for decades and chose to protest. They faced genocide.

Acknowledgement of war crimes, crimes against humanity and of genocide is the moral right of the victims. To forget this barbarity is to permit the recurrence of such acts.

CONCLUSION: WHAT CAN BANGLADESH DO?C

Given the history of obstacles Bangladesh has faced in obtaining justice, and acknowledgement, what can and should Bangladesh do? It can try the Pakistani war criminals in Bangladesh in absentia, or even posthumously, with or without Pakistan's cooperation. In return for the release of Prisoners of War by clemency on humanitarian grounds, Bhutto had promised to try them in Pakistan. That never happened. Bangladesh should therefore reclaim the right to try them in Bangladesh to get closure.

If an international tribunal is not possible, there could be a public trial in a People's Court, even if no verdict can be carried out. The aim would be to document both individual and collective crimes, to debate them and pass sentences in order to provide a moral victory and closure. Or it could take the form of a Truth Commission. The evidence so gathered should be disseminated widely and at every opportunity.

The demand for international recognition should never stop.

Shanchita Haque, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva: I thank the BASUG and EBF for organizing today's side event. I also thank all the panelists for their thought-provoking observations and also for the recollections of some of them of the 1971 war.



As many of you are aware, under the leadership of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of Bangladesh fought against discrimination, injustice, and oppression before their liberation in December 1971. During the culmination of our struggle, the horrendous 'Operation Search Light' was carried out by the Pakistani military on 25th March 1971 targeting unarmed civilians. In the following nine months, the Pakistan Army unleashed brutalities including mass murder, rape, looting, and torture upon the civilians, including children, and women in a deliberate manner



to eliminate the Bengalis from the-then East Pakistan, which is proudly Bangladesh now. Three million people were killed, and more than 200,000 women and girls were sexually abused and raped by the Pakistani Army and its collaborators. Besides, 10 million people were forced to take shelter in India to flee the atrocities of the Pakistani occupation forces. Finally, on 16 December 1971 with our liberation, the genocide was put to an end. Hence, we as a nation continue to bear the pain of this genocide.

In Bangladesh, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide. And the ICT is still continuing.

The Bangladesh Government has declared 25th March as Genocide Day. These are a few efforts to keep this memory alive and to make awareness among people about the genocide. To conclude, Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voice against genocide and demand justice and accountability for the victims of genocides. We will also continue working for the recognition of 1971 genocide. I thank you. Joy Bangla.

Daniel Seidl, Brand Ambassador of Bangladesh and Editor, 50 Years of Bangladesh: Good afternoon to you all, ‘shuvo oporanko’ in Bangla. I remember the statement of a freedom fighter, who told me 25 years ago, Daniel, I hope to see you in strong Bangladesh. He had a wish, it was justice and prosecution of the criminal, in the way to get our dignity back.



This was in our year, 25 years back and now it is 50 years after 1971. Now Bangladesh is truly not the basket case, it is a success case. Look at all the countries around, who envy Bangladesh for lot of indicators, economic, education, even it goes to women empowerment. He said, you know, one of the reasons why we are successful is our identity, our flag. Most of the people do not even know, that the flag of Bangladesh, has its own reason. Green stands for the hope and for the field,

red stands for the bloodshed and the circle or the symbolism of the sun. Bangladesh being involved in a genocide, today is also a merciful country that hosts the Rohingya.

I turn to think around. Many years ago I witnessed the big problem with some governments. I told them, Bangladesh is rising economically and it is having a brand issue. Myanmar is the opposite, but the community decided in favor of Myanmar, now we see what happened. Being a German, I can tell you, it



takes time, it takes time to get justice, recognition, compensation, and even this year, UN general assembly had to adopt the resolution on holocaust denial. People started denying.

Branding Bangladesh is near to my heart, and made in Germany today stands for quality, it used to be a warning. Warning signals for bad quality. That is the real problem in the whole world. I can tell you a quote, if you are not making a concerted effort to brand your nation, other people might do it for you and for their own purposes.

In this regard, I called a Hollywood producer and said, can you honor the victims of 1971 and create the song. Because of time, I would like to just quote the last phrase that has called from victim to victory. Lots

of radio channels have picked that up and said, this is not the sad song, this is not George Harrison in 1971. This is Bangladesh, which is truly a triumph of success.

Coming back to the freedom fighter, at the beginning, well, Bangladesh is strong, it can negotiate, it can negotiate even with the Pakistanis. Bangladesh has shown mercy to the world, Bangladesh is a benchmark and last but not the least, now it is the time to seek justice. Thank you.

Munir Mengal, President of Baloch Voice Association, France:



I am highly thankful, for being part of this event. Actually the purpose of this event at the 51st human rights council session is to plea at the United Nations to her body, to her group, reporters, that there was a genocide that happened and it is time, it is highly needed to recognize that.

Until and unless this body doesn't recognize that genocide, other peoples will get suffer, through the same strategy, through the same system, through the same forces. So the intent behind the genocide from which the Bangladeshi people went through, was to eliminate them, was to eliminate their culture, was to eliminate their identity, was to eliminate their language. And for that, you know, as Justice Shahkar mentioned in his speech, that there was a report that was made by a Pakistani judge Hamoodur Rahman. I have got, I have read some scripts of that. In that, it is clearly mentioned that, when General Kahan was there, he used to ask his followers that tonight, you have made how many, you have raped how many women. So in his word, "Sher aj kitne shikar thi" in Urdu. This was the intent of that army that every army man was there, he has to rape a woman. And he has raped as many women as he could and that was a success.



Because of that, you know, whatever they did over there, how they used religious terrorist organizations, they create local groups, they were using the same way. There they named it differently, but we are seeing what they are doing in Baluchistan particularly. I mentioned that, they have created local groups which in Baluchistan we call, these are the terrorist groups. Which are supported, assisted by the state, they are using the state machinery, they are using the police, army and FC camps to take the people, to torture them. We have, you know, many accounts where women are victim of enforced disappearances. If we start counting the number, Pakistan does not allow that, but more than 100 of Baloch women are lingering in military torture cells, and they are being used sexually over there.

Just I present one account of that, that also resembles, how she (Prof Dr Tazeen Murshid) said that a man made a suicide, before his suicide he put a note, that yesterday FC commander called me, I went there, he said that your daughter is married to a person who is non-believing person. So tomorrow bring your

daughter to our camp, so despite of bringing my daughter to that army camp he made suicide and made this note. And this is what that the reports are there, audio and visual documentaries are there, how Pakistani army, treated the Bangladeshi, particularly the women, and how (the students and teachers of) Dhaka university became victim.

I myself have gone over there, Dhaka and have seen, the intent behind killing the Bangladeshi professors was to eliminate their future generation. And this is what we are seeing that they are doing with us. They are attacking our schools, attacking the students who are going to the school. So a threat, harassment of a society was done, and being done through the same way, through the same strategy, through the same men.

Even today when if we go particularly in the Pakistani recognized colleges and universities, where many



professors, even today say Bengalis are gaddar! Bengalis, their height was small, they used to eat rice, so they were the people like that. I went to Bangladesh at night and in Pakistani news TV channel the reporting was that, 'Baloch gaddar Bengali gaddar se modod magne gaye'. It means Baloch traitors went to Bangladeshi traitors to seek support of Bangladeshi people, although we were there in supports of Bangladeshi survivors. Particularly their professors, teachers, the creams of the Bangladeshi people were eliminated by those forces brutally and we condemned that from this floor, and I again request UN and her body particularly human working groups, like there is a special committee on the name of prevention of genocide.

Until and unless we do not recognize the genocides which had happened, there are evidences, so unless we do not have the courage, unless we do not take any initiative, unless we do not come out of our critical interests, we cannot prevent genocide in any part of the world. Thank you.

Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party and Secretary General, Jammu Kashmir International People's Alliance:



Respected speakers, ladies and gentleman, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for inviting me to this seminar on the topic of recognizing Bangladesh genocide of 1971.

On behalf of the United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) I extend solidarity and full support to the people of Bangladesh. Bangladesh got freedom and this is a great inspiration not only for people of Jammu and Kashmir but for all oppressed nations of Pakistan.

In December 1971, within a week of replacing General Yahya as the President, Bhutto formed a commission headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Hamoodur Rahman. The Commission's responsibility was to ascertain the facts of the 1971 debacle. The commission interviewed 213 persons including General Yahya, Z. A. Bhutto, the Chief of the Air Force, the Chief of the Navy, senior commanders, and various political leaders. It submitted its first report in July 1972.

Originally there were 12 copies of the Report. These were all destroyed; except the one that was handed over to Z. A. Bhutto. Neither Bhutto nor the Army, which took over in 1977, made the Report public. Though the Report remained classified, its contents were presumably learned from various writings and memoirs of the military officers narrating their side of the story of what the Hamoodur Rahman Inquiry Commission had to say. The report recommended public trials of the concerned officers responsible for the 1971 defeat.

The inquiry was reopened in 1974. The Commission again interviewed 73 bureaucrats and top military officers and submitted its supplementary report in November 1974. It was this supplementary report that was presumably published by an Indian magazine in August 2000, and afterwards allowed to be published in the Pakistani press.

An editorial entitled, "General Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan written by Ardeshir Cowasjee on the basis of the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report, demonstrated that "three men principally had been responsible for the loss, at the end of 1971, of half of Jinnah's Pakistan end of story.

Originally, it was thought that the Government of Pakistan had declassified the Report in 2002 and made it available to the public as public domain, whereas it was free to download on the internet. However, it was reported to be a "Supplementary Report" which was created after the prisoners of war returned after two years. The First Report has never been published nor is it accessible to anyone.

People of the Former Princely state of Jammu Kashmir celebrate December 16 as the day of liberation and defeat of the tyranny of the mighty power of the Pakistan army. We salute their struggle and pay tribute to the 300000 martyred people of Bangladesh, who rendered their life against fighting the forces of genocide, hate, inhuman, evil and exploitation.

The Kashmiri people always respected the unmatched struggle of Bengali people as the movement of freedom and war of liberation from Pakistan, what state of Pakistan, its security establishment and the apologetic intellectual class term it as the "Fall of Dacca" to humiliate the struggle for independence by the Bangla people.

It was a bitter and bloody war of Liberation from Pakistan fought, based on Bangladeshi peoples' aspirations, for democracy, identity and for a more progressive society.

Bangladesh's emergence as an independent secular state effectively shattered the two-nation theory that had formed the basis for the creation of Pakistan in 1947 and demonstrated that religion alone was not sufficient to forge a cohesive national identity. Pakistani Major General Khadim Hussain Raja wrote in his book that Niazi, in presence of Bengali officers would say 'Main iss haramzadi qom ki nasal badal doonga (I will change the race of the Bengalis)'. A witness statement to the commission read "The troops used to

say that the Commander (Lt Gen Niazi) was himself a rapist.

Pakistan has a rhetoric that Indian intervention was the reason of Fall of Dacca in a bid to hide the facts of the defeated Pakistan army savagely killed three million people and raped three hundred thousand women during their less than nine months of unsuccessful fight to preserve the integrity of unnatural Pakistan.

However, the fact is that the unarmed and common people have started their struggle on March 25, 1971, up to their victory over the Pakistani forces. The Indian army has come to the scene after December 1, when Pakistan instigated Indian forces stationed inside the Indian border.



1971 War and Bangladesh genocide:

The genocide in Bangladesh began on 26 March 1971 with the launch of Operation Searchlight, as West Pakistan (now Pakistan) began a military crackdown on the East Pakistan wing (now Bangladesh) of the nation to suppress Bengali calls for self-determination. During the nine-month-long Bangladesh Liberation War, members of the Pakistan Armed Forces and supporting pro-Pakistani Islamist militias from Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami killed between 200,000 and 3,000,000 people and raped between 200,000 and 400,000 Bengali women in a systematic campaign of genocidal rape.

The actions against women were supported by Pakistan's religious leaders, who declared that Bengali women were gonimoter maal (Bengali for "public property"). As a result of the conflict, a further eight to ten million people fled the country to seek refuge in neighboring India. It is estimated that up to 30 million civilians were internally displaced out of 70 million.

Many of those killed were the victims of radical religious paramilitary militias formed by the West Pakistani Army, including the Razakars, Al-Shams and Al-Badr forces. There are many mass graves in Bangladesh, and more are continually being discovered (such as one in an old well near a mosque in Dhaka, located in the Mirpur region of the city, which was discovered in August 1999). The first night of war on Bengalis, which is documented in telegrams from the American Consulate in Dhaka to the United States State Department, saw indiscriminate killings of students of Dhaka University and other civilians.

During the war, the Pakistani Army and its local collaborators, mainly Jamaat e Islami carried out a systematic execution of the leading Bengali intellectuals. A number of professors from Dhaka University were killed during the first few days of the war. However, the most extreme cases of targeted killing of intellectuals took place during the last few days of the war. Professors, journalists, doctors, artists, engineers and writers were rounded up by the Pakistani Army and the Razakar militia in Dhaka, blindfolded, taken to

torture cells in Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Nakhhalpara, Rajarbagh and other locations in different sections of the city to be executed en masse, most notably at Rayerbazar and Mirpur. Allegedly, the Pakistani Army and its paramilitary arm, the Al- Badr and Al-Shams forces created a list of doctors, teachers, poets and scholars.



The surrender of the Pakistani forces was a very shameful act, when the commander in chief surrendered his pistol and requested the Indian Generals to save the Pakistani soldiers from Bangladeshi people and take over the barracks where soldiers are stationed.

During their military operation in the whole of former East Pakistan, the Pakistan army began an orgy of killings, rape, violence, and looting. There are pieces of evidence, which were reported in so many reports of media and human rights organizations that the occupying forces raped girls before the fathers and mothers, and the male members were shot dead after severe torture before their children.

The military shelled Dhaka University, killing the university teachers and students; the soldiers broke into women's dormitories and raped the women. They buried the dead in mass graves that were bull-dozed over by the tanks. Their campaign of terror then moved into the countryside, where they battled local troops who had mutinied.

The military used artillery and heavy machine gun fire to crush the Bengali civilians, the local police, and the Bengali troops.

The military specially targeted the Hindu minority in East Bengal because they blamed "Hindu" India and the Hindu community in East Bengal as the mastermind behind Bengali secession plans.

I urge United Nations UN, European Union and the international community to officially recognize the mass killings by the Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War in 1971 in Bangladesh as genocide. Culprits must bring to justice those who had committed crimes against humanity.

Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President, European Bangladesh Forum (EBF), UK



As we have time constraints, I am not going to sum up all the speakers, but just briefly to say, I wish to thank all the panel members today, who have contributed to this discussion.

And many of you have already said the whole purpose of this event here today is to appeal to the UN and the world community, in recognizing the genocide that was committed in Bangladesh in 1971 and as Chris Blackburn mentioned that it is not the case that the United Nation was not aware of the atrocities being carried out in 1971. Since 1971 we've had the genocide recognized in Rwanda, Bosnia and Cambodia. So why not Bangladesh, I mean, how long we have to wait?

It has been over 50/52 years. As our permanent representative has mentioned that the Bengali nation has been suffering for the long time in pain, so it is about the time that the United Nation and the world community come together to recognize the genocide that is committed in Bangladesh, and I think, with that we will probably be a step over in seeking justice, for the victims in 1971.



Rahman Khalilur Mamun, President, International Human Rights Commission BD, Switzerland

Dear friends, ladies and gentleman, honorable guest speakers, deputy permanent representative of Bangladesh mission to the UN, members of different communities in Europe and fellow Bangladeshis from Switzerland.



It was entitled a very fruitful discussion on an issue in the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh which is still being incurred by the international community, and the United Nations. I believe you all enjoyed the discussion today. I, on behalf of BASUG, Switzerland Human Rights Forum Bangladesh, and European Bangladesh Forum (EBF), thank you all, for your participation in this program today.

We thank our friends and supporters in the European community, Bangladeshi diaspora, Afghan, Kashmiri, Sinddhi friends for their supports by attending this event and expressing their solidarity and support to 1971 genocide in Bangladesh.

Our special thanks go to the honorable deputy permanent representative of Bangladesh to UN, Shanchita Haque, former Justice Syed Asif Shahkar from Sweden, Prof. Dr. Tazeen Murshid from Belgium, Chris

Blackburn from UK, Daniel Seidl from Germany, Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri and Munir Mengal for their contribution, to make this discussion a success. Finally, I thank Ansar Ahmedullah and Bikash Chowdhury Barua, both from BASUG and European Bangladesh Forum for their hard work in organizing this event today at the United Nations in Geneva. Our thanks also go to Abdul Hai, Project Director of BASUG, Germany, who has been covering this news of the event. Personally, I am deeply grateful and heartiest thanks Mr and Mrs Abdul Rouf, Miah Abul kalam, Rokeya Apa from Germany, Udoyon Barua from Paris, Arun Barua, Sasim Barua, Sajia Sultana and all our respected audience here. Joy Bangla, Joy Bangobondhu

Miah Abul Kalam, Organising Secretary, All European Freedom Fighters Sangsad



Being a freedom fighter during 1971 liberation war, I contain the memory of the battle field. It is indeed an honor to be present here and speak about our endeavor, to seek the recognition of 1971 genocide. I like to request you to be with us, until we get recognition of 1971 genocide. I thank the organisers and honorable speakers coming from different countries.

The full Program can be seen at the following links of the London-based TV channel, British Bangla News:

<https://www.persberichten.nl/home/detail/1b4f5f2c-37d7-41e7-9dab-d48182713a6e/title/bangladesh-seeks-justice-recognition-of-1971-genocide>

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO UN

Earlier on 17 August 2022, Stitching BASUG along with **Projonmo '71** (an organization for the children of martyrs in Bangladesh Liberation War), **Aamra Ekattor** (another platform working on the same issue) and **Seraji Foundation e. V.** (a Diaspora organisation of Bangladeshi origin in Germany) submitted a written statement to the UN reiterating the demand for international recognition of the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide. The statement was included under Agenda item 3 in the 51st Human Rights Council Session in UN Geneva which began on 12 September 2022 and will continue till 7 October 2022. You can find the statement in the next page.

Projonmo'71
(Children of the Martyrs of Liberation War)

BASUG
Diaspora and Development

Seraji Foundation e.V.

আমরা একাত্তর

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General

XX August 2022

English only

Human Rights Council**Fifty-first session**

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development****Written statement* submitted by Stichting Basug
(Bangladesh Support Group), a non-governmental
organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 August 2022]

**STATEMENT FOR THE 51st SESSION OF THE UN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (UNHRC)**

In commemorating the Bangladesh Liberation War and the bloody birth of Bangladesh in 1971, the Bangladeshi Diaspora organization, Stichting BASUG (Bangladesh Support Group) with Special Consultative Status of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations along with Projonmo '71 (an organization for the children of martyrs in Bangladesh Liberation War), Aamra Ekattor (an online platform to discuss and take steps to achieve a brighter progressive Bangladesh shunning extremism) and Seraji Foundation e. V. (a Diaspora organisation of Bangladeshi origin in Germany) has issued a statement incorporating the following points reiterating the demand for international recognition of the 1971 Bangladesh GENOCIDE committed by the Pakistani occupying forces against the Bengali nation.

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

1. We should recall that the 1971 GENOCIDE in Bangladesh, which was planned and perpetrated by the Pakistani military, is one of the worst mass atrocities witnessed after the Second World War. In 9 months, the occupation army killed approximately 3 million people, subjected between 200,000-400,000 women to sexual slavery, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and forced 10 million people to cross the border and take refuge in India, abandoning all their worldly possessions and ancestral homes. The United Nations helped form an international team of abortion specialists to deal with the fallout from the Pakistani rape camps. The 'Birangonas' (brave or courageous woman), were the victims of a systematic campaign organized by the Pakistani military. An industrious act of evil committed by the Pakistani military.

2. The history of Bangladesh is intrinsically tied to the Liberation War of 1971. A story of violence and bloodshed. The nascent state of Bangladesh emerged from the remnants of the carnage carried out by the West Pakistani armed forces and radical paramilitary groups under the command of Pakistan. It has been a long struggle. The Bengali population in East Pakistan had little choice but to demand self-determination. They had little choice but to rise against the systematic subjugation by its western Pakistani counterpart.

3. The 1971 GENOCIDE by the Pakistan military and their allies is well documented and reported in the international media. Diplomatic correspondences and parliamentary reports during that period acknowledged what was taking place. The world media, including The Telegraph, The Times, The Sunday Times, The New York Times, TASS, AFP and other news agencies worldwide, reported the Bengalis massacre all by Pakistan Army. Some stories reached their front pages, The Sunday Times of London was the first to state it was a GENOCIDE, in block capitals, in an article by Pakistani journalist, Anthony Mascarenhas. Mascarenhas had to flee Pakistan for speaking the truth to the world. The stories of the massacre of the fateful night of 25 March 1971 and onwards were highlighted worldwide.

4. Academic scholarship related to the study of genocide in its many aspects has largely recognized the Bengali GENOCIDE in 1971. Moreover, the non-governmental organizations dedicated to working on genocide prevention and accountability, Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Genocide Watch, expressively recognized the 1971 Bengali GENOCIDE in statements released and at the end of December 2021 and early February 2022, respectively.

5. The Pakistan Army used organized systematic rape as a weapon of war. Young girls and women were abducted and repeatedly gang-raped in special camps run by the Pakistani servicemen.

6. The Pakistani Army and its jihadi stormtroopers, namely Razakars, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams, under orders from the Pakistani Army High Command, systematically killed intellectuals and professionals of Bangladesh. This spiteful and evil act stood with and apart from the mass-indiscriminate killings of civilians. This act was designed to cripple the country intellectually-devoiding it of a brighter future.

7. We demand a UN Resolution without further delay recognising the heinous GENOCIDE and their work on the abortion clinics. There is an urgent need for an UN-sponsored resolution condemning atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army and their allies in 1971. The perpetrators must be brought to justice, an unconditional apology by the Pakistan Authorities must be sought, and proper compensation arranged for the genocide victims. Without these, a justified closure of the miserable genocide is inconceivable. New generations across the world must know what took place in Bangladesh in 1971. We cannot forget. We must learn from atrocities in the past to prevent future ones.

8. Unfortunately, Bangladesh GENOCIDE is becoming a forgotten chapter in contemporary history. We know the common phrase 'justice delayed is justice denied' accompanies and mocks the global humanitarian mantra of 'never again'. The GENOCIDE of 1971 was never meant to happen after the Holocaust. The global system based on a renewed commitment to human rights failed to protect the Bengali people and so far, has failed to bring justice to the victims.

9. Due to lack of international recognition, the history of this GENOCIDE has faded in the world today. The lack of accountability undermines human rights for all and is painful, especially for Bengalis. Not only are they denying genocide victims closure and a more peaceful future further out of reach.

10. Therefore, we strongly demand that the 1971 GENOCIDE be recognized to give justice to the victims of the atrocities and bring the perpetrators to justice. We also call upon the United Nations General Assembly and other international entities to formally recognize the Bangladesh GENOCIDE of 1971 – one of the darkest yet most overlooked chapters in human history. We believe that only through confronting the past with sincerity and truth we can acknowledge our shared humanity and truly flourish.

(Projonmo '71, Bangladesh, Aamra Ekattor, Bangladesh, Seraji Foundation e.V. Germany, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.)

MEDIA COVERAGE

ANP Pers Support 

<https://www.persberichten.nl/home/detail/83299d08-c6bb-4f54-8528-22124725de7d/title/demand-for-global-recognition-of-1971-genocide-in-un-geneva-side-event>

Demand for global recognition of 1971 Genocide in UN Geneva side event

05-10-2022 11:57 | 23 uur geleden

Dit is een origineel bericht van

European Bangladesh Forum

Geneva, 3 October 2022 : Speakers at a side event at the United Nations in Geneva reiterated the demand for the international recognition of Bangladesh genocide in 1971 committed by Pakistan and urged the global community including the United Nations to recognise the 1971 genocide without wasting time. They asked the United Nations to come clean about their assessments on what took place in 1971 and said, 'we want them to publish their documents and make them accessible to the world public. If we want the UN to recognise the genocide, we should advise them that they should start right there.'



The speakers continued, the time is right for recognition of Bangladesh Genocide adding, it is of great importance and an absolute necessity to honour the victims of 1971 genocide and their descendants through recognition. The culpability of the military led by Pakistan government is yet to be acknowledged by the international community despite overwhelming proof.

Organized by the Europe-based diaspora organisation BASUG, in collaboration with European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) and Switzerland Human Rights Forum Bangladesh the conference was held at a time when the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council was going on at UN in Geneva. A 2 minutes documentary film made by Amra Ekattor, Projonmo Ekattor and BASUG was screened in the program.

It may be recalled that in 1971 Pakistan military committed one of the worst mass atrocities that the world witnessed in 20th century. The Pakistani occupation army in nine months killed approximately three million people, violated over two hundred thousand girls and women and forced ten million people to cross the border and take shelter in India. The 1971 Genocide by the Pakistan Army is well documented and reported in the international media and also in the diplomatic correspondences during that period.



Chaired by BASUG Chairman Bikash Chowdhury Barua, the side event was addressed by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva Sanchita Haque, former High Court Justice in Sweden Justice Syed Asif Shakar, Director of Development Research Cooperation, Brussels Professor Tazeen Murshad, Brand ambassador of Bangladesh Daniel Seidl, Communications Director, Zurich Chris Blackburn, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, President of Baloch Voice Association, France Munir Mengal, Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President, EBF UK orgnaining secretary of All European Muktijoddah Sangsad Abul Kalam and Khalilur Rahman Mamun, President of International HR Commission BD, Switzerland

Participants in the side event were members of the Bangladesh community in different European countries, European academics, researchers and human rights activists from other civil society organisations in Europe.

The side event was live telecast by London-based British Bangla News channel and watched in different cities across the world including Dhaka and New York.

Justice Syed Ali Shakar said, for the international recognition of the 1971 genocide and to ensure justice to the victims and their family members, we must form an international commission including representatives also from Pakistan. Justice Syed Ali Shakar who is originally a Pakistani and now exiled in Sweden is an ardent supporter of Bangladesh and was vehement critic of

Pakistan government and the military rule for their roles in Bangladesh in 1971 for which he was sent to jail for six months.

In her speech Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN in Geneva Sanchita Haque said, under the leadership of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of Bangladesh fought against discrimination, injustice, and oppression before their liberation in December 1971. During the culmination of our struggle, the horrendous 'Operation Search Light' was carried out by the Pakistani military on 25th March 1971 targeting unarmed civilians. In the following nine months, the Pakistan Army unleashed brutalities including mass murder, rape, looting, and torture upon the civilians, including children and women in a deliberate manner to eliminate the Bengalis from the-then East Pakistan, which is proudly Bangladesh now.

She added, in Bangladesh, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide. And the ICT is still continuing. The Bangladesh Government has declared 25th March as Genocide Day. Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voice against genocide and demand justice and accountability for the victims of genocides. We will also continue working for the recognition of 1971 genocide.



Prof Dr. Tazeen Murshid said, the demand for international recognition should never stop. The West Pakistan military sought to destroy Bengalis, their political leadership, the intellectual and professional middle classes, who were the backbone of society, and students, who are the future torch bearers of their heritage. It sought to annihilate the Hindu population, and work with loyalists willing to do its bidding. They thus unleashed their 'kill and burn' strategy on the population at large, while recruiting allies from extremist religious groups, Bihari minorities and other loyalists.

She added, if an international tribunal is not possible, there could be a public trial in a People's Court, even if no verdict can be carried out. The aim would be to document both individual and collective crimes, to debate them and pass sentences in order to provide a moral victory and

closure. Or it could take the form of a Truth Commission. The evidence so gathered should be disseminated widely and at every opportunity.

The Friend of Bangladesh awardee Chris Blackburn said, Bangladesh wants international recognition for the crimes against humanity. It's probably the most promising time to achieve that goal. The United Nations like, the United States must also recognise the conflict as genocide, not just acknowledge the bravery of Archer K. Blood for standing up to the Nixon administration. Blood said it was a genocide. The UN should too. He appealed to the international community, history of 1971 is also our future. Please do the right and just thing. Recognise the genocide of 1971.

Brand ambassador of Bangladesh Daniel Seidl in his speech said, 'being a German I can say it takes time to get justice, recognition, compensation and even this year the United Nations General Assembly had to adopt a resolution on holocaust denial. He quoted, 'if you don't make a concerted effort to brand your nation, other people might do it for you and that is for their own purposes.



<https://www.bssnews.net/news/86271>

'Demand for recognition of 1971 Genocide committed by Pakistan raised in UN'



DHAKA, Oct 4, 2022 (BSS) - Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN in Geneva Sanchita Haque has raised the demand for recognition of 1971 Genocide committed by Pakistan.

