

BANGLADESH

- **BGD-17:** Fazel Karim Chowdhury
- **BGD-COLL-01:** Four parliamentarians
- **BGD-16:** Saber Chowdhury
- **BGD-14:** AMS Shah Kibria



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Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 176th session (Geneva, 3 to 19 February 2025)



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BGD-17 – Fazle Karim Chowdhury

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians

A. Summary of the case

Mr. Fazle Karim Chowdhury, a former member of Bangladesh's Parliament representing the Awami League, held prominent roles throughout his parliamentary career, including chairing the Standing Committee on Ministry of Railways and serving on the Standing Committee on Ministry of Public Administration. He was also involved in international parliamentary work, notably as a member and President of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

Following the dissolution of parliament in August 2024, political adversaries allegedly seized the opportunity to target Mr. F. K. Chowdhury, resulting in his arrest on 12 September 2024. Since his detention, he has reportedly been subjected to harsh prison conditions, with his medical needs, which include specialized treatment for heart disease, diabetes and kidney issues, being denied. This has resulted in a significant and alarming deterioration in his health, to the point that his life is in danger.

According to the complainant, Mr. F. K. Chowdhury has been subjected to psychological abuse in prison, including humiliating media broadcasts, which have contributed to his serious mental health deterioration. In prison, his life is reportedly at serious risk due to potential assassination plots

Case BGD-17

Bangladesh: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Male majority member of parliament

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.(1)(a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaint: September 2024

Recent IPU decision: October 2024

IPU Mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): - - -

Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: -
- Communication from the complainant: February 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to Chief Adviser to the Interim Government, Attorney General and Chief Justice (December 2024)
- Communication to the complainant: February 2025

orchestrated by his political opponents. The complainant asserts that Mr. F. K. Chowdhury requires urgent medical attention abroad, as seeking care within Bangladesh would expose him to further risks, including mob violence.

According to the complainant, Mr. F. K. Chowdhury is facing numerous criminal charges, such as murder, extortion and bribery, which appear to be politically motivated and baseless. Mr. F. K. Chowdhury's family home was attacked and several of his employees were killed in what the complainant describes as politically driven violence. Social media campaigns have also been launched calling for the physical elimination of Mr. F. K. Chowdhury and the destruction of his property, and inciting violence against members of his family and his lawyers. The complainant alleges that Mr. F. K. Chowdhury's previous court appearances have been marred by violent mobs calling on his execution and attempting to break through the security around him with the aim of physically assaulting him. There are therefore concerns that Mr. F. K. Chowdhury's future court appearances could be opportunities for further harassment and physical assault.

In the context of ongoing efforts to maintain open channels of communication with the interim government, the IPU leadership has received assurances that the relevant national authorities remain fully committed to upholding the rule of law.

