

AN APPEAL FOR THE PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS IN BANGLADESH

Evidence-based petition to the international community and human-rights organizations

Period covered: August 2024-August 2026

Executive Summary

We write as university teachers whose classrooms have been transformed into places of fear, whose academic careers have been subjected to political scrutiny, and whose constitutional rights have increasingly been disregarded solely because of their perceived political affiliation. Since 5 August 2024, public-university teachers in Bangladesh have reportedly faced mob intimidation, demands for resignation, exclusion from campuses or academic activities, suspension, prolonged fact-finding proceedings, criminal cases and detention ([Human Rights Research Centre \[HRRC\], 2025](#); [Scholars at Risk, 2025](#); [The Daily Star, 2025a](#)).

The petition does not contend that every disciplinary action against a teacher is unlawful. Universities are entitled to investigate genuine criminal or professional misconduct. The concern arises where political opinion, political association or perceived political affiliation appears to substitute for evidence; where student or political-group pressure precedes administrative action; or where teachers are suspended, excluded from teaching or otherwise punished without a meaningful and timely opportunity to defend themselves ([Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972](#); [United Nations, 1948, 1966](#); [Human Rights Committee, 2011](#); [UNESCO, 1997, para. 27](#)).

The problem also appears to have intensified after the BNP-led government assumed office in April 2026. In April 2026, reporting indicated that at least 68 Dhaka University teachers accused of opposing the July student movement remained barred from academic activities while investigations had made limited progress; in June 2026, the Dhaka University Syndicate suspended three teachers and barred or temporarily relieved others from academic activities ([Islam, 2026](#); [bdnews24.com, 2026a](#); [The Daily Star, 2026](#)).

Further, a substantial number of university teachers have been arrested since August 2024, with some allegedly spending many months or longer in detention and some remaining imprisoned. Because a reliable aggregate figure cannot yet be established, the petition does not state an unsupported total. Individual arrest warrants, case numbers, remand and bail orders, detention records and release documents should be included in the annexes before any aggregate figure is published ([Prothom Alo, 2025a, 2025b, 2026](#); [The Daily Star, 2025b](#); [bdnews24.com, 2026b](#)).

The evidence presented here is substantial but deliberately non-exhaustive. The adverse and constantly changing circumstances have made it difficult for affected teachers to compile a comprehensive list of every incident. Many cases have not been reported in the press, while some affected teachers may be unable to document or publicize their experiences. The cases included here nevertheless demonstrate a serious and continuing pattern when considered collectively and are, where available, supported by media reports, human rights documentation, official university records, court documents, and first-hand documentary evidence.

1. Purpose, Scope and Evidentiary Approach

This appeal urges the United Nations human rights mechanisms, UNESCO, international human rights organizations, academic freedom organizations, and other concerned institutions to examine the treatment of public university teachers since 5 August 2024. It seeks independent scrutiny of whether teachers have been deprived of teaching, employment, academic participation or liberty because of actual or perceived political affiliation, peaceful political opinion or lawful expression ([United Nations, 1948, 1966](#); [UNESCO, 1997](#)).

The list of incidents is not an exhaustive register. The situation has remained fluid, with new cases and administrative actions continuing to emerge. The cases selected are sufficiently numerous, institutionally widespread, recurrent, and supported by documentary evidence to substantiate a serious and continuing pattern of

academic repression. At the same time, individual allegations should remain subject to verification and appropriate procedural safeguards.

2. Forms of Repression and Documented Concerns

2.1 Mob intimidation, humiliation and forced resignation

In the aftermath of 5 August 2024, public educational institutions faced intense pressure from students and other groups demanding the resignation or removal of teachers and academic officials perceived as associated with the previous governing establishment. TIB reported that teachers in educational institutions, including universities, were being forced out after being labeled supporters of particular political parties. The Daily Star reported that at least 150 teachers across Bangladesh had been forced to resign in the first weeks after the political transition and described cases involving humiliation, threats and student pressure. Human rights and academic freedom reporting subsequently described the wider post-transition environment as one in which political labeling, mob action, and administrative pressure affected educators and intellectuals ([The Daily Star, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c, 2024f, 2024h, 2024i, 2024j](#); [HRRRC, 2025](#); [Scholars at Risk, 2025](#)).

The problem is not limited to publicly reported cases. Petitioners possess, or expect to obtain, direct university notices, resignation-related correspondence, suspension orders, and other administrative documents concerning affected university teachers. Such documents are particularly important because the press may never have reported a mob confrontation or an administrative order.

2.2 Suspension and exclusion from academic activities

Exclusion from teaching and other academic functions has become a particularly serious form of adverse action. In April 2026, [bdnews24.com](#) reported that at least 68 Dhaka University teachers accused of opposing the July student movement remained barred from academic activities while official investigations had made little progress ([Islam, 2026](#)). Prolonged exclusion can have the practical effect of punishment even before a final disciplinary determination, especially where the teacher continues to receive uncertain or restricted employment status ([United Nations, 1966](#); [UNESCO, 1997](#); [Human Rights Committee, 2011](#)).

The pattern continued into July 2026. Dhaka University suspended three teachers accused of supporting the Awami League and threatening students during the 2024 protests and temporarily barred other teachers from academic activities ([bdnews24.com, 2026a](#); [The Daily Star, 2026a](#); [BSS, 2026a](#)). These administrative decisions demonstrate that exclusionary and disciplinary measures remained an active institutional practice two years after the July 2024 political events.