"The Bangladesh government has declared 25th March as Genocide Day. Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voice against genocide and demand justice and accountability for the victims of genocides. We will also continue working for the recognition of 1971 genocide," she said.

Sanchita Haque was addressing a side event at the United Nations in Geneva on Monday, according to a press release received here today.

She said in Bangladesh, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide and the ICT is still continuing.

Chaired by BASUG Chairman Bikash Chowdhury Barua, the side event was also addressed by former High Court Justice in Sweden Justice Syed Asif Shakar, Director of Development Research Cooperation, Brussels Professor Tazeen Murshad, Brand ambassador of Bangladesh Daniel Seidl, Communications Director, Zurich Chris Blackburn, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, President of Baloch Voice Association, France Munir Mengal, Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President, EBF UK organising secretary of All European Muktijoddah Sangsad Abul Kalam and Khalilur Rahman Mamun, President of International HR Commission BD, Switzerland.

Participants in the side event were members of the Bangladesh community in different European countries, European academics, researchers and human rights activists from other civil society organisations in Europe.

Organized by the Europe-based diaspora organisation BASUG, in collaboration with European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) and Switzerland Human Rights Forum Bangladesh, the conference was held at a time when the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council was going on at UN in Geneva.

A two minutes documentary film made by Amra Ekattor, Projonmo Ekattor and BASUG was screened in the program.

Apart from her, the other speakers at the side event also reiterated the demand for the international recognition of Bangladesh genocide in 1971 committed by Pakistan and urged the global community including the United Nations to recognise the 1971 genocide without wasting time.

They said the time is right for recognition of Bangladesh Genocide adding, it is of great importance and an absolute necessity to honour the victims of 1971 genocide and their descendants through recognition.

Unfortunately, Bangladesh genocide has today become a forgotten chapter in the history, they added.

Dhaka Tribune

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/10/04/demand-for-recognition-of-1971-genocide-committed-by-pakistan-raised-in-un>

- 4 Oct 2022, Bangladesh Liberation War Museum Photo Archive



Demand for recognition of 1971 genocide committed by Pakistan raised in UN

It is an absolute necessary to honor the victims of 1971 genocide and their descendants, the delegations say in a event

BSS October 4, 2022 5:43 PM

Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN in Geneva Sanchita Haque has raised the demand for recognition of 1971 genocide committed by Pakistan. "The Bangladesh government has declared March 25 as Genocide Day. Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voice against genocide and demand justice and accountability for the victims of genocides. We will also continue working for the recognition of 1971 genocide," she said.

Sanchita Haque was addressing a side event at the United Nations in Geneva on Monday, according to a press release received on Tuesday.

She said that International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up in Bangladesh to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide and the ICT is still continuing.

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Unfortunately, Bangladesh genocide has today become a forgotten chapter in the history, they added.

Thursday, October 06, 2022

NEWAGE

Bangladesh Demand for recognition of 1971 genocide raised at UN

[Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha . Dhaka](#) | Published: 00:51, Oct 05,2022

Deputy permanent representative of Bangladesh to UN in Geneva Sanchita Haque has raised the demand for recognition of 1971 Genocide committed by Pakistan.

‘The Bangladesh government has declared 25th March as Genocide Day. Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voice against genocide and demand justice and accountability for the victims of genocides. We will also continue working for the recognition of 1971 genocide,’ she said.

Sanchita Haque was addressing a side event at the United Nations in Geneva on Monday, according to a press release received in Dhaka on Tuesday. She said that International Crimes Tribunal was set up in Bangladesh to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide and the ICT is still continuing.

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Seminar in UN Reiterates Demand for Recognition of 1971 Genocide



Photo: ah/basug, GERMANY

<http://our-voice-online.com/blog/seminar-in-un-reiterates-demand-for-recognition-of-1971-genocide/>

Geneva, 3 October (OurVoice) : Speakers at a seminar at the United Nations in Geneva reiterated the demand for the international recognition of Bangladesh genocide in 1971 committed by Pakistan and

urged the global community including the United Nations to recognise the 1971 genocide without any delay.

They said, the time is right for recognition of Bangladesh Genocide adding, it is of great importance and an absolute necessity to honour the victims of 1971 genocide and their descendants through recognition. Unfortunately, Bangladesh genocide has today become a forgotten chapter in the history.

Organized by the Europe-based diaspora organisation BASUG, in collaboration with European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) and Switzerland Human Rights Forum Bangladesh the conference was held at a time when the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council was going on at UN in Geneva. A 2 minutes documentary film made by Amra Ekattor, Projonmo Ekattor and BASUG was screened in the program.

It may be recalled that in 1971 Pakistan military committed one of the worst mass atrocities that the world witnessed in 20th century. The Pakistani occupation army in nine months killed approximately three million people, violated over two hundred thousand girls and women and forced ten million people to cross the border and take shelter in India. The 1971 Genocide by the Pakistan Army is well documented and reported in the international media and also in the diplomatic correspondences during that period.

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Participants in the seminar were members of the Bangladesh community in different European countries, European academics, researchers and human rights activists from other civil society organisations in Europe. The side event was live telecast by London-based British Bangla News channel and watched in different cities across the world including Dhaka and New York.

Justice Syed Ali Shahkar said, for the international recognition of the 1971 genocide and to ensure justice to the victims and their family members, we must form an international commission including representatives also from Pakistan. Justice Syed Ali Shakar who is originally a Pakistani and now exiled in Sweden is an ardent supporter of Bangladesh and was vehement critic of Pakistan government and the military rule for their roles in Bangladesh in 1971 for which he was sent to jail for six months.

In her speech Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN in Geneva Sanchita Haque said, under the leadership of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of Bangladesh fought against discrimination, injustice, and oppression before their liberation in December 1971. During the culmination of our struggle, the horrendous ‘Operation Search Light’ was carried out by the Pakistani military on 25th March 1971 targeting unarmed civilians. In the following nine months, the Pakistan Army unleashed brutalities including mass murder, rape, looting, and torture upon the civilians, including children and women in a deliberate manner to eliminate the Bengalis from the-then East Pakistan, which is proudly Bangladesh now.

She added, in Bangladesh, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide. And the ICT is still continuing. The Bangladesh Government has declared 25th March as Genocide Day. Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voice against genocide and demand justice and accountability for the victims of genocides. We will also continue working for the recognition of 1971 genocide

Prof Dr. Tazeen Murshid said, the demand for international recognition should never stop. The West Pakistan military sought to destroy Bengalis, their political leadership, the intellectual and professional middle classes, who were the backbone of society, and students, who are the future torch bearers of their heritage. It sought to annihilate the Hindu population, and work with loyalists willing to do its bidding. They thus unleashed their ‘kill and burn’ strategy on the population at large, while recruiting allies from extremist religious groups, Bihari minorities and other loyalists.

She added, if an international tribunal is not possible, there could be a public trial in a People’s Court, even if no verdict can be carried out. The aim would be to document both individual and collective crimes, to debate them and pass sentences in order to provide a moral victory and closure. Or it could take the form of a Truth Commission. The evidence so gathered should be disseminated widely and at every opportunity.

The Friend of Bangladesh awardee Chris Blackburn said, Bangladesh wants international recognition for the crimes against humanity. It's probably the most promising time to achieve that goal. The United Nations like, the United States must also recognise the conflict as genocide, not just acknowledge the bravery of Archer K. Blood for standing up to the Nixon administration. Blood said it was a genocide. The UN should too. He appealed to the international community, history of 1971 is also our future. Please do the right and just thing. Recognise the genocide of 1971.

Notably, BASUG and European Bangladesh Forum along with the cooperation partners have been continuing advocacy and campaign for about a decade for the international recognition of the 1971 genocide through media talks, seminar, conference Brussels, the Hague, London, Geneva and other European cities.



4 Oct 2022

<https://www.bssnews.net/bangla/national/61019>

জাতিসংঘ ভবনে সেমিনার : অবিলম্বে একাত্তরের গণহত্যার স্বীকৃতি চাই



জেনেভা, ৪ অক্টোবর ২০২২ (বাসস) : জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ ভবনে অনুষ্ঠিত সেমিনারে বক্তারা ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তান কর্তৃক সংঘটিত বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির দাবি পুনর্ব্যক্ত করেছেন। আর কালক্ষেপন না করে তারা ১৯৭১ সালের গণহত্যাকে অবিলম্বে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার জন্য জাতিসংঘসহ বিশ্ব সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতি আহ্বান জানান। ইউরোপ ভিত্তিক প্রবাসী সংগঠন বাসুগ এই সেমিনারের আয়োজন করে। বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যার স্বীকৃতির অধিকার অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এবং আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির মাধ্যমে ১৯৭১ এর গণহত্যার শিকার এবং তাদের বংশধরদের সম্মান জানানো একান্ত প্রয়োজন। দুর্ভাগ্যবশত, বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যা আজ বিশ্বের কাছে ইতিহাসের এক বিস্মৃত অধ্যায় হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। এই সম্মেলনটি এমন এক সময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়, যখন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কাউন্সিলের ৫১তম অধিবেশন চলছে। সেমিনারের এই সাইড ইভেন্টটি ইউরোপ-ভিত্তিক থিক্স ট্যাঙ্ক ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম (ইবিএফ) এবং সুইজারল্যান্ড মানবাধিকার কমিশন বাংলাদেশ এর সহযোগিতায় অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। আলোচনার শুরুতে আমরা একান্তর, প্রজন্ম একান্তর ও বাসুগ নির্মিত একটি স্বল্পদৈর্ঘ্য ভিডিও চলচ্চিত্র প্রদর্শন করা হয়। বাসুগের চেয়ারম্যান বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়য়ার সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠানে বক্তব্য রাখেন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সঞ্চিতা হক, সুইডেনের হাইকোর্টের সাবেক বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আসিফ শাকার, ব্রাসেলস ভিত্তিক উন্নয়ন গবেষণা সহযোগিতার পরিচালক অধ্যাপক ড. তাজিন মুরশিদ, জার্মানি থেকে প্রকাশিত ৫০ বছর বাংলাদেশ এর সম্পাদক ও বাংলাদেশের ব্র্যান্ড এ্যামবেসেডর ড্যানিয়েল জাইডল, জুরিখ এর যোগাযোগ পরিচালক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন, ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির নির্বাসিত চেয়ারম্যান সরদার শওকত আলী কাশ্মীরি, বেলুচ ভয়েস অ্যাসোসিয়েশন, ফ্রান্স এর সভাপতি মুনির মেঙ্গল, ইবিএফ ইউকে'র প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ, সর্ব ইউরোপীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংসদের সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক আবুল কালাম মিয়া এবং ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এইচআর কমিশন বিডি, সুইজারল্যান্ড এর প্রেসিডেন্ট রহমান খলিলুর মামুন।

উল্লেখ্য, ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তানের সামরিক বাহিনী এবং তাদের স্থানীয় সহযোগীরা বিংশ শতাব্দীতে বিশ্বের অন্যতম জঘন্যতম গণহত্যা সংঘটিত করেছিল। পাকিস্তানি দখলদার বাহিনী নয় মাসে প্রায় ত্রিশ লাখ মানুষ হত্যা করে, দুই লাখেরও বেশি নারীকে ধর্ষণ করে এবং লাখ লাখ মানুষকে বাধ্য করে সীমান্ত পাড়ি দিয়ে ভারতে আশ্রয় নিতে। পাকিস্তান সেনাবাহিনীর ১৯৭১ সালের হত্যাযজ্ঞের খবর আন্তর্জাতিক মিডিয়ায় প্রকাশিত এবং সেই সময়ের কূটনৈতিক চিঠিপত্রে নথিভুক্ত এবং রিপোর্ট করা হয়েছে। জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সঞ্চিতা হক তাঁর বক্তব্যে বলেন, জাতির পিতা

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশের মানুষ তৎকালীন পশ্চিম পাকিস্তানের বৈষম্য ও শোষণ-নিপীড়নের বিরুদ্ধে ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫ মার্চ থেকে ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত নয়মাস লড়াই করেছে। ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫শে মার্চ থেকে দীর্ঘ নয় মাস পাকিস্তানী সেনাবাহিনী বাংলাদেশের নিরস্ত্র নারী-শিশুসহ সাধারণ মানুষের উপর অবর্ণনীয় নির্যাতন করেছে।

বাংলাদেশের মানুষ জাতিসংঘের কাছে এই গণহত্যার সুবিচার চায়। জাতিসংঘের স্বীকৃতি চায়। বাংলাদেশ ইতিমধ্যে ২৫শে মার্চকে গণহত্যা দিবস হিসেবে ঘোষণা করেছে। বাংলাদেশ সরকার একাত্তরের গণহত্যার জন্য দায়ী ব্যক্তিদের বিচারের আওতায় আনতে আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধ ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করেছে। এছাড়া বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিশ্বের যে কোন জায়গায় নির্যাতন-নিপীড়ন ও গণহত্যার নিন্দা জানায়। তিনি এই স্পর্শকাতর বিষয়ে বাংলাদেশের প্রতি বিশ্ববাসির সমর্থন আহ্বান করেন। বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আলী শাকার বলেন, গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি এবং সঠিক বিচারের জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক কমিশন গঠন করতে হবে, যেখানে পাকিস্তানের পক্ষ থেকেও প্রতিনিধি থাকতে হবে। বর্তমানে সুইডেনে নির্বাসিত পাকিস্তানি এই নাগরিক শাকার বাংলাদেশের একজন প্রবল সমর্থক এবং একাত্তরে গণহত্যার তীব্র সমালোচক। ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তান সরকার ও সামরিক শাসনে বাংলাদেশের পক্ষে তার ভূমিকার জন্য তাকে ছয় মাসের জন্য কারাগারে পাঠানো হয়। অধ্যাপক ডাঃ তাজিন মুরশিদ বলেন, আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির জন্য আমাদের প্রচেষ্টা দাবি আদায় না হওয়া পর্যন্ত অব্যাহত থাকবে। যদি এ ব্যাপারে দ্রুত আন্তর্জাতিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করা না হয়, জনতার আদালত গঠন করে একাত্তরের গণহত্যার একক এবং সম্মিলিত হত্যাযজ্ঞের শুনানি নথিভুক্ত করা হবে এবং দায়ী ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে রায় ঘোষণা করা হবে, যদিও সেই রায় কার্যকর করা সম্ভব নাও হতে পারে। এছাড়া এই গণহত্যার রায় এবং দলিল ও প্রমাণ ব্যাপকভাবে প্রচার করা হবে। বাংলাদেশের বন্ধু পদকে ভূষিত আন্তর্জাতিক সাংবাদিক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন বলেন, বাংলাদেশ গণহত্যার মতো মানবতা বিরোধী অপরাধের আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি চায়। সাইড ইভেন্টটি সরাসরি সম্প্রচার করেছে লন্ডন ভিত্তিক ব্রিটিশ বাংলা নিউজ চ্যানেল, যা ঢাকা ও নিউইয়র্কসহ বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন নগরীতে প্রদর্শিত হয়েছে।

London, 4 Oct 2022

<https://banglamirrornews.com/2022/10/05/un-side-event-on-recognition-of-bangladesh-genocide/>

UN side event on recognition of Bangladesh genocide



Geneva, 3 October 2022: Speakers at a side event at the United Nations in Geneva demanded international recognition of the Bangladesh genocide in 1971 committed by Pakistan and urged the global community, including the United Nations, to recognise the 1971 genocide. They said the time is right for recognition of the Bangladesh genocide, adding it is of great importance and an absolute necessity to honour the victims of the 1971 genocide and their descendants through recognition.