B. Decision

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Welcomes* the assurances provided by the interim government to the IPU leadership that the new administration in Bangladesh is striving to restore the rule of law and address the numerous challenges it faces with full respect for legality; *is deeply concerned*, however, about the continued detention of Mr. F. K. Chowdhury, in view of the worrying allegations of his deteriorating health, lack of access to medical care and appalling detention conditions; *recalls* that the State of Bangladesh has a heightened duty of care to take any necessary measures to protect the life of Mr. F. K. Chowdhury, since by arresting him it assumed the responsibility to care for his life and physical integrity; *urges* in this regard the competent authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure Mr. F. K. Chowdhury's full enjoyment of his rights, in particular his right to life, as a matter of urgency, including to consider allowing him to be transferred to a hospital where he can receive proper medical treatment from a doctor of his choice and releasing him on bail on humanitarian grounds; and *requests* the competent Bangladeshi authorities to keep it informed of any measures taken in this regard;
2. *Expresses deep concern* at the allegations of serious violations of the right to a fair trial in the proceedings against Mr. F. K. Chowdhury and of ill-treatment in detention; and *requests* the relevant authorities to provide official and detailed information on the facts justifying each of the charges brought against him, on the steps taken to investigate the alleged mistreatment in detention reported by the complainant, and on progress made in the identification and punishment of those responsible;
3. *Is also concerned* at the acts of violence and threats to which Mr. F. K. Chowdhury was allegedly subjected during his court appearances; *considers* that these allegations have to be taken all the more seriously in light of reports that a witch-hunt is taking place against high-ranking members of the Awami League in order to settle scores, sometimes with fatal consequences; and *urges* in this regard the relevant authorities to investigate the attacks along with the concrete death threats against Mr. F. K. Chowdhury, to provide information on progress made in the identification and punishment of those responsible and to ensure that such acts of violence do not recur in future court appearances, nor during transport to and from court, and that his physical integrity is protected in detention;
4. *Decides* to mandate a trial observer to monitor the upcoming court proceedings in the present case; and *requests* to be kept informed of the dates of the trial when available and of any other relevant judicial developments in the case;
5. *Decides also* to send a delegation to Bangladesh as soon as possible in order to meet with the authorities responsible for exercising legislative, executive and judicial powers, as well as the

prison authorities and any other institution, civil society organization or individual in a position to provide relevant information regarding the situation of Mr. F. K. Chowdhury; *tasks* the delegation with visiting Mr. F. K. Chowdhury in detention; and *sincerely hopes* that the relevant national authorities will cooperate fully and that the mission will help to swiftly find a satisfactory solution to this case in accordance with applicable national and international human rights standards;

6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities of Bangladesh and the complainant;
7. *Decides* to continue examining this case.



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Anti-government protestors display the flag of Bangladesh as they storm former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's palace in Dhaka on 5 August 2024. 000_36MP8RF © K M ASAD / AFP

BGD-18 – Habibe Millat
BGD-19 – Asaduzzaman Noor
BGD-20 – Mosharraf Hossain
BGD-21 – Muhammad Faruk Khan

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians

A. Summary of the case

According to the complainants, the four former members of the Bangladesh Parliament named in the present case are victims of a revenge spree against prominent members of the ousted Awami League party, of which they were recognized figures. Mr. Habibe Millat was a member of parliament in the previous parliamentary term, which ended in January 2024, while Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, Mr. Mosharraf Hossain and Mr. Muhammad Faruk Khan were all sitting parliamentarians at the time of the dissolution of parliament in August 2024.

According to the complainants, Mr. Millat's residence in Sirajganj was attacked and set on fire during anti-government protests in early August 2024. His house was vandalized and set on fire on 4 August, looted on 5 August, and then set on fire again. Later that month, three murder cases were filed against

Case BGD-COLL-01

Bangladesh: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victims: Male majority members of parliament

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.(1)(a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaints: October and November 2024

Recent IPU decision(s): - - -

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): - - -

Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: -
- Communication from the complainants: February 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Chief Adviser of the Interim Government (December 2024)
- Communication to the complainants: February 2025

him, alleging that he had ordered attacks on a protest march in Sirajganj in August 2024. More recently, additional cases have been brought against him for events that took place while he was a member of parliament, including charges of extortion and murder. The complainants assert that these allegations are fabricated. Fearing for his safety, Mr. Millat is currently in exile.

Mr. Noor was arrested without a warrant on 15 September 2024 and brought to court the following day in connection with a murder case. Since then, he has been detained in Keraniganj central prison without formal charges. He is accused in three separate murder cases brought following deaths during the anti-government protests in July and August 2024, along with several co-accused in each case. The complainants provided information on discrepancies in the cases, which had allegedly been ignored by the authorities. They also allege that the police have failed to provide any investigation reports detailing how Mr. Noor is connected to the crimes of which he is accused. Despite Mr. Noor's advanced age – he is 78 years old – and severe health conditions, including heart disease, spinal degeneration, diabetes and asthma, all bail applications have been denied. He has also been denied the right to receive visits from his family and to make phone calls. In mid-November 2024, Mr. Noor was hospitalized because of severe pain allegedly caused by his detention conditions. On 30 November 2024, while being escorted to treatment, he was reportedly confronted by a group of individuals armed with sticks. During the altercation his wheelchair was knocked over, but he managed to avoid injury. Following this incident, he was informed that he could no longer receive care at the hospital. The complainants assert that Mr. Noor's health is worsening, and that without urgent medical intervention his life is at great risk.