The allegations must be taken seriously; however, allegations are not equivalent to findings of misconduct. International review should examine the evidence relied upon, notice, opportunity to respond, independence of the decision-maker, duration and proportionality, and available appeal or judicial review ([Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972](#); [Human Rights Committee, 2011](#); [UNESCO, 1997](#)).

2.3 Fact-finding committees and procedural harassment

Following student demand, the University of Dhaka produced a list of 231 teachers for fact-finding regarding allegations concerning their positions during the July Uprising ([New Age 2025a](#)). Fact-finding committees are legitimate when independent, transparent, evidence-based, and time-bound. The concern arises when teachers are repeatedly summoned, given unusually short periods to respond, denied access to relevant material, subjected to intimidating questioning, or kept away from teaching while an inquiry remains unresolved. Petitioners report cases in which teachers experienced these forms of procedural pressure and, in some cases, were allegedly denied an effective opportunity to present their defense.

The principles of fair procedure are especially important where an administrative inquiry may have severe consequences for employment and professional reputation. Article 14 of the ICCPR encompasses fair-hearing guarantees, while the Human Rights Committee has elaborated safeguards for fair proceedings. The UNESCO Recommendation recognizes academic freedom and fair employment conditions for higher-education teaching personnel ([United Nations, 1966](#); [Human Rights Committee, 2011](#); [UNESCO, 1997](#)). A fact-finding process should not become an indefinite substitute for a disciplinary determination.

2.4 Political opinion and perceived political affiliation

Reports have described demands to remove teachers perceived as supporters of the former Awami League government. In November 2025, student organizations at several universities reportedly demanded the dismissal of teachers they characterized as supporters of Sheikh Hasina and set deadlines for university authorities to act ([The Daily Star, 2025a](#)). Such demands are relevant evidence of the political environment in which disciplinary decisions were made, although they do not, by themselves, establish that every subsequent decision was unlawful.

According to a 6 August 2026 report by The Daily Star, allegations of communications with ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and alleged pro-Awami League activities prompted universities to initiate investigations into 404 teachers across 22 public universities, including 58 from the University of Dhaka ([Appendix G4](#)). The report indicates that, based only on media reports, several universities formed probe committees to examine these allegations, developments that have raised concerns among observers about possible new forms of institutional pressure on academics ([The Daily Star, 2026c](#)). Such activities have already raised concerns at the national and international levels ([Bangladesh Digest, 2026](#); [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, 2026d](#); [New Age, 2026a](#); [The Daily Star, 2026d](#); [The Voice, 2026](#)).

The pressure also took an explicitly organizational and political form in July 2026. A widely circulated national daily, *Prothom Alo*, reported that the Dhaka University Sada Dal, an organisation associated with BNP-aligned teachers, submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor demanding that the activities of Nil Dal, an organisation associated with Awami League-aligned teachers, be prohibited and that action be taken against teachers whom it accused of opposing students during the July 2024 uprising and supporting the former government ([New Age, 2025c](#)). The report is significant as evidence of pressure being exerted through competing teachers' organisations based on perceived political affiliation and alleged conduct during the July movement. Shortly thereafter, the Dhaka University Syndicate reportedly decided to form a committee to examine evidence-backed complaints against teachers, officers and employees accused of opposing the July uprising, with possible action also contemplated against organizations associated with those individuals ([bdnews24.com, 2026c](#)). The same development was independently reported by BSS and other news media, which stated that the Syndicate had decided to take measures against teachers who opposed students during the July Mass Uprising and had formed a probe committee concerning the subsequent disciplinary decisions ([Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha \[BSS\], 2026b](#)).

This constitutes a violation of Article 39 of the Constitution of Bangladesh that protects freedom of thought and conscience and freedom of speech and expression; Article 27 guarantees equality before the law; and Article 31 provides protection of law ([Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972](#)). Further, Article 19 of the UDHR, and Articles 19(1) and 19(2) of the ICCPR, protect freedom of opinion and expression. At the same time, the Human Rights Committee has emphasized the importance of freedom of opinion and the requirements of legality, legitimacy, necessity, and proportionality for restrictions on expression ([United Nations, 1948, 1966](#); [Human Rights Committee, 2011](#)).

2.5 Arrest and prolonged detention

On 28 August 2025, a group identifying itself as 'July Fighters' reportedly disrupted a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity and handed 16 participants, including Dhaka University Law Professor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, to police. A case was subsequently filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act, and the participants were jailed ([Prothom Alo, 2025a, 2025b](#)). Professor Hafizur subsequently told the court that he and others were

victims rather than offenders and alleged that they had been denied constitutional protections ([The Daily Star, 2025b](#)). These are allegations requiring independent judicial assessment.

In March 2026, Dhaka University Sociology Professor A. K. M. Jamal Uddin was arrested and sent to jail in a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act concerning participation in a programme associated with the Awami League ([bdnews24.com, 2026b](#); [Prothom Alo, 2026a](#)); reporting also identified his membership in the university's pro-Awami League Blue Panel and earlier campus harassment by activist students ([bdnews24.com, 2025](#); [New Age, 2025b](#); [The Daily Star, 2025d, 2025e](#); [UNB News, 2025](#)). The existence of a criminal charge does not itself establish unlawful detention. Relevant questions include whether criminal law is applied neutrally, whether political association is being treated as a proxy for criminality, and whether detention is subject to prompt judicial review and fair-trial safeguards ([United Nations, 1966](#); [Human Rights Committee, 2011](#)).

