

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP
Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka-1000
BANGLADESH

Honourable Minister Khan,

I am worried about the safety of Shaifqul Islam Kajol, a Bangladeshi newspaper editor and photographer, who has not been seen or heard from since the day police registered a case against him and 31 others, under the highly repressive Digital Security Act. He was last seen leaving his newspaper office on the evening of 10 March 2020, and his family has not heard of nor seen him since then. The police has denied having him in custody, and his family fears that he could be a victim of enforced disappearance.

I therefore call on you and the Bangladesh government to:

1. Immediately launch an investigation to determine the fate and whereabouts of Shafiqul Islam Kajol, keep his family fully informed at all times, and ensure he is immediately released if under state custody;
2. Put an end to the practice of unacknowledged detention and enforced disappearances, and ensure that every person arrested is adequately registered;
3. Promptly ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Yours sincerely,