Mr. Hossain, aged 82, was arrested at his residence on 27 October 2024 in connection with an incident that took place in 2022, despite reportedly having an alibi for the time of the alleged event. The complainants allege that Mr. Hossain has been charged without concrete evidence or due process. Both his initial bail application and a subsequent application, which included a request for medical care, have been denied. The complainants also report that Mr. Hossain suffers from Parkinson's disease, heart and lung disease, and other serious conditions, and requires constant medical monitoring and physiotherapy. The prison facilities where he is being held lack the necessary infrastructure for his care, which has led to an alarming deterioration in his health. On 9 December 2024, the High Court granted Mr. Hossain bail. However, the Attorney General filed a motion to stay the bail order. On 19 December 2024, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld the stay, while ordering the authorities to ensure his medical care. According to the complainant, this order has not been implemented. Family members who have visited him in prison report that he has lost an alarming amount of weight and that his mobility has worsened. The complainants state that without urgent adequate medical intervention, Mr. Hossain's life remains at serious risk.

Mr. Faruk Khan, aged 73, was arrested without a warrant on 15 October 2024, while undergoing physiotherapy at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka Cantonment. He was not allowed to collect his medication before being taken into custody. The complainants allege that media reports stating that he had been arrested at his residence are false. After his arrest, Mr. Khan was detained at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Detective Branch, where he had to sleep on a mattress on the floor. This caused him severe discomfort, since he was under strict instructions from his doctors to avoid bending or squatting for at least a year following hip replacement surgery in April 2024. Despite his health conditions, which include Parkinson's disease, hypertension and post-stroke complications, no adequate arrangements were made for his care.

According to the complainants, Mr. Khan was initially arrested in connection with a murder case for an incident in December 2022 involving the death of a member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The complainants assert that the case documents fail to establish a link between Mr. Khan and the crime he is accused of. Additional charges have been brought against him in connection with deaths during the 2024 student-led protests. He has also been named in a case before the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), where he and other former officials face unclear allegations. In this case, Mr. Khan and 13 other co-accused former government officials were brought before the ICT for a hearing on 18 November 2024. The defence lawyers reported that, despite several attempts to obtain clarification, no details of the specific charges against Mr. Khan had been provided. The same applied to all the cases brought against him, which has prevented Mr. Khan's legal team from adequately preparing his defence. The complainants also report that Mr. Khan's lawyers have been subjected to aggressive behaviour within the court premises. Despite Mr. Khan's advanced age and deteriorating health, all bail applications have been denied, and he remains in custody under harsh conditions.

In the context of ongoing efforts to maintain open channels of communication with the interim government, the IPU leadership has received assurances that the relevant national authorities remain fully committed to upholding the rule of law.