Petitioners further report that a larger number of university teachers have been arrested since August 2024, with some allegedly spending many months in detention and some remaining imprisoned for exceptionally long periods. This claim should be supported by individual case files rather than an unsupported aggregate.

2.6 Interference with Religious Observance and Communal Participation

The funeral prayer of former Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique was not held on the university campus following his death in March 2025. Contemporary reporting noted that this drew criticism, while the University stated that the decision on the funeral location had been made with the family's consent and in consideration of the prevailing circumstances. A family member, however, reportedly stated that the family had heard the university authorities would be unable to provide adequate security for the funeral prayer ([The Daily Star, 2025c](#); [New Age, 2025d](#)). It is also noteworthy that the funeral prayers of former Dhaka University Vice-Chancellors and senior members of the university community have traditionally been held at the Dhaka University Central Mosque. For example, the funeral prayer of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Abdul Mannan was held at the DU Central Mosque in 2007, while the funeral prayer of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Aftab Ahmed was also scheduled to be held there in 2006 ([The Daily Star, 2006, 2007](#)). Against this established practice, the decision not to hold the funeral prayer for former Vice-Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique on the university campus raises legitimate questions about equal treatment and the circumstances surrounding it.

In another reported incident, a program organized by teachers at the Dhaka University Club in March 2025 to commemorate former Vice-Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique was canceled after the university administration cited security concerns. The Club secretary reportedly stated that the university proctor had warned that some student organizations or students might obstruct the program. In contrast, the proctor confirmed that two student organizations had expressed concern and that some students had also objected. The program was reportedly perceived by some as associated with the Neel Dal, the Awami League-backed teachers' organization. However, the organizers stated that no political platform's banner was being used ([Bangladesh Times, 2025](#)) [See also, [Appendix G3](#)].

An iftar mehfil is a customary communal gathering during Ramadan in which participants come together to break their fast, offer prayers, and exchange views in a social and religious setting. The University authorities reportedly justified the restriction on grounds of campus safety and security. [English translation: [Appendix G3](#) Denial to hold *iftar mehfil* at Dhaka University Club]. However, the denial of permission to a particular community of teachers, particularly where their perceived political affiliation or ideological association appears to have been a relevant consideration, raises concerns regarding equal treatment, freedom of religion, freedom of association, and non-discrimination. The incident therefore warrants scrutiny of whether campus-safety considerations were applied consistently and neutrally, or whether they were used to restrict the activities of teachers associated with a particular political orientation.

3. Adverse Measures Against Teachers at Public Universities Across Bangladesh

The reported pattern of adverse action against university teachers is not confined to Dhaka University but has extended to public universities in different regions of Bangladesh. Following the July–August 2024 movement, teachers at several public universities have reportedly faced suspension, dismissal, compulsory retirement, demotion, salary-scale reduction, cancellation of increments, and other disciplinary measures in connection with alleged conduct during or opposition to the July movement. These cases are not presented as evidence that every disciplinary decision was unlawful or unjustified; rather, their geographic spread and the range of sanctions imposed provide relevant contextual evidence for examining whether comparable standards of evidence, procedural fairness, proportionality, and opportunity to defend were consistently applied.

At Jahangirnagar University, nine teachers were suspended in March 2025 following an investigation into allegations that they had instigated attacks on students and were involved in the police crackdown during the July 2024 movement ([Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha \[BSS\], 2025a](#)). At the Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET), an assistant professor and two officials were suspended in March 2025 over allegations including involvement in suppressing the July uprising; students had also accused the teacher of opposing the movement and had demanded his removal ([The Business Standard, 2025](#)). At Islamic University, Kushtia, 19 teachers and 11 officials and staff were suspended in October 2025 over alleged anti-July-uprising activities following an investigation ([Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha \[BSS\], 2025b](#)). Significantly, the university later revoked the disciplinary measures against the 19 teachers and 11 officials in March 2026 ([New Age, 2026b](#)). This subsequent reversal is relevant to questions concerning the evidentiary basis, procedural fairness, and institutional review of disciplinary decisions at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, Associate Professor Md. Shariful Islam, a former proctor, was suspended in November 2024 following his arrest in connection with the case concerning the killing of student Abu Sayeed during the July 2024 uprising ([The Business Standard, 2024](#)). At the time of the suspension, the criminal proceedings had not yet reached a judicial determination of guilt; the International Crimes Tribunal subsequently adjudicated the criminal case in April 2026. This chronology is relevant to the distinction between a pending allegation and a final judicial determination, while recognizing that a university may possess separate authority to impose interim employment measures under applicable law.

The sanctions have also extended beyond suspension and dismissal to demotion and financial penalties. At Jahangirnagar University, in June 2026, 12 teachers and one official were subjected to disciplinary measures following an investigation into alleged attacks on students during the July 2024 movement. One teacher was compulsorily retired; nine teachers and one official were demoted and had their salary scales reduced; two teachers received warnings; and seven teachers and one official were cleared for lack of evidence ([The Daily Star, 2026b](#); [The Business Standard, 2026](#)). More detailed reporting states that several professors and associate professors had their salaries reduced to the initial scale of their existing positions, one assistant professor was demoted to lecturer, and some teachers had annual increments canceled ([The Financial Express, 2026](#); [Bonik Barta, 2026](#)). These measures illustrate that the reported consequences have extended from temporary exclusion to substantial effects on academic rank, remuneration, and career progression.

