

URGENT ACTION

BANGLADESHI POLITICAL LEADER EXECUTED

Mir Quasem Ali, a senior member of the political party Jamaat-e-Islami, was executed on 3 September. The Supreme Court rejected his review petition on 30 August and he did not seek clemency from the President.

Mir Quasem Ali, the key financier of the Bangladeshi opposition party Jamaat-e-Islami, was convicted and sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in November 2014. The ICT is a Bangladeshi court set up by the Government in 2010 to investigate mass scale human rights violations committed during Bangladesh's 1971 War of Independence. He was sentenced to death for abduction, torture and murder during the War of Independence, and also handed a total of 72 years in prison on eight other charges.

Mir Quasem Ali appealed the ICT's decision and on 8 March 2016 the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld his death sentence. Mir Quasem Ali subsequently petitioned the Supreme Court for a review of its ruling and on 30 August the Supreme Court rejected his latest appeal. This has exhausted his legal options since the number of reviews available for ICT cases is lower than for ordinary cases. Death sentences by the ICT can be appealed only once to the Appellate Division. On 2 September, Mir Quasem Ali decided to not seek clemency from the President according to prison officials. He was hanged in Kashimpur Central Jail outside Dhaka on 3 September.

Many credible organizations including Amnesty International and the UN have raised serious and important issues around the fairness of the ICT trials which have not been addressed. On 23 August, a group of UN experts urged the Bangladeshi government to annul the death sentence against Mir Quasem Ali and grant him a retrial, noting how the proceedings had reportedly been "marred" by "irregularities".

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 203/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa13/4754/2016/en/>

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