The Europe-based diaspora organisation BASUG, in collaboration with the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) and International Human Rights Commission BD, Switzerland, held the conference during the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. A documentary film made by Amra Ekattor, Projonmo Ekattor and BASUG was screened too.

Chaired by BASUG Chairman Bikash Chowdhury Barua, the side event was addressed by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva, Sanchita Haque, former High Court Justice of Sweden, of Pakistani origin, Syed Asif Shahkar, Director of Development Research Cooperation, Brussels, Professor Tazeen Murshid, Brand Ambassador of Bangladesh from Germany Daniel Seidl, Zurich based Swiss InterStrategy Group's Communications Director Chris Blackburn, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, President of Baloch Voice Association, from France, Munir Mengal, Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President, European Bangladesh Forum, Organising Secretary of All European Muktijoddah Sangsad Abul Kalam Miah and Khalilur Rahman Mamun, President of International Human Rights Commission Bangladesh, Switzerland.

Justice Syed Ali Shahkar said that for the international recognition of the 1971 genocide and to ensure justice for the victims and their family members, we must form an international commission, including representatives from Pakistan. Justice Syed Ali Shahkar, originally a Pakistani and now exiled in Sweden, is an ardent supporter of Bangladesh. He was a vehement critic of Pakistan's military role in Bangladesh in 1971, for which he was sent to jail for six months.

In her speech Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN in Geneva, Sanchita Haque said under the leadership of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of Bangladesh fought against discrimination, injustice, and oppression before their liberation in December

1971. During the culmination of our struggle, the Pakistani military carried out the horrendous 'Operation Search Light' on 25th March 1971, targeting unarmed civilians. In the following nine months, the Pakistan Army unleashed brutalities, including mass murder, rape, looting, and torture, upon civilians, including children and women, in a deliberate manner to eliminate the Bengalis from the then East Pakistan, which is proudly Bangladesh now.

She added, in Bangladesh, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide. And the ICT is continuing. The Bangladesh Government has declared 25th March as Genocide Day. Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voices against genocide and demand justice and accountability for the victims of genocide. We will also continue working for the recognition of the 1971 genocide.

Prof Dr Tazeen Murshid said the demand for international recognition should never stop. The West Pakistan military sought to destroy Bengalis, their political leadership, the intellectual and professional middle classes, the backbone of society, and students, the future torch bearers of their heritage. It sought to annihilate the Hindu population and work with loyalists willing to do its bidding. Thus, they unleashed their 'kill and burn' strategy on the population while recruiting allies from extremist religious groups, Bihari minorities and other loyalists.

She added if an international tribunal is not possible, there could be a public trial in a People's Court, even if no verdict can be carried out. The aim would be to document individual and collective crimes, debate them and pass sentences to provide a moral victory and closure. Or it could take the form of a Truth Commission. The evidence so gathered should be disseminated widely and at every opportunity.

The Friend of Bangladesh awardee Chris Blackburn said Bangladesh wants international recognition for the crimes against humanity. It's probably the most promising time to achieve that goal. The United Nations, like, the United States, must also recognise the conflict as genocide, not just acknowledge the bravery of Archer K. Blood for standing up to the Nixon administration. Blood said it was a genocide. The UN should too. He appealed to the international community. The history of 1971 is also our future. Please do the right and just thing. Recognise the genocide of 1971.

The event was organised by BASUG, EBF, and IHRCBD and supported by Amra Ekattor and Projonmo Ekattor.

বিশ্ববাংলা নিউজ ২৪

আজ : ০৮:১০, অক্টোবর ১৩, ২০২২, ২৮ আশ্বিন, ১৪২৯



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UN side event reiterated the demand for recognitionising Bangladesh's genocide

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আপডেট: ০৬:৩৬, অক্টোবর ৬, ২০২২

<http://www.bisshobanglanews24.com/nodes/view/type:news/slug:UN-side-event-reiterated-the-demand-for-recognitionising-Bangaldesh%E2%80%99s-genocide>



Geneva, 3 October 2022: Speakers at a side event at the United Nations in Geneva reiterated the need for the international recognition of the Bangladesh genocide in 1971 committed by Pakistan and urged the global community, including the United Nations, to recognise the 1971 genocide.

The Europe-based diaspora organisation BASUG in collaboration with European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) and International Human Rights Commission, Switzerland, held the conference at the time of the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. A documentary film made by Amra Ekattor, Projonmo Ekattor and BASUG was screened in the programme.

Chaired by BASUG Chairman Bikash Chowdhury Barua, the side event was addressed by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva, Sanchita Haque, former High Court Justice of Sweden, Pakistani origin, Syed Asif Shahkar, Director of Development Research Cooperation, Brussels Professor Tazeen Murshid, Brand Ambassador of Bangladesh Daniel Seidl from Germany, Swiss InterStrategy Group's Chris Blackburn, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party Sardar Shaukat Ali

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In her speech Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN in Geneva, Sanchita Haque, said under the leadership of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of Bangladesh fought against discrimination, injustice, and oppression before their liberation in December 1971. During the culmination of our struggle, the Pakistani military carried out the horrendous 'Operation Search Light' on 25th March 1971, targeting unarmed civilians. In the following nine months, the Pakistan Army unleashed brutalities, including mass murder, rape, looting, and torture, upon the civilians, including children and women, in a deliberate manner to eliminate the Bengalis from the then East Pakistan, which is proudly Bangladesh now.

She added, in Bangladesh, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was set up to try the collaborators of the Pakistan Army who played a crucial role in facilitating the genocide. And the ICT is continuing. The Bangladesh Government has declared 25th March as Genocide Day. Bangladesh condemns genocides committed anywhere, everywhere. We will continue to raise our voices against genocide and demand justice and accountability for the victims of genocide. We will also continue working for the recognition of the 1971 genocide. Prof Dr Tazeen Murshid said the demand for international recognition should never stop. The West Pakistan military sought to destroy Bengalis, their political leadership, the intellectual and professional middle classes, who were the backbone of society, and students, who are the future torch bearers of their heritage. It sought to annihilate the Hindu population and work with loyalists willing to do its bidding. Thus, they unleashed their 'kill and burn' strategy on the population while recruiting allies from extremist religious groups, Bihari minorities and other loyalists.

The Friend of Bangladesh awardee Chris Blackburn said Bangladesh wants international recognition for the crimes against humanity. It's probably the most promising time to achieve that goal. The United Nations, like, the United States, must also recognise the conflict as genocide, not just acknowledge the bravery of Archer K. Blood for standing up to the Nixon administration. Blood said it was a genocide. The UN should too. He appealed to the international community, the history of 1971 is also our future. Please do the right and just thing. Recognise the genocide of 1971.

The event was organised by BASUG, EBF, and IHRCBD and supported Amra Ekattor and Projonmo Ekattor.

একাত্তরের গণহত্যার স্বীকৃতি দাবিতে জাতিসংঘে সেমিনার

সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কমিশনের ২৫ নম্বর কক্ষে আলোচনা, প্রতিবাদ ও বাংলাদেশ জেনোসাইড বিষয়ক ভিডিও প্রদর্শনীর মধ্য দিয়ে ১৯৭১-এর গণহত্যা জাতিসংঘ স্বীকৃতির দাবিতে ৯ দিনব্যাপী কর্মসূচী সোমবার শেষ হয়।

বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার ৫১ বছর পর হলেও জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কমিশনের ৫১তম সভার আলোচ্যসূচীর ৩ নং এজেন্ডায় ১৯৭১ সালের মুক্তিযুদ্ধে বাংলাদেশে সংঘটিত নৃশংস গণহত্যার বিষয়টি স্থান পেয়েছে।

জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কমিশনের ৫১তম অধিবেশনে বাংলাদেশ জেনোসাইড ইস্যুটি নিয়ে জেরালো আলোচনার পরিবেশ তৈরির লক্ষ্যে আমরা একাত্তর, প্রজন্মা একাত্তর, ইউরোপীয়ান বাংলাদেশ ফাউন্ডেশন (ইবিএফ) ও নেদারল্যান্ডসের প্রবাসী সংগঠন বাংলাদেশ সাপোর্ট গ্রুপ

(বাসুগ) জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক পর্যায়ে নয় দিনব্যাপী নানা কর্মসূচী গ্রহণ করে। এ উপলক্ষে গত ২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর থেকে মানববন্ধন, বিক্ষোভ, সমাবেশ, আলোচনা, প্রদীপ প্রজ্জ্বালন, পোস্টার প্রদর্শন, জাতিসংঘভুক্ত দেশগুলোর বাংলাদেশ মিশনে স্মারকলিপি দেয়াসহ দেশ-

৯ দিনব্যাপী কর্মসূচী শেষ

বিদেশে নানা কর্মসূচী পরিচালিত হয়েছে। খবর বাসসর। বাংলাদেশের ময়মনসিংহ, নেত্রকোনা, জামালপুর, কিশোরগঞ্জ, শেরপুরের নালিতাবাড়ির বিধবা পল্লী, বরিশাল, দিনাজপুর, মানিকগঞ্জ, সিলেট ও মৌলভীবাজারে এসব কর্মসূচী আয়োজন করা হয়। (১৫ পৃষ্ঠা ৩ কঃ দেখুন)

একাত্তরের গণহত্যার

(১৬-এর পৃষ্ঠার পর)
নিউইয়র্ক, ইংল্যান্ড, টরন্টো, সিডনি ও অস্ট্রেলিয়াতে মানববন্ধন, সমাবেশ ও আলোচনা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।

জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক পর্যায়ে এসব কর্মসূচী আয়োজনের অন্যতম প্রধান উদ্যোক্তা সংগঠন আমরা একাত্তরের প্রধান সমন্বয়কারী হিলাল ফয়েজী বলেন, বাংলাদেশ জেনোসাইডের বিশ্ব স্বীকৃতি আদায়ে একাত্তরের ঘাতক দালাল নির্মূল কমিটি, মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জাদুঘর, সেক্টর কমান্ডারস ফোরাম, উত্তরবঙ্গ জাদুঘর, আমরা একাত্তর, প্রজন্মা একাত্তর, ইউরোপীয়ান বাংলাদেশ ফাউন্ডেশন (ইবিএফ) ও নেদারল্যান্ডসের প্রবাসী সংগঠন বাংলাদেশ সাপোর্ট গ্রুপ (বাসুগ) দীর্ঘদিন ধরে কাজ করে আসছে।

হিলাল ফয়েজী বলেন, আমাদের দাবি আদায়ের পথে এসব কর্মসূচী আরেকটি ধাপ। জাতিসংঘের স্বীকৃতি না পাওয়া পর্যন্ত এসব কর্মসূচী অব্যাহত থাকবে। তিনি জানান, দাবি আদায়ের আন্দোলনে পররাষ্ট্র ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় সক্রিয় সহযোগিতা করছে।

একাত্তরের ঘাতক দালাল নির্মূল কমিটির সভাপতি শাহরিয়ার কবির বাংলাদেশ জেনোসাইডের আন্তর্জাতিক ও জাতিসংঘের স্বীকৃতি আদায়ে পররাষ্ট্র সচিবকে আহ্বায়ক করে সরকার এবং দেশ-বিদেশে আন্দোলনরত সংগঠনগুলোর সমন্বয়ে কমিটি করার পরামর্শ দেন।

তিনি বলেন, 'এ দাবি আদায়ে সরকারকে এ্যাগ্রেসিভ ডিপ্লোমাসি এবং সমন্বিত ও সুচিন্তিত কর্মপরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করতে হবে। বঙ্গবন্ধুকন্যা প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার সরকারের পক্ষেই এটি সম্ভব।'

তিনি বলেন, ২০১৭ সালে বাংলাদেশের পার্লামেন্টে ২৫ মার্চকে জাতীয় গণহত্যা দিবস হিসেবে স্বীকৃতি দেয়া হয়েছে। কিন্তু আমরা জাতিসংঘের কাছে ২৫ মার্চ নয়, পুরো নয় মাসের গণহত্যার স্বীকৃতি চাই। এ স্বীকৃতি আদায় করতে হলে বাংলাদেশ জেনোসাইডের স্বীকৃতির দাবিতে প্রথমে জাতিসংঘের সদস্য দেশগুলোর কাছে চিঠি দিতে হবে। তিনি সরকারকে প্রথম ভারতসহ বন্ধু রাষ্ট্রগুলোর কাছে স্বীকৃতি চেয়ে আবেদন করার পরামর্শ দেন। তিনি বলেন, আগে আমাদের দাবির পক্ষে বিশ্ব জনমত তৈরি করতে হবে। তবেই এটা জাতিসংঘের স্বীকৃতি আদায়ের পথ প্রশস্ত করবে। আগামী ৯ ডিসেম্বর আন্তর্জাতিক জেনোসাইড দিবস উপলক্ষে একাত্তরের ঘাতক-দালাল নির্মূল কমিটির পক্ষ থেকে ইউরোপীয়ান পার্লামেন্টের সামনে সমাবেশ আয়োজন ও স্মারকলিপি দেয়া হবে বলে তিনি জানান।