The published record is unlikely to capture every affected teacher or every adverse measure. Some decisions are contained in suspension orders, Syndicate resolutions, fact-finding reports, show-cause notices and other institutional documents that have not been reported in the press. Petitioners also have concerns that some affected teachers and witnesses may be reluctant to publicize incidents because of fear of government, institutional, political, or other forms of reprisal. Accordingly, some lists of repressed teachers have been included in the [English translation: [Appendix L2](#), [Appendix L3](#), [Appendix L4](#), [Appendix L5](#), [Appendix L6](#)] and in relevant university orders and administrative materials, where available. These materials are intended to enable examination of the precise basis, procedure, duration and consequences of the measures imposed.

Taken together, these cases provide circumstantial evidence of a geographically dispersed pattern of adverse action against university teachers following the July 2024 movement. The cases differ in their underlying allegations and should therefore be assessed individually. Their cumulative significance lies in determining

whether allegations connected with the July movement, including perceived political affiliation or conduct during the protests, have been consistently addressed with reliable evidence, fair procedures, proportionate sanctions, and effective opportunities for defense and review.

4. Academic Repression beyond Universities

Circumstantial evidence from the wider education sector also supports the existence of a broader pattern of politically linked harassment and coercive measures against educators following the August 2024 political transition. Reports concerning school and college teachers document forced resignations, public humiliation, physical assaults, exclusion from their institutions, deprivation of salaries, and other forms of pressure. By October 2025, *The Daily Star* reported that Education Ministry officials estimated that more than 2,000 teachers and headteachers had been forced out across the country, while an alliance of heads and teachers from deprived institutions estimated that nearly 3,500 teachers across approximately 2,000 institutions had faced harassment. The report further stated that around 1,000 affected teachers were still not receiving salaries or allowances. In contrast, many others had reportedly been unable to return to their classrooms or institutions for more than a year ([The Daily Star, 2025f](#)) [English translation: [Appendix L1](#) Non exhaustive List of repressed School and College Teachers].

Pertinently, in September 2024, the Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education issued an official notice concerning the need to stop the forced resignation and harassment of teachers ([Secondary and Higher Education Division, 2024](#)) [English translation: [Appendix G1](#)]. A corresponding notice addressing the same issue was also issued by the Directorate of Madrasa Education ([Directorate of Madrasa Education, 2024](#)) [English translation: [Appendix G2](#)].

Although these figures concern school and college teachers rather than university teachers, they provide circumstantial evidence of a wider pattern of pressure, harassment, exclusion, and politically associated retaliation affecting educators across Bangladesh. These official interventions provide contextual evidence that forced resignations and harassment of educators had become widespread enough in Bangladesh to warrant attention. The present petition does not rely on these cases as direct proof of the individual allegations concerning university teachers; rather, they are presented as contextual evidence relevant to assessing the broader environment in which the reported repression of university academics has occurred.

5. Attacks on the Press and the Documentation Gap

The scarcity of press coverage of some cases should not be interpreted as evidence that they did not occur. Reuters reported that mobs torched the offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star in December 2025, trapping journalists and causing both newspapers to halt publication ([Reuters, 2025](#)). Human rights reporting has also documented attacks and intimidation targeting journalists and media organizations during the broader post-transition period ([Amnesty International, 2025](#)). These incidents do not establish that every university-related abuse was deliberately suppressed, but they provide relevant context for gaps in public documentation.

6. Key Timeline: 5 August 2024–August 2026

The chronology is illustrative rather than exhaustive. It identifies a substantial number of documented incidents that help establish the nature, continuity, and changing forms of academic repression. The adverse and constantly changing circumstances have made it difficult to prepare a comprehensive list; new incidents may also arise after this petition is drafted.

Date	Location	Actors	Incident	Source
5 Aug 2024	National	Political transition	Government changed following mass uprising; beginning of period examined here.	Post-5-Aug evidence base
Aug 2024	Public universities	Students/campus groups	Teachers and academic officials pressured to resign or leave positions.	TIB, 2024; The Daily Star, 2024a; Appendix P
22 Aug 2024	Bangladesh	Education authorities	Directive reportedly instructed officials to prevent forced resignations in schools and colleges.	Government order
2025	Multiple universities	Student groups/administrations	Continued demands for removal of teachers perceived as supporters of former government.	The Daily Star, 2025a; rights reports
28 Aug 2025	Dhaka	Mob/police/academics	Academic discussion disrupted; 16 participants reportedly handed to police and charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act.	Prothom Alo, 2025a, 2025b; The Daily Star, 2025b
Dec 2025	Dhaka	Mobs/media	Offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star torched; journalists trapped; publication halted.	Reuters, 2025
Mar 2026	Dhaka University	Police / Prof. A.K.M. Jamal Uddin	Professor arrested and jailed under the Anti-Terrorism Act in a case concerning an alleged Awami League programme.	bdnews24.com, 2026b; Prothom Alo, 2026
Apr 2026	Dhaka University	University administration	At least 68 teachers reportedly remained barred from academic activities while investigations had made limited progress.	Islam, 2026
Apr 2026	Bangladesh	New government	BNP-led government assumed office; petitioners report continuing cases thereafter.	Context
Jun 2026	Dhaka University	Syndicate	Three teachers suspended, and others barred/temporarily relieved from academic activities.	bdnews24.com, 2026a; The Daily Star, 2026

