



Fund Raising With Entertainments

CPRMB & Secular Movement in
Bangladesh-UK

Presented by: Mihir Sarkar – Campaign for the
Protection of Religious Minorities in Bangladesh
(CPRMB)



“They destroyed not my home and looted not my valuables, but my dream, my happy family.”

HARIDAS,
A CARPENTER FROM NASIRNAGAR

Fund raising for?

- You may or may not be aware what is going on in Bangladesh in relation to atrocities on religious minorities particularly on Hindus.
- In Brahmanbaria in two waves of attacks more than 15 temples destroyed and more than 100 families have lost everything.
- There are at least four other reported incidences of violence around the same time in different parts of Bangladesh.
- According to one report there were 36 incidences of communal violence in Bangladesh in last 10 months.



Fund raising for?

- The minority Santals in Gaibandha were victims of a planned attack.
- According to a report about 2,500 inhabitants were displaced after the assailants set fire on the entire establishments, including 600 houses on 8th November 8,
- Two days after police had opened fire on Santals, killing an ethnic youth. The body of another Santal man was found dumped in a rice field on 7th November

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History of atrocities on Minorities in Bangladesh

- 1971 – “Hardest hit have been members of the Hindu community who have been robbed of their lands and shops, systematically slaughtered, and in some places, painted with yellow patches marked "H". – Edward Kennedy.
- 8 million Hindus displaced and more than 200,000 Hindu victims.

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History of atrocities on Minorities in Bangladesh

- 1975 – Bangladesh abandoned the constitutional provision for secularism and began to introduce Islamic symbolism in all spheres of national life. Groups exclusively based on religious believe was licenced as political parties.
- 1988 – The Islam was declared to be the State Religion of Bangladesh.
- 1990 – First Communal violence in Bangladesh.

History of atrocities on Minorities in Bangladesh

- 1992 – First mass attacks in Hindus. More than 200 temples were destroyed. Hindus were attacked and many were raped and killed.
- 2001- “During the probe, we found a total of 355 politically motivated murders while 3,270 incidents of rape, arson, looting and other atrocities,” Judicial commission.
- The gang rape case of Purnima Shil is well known to all.

Attacks on Minorities in Bangladesh

- 2013 – “Wave of violent attack against Hindu minority” – Amnesty International 7th March 2013.
- Survivors told Amnesty International that the attackers were taking part in rallies organised by the opposition Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and its student group Chhatra Shibir.
- Four people were killed and 34 were injured. 50 Hindu temples and 1500 business and properties destroyed – BHBCUC

Attacks on Minorities in Bangladesh

- 2014 – Hindus were victimized for exercising their democratic right of vote.
- After the 5th January elections, it is widely reported that workers and supporters of the parties did not support the election began attacking the minority.
- “They raped, looted, vandalized and set the Hindu houses on fire in several districts across the country” – BBC



Savage killings

Ms Anjali Debi Chaudhuri

- Chittagong Nursing Institute lecturer Ms Anjali Debi Chaudhuri was brutally killed.
- She told the nursing students to follow the dress code of the institute and not to wear Hijab & burka. She was killed because she enforced the dressing code of the institute.

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Rapes & Savage killings

- In Hobiganj Tulsi Rani was attacked during Lakshmi Puja festivities on 29th October 2015. She was beaten up badly which caused the death of her unborn baby.

In Hobiganj District, housewife was raped and then on the 3rd day, the rapist returned with his friends.... she was repeatedly raped by the gang, whilst her husband was held down and forced to watch.

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Student Gang Raped

- Student of Edward's College in Pabna was gang raped.



Hindu Priest Beheaded

- 45-year old, Jogeswar Roy was attacked in the temple in February 2016.



Uncle murdered trying to protect niece

- Family had to flee from their home and are in hiding. Living in fear in another town as their daughter was targeted by local gangs. When the father's brother intervened to protect his niece, the gang killed him and made threats against the rest of the family.



Hindu Blogger Hacked to Death

- Father of murdered blogger Ananta Bijoy Das is still in shock and unable to come to terms with the family's loss.



Newlywed Widowed after One Month.

- She was in love for 4 years, but was made a widow only a month after wedding her true love.



Priest Murdered by Extremists

- 70-year old Hindu Priest, Ananda Gopal Ganguly was hacked to death by Islamic Extremists in Jhenaidah district.





Who is behind the attacks?

- All the major political parties blaming each other.
- Majority media reports blaming fundamentalist and –they always denied it.
- We believe they are criminals & cowards with no religious belief.
- They are property grabbers and enemies of secular Bangladesh.