সেক্টর কমান্ডারস ফোরামের মহাসচিব সাংবাদিক হারুণ হাবীব বলেন, জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কমিশন জেনেভা কার্যালয়ে বাংলাদেশ জেনোসাইডের স্বীকৃতির দাবিতে আজকের আয়োজনের সুযোগটিকে আমরা একটা বড় অগ্রগতি বলে মনে করি। এই সুযোগকে কাজে লাগিয়ে বাংলাদেশ জেনোসাইডের আন্তর্জাতিক ও জাতিসংঘ স্বীকৃতিকে ত্বরান্বিত করতে আমাদের আরও কাজ করতে হবে। এজন্য দেশে ও বিদেশে এ বিষয়ে কর্মরত সকল সংগঠনকে সমন্বিত উদ্যোগ নিতে হবে, যাতে জাতিসংঘ যথাশীঘ্র আমাদের দাবিকে স্বীকৃতি দেয় এবং সুবিচার প্রাপ্তির পথ সুগম করে। তিনি জানান, এ দাবির সমর্থনে সেক্টর কমান্ডারস ফোরাম সারা দেশের বিভিন্ন জেলা ও মহানগরে সমাবেশ, সেমিনার, মোমবাতি প্রজ্জ্বালন কর্মসূচী গ্রহণ করেছে।

জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কমিশনের ৫১তম অধিবেশনে বাংলাদেশ জেনোসাইড ইস্যুটি নিয়ে জেরালো আলোচনার পরিবেশ তৈরির লক্ষ্যে জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক পর্যায়ে নয় দিনব্যাপী নানা কর্মসূচীর অংশ হিসেবে সোমবার বিকেলে সোহরাওয়ার্দী উদ্যানের শিখা চিরন্তন চত্বরে আলোচনা, প্রদীপ প্রজ্জ্বালন, ভিডিও প্রদর্শন ও জাতিসংঘের কাছে প্রতীকী চিঠি প্রেরণসহ বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচী পালিত হবে।

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<https://www.jagonews24.com/national/news/799669>

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জাতিসংঘ ভবনে সেমিনারে একাত্তরের গণহত্যার স্বীকৃতি দাবি



নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক

প্রকাশিত: ০৮:৪৪ পিএম, ০৪ অক্টোবর ২০২২



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সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ ভবনে এক সেমিনারে বঙ্গারা ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তানি হানাদার বাহিনীর হাতে বাঙালি জাতির ওপর চালানো গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির দাবি জানিয়েছেন।

ইউরোপভিত্তিক প্রবাসীদের সংগঠন বাংলাদেশ সাপোর্ট গ্রুপ (বাসুগ) এ সেমিনারের আয়োজন করে। জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কাউন্সিলের ৫১তম অধিবেশন চলাকালে এ সেমিনারকে তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ

হিসেবে দেখছেন আয়োজকরা। ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম (ইবিএফ) এবং সুইজারল্যান্ড মানবাধিকার কমিশন বাংলাদেশের সহযোগিতায় অনুষ্ঠিত সেমিনারের শুরুতে আমরা একাত্তর, প্রজন্ম একাত্তর ও বাসুগ নির্মিত একটি স্বল্পদৈর্ঘ্য ভিডিও চলচ্চিত্র প্রদর্শন করা হয়।

বাসুগের চেয়ারম্যান বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়ার সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠানে বক্তব্য রাখেন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সফিতা হক, সুইডেনের হাইকোর্টের সাবেক বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আসিফ শাকার, ব্রাসেলসভিত্তিক উন্নয়ন গবেষণা সহযোগিতার পরিচালক অধ্যাপক ড. তাজিন মুরশিদ, জার্মানি থেকে প্রকাশিত '৫০ বছর বাংলাদেশ'র সম্পাদক ও বাংলাদেশের ব্র্যান্ড অ্যাডভার্সার ড্যানিয়েল জাইডল, জুরিখের যোগাযোগ পরিচালক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন, ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির নির্বাসিত চেয়ারম্যান সরদার শওকত আলী কাশ্মীরি, বেলুচ ভয়েস অ্যাসোসিয়েশন ফ্রান্সের সভাপতি মুনির মেঞ্জল, ইবিএফ ইউকের প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ, সর্ব ইউরোপীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংসদের সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক আবুল কালাম মিয়া এবং ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এইচআর কমিশন বিডি, সুইজারল্যান্ডের প্রেসিডেন্ট রহমান খলিলুর মামুন।

জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সফিতা হক তার বক্তব্যে বলেন, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশের মানুষ তৎকালীন পশ্চিম পাকিস্তানের বৈষম্য ও শোষণ-নিপীড়নের বিরুদ্ধে ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫ মার্চ থেকে ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত ৯ মাস লড়াই করেছে। ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫ মার্চ থেকে দীর্ঘ ৯ মাস পাকিস্তানি সেনাবাহিনী বাংলাদেশের নিরস্ত্র নারী-শিশুসহ সাধারণ মানুষের ওপর অবর্ণনীয় নির্যাতন করেছে। বাংলাদেশের মানুষ জাতিসংঘের কাছে এ গণহত্যার সুবিচার চায়। জাতিসংঘের স্বীকৃতি চায়।

বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আলী শাকার বলেন, গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি এবং সঠিক বিচারের জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক কমিশন গঠন করতে হবে, যেখানে পাকিস্তানের পক্ষ থেকেও প্রতিনিধি থাকতে হবে।

সুইডেনে নির্বাসিত পাকিস্তানি নাগরিক আলী শাকার বাংলাদেশের একজন প্রবল সমর্থক এবং একাত্তরে গণহত্যার তীব্র সমালোচক। ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তান সরকার ও সামরিক শাসনে বাংলাদেশের পক্ষ তার ভূমিকার জন্য তাকে ছয়মাসের জন্য কারাগারে পাঠানো হয়।

অধ্যাপক ডা. তাজিন মুরশিদ বলেন, আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির জন্য আমাদের প্রচেষ্টা দাবি আদায় না হওয়া পর্যন্ত অব্যাহত থাকবে। যদি এ ব্যাপারে দ্রুত আন্তর্জাতিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করা না হয়, জনতার আদালত গঠন করে একাত্তরের গণহত্যার একক এবং সম্মিলিত হত্যাযজ্ঞের শুনানি নথিভুক্ত করা হবে এবং দায়ী ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে রায় ঘোষণা করা হবে।

বাংলাদেশের বন্ধু পদকে ভূষিত আন্তর্জাতিক সাংবাদিক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন বলেন, বাংলাদেশ গণহত্যার মতো মানবতাবিরোধী অপরাধের আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি চায়।



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জাতিসংঘে সাইড ইভেন্ট সেমিনার: একাত্তরের গণহত্যাকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার দাবি পুনর্ব্যক্ত

প্রকাশঃ Oct 4, 2022, London

ইউরোপীয়ান.করেসপন্ডেন্ট
সত্যবাণী

জেনেভা, ৩ অক্টোবর ২০২২: জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘভবনে অনুষ্ঠিত সেমিনারে বক্তারা পাকিস্তান কর্তৃক সংঘটিত ১৯৭১ সালে বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির দাবি পুনর্ব্যক্ত করেছেন এবং কালক্ষেপণ না করে ১৯৭১ সালের গণহত্যাকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার জন্য জাতিসংঘসহ বিশ্ব সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতি আহ্বান জানান। বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির মাধ্যমে ১৯৭১ এর গণহত্যার শিকার এবং তাদের বংশধরদের সম্মান জানানো একান্ত প্রয়োজন।

ইউরোপ ভিত্তিক প্রবাসী সংগঠন বাসুগ আয়োজিত এই সম্মেলনটি এমন এক সময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হয় যখন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কাউন্সিলের ৫১তম অধিবেশন চলছে। সাইড ইভেন্টটি ইউরোপ-ভিত্তিক থিঙ্ক ট্যাঙ্ক ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম (ইবিএফ) এবং সুইজারল্যান্ড মানবাধিকার কমিশন বাংলাদেশ এর সহযোগিতায় অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। আলোচনার শুরুতে আমরা একাত্তর, প্রজন্ম একাত্তর ও বাসুগ নির্মিত একটি স্বল্পদৈর্ঘ্য ভিডিও চলচ্চিত্র প্রদর্শন করা হয়।

বাসুগের চেয়ারম্যান বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়য়ার সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠানে বক্তব্য রাখেন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সফিতা হক, সুইডেনের হাইকোর্টের সাবেক বিচারপতি, পাকিস্তানী বংশদূত, সৈয়দ আসিফ শাকার, ব্রাসেলসভিত্তিক উন্নয়ন গবেষণা সহযোগিতার পরিচালক অধ্যাপক ড. তাজিন মুরশিদ, জার্মানি থেকে প্রকাশিত ৫০ বছর বাংলাদেশ এর সম্পাদক ও বাংলাদেশের ব্র্যান্ড গ্র্যামবেসেডের ড্যানিয়েল জাইডল, সুইস ইন্টারস্ট্রাটেজি গ্রুপের এর যোগাযোগ পরিচালক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন, ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির নির্বাসিত চেয়ারম্যান সরদার শওকত আলী কাশ্মীরি, বেলুচ ভয়েস অ্যাসোসিয়েশন, ফ্রান্স, এর সভাপতি মুনির মেঞ্জল, ইউরোপিয়ান বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের সভাপতি আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ, সর্ব ইউরোপীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংসদের সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক আবুল কালাম মিয়া এবং ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এইচআর কমিশন বিডি, সুইজারল্যান্ড এর প্রেসিডেন্ট রহমান খলিলুর মামুন।

সাইড ইভেন্টে অংশগ্রহণকারীরা ছিলেন ইউরোপের বিভিন্ন দেশে কর্মরত বাংলাদেশী কমিউনিটির সদস্য, শিক্ষাবিদ, গবেষক এবং ইউরোপের অন্যান্য সুশীল সংগঠন ও মানবাধিকার কর্মী, যারা দিবসটির অন্যান্য পার্শ্ব ইভেন্টে অংশ নিতে জাতিসংঘ ভবনে উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সফিতা হক তাঁর বক্তব্যে বলেন, জাতিরপিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশের মানুষ তৎকালীন পশ্চিম পাকিস্তানের বৈষম্য ও শোষণ-নিপীড়নের বিরুদ্ধে ১৯৭১ সালের ডিসেম্বর মাসে অর্জিত বিজয় পর্যন্ত লড়াই করেছে। কিন্তু ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫শে মার্চ থেকে দীর্ঘ নয় মাস পাকিস্তানী সেনাবাহিনী বাংলাদেশের নিরস্ত্র নারী-শিশুসহ সাধারণ মানুষের উপর অবর্ণনীয় নির্যাতন করেছে। বাংলাদেশ ইতিমধ্যে ২৫শে মার্চকে গণহত্যা দিবস হিসেবে ঘোষণা করেছে। বাংলাদেশ সরকার একাত্তরের গণহত্যার জন্য দায়ী ব্যক্তিদের বিচারের আওতায় আনতে আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধ ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করেছে। এছাড়া বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিশ্বের যে কোন জায়গায় নির্যাতন-নিপীড়ন ও গণহত্যার নিন্দাজানায়।

বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আলী শাকার বলেন, গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি এবং সঠিক বিচারের জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক কমিশন গঠন করতে হবে, যেখানে পাকিস্তানের পক্ষ থেকেও প্রতিনিধি থাকতে হবে। সৈয়দ আলী শাকার

মূলত একজন পাকিস্তানি এবং বর্তমানে সুইডেনে নির্বাসিত। তিনি বাংলাদেশের একজন প্রবল সমর্থক এবং একান্তরে গণহত্যার তীব্র সমালোচক। ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তান সরকার তার ভূমিকার জন্য তাকে ছয় মাসের জন্য কারাগারে পাঠায়।

অধ্যাপক ডাঃ তাজিন মুরশিদ বলেন, আন্তর্জাতিকস্বীকৃতির জন্য আমাদের প্রচেষ্টা দাবি আদায় না হওয়া পর্যন্ত অব্যাহত থাকবে। যদি এ ব্যাপারে দ্রুত আন্তর্জাতিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করা না হয়, জনতার আদালত গঠন করে একান্তরের গণহত্যার, হত্যাজ্ঞের শুনানী নথিভুক্ত করা হবে এবং দায়ী ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে রায় ঘোষণা করা হবে, যদিও সেইরায় কার্যকর করা সম্ভব নাও হয়। এছাড়া এই গণহত্যারায় এবং দলিল ও প্রমাণ ব্যাপকভাবে প্রচার করা হবে।

বাংলাদেশের বন্ধু পদকে ভূষিত আন্তর্জাতিক সাংবাদিক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন বলেন, বাংলাদেশ গণহত্যার মতো মানবতা বিরোধী অপরাধের আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি চায়।



জাতিসংঘে অনুষ্ঠিত সেমিনারে একান্তরের গণহত্যাকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার দাবি পুনর্ব্যক্ত

[Germany, 3 Oct 2022](#)

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ছবিঃ এএইচ/বাসুগ

জেনেভা, ৩ অক্টোবর (আওয়ার ভয়েস): জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ ভবনে অনুষ্ঠিত সেমিনারে বক্তারা পাকিস্তান কর্তৃক সংঘটিত ১৯৭১ সালে বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির দাবি পুনর্ব্যক্ত করেছেন এবং কাল ক্ষেপণ না করে ১৯৭১ সালের গণহত্যাকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার জন্য জাতিসংঘসহ বিশ্ব সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতি আহ্বান জানান।

বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যার স্বীকৃতির অধিকার অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এবং আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির মাধ্যমে ১৯৭১ এর গণহত্যার শিকার এবং তাদের বংশধরদের সম্মান জানানো একান্ত প্রয়োজন। দুর্ভাগ্যবশত, বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যা আজ ইতিহাসের এক বিস্মৃত অধ্যায় হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে।

ইউরোপ ভিত্তিক প্রবাসী সংগঠন বাসুগ আয়োজিত এই সম্মেলনটি এমন এক সময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হয় যখন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কাউন্সিলের ৫১তম অধিবেশন চলছে। সাইড ইভেন্টটি ইউরোপ-ভিত্তিক থিঙ্ক ট্যাঙ্ক ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম (ইবিএফ) এবং সুইজারল্যান্ড মানবাধিকার কমিশন বাংলাদেশ এর সহযোগিতায় অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। আলোচনার শুরুতে আমরা একান্তর, প্রজন্ম একান্তর ও বাসুগ নির্মিত একটি স্বল্পদৈর্ঘ্য ভিডিও চলচ্চিত্র প্রদর্শন করা হয়।