Date	Location	Actors	Incident	Source
30 Jul 2026	Dhaka University	Dhaka University Syndicate	Syndicate suspended three teachers and one officer and relieved four faculty members; separate measures were reported concerning review of appointments and teachers' organisations.	BSS (2026a, 2026b)
Jul–Aug 2026	Bangladesh	Multiple universities	Additional fact-finding and disciplinary actions	Bahanno News (2026)

7. Constitutional Guarantees and International Legal Obligations against Repression

Article 27 of the Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the law; Article 31 guarantees the protection of law and provides that no action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation, or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law. Article 39(1) guarantees freedom of thought and conscience, while Article 39(2) guarantees freedom of speech and expression subject to constitutionally permitted restrictions ([Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972](#)). In addition, Article 56(2) of the Dhaka University Order, 1973 specifically protects the freedom of a university teacher or officer to hold political views and to maintain association with any lawful organization outside the University. It requires that their service conditions be determined without prejudice to those freedoms. Article 56(3) further provides that a teacher or officer may be dismissed only on grounds of moral turpitude or inefficiency and requires an inquiry by an Inquiry Committee before dismissal ([Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1973](#)). These provisions are particularly relevant where university teachers face adverse institutional measures because of their actual or perceived political views, affiliations, or associations. These provisions are relevant where teachers face adverse treatment because of peaceful political opinion or perceived political affiliation.

Bangladesh is a party to the ICCPR and ICESCR. Article 19 of the ICCPR protects freedom of opinion and expression; Article 9 protects against arbitrary arrest or detention; and Article 14 provides fair-hearing guarantees within its scope. The ICESCR protects the right to work and just and favorable conditions of work under Articles 6 and 7 and recognizes the right to education under Article 13 ([United Nations, 1966](#)). The ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), further recognizes political opinion as a protected ground in employment and occupation and calls for protection against distinctions, exclusions, or preferences based on political opinion that impair equality of opportunity or treatment in employment ([International Labour Organisation, 1958](#)).

The UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel addresses academic freedom, institutional autonomy, professional responsibilities and employment conditions of higher-education teaching personnel ([UNESCO, 1997](#)). Although it is not a binding treaty, it provides an important international benchmark.

8. Urgent Measures Requested for the Protection of Teachers from Repression

1. Establish or support an independent and impartial review of reported cases of mob intimidation, forced resignation, suspension, exclusion from academic activities, arrest and detention of public-university teachers since 5 August 2024.
2. Ensure that no teacher is suspended, dismissed or permanently deprived of academic responsibilities solely because of actual or perceived political affiliation, peaceful political opinion or lawful expression.
3. Require disciplinary and fact-finding proceedings to provide clear notice, reasonable time to respond, access to relevant evidence, a genuine opportunity to be heard, impartial decision-making and reasoned written decisions subject to effective review.

4. Prevent student or political groups from determining teachers' employment status through threats, coercion, physical intimidation or mob action.
5. Independently review cases in which teachers have been arrested or detained in circumstances raising concerns about political motivation, arbitrary detention, excessive use of criminal law or denial of fair-trial safeguards.
6. Review prolonged suspensions and exclusions to determine whether they have become punitive in substance despite the absence of a final disciplinary finding.
7. Provide effective remedies, including reinstatement where adverse action cannot be supported by established misconduct and other appropriate remedies where due process or fundamental rights have been violated.
8. Request relevant UN Special Procedures, OHCHR, UNESCO and academic-freedom organizations to monitor the situation and seek information from the Government of Bangladesh.
9. Protect independent journalism and investigate attacks on media organizations so that abuses affecting teachers can be independently documented.
10. Include academic freedom, due process and protection against politically motivated retaliation in international human-rights dialogue with Bangladesh.

9. Our Final Appeal

What is at stake in this appeal is not whether teachers should be accountable, but whether accountability can be pursued without discrimination, intimidation, political retaliation or the abandonment of due process. The evidence assembled for this appeal presents a serious pattern requiring independent scrutiny. Public-university teachers have reportedly faced mob intimidation, demands for resignation, exclusion from academic activities, suspension, prolonged investigations and, in some cases, arrest and detention. The continuation of restrictions against dozens of Dhaka University teachers into 2026, together with later disciplinary actions, demonstrates that the issue cannot be confined to the immediate aftermath of August 2024 ([Islam, 2026](#); [bdnews24.com, 2026a](#); [The Daily Star, 2026](#)).

The petitioners do not ask international institutions to prejudge criminal allegations or to grant teachers immunity from legitimate accountability. They ask that legitimate accountability be distinguished from political retaliation and that every teacher be afforded equality before the law, freedom of opinion and expression, academic freedom and meaningful procedural protection ([Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972](#); [United Nations, 1948, 1966](#); [Human Rights Committee, 2011](#); [UNESCO, 1997](#)).

Fundamental rights cannot depend upon which political group controls the state or dominates a university campus at a particular moment. Hence, the question before the international community is ultimately a simple one: can teachers be held accountable without political impartiality, due process, and respect for academic freedom?