Perpetrator never get punished

- There has been no judicial trial for any of the atrocities since 1990 except the trial of Purnima Shil. That happened because of personal intervention of Mr Sharier Kabir.
- Justice is promised almost every time following any atrocity committed but no progress on actual delivery of the justice.
- All those are done in the name of the religion

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Migration of Hindus from Bangladesh

Population in Bangladesh/ East Pakistan 1941 - 2011

	1941	1951	1961	1974	1981	1991	2001	2011 *
Muslim	70%	77%	80%	85%	86%	88%	90%	92%
Hindu	28%	22%	19%	13%	12%	11%	9.0%	7.0%

There will be no Hindu citizen left in Bangladesh after 20 years. “Because we did whatever is needed to force them [Hindus] out of the country and we have always failed to do what was needed to protect them,” - National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) former Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman

<http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/stop-attacks-on-minorities/>

Immediate action

- Safety and security - Immediate protection of the religious minorities by law enforcement agencies.
- Emergency Relief – Provide food and shelter.
- Financial help - To rebuild their houses, businesses and temples damaged during these attacks.
- Judicial Enquiry – To identify the perpetrator and bring them to justice. If there is any political party behind it to be named. A special tribunal /commission to be formed if necessary.
- Speedy Trial – Justice delayed is justice denied. Perpetrators to be put on trial quickly.
- Justice delayed is justice denied.



Action at National Level

- Education Reform
 - Curriculum based on the value of Independence
 - Curriculum based of secularism to be taught as a compulsory subject at primary and secondary level.
 - It has to be implemented and strictly monitored.
 - All the infrastructure of breeding of communal minds to be investigated and made illegal.



Long term initiatives

- Restoration of 1972 constitution.
- Minority Protection Act – In line with British Race Relations Act 1976.
- Minority Commission – In line with Equality Commission in the UK.
- Vested Property Act – to be abolished all together. All the properties to be returned to the lawful owners.
- Jobs in Army and Public Sectors – To be monitored by all the departments and periodic reports to be published.
- Resource allocation – All initiatives to be adequately funded.

The Rise of Islamic Fanaticism in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is a secular democracy.
- Recent survey shows that majority of the people would like to remain so.
- In 1971 the country was borne through a bloody struggle from Pakistan when minorities suffered disproportionately.
- The same force who was responsible for the sufferings of the minorities in 1971 are again behind the recent atrocities inflicted on minorities.
- They are on trial now in International Crime Tribunal (ICT).
- Who they are? – The answer is Islamic Fundamentalist.

Hefazat –e Islam

- Hefazat-e Islam is a tightly-knit coalition of a dozen or so Islamist organisations – BBC. Hefazat coalition are based at more than 25,000 madrassas (Islamic Religious Educational institutions) in Bangladesh.
- What is their demand –
 - enactment of an anti-blasphemy law with provision for the death penalty
 - exemplary punishment to all bloggers and others who "insult Islam"
 - cancellation of the country's women development policy
 - a ban on erecting sculptures in public places
 - a ban on mixing of men and women in public
 - a ban on candlelit vigils
 - ending what they call "shameless behaviour and dresses"
 - declaring the reformist Ahmadiyas as "non-Muslims".

Thank You Media

- We must express our very sincere and honest gratitudes to all the media present here and in Bangladesh for the brilliant work they have been doing in highlighting sufferings of Hindus in Bangladesh.
- Please keep good work going for the sake of making Bangladesh truly secular and protect from the fundamentalist.

What we will be doing next?

- Thank you for participating to this event and for your generous contribution.
- All the money will be going for the support and rehabilitation of the victims you have seen in this presentation and beyond.
- CPRMB & the Secular movement in Bangladesh-UK is working together to raise international awareness of the sufferings of the minorities in Bangladesh.
- We have summarised all our demands in a petition to be given to the high-level in Bangladesh Government and also copy to be sent to various national and international organisations. Please feel free to sign the petition.

Conclusion – THANK YOU

- Thank you for your attention.
- We hope that we have been able to make you understand why we are here.
- Where your financial support and help will be going.
- Please remember minorities in Bangladesh need all of your help and support for their survival. Please keep them in your mind.

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CPRMB & Secular Movement in Bangladesh, UK demand

1. Immediate protection of the religious minorities by law enforcement agencies. They are failing to protect the minorities.
2. Provide emergency relief to the affected people.
3. Provide financial help to rebuild their houses, businesses and temples damaged during these attacks.
4. Judicial Enquiry to identify the perpetrator and bring them to justice. If there is any political party behind it to be named. A special tribunal /commission to be formed if necessary.
5. Speedy Trial. We believe justice delayed is justice denied. Perpetrators to be put on trial quickly. Restoration of 1972 constitution.
6. Introduce a Minority Protection Act in line with British Race Relations Act 1976.
7. To establish a Minority Commission in line with Equality Commission in the UK.
8. Vested Property Act to be abolished all together. All the properties to be returned to the lawful owners.
9. To increase the representation of the minorities in Public Sectors. Regular report to be published to monitor the level of representation.
10. Resource allocation – All initiatives to be adequately funded.

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