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PUBLIC STATEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENT
December 21, 2025

Bangladesh should reform section 295A and act against incitement to violence

Amnesty Freedom calls on Bangladesh to protect people targeted by blasphemy accusations and to reform section 295A of its Penal Code.

What we know

On the night of December 18, 2025, a mob killed garment worker Dipu Chandra Das in Mymensingh. On December 21, 2025, Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion told reporters it had found no direct evidence that he made the alleged remarks. Reports identify the allegation as part of the events leading to the killing. The distinction between an unverified allegation, peaceful speech, and incitement to violence matters for both public safety and freedom of expression. [1–5]

Our position

An accusation is not proof, and no accusation justifies a killing. Laws should protect people from violence and from incitement to violence, and should not punish peaceful speech about religion. Bangladesh is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [6–8]

Our calls

Amnesty Freedom calls on the authorities to:

1. Remove criminal penalties for peaceful criticism or discussion of religion from section 295A of the Penal Code.
2. Enforce laws against threats, assault, and intentional incitement under a narrowly defined standard informed by the Rabat Plan of Action.
3. Give police and employers clear procedures to protect people at risk while investigators verify allegations and preserve evidence.

Supporting information

1. Bangladesh Ministry of Law, Penal Code section 295A
2. No evidence found of derogatory remarks by lynched garment worker: Rab
3. Lynching of Hindu man in Mymensingh: No direct evidence of derogatory remarks found, says RAB
4. Dipu Das forced to resign and handed over to enraged mob: RAB
5. Attacks on Freedom of Expression and Democratic Participation in Bangladesh | Human Rights Watch
6. UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 34 on freedom of expression
7. OHCHR, Rabat Plan of Action on incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence
8. United Nations, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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Note to editors: *This statement is based on the public sources listed above. The date shown is that of the most recent development recorded in those sources; later developments may not be reflected.*

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