

STATEMENT BY JEAN LAMBERT
CHAIR OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH
ASIA

Brussels, 27 April 2016

Chair of Parliament's South Asia Delegation on the recent killings in Bangladesh

As Chair of the Delegation for relations with South Asia, we express our deep concern and condemnation of the ongoing killings in Bangladesh, following the latest killing of two LGBT activists yesterday, one of whom was the editor of Bangladesh's first LGBT magazine.

Since February last year, militants have killed several secular or atheists writers and members of religious minority groups. Only this month there are in addition to yesterday's killings the murder of a law student and an English language professor.

While expressing our deepest condolences with the families of the victims, we also encourage and welcome the peaceful demonstrations of students condemning this violence.

Government authorities, political parties and civil society should stand together against the actions of violent extremists in Bangladesh. The perpetrators of these murders must be swiftly brought to justice.

In this regard the EP Delegation calls on the Government to ensure the respect of democratic principles, such as already expressed in the recent EP Resolution (2015) on freedom of expression in Bangladesh.

Contact:

Jean Lambert

Chair, Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South Asia

European Parliament

+32 228 45507 (Brussels)

+33 3881 75507 (Strasbourg)

jean.lambert@ep.europa.eu