References

- Agarwala, T., & Sharma, S. (2025, December 19). *Presses fall silent after mobs torch offices of Bangladesh's top newspapers*. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/presses-fall-silent-after-mobs-torch-offices-bangladeshs-top-newspapers-2025-12-19/>.
- Amnesty International. (2025). *Bangladesh 2025*. Bangladesh: Human rights developments and restrictions on freedom of expression and association. Amnesty International. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/report-bangladesh/>
- Bahanno News. (2026, August 8). *Concerns over DU teacher dismissals, exemptions and ban on teachers' unions*. Bahanno News. <https://bahannonews.com/>.
- Bangladesh Digest. (2026, August 17). *Worldwide concern over harassment of university teachers through sweeping allegations and investigations*. Bangladesh Digest. <https://en.bddigest.com/worldwide-concern-over-harassment-of-university-teachers-through-sweeping-allegations-and-investigations/>.
- Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. (2025a, March 18). *JU suspends 9 teachers, expels 289 BCL men for attacking July protesters*. BSS. <https://www.bssnews.net/news/256070>
- Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. (2025b, October 31). *IU suspends 19 teachers, expels 33 students for their anti-July uprising activities*. BSS. <https://www.bssnews.net/news/327027>
- Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. (2026a, July 31). *DU suspends 3 teachers, 1 officer*. BSS. <https://www.bssnews.net/others/410386>
- Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. (2026b, July 31). *DU syndicate to review all appointments from 2009 to June 2024*. BSS. <https://www.bssnews.net/news/410218>
- Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. (2026d, August 5). *DU to take action against teachers involved in anti-state activities*. Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. <https://www.bssnews.net/news/411971>.
- Bangladesh Times. (2025, March 20). *নিরাপত্তাশঙ্কায় ঢাবিতে আরেফিন সিদ্দিকের দোয়ামাহ ফিলিস্তিনি প্রার্থী Arefin Siddique's prayer gathering at Dhaka University suspended over security concerns*. <https://bangladeshtimes.com/details/54584/>
- Bonik Barta. (2026, June 16). *JU disciplines teachers, officials accused of attacking students during July uprising*. <https://en.bonikbarta.com/bangladesh/rInIWjXpYAfXPsh>
- bdnews24.com. (2025, December 11). *DUCSU leader leads chase as Prof Jamal leaves campus after harassment claims*. <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/68e8a2add6f7>
- bdnews24.com. (2026a, June 23). *3 Dhaka University teachers suspended, 2 barred from academic activities*. <https://bdnews24.com/campus/6284ffd65cff>
- bdnews24.com. (2026b, March 11). *Dhaka University Prof Jamal Uddin arrested on terrorism charges*. <https://bdnews24.com/campus/7a8d0d0ec4e2>
- bdnews24.com. (2026c, July 29). *Dhaka University forms committee to act against July Uprising opponents*. bdnews24.com. <https://bdnews24.com/campus/bfc561da7f37>
- Directorate of Madrasa Education. (2024, September 4). *শিক্ষকদের জোরপূর্বক পদত্যাগ ও হেনস্তা বন্ধ করাসংক্রান্ত* [Regarding stopping the forced resignation and harassment of teachers]. Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. <https://dme.gov.bd/pages/notices/691998be81fc96cef9e5f85a?>
- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. (1972). *The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh*. Bangladesh Laws. <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367.html>
- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. (1973). *The Dhaka University Order, 1973 (President's Order No. 11 of 1973)*. <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-447.html>
- Human Rights Committee. (2011). *General comment No. 34: Article 19: Freedoms of opinion and expression (CCPR/C/GC/34)*. United Nations. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/715606?v=pdf#files>

- Human Rights Research Center (HRRRC). (2025, October 13). *Bangladesh's interim government accused of political repression under amended Anti-Terrorism Law*. <https://www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/bangladesh-s-interim-government-accused-of-political-repression-under-amended-anti-terrorism-law>
- International Labour Organisation. (1958). *Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)*. <https://www.ilo.org/publications/discrimination-employment-and-occupation-convention-1958-no-111>
- Islam, A. N. (2026, April 21). *68 DU teachers remain barred from classes 20 months after July Uprising*. bdnews24.com. <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/a048d7a7bb6b>
- Nashita, Z. T. (2024h, August 30). *Is forcing our educators to resign the right way to go?* The Daily Star. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/forcing-our-educators-resign-the-right-way-go-3690436>
- New Age. (2025a). *DU body to review 231 teachers over July uprising*. <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/308062/du-body-to-review-231-teachers-over-july-uprising>
- New Age. (2025b, December 11). *Blue panel convener harassed by DU students*. <https://www.newagebd.net/post/Country/284858/blue-panel-convener-harassed-by-du-students>
- New Age. (2025c, July 14). *DU White Panel teachers demand trial of fellow Hasina collaborators*. <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/270038/du-white-panel-teachers-demand-trial-of-fellow-hasina-collaborators>
- New Age. (2025d, March 15). *DU declares holiday today honouring ex-VC Arefin Siddique*. <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/260171/du-declares-holiday-today-honouring-ex-vc-arefin-siddique>
- New Age. (2026a, August 13). *DU committee to investigate some teachers' 'secret activities'*. New Age. <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/309733/du-committee-to-investigate-some-teachers-secret-activities>
- New Age. (2026b, March 19). *Punishment of 30 IU teachers, officials waived*. <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/294390/punishment-of-30-iu-teachers-officials-waived>
- Prothom Alo. (2025a, August 28). *Latif Siddiqui, DU professor besieged, handed over to police*. Report on the disruption of the Dhaka Reporters Unity discussion and detention of participants on 28 August 2025. <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/city/km7g3dzqbs>
- Prothom Alo. (2025b, August 29). *Latif Siddiqui, Professor Hafizur among 16 sent to jail*. <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/ri1n8fzjnb>
- Prothom Alo. (2026a, March 12). *Pro-Awami League DU professor Jamal Uddin arrested*. <https://en.prothomalo.com/amp/story/bangladesh/chh40kx71w>
- Rights & Risks Analysis Group. (2025, July 19). *Bangladesh: One year after July Revolution, ochlocracy rules*. <https://www.rightsrisks.org/by-country/bangladesh/bangladesh-one-year-after-july-revolution-ochlocracy-rules/>
- Scholars at Risk. (2025). *Free to think 2025: Report of the Scholars at Risk Academic Freedom Monitoring Project*. <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/resources/free-to-think-2025/>
- Secondary and Higher Education Division. (2024, September 3). *শিক্ষকদের জোরপূর্বক পদত্যাগ ও হেনস্তাবন্ধকরণ [Stopping the forced resignation and harassment of teachers]*. Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. <https://shed.gov.bd/pages/notices/69414624a3105435f0fbb67?>
- The Business Standard. (2024, December 3). *Former BRUR proctor suspended over Abu Sayeed murder case*. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/former-brur-proctor-suspended-over-abu-sayeed-murder-case-1009096>
- The Business Standard. (2025, March 6). *RUET suspends teacher, 2 officials over attacking students during July uprising*. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/education/ruet-suspends-teacher-2-officials-over-attacking-students-during-july-uprising>

