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## **MAS Freedom Press Advisory**

### **Human Rights Rally for Bangladesh at UN**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MASF) July 27, 2010** - On Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am, human rights activists and faith leaders will hold a rally at the United Nations in support of democracy and freedom in Bangladesh. National Muslim organizations, interfaith leaders and human right activists in the United States are concerned that the recent arrest of key leaders of the Islamic Movement in Bangladesh (Jamaat-e-Islami), student activists, journalists and members of the political opposition have created a huge crisis in the nation. These actions by the Bangladesh ruling party coalition (Awami League) might well result in violent confrontations between political dissidents and the government. There is also concern that the current U.S. government support for AL may actually reinforce, and protect, ongoing human rights violations that contradict the stated objectives of American foreign policy in this volatile region.

**Who:** HRDB - Human Rights Development in Bangladesh

**What:** Public gathering and rally

**When:** Saturday July 31; 11:00am - 1:00pm

**Where:** UN Plaza (United Nations Plaza Park),  
at a corner of 47th Street and 1st Avenue,  
Manhattan, New York.

Reverend Graylan Hagler, a member of the Democracy and Freedom in Bangladesh Coalition stated, "In addition to rallies, petition drives and other direct action campaigns, we are visiting members of Congress and the State Department requesting them to voice their concerns about the current human rights conditions in Bangladesh. He further stated, "We're also launching a major campaign to educate the American public and the media about the arrests, attack on the media and overall political crackdown in Bangladesh. Given the volatile circumstances in Pakistan and Afghanistan, destabilization in Bangladesh could really exacerbate the violence and tension within the region."

Dr. Agha Saeed, Chairman of the American Muslim Taskforce (a national Muslim umbrella organization which represents over 22 national and regional Muslim organizations) has indicated that the American Muslim Taskforce (AMT) endorses the proposed rally and future initiatives that will support the return to fundamental democratic values and open governance for the people of Bangladesh.

For more information contact: Mahtab Uddin Ahmed - 347-414-6658

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MAS Freedom ([MASF](#)) is a civic and human rights advocacy of the Muslim American Society ([MAS](#)), the largest Muslim, grassroots, charitable, religious, social, cultural, civic and educational organization in America - with 55 chapters in 35 states.

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