B. Decision

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Notes* that the complaints were submitted in due form by complainants qualified under section I.1(a) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians);
2. *Notes also* that the complaints concern four members of the Parliament of Bangladesh at the time of the alleged events;
3. *Notes further* that the complaints concern allegations of threats, acts of intimidation, arbitrary arrest and detention, inhumane conditions of detention, and lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians, which fall within the Committee's mandate;
4. *Considers*, therefore, that the complaints are admissible under the provisions of section IV of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints; and *declares itself* competent to examine the case;
5. *Welcomes* the assurances provided by the interim government to the IPU leadership that the new administration in Bangladesh is striving to restore the rule of law and address the numerous challenges it faces in this regard;
6. *Expresses deep concern* at the continued detention of Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, Mr. Mosharraf Hossain and Mr. Muhammad Faruk Khan, in the light of the disturbing allegations of the appalling conditions of detention and the irreversible effects that these conditions are allegedly having on their health; *recalls* that the State of Bangladesh has a heightened duty of care to take all necessary measures to protect the lives of these three former members of parliament since, by arresting them, it has assumed responsibility for their lives and physical integrity; in this regard, *urges* the competent authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure the full enjoyment of their rights, in particular their right to life, as a matter of urgency, including considering allowing them to receive proper medical treatment from a doctor of their choice and releasing them on bail on humanitarian grounds on a case-by-case basis; and *requests* the competent Bangladeshi authorities to keep it informed of any measures taken in this regard;
7. *Expresses deep concern also* at the allegations of serious violations of the right to a fair trial in the proceedings against the four former parliamentarians listed in the present case; *requests* in this regard the relevant authorities to provide official and detailed information on the facts justifying each of the charges brought against them; and *urges* the competent authorities to guarantee that these cases are handled fairly and independently, fully respecting international fair trial standards;
8. *Decides* to mandate a trial observer to monitor the upcoming court proceedings in the present collective case; and *wishes* to be kept informed of the dates of the trial when available and of any other relevant judicial developments in the case;
9. *Decides* to send a delegation to Bangladesh as soon as possible in order to meet with the authorities responsible for exercising legislative, executive and judicial powers, as well as with the prison authorities and any other institution, civil society organization or individual in a position to provide relevant information regarding the situation of the four former parliamentarians; *tasks* the delegation with visiting them in detention; and *sincerely hopes* that the relevant national authorities will cooperate fully and that the mission will help to swiftly find satisfactory solutions to this case in accordance with applicable national and international human rights standards;
10. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities of Bangladesh and the complainants;
11. *Decides* to continue examining this case



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Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session (Geneva, 17 October 2024)



©IPU Election, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, 28th IPU President, 16 October 2014.

BGD-16 – Saber Chowdhury

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Acts of violence
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians

A. Summary of the case

Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a former member of Bangladesh's Parliament and Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), is being prosecuted in a series of criminal proceedings that were initiated after anti-government and pro-democracy protests in Bangladesh brought about the resignation of the Prime Minister and the dissolution of Parliament in early August 2024.

According to the complainant, the multiple charges against Mr. S. H. Chowdhury are politically motivated and range from sedition, conspiracy and murder to unlawful assembly and use of explosives in connection with incidents that happened between 2015 and 2024. The complainant alleges that these proceedings were initiated as part of a revenge spree against prominent members of the ousted Awami League party, of which Mr. S. H. Chowdhury was a key figure. The complainant also states that due process has not been

Case BGD-16

Bangladesh: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Male majority member of parliament

Qualified complainant(s): Section I(1)(a) and (d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaint: August 2024

Recent IPU decision(s): - - -

Recent IPU Mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): - - -

Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: October 2024
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to Chief Adviser to the Interim Government (October 2024)
- Communication to the complainant: October 2024

followed in the proceedings against Mr. S. H. Chowdhury, raising concerns about the legitimacy of the charges and the protection of his fundamental rights. The cases are still under investigation and key details are yet to be disclosed.

According to the complainant, in addition to the alleged politically motivated legal proceedings, Mr. S. H. Chowdhury's personal safety is under threat. The complainant reports that his family residence was attacked and set on fire on 5 August 2024, with the assailants allegedly stating their intent to murder Mr. S. H. Chowdhury and his family.

In September 2024, the interim government of Bangladesh announced the creation of a ministerial committee, along with one committee for each district, with the purpose of identifying and recommending the withdrawal of proceedings filed with the intent to harass political leaders, activists and innocent persons. According to the complainant, this arrangement appears to place the onus on the accused to demonstrate their innocence.