- The Business Standard. (2026, June 16). *JU penalises 12 teachers over role in July Uprising attacks; 7 teachers cleared.* <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/education/ju-penalises-12-teachers-over-role-july-uprising-attacks-7-teachers-cleared>
- The Daily Star. (2006, September 27). *Bullet-wounded Prof Aftab dies.* <https://archive.thedailystar.net/2006/09/27/d6092701033.htm>
- The Daily Star. (2007, May 1). *Prof Mannan passes away.* <https://archive.thedailystar.net/2007/05/01/d70501061078.htm>
- The Daily Star. (2024a, August 8). *DU proctorial team resigns.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/du-proctorial-team-resigns-3672631>
- The Daily Star. (2024b, August 10). *Resignations until now: DU, SUST VCs, Bangla Academy, BSEC chiefs quit.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/resignations-until-now-3674036>
- The Daily Star. (2024c, August 11). *Wave of resignations hits universities.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/wave-resignations-hits-universities-3674971>
- The Daily Star. (2024f, August 25). *Edn institutions: Forcing people to resign may lead to collapse.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/education/news/edn-institutions-forcing-people-resign-may-lead-collapse-3686481>
- The Daily Star. (2024i, August 31). *Vacuum looms as teachers being coerced to quit.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/vacuum-looms-teachers-being-coerced-quit-3691301>
- The Daily Star. (2024j, September 3). *'Forcing teachers to resign totally unacceptable': Edn adviser calls for immediate end to harassment of teachers.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/forcing-teachers-resign-totally-unacceptable-3693796>
- The Daily Star. (2025a, August 10). *Education left behind: Govt struggles to reform the sector; institutions see unrest, forced resignations of teachers post-July uprising.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/education-left-behind-3959881>
- The Daily Star. (2025b, August 29). *'Made accused though we were the victims': DU law professor tells Dhaka court.* Reporting on Professor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman's court proceedings following the August 2025 incident. <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/made-accused-though-we-were-victims-du-law-professor-tells-dhaka-court-3973576>
- The Daily Star. (2025c, March 15). *DU declares one-day closure in honour of Arefin Siddique.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/du-declares-one-day-closure-honour-arefin-siddique-3848556>
- The Daily Star. (2025d, December 11). *Pro-AL DU teachers say they were assaulted after submitting memo to VC.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/pro-al-du-teachers-say-they-were-assaulted-after-submitting-memo-vc-4056161>
- The Daily Star. (2025e, December 11). *Students led by Ducusu leader harass pro-AL DU teachers.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/students-led-ducusu-leader-harass-pro-al-du-teachers-4056416>
- The Daily Star. (2025f, October 8). *Teachers forced to resign since uprising to get salaries.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/teachers-forced-resign-uprising-get-salaries-4005186>
- The Daily Star. (2026a, June 23). *Three DU teachers suspended over role during July uprising.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/education/news/three-du-teachers-suspended-over-role-during-july-uprising-4206201>
- The Daily Star. (2026b, June 16). *JU penalises teachers and officials accused of backing July Uprising attacks.* <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/ju-penalises-teachers-and-officials-accused-backing-july-uprising-attacks-4200301>

- The Daily Star. (2026c, August 6). Universities launch probes into teachers accused of pro-AL activities. <https://www.thedailystar.net/campus/news/universities-launch-probes-teachers-accused-pro-al-activities-4241661>
- The Daily Star. (2026d, August 16). A teacher must not become a victim of political vengeance, academics' platform says. *The Daily Star*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/education/news/teacher-must-not-become-victim-political-vengeance-academics-platform-says-4249141>
- The Financial Express. (2026, June 17). *JU punishes 13 teachers, officials over role in July Uprising attacks*. <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/ju-punishes-13-teachers-officials-over-role-in-july-uprising-attacks-1781632958>
- The Observer. (2025, March 24). *DU Sada Dal teachers demand arrest of Professor Zeenat Huda*. <https://observerbd.com/news/518239>
- The Voice. (2026, August 16). Bangladesh's Public University Progressive Teachers' Society demands halt to punitive measures against 404 teachers. *The Voice*. <https://thevoice.news/322046/bangladeshs-public-university-progressive-teachers-society-demands-halt-to-punitive-measures-against-404-teachers/>
- UNB News. (2025, December 11). *Awami-leaning teacher chased away from DU campus by students*. <https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/awami-leaning-teacher-chased-away-from-du-campus-by-students/175022>
- UNESCO. (1997). *Recommendation concerning the status of higher-education teaching personnel*. <https://www.unesco.org/en/higher-education/1997recommendation>
- United Nations General Assembly. (1948). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III)). <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- United Nations General Assembly. (1966). *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI)). <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/ccpr.pdf>
- United Nations. (1966). *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. <https://2covenants.ohchr.org/About-ICESCR.html>

