

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

October 26, 2007

His Excellency M. Humayun Kabir  
Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Embassy of Bangladesh  
3510 International Drive NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Kabir,

I'm writing to express my deep concern about twelve prominent intellectuals from Dhaka and Rajshahi University who have been detained without charges under the authority of the Director General of Forces Intelligence since August. A list of their names is attached. Their arrests were made in connection with student protests, and they have not been charged with any crime.

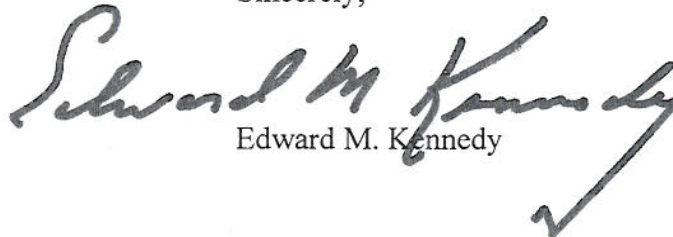
I'm especially troubled by accusations that they have been tortured. Holding these twelve men without charge and for political reasons is a major assault on the integrity and independence of the academic community of your nation and calls into question your government's commitment to human rights and the rule of law.

I join with Amnesty International, and others in the human rights community, to urge your government to release these intellectuals and students who have been detained for political reasons. It is wrong for any government to detain individuals for political reasons, and to deny them access for extended periods to attorneys, family members, and medical care.

I ask that you provide a copy of this letter to Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh.

With respect and appreciation, and I look forward to their release.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

### **Detained Academics**

- Professor Anwar Hossain, Dean, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dhaka University
- Professor Harunor-Rashid, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Political Science, Dhaka University
- Professor Sadrul Amin, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Department of English, Dhaka University
- Profesor Neem Chandra Bhoumik, Department of Applied Physics, Dhaka University
- Professor Saidur Rahman Khan, Former Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University
- Professor, Abdus Sobhan, Department of Applied Physics & Electrical Engineering, Rajshahi Univeristy
- Professor Moloy Kumar Bhowmik, Department of Management, Rajshahi University
- Professor Abdullah Al Mamun, Department of English & Department of Mass Communications, Rajshahi University
- Selim Reza Newton, Department of Mass Communications, Rajshahi University
- Professor Dulal Chandra Biswas, Department of Mass Communications, Rajshahi University
- Professor Sabbir Sattar Tapu, Department of Geology & Mining, Rajshahi University
- Professor Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan Sajal, Department of Geology & Mining, Rajshahi University