

One year later, where are we?

By Nazli Kibria

It is difficult for me to believe that one year has passed since my father's assassination. I often feel that time has stood still for me, not moving past the events of January 27th 2005. I ask myself: one year later, where are we? In the days after my father and my cousin Shah Manzur Huda were brutally killed, our family resolved that we would do everything in our power to make sure that this would be the last such attack. We would work to ensure that there would be full investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of this horrendous crime. We would work to end the climate of impunity for terrorists that has prevailed in the country.

But one year later, we are no closer to achieving a complete, impartial and transparent investigation into my father's assassination. And we have seen an escalating pattern of violence, with one attack after another. Each time I see pictures of grief-stricken families gathered around the bloody bodies of their loved ones in the aftermath of a bombing, the memories of January 27th come flooding back to me. I know what they are going through, and I pledge my solidarity with them.

In the wake of the August 17th 2005 bombings and the countless others that have followed, the BNP-Jamaat government has finally acknowledged that there is a terrorism problem in the country. With great fanfare and publicity, the Prime Minister has pledged to go after the terrorists. There have been many arrests of largely low-level JMB operatives. But we need to ask ourselves the following questions: Why is it that there has been no real investigation into my father's assassination? Why is it that the grenade attacks that took place in 2004, on the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and on the British High Commissioner, remain unresolved? If the BNP-Jamaat Government was truly serious about combating terrorism, these investigations would be a priority for them. If they were truly serious about restoring public confidence and trust in the government, then they would be willing and even eager to invite a United Nations team to inquire into these attacks. But that has not happened.

One year later, our family continues to do all that we can to ensure that there is justice, that the assassins of my father do not go unpunished. One year later, we remain unshaken in our resolve. And we ask that all of our friends, both in Bangladesh and abroad, continue to stand by us.