On 6 October 2024, Mr. S. H. Chowdhury was arrested and brought to court the following day. Pictures and videos provided by the complainant and available on the internet show Mr. S. H. Chowdhury entering and leaving the courthouse with his physical integrity visibly at risk with eggs, stones and blunt objects being thrown at him. According to the complainant, five additional cases were unexpectedly added to the file during the trial, denying Mr. S. H. Chowdhury's legal team a fair opportunity to defend him.

On 8 October 2024, Mr. S. H. Chowdhury was granted bail in six of the cases for which he had been detained. However, other cases, including seven for murder, remain pending. Upon his release, Mr. S. H. Chowdhury was immediately taken to a hospital for medical treatment, as he had been seriously injured when a brick was thrown at his head, causing severe trauma. The complainant has expressed serious concerns about Mr. S. H. Chowdhury's safety while in hospital given the lack of law enforcement protection for both Mr. S. H. Chowdhury and his family. The complainant also urges that all travel restrictions on Mr. S. H. Chowdhury be lifted so that he can seek urgent medical treatment abroad, as his life remains in danger in his home country.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that the complaint concerning Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a former member of Bangladesh's Parliament and Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is admissible, considering that the complaint (i) was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under section I(1)(a) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians); (ii) concerns a sitting member of parliament at the time of the alleged facts; and (iii) concerns allegations of threats and acts of violence and intimidation and of lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians, which are allegations that fall within the Committee's mandate;
2. *Welcomes* the release on bail of Mr. S. H. Chowdhury on 8 October 2024 and the assurances provided by the interim government to the IPU leadership that the new administration in Bangladesh is striving to restore the rule of law and address the numerous challenges it faces with full respect for legality; however, *expresses its deep concern* at the acts of violence to which Mr. S. H. Chowdhury was allegedly subjected during his court appearance on 7 October 2024, resulting in injuries; *considers* that, as Mr. S. H. Chowdhury was in custody, the State of Bangladesh had a responsibility to ensure his safety and physical integrity and that it failed to fulfil this duty; *urges* in this regard the relevant authorities to take the necessary steps to investigate these attacks, to provide information on progress made in the identification and punishment of those responsible, and to ensure that such acts of violence do not recur in future court appearances and that he continues to receive medical treatment in a safe place for as long as necessary;

3. Expresses its deep concern also at the allegations of serious violations of the right to a fair trial in the proceedings against Mr. S. H. Chowdhury and at the alleged use of the judiciary as part of a revenge campaign against prominent members of the Awami League; recalls that the fairness of proceedings implies, among other things, the absence of any direct or indirect influence, pressure, intimidation or interference, from whatever source and for whatever motive; *requests* the relevant national authorities to provide official and detailed information on the facts justifying each of the charges brought against Mr. S. H. Chowdhury; and *expresses its firm hope* that due process will be guaranteed at all stages of the proceedings in accordance with applicable national and international standards;
4. *Fails to understand* how the creation of *ad hoc* non-judicial mechanisms with the aim of identifying and recommending the withdrawal of proceedings filed with the intention of harassing political leaders, which appears to first require the accused to prove their innocence, would contribute to ensuring that the requirements of competence, independence and impartiality of the judiciary are met; *recalls* that the presumption of innocence, which is fundamental to the protection of human rights, places the burden of proof on the prosecution, guarantees that no guilt can be presumed until the charge has been proved beyond reasonable doubt, ensures that the accused has the benefit of the doubt, and requires that persons accused of a criminal offence must be treated in accordance with this principle; and *wishes* in this regard to receive official and detailed information on the mandate and legal basis of the functioning of these bodies;
5. *Decides* to mandate a trial observer to monitor the upcoming court proceedings in the present case; and *wishes* to be kept informed of the dates of the trial when available and of any other relevant judicial developments in the case;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities of Bangladesh, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
7. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.