উল্লেখ্য, ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তানের সামরিক বাহিনী এবং তাদের স্থানীয় সহযোগীরা বিংশ শতাব্দীতে বিশ্ব প্রত্যক্ষ করা অন্যতম সবচেয়ে জঘন্যতম গণহত্যা করেছিল। পাকিস্তানি দখলদার বাহিনী নয় মাসে প্রায় ত্রিশ লাখ মানুষ হত্যা করে, দুই লাখেরও বেশি মেয়ে ও নারীকে ধর্ষন করে এবং লাখ লাখ মানুষকে বাধ্য করে সীমান্ত পাড়ি দিয়ে ভারতে আশ্রয় নিতে। পাকিস্তান সেনাবাহিনী কর্তৃক ১৯৭১ সালের গণহত্যা আন্তর্জাতিক মিডিয়া এবং সেই সময়কালে কূটনৈতিক চিঠিপত্রে নথিভুক্ত এবং রিপোর্ট করা হয়েছে।



বাসুগের চেয়ারম্যান বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়ার সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠানে বক্তব্য রাখেন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সঞ্চিতা হক, সুইডেনের হাইকোর্টের সাবেক বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আসিফ শাকার, ব্রাসেলস ভিত্তিক উন্নয়ন গবেষণা সহযোগিতার পরিচালক অধ্যাপক ড. তাজিন মুরশিদ, জার্মানি থেকে প্রকাশিত ৫০ বছর বাংলাদেশ এর সম্পাদক ও বাংলাদেশের ব্র্যান্ড গ্র্যামবেসেডের ড্যানিয়েল জাইডল, জুরিখ এর যোগাযোগ পরিচালক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন, ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির নির্বাসিত চেয়ারম্যান সরদার শওকত আলী কাশ্মীরি, বেলুচ ভয়েস অ্যাসোসিয়েশন, ফ্রান্স এর সভাপতি মুনির মেঞ্জল, ইবিএফ ইউকে'র প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ, সর্ব ইউরোপীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংসদের সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক আবুল কালাম মিয়া এবং ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এইচআর কমিশন বিডি, সুইজারল্যান্ড এর প্রেসিডেন্ট রহমান খলিলুর মামুন।

সাইড ইভেন্টে অংশগ্রহণকারীরা ছিলেন ইউরোপের বিভিন্ন দেশে কর্মরত বাংলাদেশী কমিউনিটির সদস্য, শিক্ষাবিদ, গবেষক এবং ইউরোপের অন্যান্য সুশীল সংগঠন ও মানবাধিকার কর্মী, যারা দিবসটির অন্যান্য পার্শ্ব ইভেন্টে অংশ নিতে জাতিসংঘ ভবনে উপস্থিত ছিলেন। সাইড ইভেন্টটি সরাসরি সম্প্রচার করেছে লন্ডন ভিত্তিক ব্রিটিশ বাংলা নিউজ চ্যানেল, যা ঢাকা ও নিউইয়র্ক সহ বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন নগরীতে প্রদর্শিত হয়েছে।

জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সঞ্জিতা হক তাঁর বক্তব্যে বলেন, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশের মানুষ তৎকালীন পশ্চিম পাকিস্তানের বৈষম্য ও শোষণ-নিপীড়নের বিরুদ্ধে ১৯৭১ সালের ডিসেম্বর মাসে অর্জিত স্বাধীনতা পর্যন্ত লড়াই করেছে। কিন্তু ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫শে মার্চ থেকে দীর্ঘ নয় মাস পাকিস্তানী সেনাবাহিনী বাংলাদেশের নিরস্ত্র নারী-শিশু সহ সাধারণ মানুষের উপর অবর্ণনীয় নির্যাতন করেছে। বাংলাদেশ ইতিমধ্যে ২৫শে মার্চকে গণহত্যা দিবস হিসেবে ঘোষণা করেছে। বাংলাদেশ সরকার একান্তরের গণহত্যার জন্য দায়ী ব্যক্তিদের বিচারের আওতায় আনতে আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধ ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করেছে। এছাড়া বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিশ্বের যে কোন জায়গায় নির্যাতন-নিপীড়ন ও গণহত্যার নিন্দা জানায়।

পাকিস্তানি-সুইডিশ বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আলী শাকার বলেন, গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি এবং সঠিক বিচারের জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক কমিশন গঠন করতে হবে, যেখানে পাকিস্তানের পক্ষ থেকেও প্রতিনিধি থাকতে হবে। বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আলী শাকার মূলত একজন পাকিস্তানি এবং বর্তমানে সুইডেনে নির্বাসিত। তিনি বাংলাদেশের একজন প্রবল সমর্থক এবং একান্তরে গণহত্যার তীব্র সমালোচক। ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তান সরকার ও সামরিক শাসনে বাংলাদেশে তাদের ভূমিকার জন্য তাকে ছয় মাসের জন্য কারাগারে পাঠানো হয়।

অধ্যাপক ডাঃ তাজিন মুরশিদ বলেন, আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির জন্য আমাদের প্রচেষ্টা দাবি আদায় না হওয়া পর্যন্ত অব্যাহত থাকবে। যদি এ ব্যাপারে দ্রুত আন্তর্জাতিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করা না হয়, জনতার আদালত গঠন করে একান্তরের গণহত্যার একক এবং সম্মিলিত হত্যাযজ্ঞের শুনানী নথিভুক্ত করা হবে এবং দায়ী ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে রায় ঘোষণা করা হবে, যদিও সেই রায় কার্যকর করা সম্ভব নাও হয়। এছাড়া এই গণহত্যার রায় এবং দলিল ও প্রমাণ ব্যাপকভাবে প্রচার করা হবে।

বাংলাদেশের বন্ধু পদকে ভূষিত আন্তর্জাতিক সাংবাদিক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন বলেন, বাংলাদেশ গণহত্যার মতো মানবতা বিরোধী অপরাধের আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি চায়। আমি মনে করি, এটি সবচেয়ে সঠিক সময় একান্তরের গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির। মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের দলিলে যেভাবে একান্তরের গণহত্যার প্রমাণ উঠে এসেছে, জাতিসংঘকেও এটার স্বীকৃতি দিতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, বাসুগ ও ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম অন্যান্য সহযোগী সংগঠনগুলোকে সাথে নিয়ে ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তানী সেনা সদস্য এবং তাদের দোসরদের সংঘটিত গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির দাবিতে প্রায় এক দশক ধরে ব্রাসেলস, দ্য হেগ, জেনেভা, লন্ডন সহ ইউরোপের বিভিন্ন নগরীতে মিডিয়া ক্যাম্পেইন, সম্মেলন, সেমিনার ও মানববন্ধন করে আসছে।

দৈনিক সিলেট

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জাতিসংঘের সাইড ইভেন্টে একাত্তরের গণহত্যাকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার দাবি

প্রকাশিত হয়েছে : ০৪ অক্টোবর ২০২২, ৯:৪৬ অপরাহ্ন



দৈনিক সিলেট ডটকম: জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ ভবনে অনুষ্ঠিত সেমিনারে বক্তারা পাকিস্তান কর্তৃক সংঘটিত ১৯৭১ সালে বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির দাবি পুনর্ব্যক্ত করেছেন এবং কাল ক্ষেপণ না করে ১৯৭১ সালের গণহত্যাকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার জন্য জাতিসংঘসহ বিশ্ব সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতি আহ্বান জানান। বাংলাদেশের গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতির মাধ্যমে ১৯৭১ এর গণহত্যার শিকার এবং তাদের বংশধরদের সম্মান জানানো একান্ত প্রয়োজন।

ইউরোপ ভিত্তিক প্রবাসী সংগঠন বাসুগ আয়োজিত এই সম্মেলনটি এমন এক সময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হয় যখন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ মানবাধিকার কাউন্সিলের ৫১তম অধিবেশন চলছে। সাইড ইভেন্টটি ইউরোপ-

ভিত্তিক থিঙ্ক ট্যাঙ্ক ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম (ইবিএফ) এবং সুইজারল্যান্ড মানবাধিকার কমিশন বাংলাদেশ এর সহযোগিতায় অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। আলোচনার শুরুতে আমরা একান্তর, প্রজন্ম একান্তর ও বাসুগ নির্মিত একটি স্বল্পদৈর্ঘ্য ভিডিও চলচ্চিত্র প্রদর্শন করা হয়।

বাসুগের চেয়ারম্যান বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়ার সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠানে বক্তব্য রাখেন জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সঞ্চিত্তা হক, সুইডেনের হাইকোর্টের সাবেক বিচারপতি, পাকিস্তানী বংশদূত, সৈয়দ আসিফ শাকার, ব্রাসেলস ভিত্তিক উন্নয়ন গবেষণা সহযোগিতার পরিচালক অধ্যাপক ড. তাজিন মুরশিদ, জার্মানি থেকে প্রকাশিত ৫০ বছর বাংলাদেশ এর সম্পাদক ও বাংলাদেশের ব্র্যান্ড এ্যামবেসেডর ড্যানিয়েল জাইডল, সুইস ইন্টারস্ট্রাটেজি গ্রুপের এর যোগাযোগ পরিচালক ক্রিস ব্ল্যাকবার্ন, ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির নির্বাসিত চেয়ারম্যান সরদার শওকত আলী কাশ্মীরি, বেলুচ ভয়েস অ্যাসোসিয়েশন, ফ্রান্স, এর সভাপতি মুনির মেঞ্জল, ইউরোপিয়ান বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের সভাপতি আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ, সর্ব ইউরোপীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংসদের সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক আবুল কালাম মিয়া, ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এইচআর কমিশন বিডি, সুইজারল্যান্ড এর প্রেসিডেন্ট রহমান খলিলুর মামুন এবং ইউরোপিয়ান বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের সভাপতি আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ।

সাইড ইভেন্টে অংশগ্রহণকারীরা ছিলেন ইউরোপের বিভিন্ন দেশে কর্মরত বাংলাদেশী কমিউনিটির সদস্য, শিক্ষাবিদ, গবেষক এবং ইউরোপের অন্যান্য সুশীল সংগঠন ও মানবাধিকার কর্মী, যারা দিবসটির অন্যান্য পার্শ্ব ইভেন্টে অংশ নিতে জাতিসংঘ ভবনে উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘে বাংলাদেশের উপ-স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি সঞ্চিত্তা হক তাঁর বক্তব্যে বলেন, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশের মানুষ তৎকালীন পশ্চিম পাকিস্তানের বৈষম্য ও শোষণ-নিপীড়নের বিরুদ্ধে ১৯৭১ সালের ডিসেম্বর মাসে অর্জিত বিজয় পর্যন্ত লড়াই করেছে। কিন্তু ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫শে মার্চ থেকে দীর্ঘ নয় মাস পাকিস্তানী সেনাবাহিনী বাংলাদেশের নিরস্ত্র নারী-শিশু সহ সাধারণ মানুষের উপর অবর্ণনীয় নির্যাতন করেছে। বাংলাদেশ ইতিমধ্যে ২৫শে মার্চকে গণহত্যা দিবস হিসেবে ঘোষণা করেছে। বাংলাদেশ সরকার একান্তরের গণহত্যার জন্য দায়ী ব্যক্তিদের বিচারের আওতায় আনতে আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধ ট্রাইব্যুনাল গঠন করেছে। এছাড়া বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিশ্বের যে কোন জায়গায় নির্যাতন-নিপীড়ন ও গণহত্যার নিন্দা জানায়।

বিচারপতি সৈয়দ আলী শাকার বলেন, গণহত্যার আন্তর্জাতিক স্বীকৃতি এবং সঠিক বিচারের জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক কমিশন গঠন করতে হবে, যেখানে পাকিস্তানের পক্ষ থেকেও প্রতিনিধি থাকতে হবে। সৈয়দ আলী শাকার মূলত একজন পাকিস্তানি এবং বর্তমানে সুইডেনে নির্বাসিত। তিনি বাংলাদেশের একজন প্রবল সমর্থক এবং একান্তরে গণহত্যার তীব্র সমালোচক। ১৯৭১ সালে পাকিস্তান সরকার তার ভূমিকার জন্য তাকে ছয় মাসের জন্য কারাগারে পাঠায়।

The Daily Star

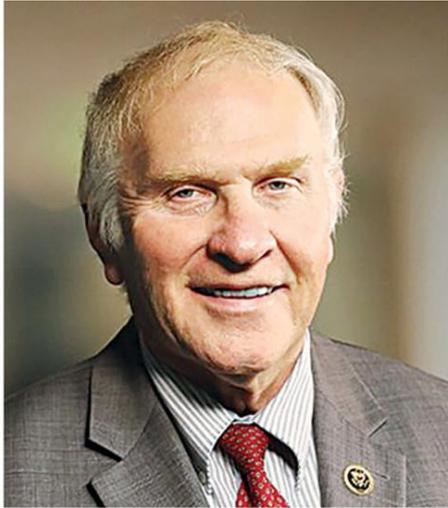
Journalism Without Fear or Favour

Genocide in 1971: US congressmen move to give it recognition

Introduce bipartisan resolution

Diplomatic Correspondent

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Steve Chabot



Ro Khanna

Two US lawmakers introduced a historic bipartisan resolution at the House of Representatives urging recognition of the genocide committed by the Pakistan Armed Forces against Bangalis in 1971.

They called on Congress to condemn the atrocities and Pakistan to apologise to the people of Bangladesh for its role in the genocide, and prosecute, in accordance with international law, any perpetrators who are still living.

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Republican Congressman Steve Chabot, ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and co-chair of the Bangladesh Caucus, and Democrat Congressman Ro Khanna introduced the resolution on Friday.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque commended the congressmen.

Belgium-based International Crimes Strategy Forum's board member **Ahmed Ziauddin** termed the resolution historic and said it will have practical consequences globally as the US has its own law defining its role once any such resolution is passed.

Congressman Steve Chabot said millions of people were killed [in 1971] in what is now Bangladesh and many of them were Hindu.

"And it was, in my opinion, a genocide just like other genocides – like the Holocaust – happened. And there were others that have occurred, and this was one that, thus far, hasn't really been declared by definition. And we are working on this now," he said in a statement issued by the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM).

"The Bangladesh Genocide of 1971 must not be forgotten... We must not let the years erase the memory of the millions who were massacred. Recognizing the genocide strengthens the historical record, educates our fellow Americans, and lets would-be perpetrators know such crimes will not be tolerated or forgotten," said Chabot.

The resolution described how the West Pakistani elites deprived the Banglalis of economic, social, and political rights, treating them as a lesser people.

