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International Criminal Tribunal (Dhaka) Photo Bernhard Hertlein/© Amnesty International

Death sentences for former police officers are not the answer to Abu Sayed killing

Bangladesh

Responding to the death sentences handed down today, to two former police officers by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) for the killing of Abu Sayed during student-led protests in July 2024, Rehab Mahamoor, Amnesty International's Regional Researcher and Campaigner, said:

“Abu Sayed and the many other victims of police violence during the July 2024 protests deserve justice and accountability. However, the death penalty has no place in any courtroom. It's the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and its continued

use by the ICT undermines efforts to deliver a just and lasting reconciliation to Bangladesh.”

“In the past, Amnesty International and several other human rights organizations have also raised serious concerns that the ICT has not observed international fair trial and due process standards in many instances. Any proceedings undertaken by the ICT demand stringently impartial and transparent judicial proceedings.”

“We urge the Bangladeshi authorities to take steps to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to completely abolishing the punishment.”

Background

Ahead of the elections, Amnesty International has published a human rights charter outlining the core human rights priorities that any incoming government must address. The charter, available [here](#), lays out concrete steps across eight key areas that the next government should take to bring Bangladesh closer to its obligations under international human rights law.

Agnès Callamard is an international human rights expert. A leading advocate for freedom of expression, a feminist, and an anti-racism activist, Dr. Callamard has been at the forefront of international efforts to combat some of the greatest human rights challenges of our time. She was appointed Secretary General of Amnesty International in 2021.

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