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Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 213th session (Geneva, 27 March 2024)



Shah Ams Kibria (right) presents the national budget in parliament on 13 June 1997 © MUFTY MUNIR / AFP

BGD-14 – Shah Ams Kibria

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Excessive delays in proceedings

A. Summary of the case

Mr. Shah Ams Kibria, a member of parliament belonging to the then opposition Awami League, was killed on 27 January 2005 in a grenade attack during a political gathering. According to the complainant, the killing was politically motivated.

Almost 20 years have gone by and no one has yet been held accountable for the killing. It has been investigated three times by three different governments (the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, the caretaker government, and currently the Awami League). With each investigation, the list of persons charged has been expanded but a number of them have not been apprehended. A trial is under way but is progressing extremely slowly. The complainant has also raised a number of issues relating to general concerns about the independence of the judiciary and respect for fair-trial guarantees in Bangladesh and the fact that all the suspects targeted seem to

Case BGD-14

Bangladesh: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Male opposition member of parliament

Qualified complainant: Section I.(1) (a) and (d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaints: March and October 2005

Recent IPU decision: April 2017

IPU Mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearings:

- Hearing with the Bangladeshi delegation to the 148th Assembly (March 2024)
- Hearing with the complainant – online (March 2023)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Report providing updates about the case shared by the Bangladeshi delegation to the 148th Assembly (March 2024)
- Communication from the complainant: March 2024
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of Parliament (February 2024)
- Communication to the complainant: March 2024

be from the political opposition, which could indicate that the proceedings are politically motivated.

According to the complainant, Mr. Kibria's relatives – who are a party to the criminal proceedings – have not been kept informed of the proceedings. They repeatedly filed no-confidence motions against the successive charge sheets, which they considered incomplete. The family continue to believe that other individuals involved in the crime, particularly the potential instigators and masterminds, have not yet been charged or arrested owing to political interference. In March 2023, at a hearing before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the complainant confirmed that the situation had not changed.

During the hearing conducted at the 148th IPU Assembly (Geneva, March 2024), the Bangladeshi delegation reaffirmed that judicial proceedings in Bangladesh take time, that courts have limited capacity and resources, and that the delays in the investigation were largely caused by the defendants, and by the family contesting the charge sheets and investigation reports. Acknowledging that justice delayed is justice denied, the delegation committed to continue to keep the IPU informed of any new developments in the case and to do its utmost, within parliament's constitutional mandate, to contribute to a satisfactory resolution of the case without further undue delay.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the Bangladeshi delegation for the information provided during the hearing and for the spirit of cooperation; and *reaffirms its wish* to receive more detailed information on a regular basis on developments in the ongoing trial proceedings, including copies of the charge sheets, as well as further information on the grounds and evidence supporting the charges against the suspects, the names and status of all suspects and the identities of all individuals who remain charged today and those who are in custody;
2. *Notes* that the proceedings are still under way and that slow progress is being made; *takes note* of the reasons given by the parliamentary authorities in this respect; *remains deeply concerned*, however, that almost 20 years after the attack none of the perpetrators has yet been held responsible in a court of law; *solemnly affirms* that justice delayed is justice denied; and *sincerely hopes* that the trial will finally proceed swiftly and that further progress will promptly be made towards ensuring full accountability for this serious crime, in compliance with national and international standards on the right to a fair trial, including those regarding the application of capital punishment, without any political interference;
3. *Fails to understand* why the Awami League, in power since 2009, has not been able to take the necessary steps to shed light on the murder of one of its prominent members; *reaffirms*, in this regard, its strong conviction that the continued interest of the Awami League and parliament in the case – within the boundaries of the separation of powers – is crucial for helping ensure that justice is done and for sending a strong signal that the assassination of a parliamentarian must not be left unpunished; *notes with appreciation* that the Parliament of Bangladesh continues to monitor the case; and *wishes* to be kept informed of any steps it takes in this regard;
4. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
5. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.