It also mentioned General Yahya Khan's order to the top military brass to kill the Banglalis on March 25, 1971. The resolution also mentioned Bangladesh government's estimate that three million people were killed and 200,000 women raped.

It sought that the US reaffirms its commitment to promote peace, stability and intercommunal harmony in the Indo-Pacific region, and the right of all people living in the region, regardless of national, racial, ethnic or religious background, to enjoy the benefits of democratic institutions, rule of law, freedom of religion and economic opportunity.

Ahmed Ziauddin said the resolution rightly pointed out the historical facts. **Aroma Dutta, MP**, whose grandfather Dharendra Nath Datta and uncle Dilip Datta were killed by the Pakistan Armed Forces in 1971, said, she wants the killers to be punished for murdering innocent people, including the elderly, young women, and children.

"My family and I have still not recovered from the trauma and suffering. I, along with other family members of the martyrs, demand recognition of this genocide in which millions were raped and killed," she said in the statement.

HRCBM Executive Director **Priya Saha** said as a survivor, she hopes that the resolution will initiate a detailed action plan to ensure that the Biden administration holds the Pakistan Army and their Bangladeshi collaborators – the Razakars, Al-Shams, Al-Badr, and Jamaat-e-Islami – accountable.

PRE-EVENT ANP NEWS

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'Bangladesh seeks justice: Recognition of 1971 Genocide'

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Dit is een origineel bericht van
European Bangladesh Forum



'Bangladesh seeks justice: Recognition of 1971 Genocide'

Venue : Room- XXV, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Monday 3 October 2022 at 3 p.m.

www.ebforum.eu

Organised by:
European Bangladesh Forum (EBF)
&
International Human Rights Commission BD, Switzerland

Monday 03 October 2022 | (4 pm – 5 pm) | Venue: Room- XXV | Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Geneva: European Bangladesh Forum, a platform of Bangladeshi Europeans in collaboration with Stichting BASUG and the International Human Rights Commission Bangladesh, Switzerland will hold a Side Event' on 'Bangladesh seeks justice: Recognition of 1971 Genocide' on Monday 03 October 2022 at 4 p.m. at the UN building, Room XXV in Geneva, Switzerland during the on-going 51st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

A number of experts, academics, university teachers, researchers from the UK, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland will take part in the conference as speakers. The speakers include former High Court Justice in Sweden Mr. Syed Asif Shahkar, recipient of 'Friend of Bangladesh' Award, Mr Chris Blackburn, Communications Director, Swiss InterStrategy, Zurich, also a recipient of 'Friend of Bangladesh' award, Professor Ms. Dr. Tazeen Murshid, historian & writer and Director of the Development Research Cooperation, Brussels, Mr. Daniel Seidl, Editor, 50 Years Bangladesh, Munich, Germany and Mr. Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, Chairman, United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP). It will also be addressed by Mr Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President, EBF and BASUG Country Coordinator in UK, Mr. Khalilur Rahman, President,

International HR Commission BD, Switzerland. Mr. Bikash Chowdhury Barua, Chairman of BASUG & EBF Netherlands will chair the side event.

It should be mentioned that the 1971 Genocide in Bangladesh committed by the Pakistani military is one of the worst mass atrocities that the world witnessed in the 20th century. The Pakistani occupation army in nine months killed approximately three million people, violated over two hundred thousand women and forced ten million people to cross the border and take shelter in India.

Without further delay, there needs to be recognition of the Bangladesh genocide and an UN-sponsored Resolution condemnation against Pakistan for its role in 1971 in Bangladesh. The perpetrators of the 1971 genocide must be brought to justice. The new generation must know what treatment was meted out to the people of Bangladesh who deserve justice. Due to lack of international recognition, the history of that horror, the 1971 genocide has become faded in the world context today. Bangladesh community in Europe feel that the 1971 GENOCIDE should be recognised by the international community to give justice to the victims of the atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army and its political leadership in 1971.

The Side event will be telecast live by the London-based British Bangladesh News TV channel and can be watched at the following links: YouTube link : youtu.be/zGV8xyysnwg and Facebook link : m.facebook.com/events/193



TV COVERAGE

JAMUNA TV, Dhaka

<https://fb.watch/f-8tFaas6t/>



ION TV, Londn

<https://youtu.be/nkwWErk5JYo>



PAPERS

Recognition for the Genocide in Bangladesh committed during the War of Liberation 1971

By Chris Blackburn

Mr Chris Blackburn: I would like to thank Bikash and the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) for inviting me to speak today with such distinguished guests and friends. Friends who have made justice and accountability for 1971 a central part of their lives. I thank you all.



I'm the Communications Director of the Swiss Interstrategy Group, we are based in Zurich. Switzerland is like my second home. Geneva is a magnificent place for the world to come together to work through our problems to build a better future. It's an international city. Hopefully it will be the city that helps the rest of the world to come to terms with the past in Bangladesh.

I'm a great supporter of the United Nation's family. The work the UN does transforms people's lives on a daily basis. It's been there to support humanity since its inception in 1945. The UN was formed while the globe was still fresh with cries of, 'never again'. The UN was created in the shadow of the Holocaust. It was setup to prevent exactly what happened in Bangladesh during the Liberation War of 1971.

Today, I want to highlight the many brave men and women of South Asia who help to provide security and shelter to people in danger around the world. The armed forces and police of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh put aside their differences to wear the blue helmets of the United Nations to help humanity together. As someone who studies South Asia, it fills me with immense pride.

Bangladesh has many supporters around the world like the Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, who fell in love with the spirit of the Bangladeshi nation and people. But Bangladesh's foreign friends often shy away from the Genocide issue. It's a shame.

Bangladesh has often been referred to as, "the little engine that could". A far cry from the horrible moniker that Henry Kissinger gave it in the 1970s- he called it 'a basket case'. However, there are other countries in South Asia that are probably more fitting of the term today.

In June this year, US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken honoured the memory of Archer K. Blood, a US diplomat who stood up to Nixon and Kissinger in 1971 for not condemning the genocide in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Blinken is a shrewd person. The creation of a conference hall in Blood's name at the heart of the US State Department is a sign that the US wants to get back to being an unimpeachable force for human liberty and the rule of law.⁵ Let's face it foreign policy realism during the Cold War and the US led *War on Terrorism* led to many international ideals and standards going out of the window for short term gains. It's something the US is trying to repair. Rightly so. It's also put the UN's moral compass under scrutiny too.

⁵ <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/06/24/henry-kissinger-archer-blood-state-department-00041932>

It has been a long road to justice for the victims of 1971. We should all be proud of Bangladesh and how far it has come. But there is still work to do. The United Nations knows there were mass rapes and a genocide in Bangladesh. They know because they sent emergency abortion teams to Bangladesh to deal with the aftermath.

We want the United Nations to come clean about their assessments on what took place in 1971. We want them to publish their documents and make them accessible to the world public. If we want the UN to recognise the genocide, we should advise them that they should start right there. Look at the UN archives. Show the public the UN meetings and notes. How much did the abortion teams cost? Which countries helped to pay for them? We want to know.

Today, I want to focus on 4 issues which we must look at while moving forward. The first, **Attacks on Women**, second **Genocide Denial**, third **Attacks on Hindus and** fourth **Deliberate Attacks on Civilians**.

It's important to be able to use highly focussed themes to help us raise awareness for victims. These features are very important to how Bangladesh processes the war crimes issues.

There have been difficult moments. But we should all be proud of the work we have done. I remember long ago when a US think tank said nobody in Bangladesh wants war crimes tribunals apart from a handful of old communists with axes to grind against Jamaat-e-Islami. They were wrong. Bangladesh was right to delve back into its bloody past. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Social history is important, as is justice. Historians and activists need to be able to keep history alive for future prosperity. Bangladesh has suffered mainly due to a lack of resources to keep the *Spirit of Liberation* alive. That's hopefully changed as Bangladesh are putting its neighbours to shame.

Why is it important to recognise the genocide?

In 2013, when the Shahbagh movement grew across the world. We knew that a new generation of Bangladeshis wanted justice and accountability. It wasn't just a handful of leftists and communists settling old scores. Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children took to the streets asking for justice for their relatives and friends that had been directly affected by the horrendous actions of the Pakistani army and their proxies.

Why is making Pakistan accountable important? It's because Pakistan continues to flaunt international laws. The lack of accountability for the death squads they created and the systematic brutality of their armour and infantry has made it invincible from justice and accountability.

Bangladeshis were the first major victims of Pakistan's use of jihadi radicals. That dangerous trend, consolidated in 1971, has become a global horror story. Afghans, Sindhis, Kashmiris, and Balochis are all experiencing the same type of horrors as Bangladeshis did during 1971.

We must learn from our mistakes too, so we can carry the torch to the next generation. If we rest on our laurels, we will find that future generations will also be suffering from the impunity that Pakistan currently enjoys. Afghans and Pakistani minorities are still suffering today. The United Nations has to become an avenue to fix that or be damned to irrelevance.

How can we live in a world where people turn their eyes and ears away from crimes against humanity? It's a dagger in the heart of the victims of 1971. Victims of Pakistan's brutality continue to suffer because of a lack of accountability and justice. The perpetrators aren't being punished for their behaviour. Pakistan is in a permanent state of chaos and instability.

“Let sleeping dogs lie” was one of the arguments I heard against Bangladesh’s war crime tribunals. In 2010, I was dismayed to see that Former US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton’s close aides ran cover for Jamaat. Whitewashing their history of crimes against humanity. Why? What has Pakistan or Jamaat done to deserve such impunity? Was it their help in delivering a blow to the USSR during Operation Cyclone? Was it because of their support for UN designated terrorist groups and nuclear proliferation? We can only guess. But it continues to frustrate the rest of the globe that believes in justice and fairness.

Bangladeshi activists deserve great credit for pressurising Pakistan figures to acknowledge their brutality against their Muslim and Hindu brothers. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was the first main figure to argue for Pakistan to officially apologise for the genocide of 1971. However, over the years Imran “Taliban” Khan as he is now dubbed by the media. Has become something of a loose cannon. His recent comments about the Taliban freeing Afghans from the “shackles of slavery” has shown his true colours to the world. Pakistan is still trying to deny what took place in 1971. Why should we let them? We don’t let Serbs or, even Kosovan Albanians who were their targets, get away with crimes against humanity.

Attacks on Women

Birangona were systematically raped with numbers of up to 200-400,000 affected during the Liberation War. Aid agencies set up abortion centres to deal with unwanted pregnancies. Bina D’Costa and others have documented the abuses carried out by the Pakistani army and their auxiliaries. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the United Nations combined to help perform late-term abortions in Bangladesh after the war ended.

In an interview with researchers, Dr Geoffrey Davis of the IPPF said:

“...Probably the numbers [200-400,000] are very conservative compared with what they did. The descriptions of how they captured towns were very interesting. They’d keep the infantry back and put artillery ahead and they would shell the hospitals and schools. And that caused absolute chaos in the town. And then the infantry would go in and begin to segregate the women. Apart from little children, all those who were sexually matured would be segregated. And then the women would be put in the compound under guard and made available to the troops...Some of the stories they told were appalling. Being raped again and again and again. A lot of them died in those [rape] camps. There was an air of disbelief about the whole thing. Nobody could credit that it really happened! But the evidence clearly showed that it did happen.”⁶

There has been a major focus on the Birangona over the last few decades. Women Studies are a growing feature of western social sciences and law. A major benefit of this is that a new generation of women and human rights activists are concentrating on the horrific treatment of women during the liberation war. Plays and documentaries have been focussing on the treatment of women. It’s a very important area of study.

We need to highlight this important work.

Genocide Denial

Genocide denial is caustic. Especially when the evidence is overwhelming. Victims and perpetrators are denied the right to move on. It denies victims and their families from having much-needed closure. A nation cannot heal when justice is twisted and denied. Genocide denial from within the Muslim world, Bangladesh itself and aided by “mischievous historians” like Sarmila Bose helped to perpetrate genocide denial. Bose

⁶ Anushay Hossain, Forbes Magazine, May 21, 2012, [1971 Rapes: Bangladesh Cannot Hide History \(forbes.com\)](http://forbes.com)

was rewarded with a prestigious scholarship position at Oxford University because of her revisionism. Her dubious work on 1971 and calls for aiding the Pakistani military through US sales of F16s are her *magnum opus*. She was given a position she did not deserve. Oxford University should have been ashamed.

Attacks on Hindus

The liberation war was an attack on the weakest in Bangladeshi society. Senator Edward Kennedy wrote a report that was published by the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on November 1st 1971. The report read:

"Hardest hit have been members of the Hindu community who have been robbed of their lands and shops, systematically slaughtered, and in some places, painted with yellow patches marked 'H'. All of this has been officially sanctioned, ordered and implemented under martial law from Islamabad."

Pakistan wanted Hindus out of Bangladesh. At the time, the Hindu community were under Pakistan's protection. The brutal targeting was just as bad as any Nazi inspired or Balkan tragedy.

Colonel Nadir Ali, a retired Pakistani Army officer became a renowned poet in Pakistan, he has stated that he was officially ordered by his superiors to, "Leave no Hindu alive". Pakistan's attack on Bangladeshi society was multifaceted. They went after intellectuals and those that wanted a plural society in East Pakistan.⁷

A theme common for Islamists and dictators is the attack on a mysterious "fifth column", usually this is manifest in powerless minorities. A common trick is to give these defenceless minorities a power they simply don't possess. They become dehumanised, isolated, and threatened as a result. They become the cause of all a nation's ills in the minds of those that want to remove them. This is when genocide and hate crimes become prevalent. Hindus in Bangladesh are still targeted due to this type of thinking. They are often called RAW or Indian agents by radical Islamists. Recent violence has shown that Pakistan inspired elements are still intent on creating chaos in Bangladesh⁸

The recent violence during a Hindu festival was carried out to cause communal tensions. It was instigated by people who want Bangladesh to be more like Pakistan. These people are dangerous and pose a serious threat to community harmony and political stability in Bangladesh.

Attacks on Civilians

Operation Searchlight was the name for highly coordinated attacks on those that would have helped Bangladesh to thrive--- the civilian population. Pakistan's attacks on civilian leaders and intellectuals were spiteful, evil, and calculated. They wanted to deny Bangladesh from having a chance. Those that were at the top of society were collectively punished. But they also slaughtered students in their dormitories. Teachers in their schools. People shopping, working, trying to survive daily life. Doctors and nurses were shelled in their hospitals and medical centres.

