



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, TRADE, PRESS AND INFORMATION SECTION

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For immediate release

The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Bangladesh:

The EU diplomatic missions to Bangladesh have been closely monitoring the case of Mr Adilur Rahman Khan, the Secretary of Odhikar, since the news of his detention first broke on Saturday 10th August.

Respect for human rights and democratic principles as laid down in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights underpins the domestic and international policies of Bangladesh and the EU, and constitutes an essential element of our relations, as spelt out in Article 1 of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the People's Republic of Bangladesh on partnership and development.

We are familiar with Mr Adilur Rahman Khan and with Odhikar's reporting of human rights abuses in Bangladesh. We consider that a vibrant civil society and the work of human rights defenders have important roles to play in the strengthening of human rights in this country.

We have conveyed our detailed concerns about the detention of Mr Adilur Rahman Khan to the relevant authorities in Bangladesh. It is essential that no harm comes to him. We urge the authorities to observe due process at all stages of the proceedings against him, and in particular ensure full respect for his human rights.

The diplomatic missions of Norway and Switzerland in Bangladesh associate themselves with this statement.

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