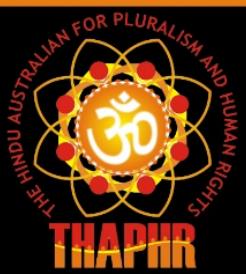


THE HINDU AUSTRALIAN FOR PLURALISM



AND HUMAN RIGHTS

9 August 2024

To,
Prof. Nicolas Levrat
The Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
United Nations
Human Rights Council
Office of the High Commissioner

Subject: Urgent Action Required Addressing the Violent and Brutal Attacks on Religious Minorities, Particularly the Hindu Community, in Bangladesh.

Dear Prof. Levrat,

The Hindu Australian for Pluralism and Human Rights (THAPHR) is profoundly troubled and deeply alarmed by the recent surge of violent and brutal assaults against religious minorities, especially Hindus, across Bangladesh.

These reprehensible acts, including the destruction of homes, places of worship, and businesses belonging to Hindu, Christians, Ahmadiyya, and other minority communities, constitute a severe violation of human rights and pose a significant threat to the values of tolerance, diversity, and peaceful coexistence.

The extent and severity of these attacks, as reported by reliable media outlets, are deeply concerning. Innocent individuals and families have endured significant trauma, death, injuries, displacement, and the loss of their homes and livelihoods. These violent acts not only cause profound suffering for the victims but also erode the fundamental pillars of a democratic and pluralistic society.

THAPHR urgently appeals to the United Nations, democratic governments, and the international community to take swift and decisive action to address this critical issue.

We strongly recommend the following actions:

Launch an Independent and Transparent Investigation: The United Nations should promptly initiate an impartial and independent investigation into these incidents to uncover the perpetrators, their motives, and any systemic factors that have allowed this violence to take place.

Ensure Accountability and Impose Severe Penalties: The individuals responsible for orchestrating or participating in these attacks must be quickly identified and held accountable through strict legal measures. Severe penalties should be enforced to deter future violence and make it clear that such actions will not be tolerated.

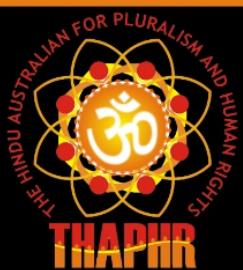


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Offer Compensation and Assistance to Victims: The affected communities and individuals should receive appropriate compensation for their losses, including financial restitution for damaged property, medical care for injuries, and support for those who have been displaced.

Reinstate Security and Prevent Future Attacks: Urgent action is needed to stop the ongoing violence and re-establish a secure environment for religious minority communities. Strengthened security measures and the deployment of essential resources must be prioritized to safeguard vulnerable populations and prevent further assaults.

The United Nations and the international community have a moral and ethical obligation to respond swiftly and decisively to this crisis. Failing to act would not only betray the fundamental human rights of the affected communities but also undermine global efforts to build a more just, equitable, and peaceful world.

The interim government in Bangladesh should work with the United Nations and the international community to ensure the safety and security of Hindu religious minorities. Furthermore, perpetrators must be identified and held accountable.

THAPHR stands firmly with the victims and urges all stakeholders to take immediate and effective action to ensure justice is delivered, security is restored, and the principles of mutual respect and coexistence are upheld.

Yours sincerely

Pratishtha Shukla
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