

STATEMENT BY INDEPENDENT LAWYERS

We are a group of independent lawyers, practicing in the Supreme Court and Dhaka District Court, and working in different organizations and agencies.

We feel compelled to speak out today to express our total abhorrence and condemnation of the spate of bombings inflicted on various court premises over the past five months, which have resulted in the killings of and injuries to people connected to the justice delivery system in Bangladesh.

We are outraged at the continuing denial by those in high office of the grave threat posed to our fundamental rights and freedoms by the perpetrators of these attacks, and their persistent failure to take systematic and effective steps not only to provide protection for those at risk but also, and most importantly, to investigate the causes of these attacks.

Independent reports have identified those responsible either individually, or as linked to a group of 'religious' extremists. Such reports have extensively documented the linkages of some of those claiming responsibility for these attacks with persons in high office within the ruling coalition, in particular within the Jamaat-e-Islami. Such reports have also pinpointed cases of Jamaat-e-Islami cadres being released pending investigation due to pressure from high officials of the party.

Today, the entire fabric of our society is under imminent threat, subject to repeated attacks and being rent asunder by extremist forces bent on imposing their totalitarian and intolerant views upon the entire population. Constitutionalism, rule of law and each and every organ of the State, i.e. the legislature, the judiciary and the executive, are under direct physical attack.

In this context, we call upon those in the current administration committed to keeping alive the values of tolerance and pluralism, and to halting the relentless spate of violence through bombings and killings, to take immediate steps to distance themselves from all religious extremists including the Jamaat-e-Islami and to authorize independent impartial and effective investigations into the various incidents of bombing to date.

The administrative machinery of the State *must* take immediate and effective measures to ensure the security of the citizens of the country, and at this moment especially of the judiciary, lawyers and all those involved in the delivery of justice, regardless of political or other affiliations. *Our affiliation, duty and loyalty today must be first and foremost to the State and citizens of Bangladesh.*

Sl	Names	Designation
A	1. Mr. Sayeed Ahmed 2. Mr. Foyej Ahmed 3. Mr. Tanjib-ul Alam 4. Mr.Md.Asaduzzaman	Advocate, Dhaka District Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court

	Names	Designation
B	5. Mr. Ruhul Quddus Babu 6. Mr. M. Fazlul Bari 7. Mr. Md. Mamunur Rashid Bhuiyan 8. Dr. Sharif Bhuiyan	Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Chittagong District Court Advocate, Supreme Court
C	9. Mr. Supriyo Chakraborty 10. Dr. Shireen Sharmeen Chaudhury 11. Mr. Junayed Ahmed Choudhury 12. Mr. Nawroz Choudhury	Advocate Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Dhaka District Court
F	13. Ms. Shahina Ferdousi	Advocate, Dhaka District Court
G	14. Mr. Moin Ghani 15. Ms. Nina Goswami	Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court
H	16. Mr. Ashraful Hadi 17. Mr. Abdullah Mahmood Hasan 18. Mr. Manzoor Hasan 19. Mr. Syed Afzal Hasan Uddin 20. Mr. Shamsul Hasan 21. Md. Monowar Hossain 22. Mr. Motahar Hossain 23. Ms. Sara Hossain 24. Mr. Rehan Husain	Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Dhaka District Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Dhaka District Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court
I	25. Mr. Sk. Shariful Islam	Advocate, Kushtia District Court
J	26. Ms. Jenefa Jabbar	Advocate, Supreme Court
K	27. Mr. Imran Kabir 28. Ms. Nihad Kabir 29. Mr. Md. Taifoor Kabir 30. Ms. Sultana Kamal 31. Mr. Mostafizur Rahman Khan 32. Nori Khisha	Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Dhaka District Court
M	33. Mr. Imtiaz Mahmood 34. Dr. Shahdeen Malik	Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court
N	35. Mr. Nizamul Huq Nasim	Advocate, Supreme Court
P	36. Mr. Dilip Paul 37. Dr. Faustina Pereira	Advocate, Dhaka District Court Advocate, Supreme Court
R	38. Ms. Anita Ghazi Rahman 39. Mr. Md. Idrisur Rahman 40. Mr. Siddiqur Rahman 41. Ms. Mahjabin Rabbani 42. Ms. Sheela R. Rahman 43. Mr. Matiur Rahman 44. Mr. Md. Abu Obaidur Rahman 45. Ms. Nafeesa M. Razzaque 46. Mr. Murad Reza 47. Ms. Asma Khanom Ruba	Advocate Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Dhaka District Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Supreme Court Advocate, Dhaka District Court
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T	52. Md. Abu Taleb 53. Ms. Sadia Tasneem	Advocate, Dhaka District Court Advocate, Dhaka District Court