

WHY ARE WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE SHAH AMS KIBRIA, CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION TEAM?

The assassination of Shah AMS Kibria has taken place in what is widely recognized as a climate of impunity for assassins in Bangladesh. The BNP-Jamaat Government has consistently displayed a **lack of will** to investigate attacks. There is little doubt that Bangladesh is now experiencing a breakdown of the system of criminal justice with state acquiescence. Specifically, we draw your attention to the following:

1. Lack of the Government's will to investigate grenade attacks on the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Sheikh Hasina and the entire party leadership in August 2004. In fact there have been several such attacks on her life.
2. Lack of the Government's will to investigate the killings and injuries suffered by grenade attacks on civil society.
3. Lack of the Government's will to investigate and pursue the grenade attack on the British High Commissioner in May 2004.
4. Lack of the Government's will to secure the evidence at the scene of the grenade and bomb attacks, inasmuch as there has been a total removal and contamination of the evidence at the scene of the attacks by the Government or under its orders.
5. Members of the Government, including senior Ministers such as the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and the Industries Minister, Matiur Rahman Nizami, have already made statements about the identity of the perpetrators of the January 27 attack on Shah AMS Kibria. By doing so they have damaged the credibility of any ongoing Government investigations into the killing. Similarly, it is to be noted that despite the fact that the investigation into the August 21st bomb attack on Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition, has not been concluded, the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has already declared that it was done by members of the Opposition Party themselves.
6. Coupled with the Government's lack of will to investigate grenade and other violent "target attacks", the Government has demonstrated no will to pursue investigations following the discovery of the huge amount of sophisticated arms and ammunitions in Chittagong and Bogra.
7. The Government has demonstrated no will to investigate the grenade and bomb attacks on cultural events, eg. Celebrations of Bengali New Year (a

totally secular event), cinema halls, “Jatras” (Folk Theatres), “Melas” (Folk Carnivals), mosques and shrines.

8. The Government has demonstrated no will, nor taken any steps to restrain persons belonging to the far religious right who have declared as ‘Murtads’ several leading citizens, including Counsel who have appeared in Court to protect minority Muslim sects. A person declared ‘Murtad’ is an ex-communicate who must suffer death from the far religious right perpetrators.
9. Lack of the Government’s will to reign in the terror let loose by ‘Bangla Bhai’ a religious extremist and his group which inducts and trains militants to attack and kill secular, democratic and pluralist minded people in the north-western region of Bangladesh. Reports on “Bangla Bhai” have featured in the international press and is well known to the diplomatic community in Bangladesh
10. A list of victims of grenade attacks will show, clearly and unambiguously, that there is a *cleansing* list comprising persons who do not belong to, or adhere to, Government views, its far right religious coalition partner, or those who have taken part in the process converting Bangladesh from its original Constitutional declaration as a ‘ Secular state’ to a “Muslim state” and those who have acquiesced to such conversion.
11. Those who have not died of their injuries from grenade and other violent attacks live permanently with injuries and are severely traumatised in fear of future grenade attacks on them.
12. From reports in the media, it is now apparent that the FBI, Scotland Yard and Interpol, even though “invited” to participate in the investigations of the attack on the Leader of the Opposition and her colleagues, have all been denied the evidence from the scene of the attacks and they have now sought access to such evidence and key witnesses if any invitation to them is to be extended and if any meaningful investigation is to be undertaken.