

**Innenminister Asaduzzaman Khan**  
**Ministry of Home Affairs**  
**Bangladesh Secretariat, Building – 8**  
**Dhaka,**  
**BANGLADESCH**

Fax: (00 880) 957 3711  
E-Mail: minister@mha.gov.bd

Dear Home Minister,

On 25th April 2016, LGBT activists, **Xulhaz Mannan** and **Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy** were brutally killed by individuals belonging Ansar al – Islam, a Bangladeshi armed Islamist outfit which claims it has links to AI Qaeda. Xulhaz and Mahbub were both instrumental in setting up and running Bangladesh’s first and only magazine for LGBT issues Roopban. Xulhaz and Mahbub were killed, in what experts say, was a meticulously planned attack. During the attack several witnesses heard shouts of “Nara e takbeer – Allahu Akbar (God is great)”. Over a year on, and despite the overwhelming evidence in the case (including eyewitnesses, apparent CCTV footage of the alleged perpetrators running away and a local constable managing to snatch a backpack from one of the individuals) no one has yet been charged for the brutal murders. Although police have made a handful of arrests related to the killings and claim to have identified other suspects, no one has been formally charged. On 8 May 2017, police missed yet another deadline to file an investigation report into the killings and requested an indefinite suspension. This apparent lack of urgency to find the assailants seems to be vindicated by sentiments similar to the statement made by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Kamal in April 2016 that any movement promoting “unnatural sex” is not allowed in Bangladeshi society.

I ask you to ensure that the perpetrators are subjected to criminal prosecution. Furthermore, the Bangladeshi police needs to guarantee the protection of the country’s LGBTI community.

Yours sincerely,

Cc:

**Botschaft der Volksrepublik**  
**Bangladesch**  
**S. E. Herrn Imtiaz Ahmed**  
**Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 111,**  
**10553 Berlin**

Fax: 030 39 89 75 10  
E-Mail: info.berlin@mofa.gov.bd