



25 Oct. 2021

Respected Prime Minister,

From the international media you might have informed that there have recently been sporadic vicious attacks on Hindu temples, deities, festivals, businesses and individuals in Bangladesh by the violent radical Muslims during celebration of Durga Puja which is the major ritual celebration of Bengali Hindus all over world. This violence has claimed the lives of nine people and the loss of chastity of four women including a ten year old girl who has died eventually.

This violence against minorities in Bangladesh has been going on for decades and it seems that these violent extremists in Bangladesh feel more and more emboldened by the lack of proper protection from the Bangladeshi Government towards the minorities and the lack of proper justice against the perpetrators. Even in some cases, there are evidences of hidden institutional support of ruling governments behind the incidents. This institutional unwillingness to protect minorities of the country could be considered "a gross violation of Human Rights". This is very well documented in hundreds if not thousands of reports by very well reputed Human Rights Organizations, International media as well as the Minorities themselves living in Bangladesh.

On behalf of the Hindu Communities in Belgium we express our shock and consternation over the violence done towards our Hindu brothers and sisters in Bangladesh.

We call on your government to pressure Bangladesh Government to take necessary steps to rectify the situation there in order to comply with Human Rights standards to avoid possible economic and political sanctions by the EU, UK, US, Australia, New Zealand and other leading countries of the world.

Furthermore, we urge your government to compel Bangladesh to comply with the following practical steps required to protect her minorities:

1. Placing permanent police protection in all major Hindu Places of Worship or other Community Centers or minority neighborhoods;

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2. Making sure that the perpetrators would get substantial punishment through strict judicial justice ;
3. Compensating the families of those who lost their beloved one and the persons physically injured to these atrocious violent acts;
4. Helping the Hindu Communities build back their places of worship and vandalized homestead;
5. Forming a Minority Protection Rapid Action Police Force capable of immediate deployment to the riot vulnerable sites.

This cycle of regular violence and abuse that the minorities face and the lack of protection given to them by the Government must come to an end and Justice imparted to those responsible for this violence.

Bangladesh minorities have been victimized since sixty years by the Muslim fundamentalists and the governments with fundamentalist agenda. Considering this ongoing situation, we should say - enough is enough!! This is the time for the international community to make turn back the disastrous human rights situation of Bangladesh for upholding the human values and dignities.

Thank you for taking this matter seriously and defending Human Rights all over the world.

With regards,

**Avinash Orié**

(President ISKCON Belgium)