Al-Badr and al-Shams created lists of people that the Pakistani military wanted to be removed. We know that convicted criminal Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin used his role as a journalist, to help death squad

⁷ [Probir Kumar Sarker](#), The Dhaka Tribune, October 25th 2021, [How Hindus were targeted in 1971 | Dhaka Tribune](#)

⁸ Gloria Methri, RepublicWorld.com, November 24th 2021, [Bangladesh minister claims 'Pakistan's ISI strengthening terror roots in Dhaka' \(republicworld.com\)](#)

organisers to compile lists of those who were deemed a threat to Pakistan. He informed on his associates and colleagues. He also went out with squads to pick up targets from their homes and places of work.

Conclusion

Why are people too scared to follow Archer K. Blood's lead? Why are they scared to show the same bravery that Pakistani journalist Anthony Mascarenhas showed when he wrote GENOCIDE in capital letters on the frontpage of a British newspaper- The Telegraph?

We can't rest while people keep telling us to forget the past and just move on, the issue of recognition for the genocide of 1971 is important for global justice and accountability. Why are the perpetrators being protected? We know that this issue has been fought over and sabotaged.

Pakistan needs to apologise. The United Nations needs to recognise what happened during 1971 if it wants to help heal history. If the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken can recognise what happened in 1971. The UN should too.

As activists we need to keep having meetings like these. We need to keep informing people about 1971.

Bangladesh wants international recognition for the crimes against humanity. It's probably the most promising time to achieve that goal. The United Nations like, the United States must also recognise the conflict as genocide, not just acknowledge the bravery of Archer K. Blood for standing up to the Nixon administration. Blood said it was a genocide. The UN should too.

History of 1971 is also our future. Please do the right and just thing. Recognise the genocide of 1971.

(This Paper is presented at the Side Event of EBF/BASUG on 3 October 2022 during the 51st Human Rights Council Session of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland)

Title: 'Eyewitness: Surviving Genocide, Seeking Justice and an End to Impunity'

by Prof Tazeen M Murshid

PERSONAL ACCOUNT: OPERATION SEARCHLIGHT: I had just started university studies. Our class was involved in rehearsing for a department play for Fresher's welcome when we heard that the Assembly session had been postponed, again. People became agitated, tense, fearful. This was the 25th of March.



[Some firebrand students had burnt the flag of Pakistan a few days earlier. Frustrated with the stalling nature of negotiations for the transfer of power to elected civilians, they were urging Sheikh Mujib to hoist the flag of an independent Bangladesh. He refrained. But he had, on the 7th of March, rallied the nation for a non-violent, non-cooperation movement in protest against the military's cancellation of the first Assembly session due to be held on the 3rd of March. In an electrifying speech, he had asked the nation, that had overwhelmingly elected him by giving his party 70.45 per cent

of the votes and 167 of the 169 seats, to be prepared for any eventuality. However, he stopped short of declaring unilateral independence.]

We had inexplicable forebodings. The rehearsal stopped and we all hurriedly returned to our separate homes. Our brothers took longer to return, they were checking for signs on the roads. Some people had started erecting roadblocks with trees, upturned vehicles and stones. An eerie silence had enveloped the streets. Even the birds had stopped calling.

Our father, who had been instructed by colleagues to stay away from home for a while, had remained indoors that fateful night. As an advisor to Sheikh Mujib, he could be a likely target for vengeance. My mother, a directly elected Member of Parliament, was not so advised. As a woman, it was unthinkable that she could be harmed.

That night as we slept, we were rudely awakened around midnight by the sounds of machine gun fire. The skies were lit with military tracer lights. *Operation Searchlight* had started. We lived in the Dhaka University Campus housing estate on Fuller Road, one of the first areas to be targeted by military action. From our windows we saw neighbours being taken away and shot. We saw fire coming from the slums alongside the Nilkhet railway line.

We changed into our day clothes and waited for that fateful knock on the door. It did not come. Months later, we learnt why. According to the Army masterplan, our house was marked as located at the second gate to the right when entering Fuller Road from Nilkhet Road. But unbeknown to them, on the 22nd of March that gate had been sealed off because a young widow on the ground floor was afraid of the street agitation virtually on her doorstep. The second gate thus led to another building behind ours, where blood was spilt. We got a second chance, a borrowed life.

When the curfew was lifted, my brother and father took a walk in the campus and saw the carnage with their own eyes: The University Teachers Club, Madhu's Canteen, student hostels like Iqbal Hall and Jagannath Hall were riddled with bullet holes, the walls and floors were blood streaked. Rokeya Hall was set on fire and those trying to escape were shot. A hand or a body part protruded from the hastily dug mass graves in the campus grounds. The corridors were littered with student possessions: books, id cards, pictures. The students were all gone, massacred. They were not trained to take on a professional army!

INTERNALLY DISPLACED

It was clear that we could no longer stay where we were. We became internally displaced. We first found ourselves pushed from house to house in Dhaka, and then toward the villages and finally towards the border with India, driven by fear of reprisals among the extended family who provided us with shelter and by aerial strafing of the countryside.

An exodus began. Reports were coming through of a rising resistance movement that every young person wanted to join. It gave us hope. We left our last sanctuary in our village home and headed for the unknown on April 14, 1971. It was a stormy night. The *kalbaishakhi* had struck with thunder and lightning. I woke up in a sweat, wanting to be inside my mother's womb again, to feel safe, protected. We were going to stay the night at a boatman's house next. But on the way by boat on the Teesta river, a student of my father recognized him and took us to the empty house of a relative near the Agartala border in Shingarbil. We abandoned this place after a few days: we were falling ill due to lack of food and potable water; but primarily because our neighbours warned us that if the army came looking, they would inform on us. They were frightened. Our last act before we finally crossed the border into the unknown, was to take a handful of earth with us.

REFUGEE

As witnesses to crimes against humanity, we saw numerous refugee camps in India along its borders with East Bengal. From across the border, we saw schools where barely clad young women were kept as comfort women. Sometimes they were paraded naked along the border to taunt the Bengali men and freedom fighters for their ineptitude.

I became a volunteer to help the war effort in any way I could.

[I taught primary age refugee children in Kalyani camps; for a while I joined a group of musicians from old music school, Chhayanaut, that went from training camp to camp to raise the morale of the Mukti Bahini freedom fighters. Next, with other young volunteers, I began indexing news reports on the war at Bangladesh Information Bank established at Netaji Bhavan, Kolkata. Simultaneously, I prepared news briefs and presented the English news on *Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra*.]

[Interestingly, we also got news about the free zones from inside Bangladesh, sometimes through diaries that were smuggled out. I learnt that my mother had been sentenced in absentia with 14 years rigorous imprisonment and a shoot on sight order for offences of rape, arson and murder! She came to the limelight when she addressed both the houses of the Indian Parliament on the situation in Bangladesh.]

STARK REALITY HITS AFTER INDEPENDENCE

After independence, I met many of the young comfort women who were pregnant and in the care of the Ministry of Social Welfare or in the homes run by Mother Theresa. They looked vacant. Some convinced themselves that they had been married. Others just looked away.

Several of our close friends, relatives and teachers had been killed, or were missing. Those youths who had been recruited into the auxiliary forces of the Pakistan Army, such as the Razakaars and Al-Badr, went into hiding.

The real horrors of the war began to come to light: of reckless and indiscriminate killing of old and young, men and women, children and infants; of barbaric rape and murder of pre-pubescent girls, the elimination of women forcibly impregnated; of villages and slums being burned and razed to the ground; of death squads searching for students and political activists; of professors and journalists being picked up from their homes; and auxiliary forces doing the bidding of the military command, including procuring women for them, no matter how they were treated.

FACT SHEET

The destruction of human capital in East Pakistan, which had a very small middle class at the time is incalculable. The figures oft quoted include:

10 million refugees,

30-40 million internally displaced,

3 million killed,

942 killing fields with skulls and bones of 1000 to 10000 in each,

between 200000 to 400000 women raped,

170000 abortions among raped women

5000 war babies given up for adoption

30000 suicides among raped women

1100 intellectuals, professors, journalists, writers, lawyers and physicians killed

WEST PAKISTAN'S WAR OBJECTIVES

The West Pakistan military sought to destroy Bengalis, their political leadership, the intellectual and professional middle classes who were the backbone of society, and students, who are the future torch bearers of their heritage. It sought to annihilate the Hindu population, and work with loyalists willing to do its bidding. They thus unleashed their 'kill and burn' strategy on the population at large, while recruiting allies from extremist religious groups, Bihari minorities and other loyalists.

By targeting the political party, the Awami League, and its supporters, the army eyed 70.45 % of the population that had voted for that party, i.e, the majority of the population of East Pakistan, considering that the AL had a landslide victory in a massive voter turnout, and won 167 out of 169 seats allocated to East Pakistan.

The educated section of the population constituted a small fraction of the total at the time. By targeting them, the professors, teachers, students and professionals like doctors, lawyers and physicians for elimination, the Generals sought to destroy that entire middle class. The rest of the population would then be virtually enslaved for menial work, who would be managed by staff and personnel brought in from West Pakistan, a process that had already begun in 1971, because Bengali staff could not be found.

IMPUNITY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES:

The rape of Bangladesh was accompanied by impunity. Impunity of the auxiliary forces, impunity of the military on the ground, impunity of the military high command. And at the apex of the ladder were Pakistan's international patrons. International norms of conduct and accountability were flouted at every stage. Impunity went hand in hand with the arrogance of power. For Bangladesh, this has had devastating consequences: continuation of an ideology conflict, ongoing political assassinations, coups, countercoups, and rising terrorism. The death squads of 1971 have taken new forms.

Pakistan lost an opportunity to set its house in order and return the army to the barracks where it belongs in a democracy. Instead, it continues to create and train terrorist cadres in Afghanistan and elsewhere as it did in East Pakistan with the continued backing or at least, non-chalance of its foreign patrons.

GENOCIDE

In the popular imagination of Bengalis, a *ganohatya* has taken place, meaning multiple massacres in a pre-planned, pre-meditated way on the basis of a master plan, intended to tame and subdue the Bengali population. That there was intent to kill Bengalis is evident from the actions of the army, the orders of General Niazi to his troops: 'This is enemy territory, take what you like', or questions asked to soldiers like, 'How many Bengalis/ or Hindus have you killed today?' The Hamoodur Rahman Commission, while down playing the serious nature of Pakistan's actions, nevertheless admits to atrocities and unlawful killings. Ten million Bengalis would not have fled to refugee camps in India, where a tenth of them had died, if they had felt safe at home.

It is immaterial how many exactly were intentionally killed, maimed, tortured, brutalized in the terrible war that was unleashed. What is material is that the nature of the crimes be clearly recorded and acknowledged by all parties to the conflict and most certainly by the perpetrators. It must be recognized

that heinous, inhuman crimes were perpetrated on an unarmed, sleeping population by its own government. While fraudulently negotiating the transfer of power to elected representatives, it gained time to amass weapons and bring in thousands of military personnel to pursue a final solution. The point of no return was reached when the massacres began. And while the press, locally stationed diplomats and the international community were fully cognizant of the unfolding genocide, the international community is yet to publicly acknowledge that fact.

JUSTICE, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CLOSURE

After fifty years of the Genocide and the War of Liberation, the people have only received partial closure from the trials of some of the Bangladeshi war criminals since 2010. The culpability of the military led Pakistan government is yet to be acknowledged by the international community despite overwhelming proof. We seek justice for our martyrs and demand that the perpetrators take responsibility for their actions in the cause of a peaceful future for us and the world. It is our legal right as members of the world community. It is our moral right as human beings. Kissinger offered the war criminals a lifeline, by suggesting that though the army committed excesses they had the right to restore internal order. However, crimes against humanity have no national borders. Nor do actions the consequences of which are genocidal.

It has been argued that intent to destroy a particular group constitutes genocide, by which count the genocide of Hindus can be proven, but not of the larger Bengali Muslim population. However, the term 'intent' is a subjective term that is hard to define, but actions demonstrate intent vividly. From the persistent nature of the violations, the cruel and degrading treatment of victims, of arbitrary killings and massacres of people without following due process, the destruction of entire villages and the rape of hundreds and thousands of women and children, suggest the intention was genocidal, and the consequences genocidal. But that is a task for lawyers and jurists.

From a moral perspective, I see the sheer magnitude of the attempt to change the beliefs and way of life of Bengalis to be genocidal. For Bengalis were considered inferior, referred to as 'chickens', or monkeys and so, not fit to rule. They faced discriminatory treatment in the share of jobs and access to resources for decades and chose to protest. They faced genocide. Acknowledgement of war crimes, crimes against humanity and of genocide is the moral right of the victims. To forget this barbarity is to permit the recurrence of such acts.

CONCLUSION: WHAT CAN BANGLADESH DO?

Given the history of obstacles Bangladesh has faced in obtaining justice, and acknowledgement, what can and should Bangladesh do? It can try the Pakistani war criminals in Bangladesh in absentia, or even posthumously, with or without Pakistan's cooperation. In return for the release of Prisoners of War by clemency on humanitarian grounds, Bhutto had promised to try them in Pakistan. That never happened. Bangladesh should therefore reclaim the right to try them in Bangladesh to get closure.

If an international tribunal is not possible, there could be a public trial in a People's Court, even if no verdict can be carried out. The aim would be to document both individual and collective crimes, to debate them and pass sentences in order to provide a moral victory and closure. Or it could take the form of a Truth Commission. The evidence so gathered should be disseminated widely and at every opportunity.

The demand for international recognition should never stop.

BASUG Bangladesh Support Group **SIDE EVENT**

BANGLADESH SEEKS JUSTICE: RECOGNITION OF 1971 GENOCIDE

Monday 03 October 2022
16:00 – 17:00 CEST
Venue: Room number XXV
Palais des Nations, Geneva
Switzerland

Bangladesh seeks justice: Recognition of 1971 Genocide

Munir Mengal
President
Baloch Voice
Association

Justice Syed Asif Shakar
Former High Court
Justice Sweden

Prof. Dr. Tazeen Murshid
Historian & Writer

Chris Blackburn
Director, Swiss
InterStrategy
Group (SwissISG)

Daniel Seidl
Writer, Brand
Ambassador of
Bangladesh

Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri
Exiled Chairman
United Kashmir People's
National Party

Sanchita Haque,
Dy Permanent
Representative
of Bangladesh to
UN in Geneva

Venue : Room- XXV, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Monday 3 October 2022 at 3 p.m.

Organised by:
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&
International Human Rights Commission BD, Switzerland

www.ebforum.eu

In collaboration with : EBF, Amra Ekattor and Projonmo Ekattor. info@basug.eu

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