I. Supplementary Media and Video Evidence

Video reporting is included as corroborative evidence, not as a substitute for primary documents or independently verified facts. Where a video depicts an incident, the petition should identify the date, location, persons involved and the original publisher where these can be established. Social-media copies should be treated cautiously because videos may be re-captioned or circulated with false narratives. The PTI fact-check concerning a Dhaka University dean is a useful illustration: it verified that a widely circulated video did show Professor Dr Abdul Bashir being forced to resign, while rejecting the misleading communal caption attached to the video.

Selected video and video-verification sources:

- India Today TV. (2024, August 31). Teachers forced to resign in Bangladesh, radicalism on rise [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdyPZDogpQU>
- India Today TV. (2024, September 1). Mobbed, forced to resign: Hindu teachers targeted in Bangladesh [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaTOMg260-w>
- SOMOY TV. (2025, July 13). Dhaka University teachers' organisation demands punishment of Blue Panel teachers [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8rNbIx1Tgo>
- The Business Standard. (2024, August 26). PTI fact check: Video of DU professor being forced to resign during student protests shared on social media with false claim. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/pti-fact-check-video-dhaka-university-professor-being-forced-resign-during-students>

II. Expanded Reference Base

The following additional sources are intended to expand the evidentiary base beyond the original reference list. Before external submission, each item should be checked against the original publication, and exact author names, dates and URLs should be retained in the final APA reference list.

- Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. (2026, June 23). 4 DU teachers, 3 officials suspended. BSS.
- bdnews24.com. (2026, April 21). 68 'pro-AL' teachers still barred from DU classes 20 months after July Uprising.
- bdnews24.com. (2026, April 28). Dhaka University suspends teacher Sudip from academic activities over student Mimo's suicide.
- bdnews24.com. (2026, June 23). 3 Dhaka University teachers suspended, 2 barred from academic activities.
- bdnews24.com. (2026, July 30). Report on Dhaka University Syndicate action against three teachers and restrictions on other teachers.
- bdnews24.com. (2026, May 10). Barishal University 'shutdown' and teachers' protest against the vice-chancellor.
- Dhaka Tribune. (2024, October 23). CU teacher allegedly forced to resign under pressure.
- Freedom House. (2025). Bangladesh: Freedom in the World 2025 country report.
- Prothom Alo. (2026). Report on the arrest of Dhaka University Sociology Professor A. K. M. Jamal Uddin.
- Prothom Alo. (2026, June). Dhaka University teachers suspended and relieved of academic duties.
- Rights & Risks Analysis Group. (2025). Ochlocracy rules: Reporting on mob violence, political repression and institutional pressure in Bangladesh.
- Scholars at Risk. (2024). Free to Think 2024: Report of the Academic Freedom Monitoring Project.
- Shuddhashar. (2026). Reporting and commentary on academic repression and intimidation in Bangladesh.
- The Daily Star. (2025). Reporting on student demands for removal of teachers perceived as supporters of the former government.
- The Daily Star. (2026, June 23). Three DU teachers suspended over role during July uprising.
- The Daily Star. (2025, October). Teachers forced to resign since July uprising to get salaries, allowances: Education ministry.
- Transparency International Bangladesh. (2024). Reporting on forced resignation, dismissal and suspension of teachers after the political transition.
- United Nations. (1966). International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- United Nations Human Rights Committee. (2011). General comment No. 34: Article 19—Freedoms of opinion and expression (CCPR/C/GC/34).
- United Nations Human Rights Committee. (2014). General comment No. 35: Article 9—Liberty and security of person (CCPR/C/GC/35).
- Human Rights Watch. (2024, August 6). Bangladesh: Prime Minister Hasina resigns amid mass protests.
- Human Rights Watch. (2024, August 26). Bangladesh: Back UN investigation into grave abuses.
- Amnesty International. (2025). Bangladesh: Human rights developments and restrictions on freedom of expression and association.
- International Labour Organisation. (1998). ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
- United Nations. (1990). Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary.
- United Nations. (1990). Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.
- United Nations. (2011). General Assembly resolution 66/164: The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.
- UNESCO. (2021). Recommendation on Open Science.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2025). Country and thematic materials concerning human rights in Bangladesh.

III. Additional International Media Evidence

International reporting should be used in two ways: (1) where the report directly documents teachers, universities or academic personnel; and (2) where it independently documents the post-5 August 2024 environment of mob action, reprisals, attacks on institutions, journalists and persons associated with the former governing establishment. The latter category provides context rather than direct proof of a particular teacher's case.

TheGuardian. (2024, August 6). Bangladesh parliament dissolved a day after resignation of prime minister. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/06/bangladesh-student-protesters-to-meet-with-army-chief-after-pm-resigns>

Use in petition: Contextual evidence of the immediate political transition and the involvement of University of Dhaka professors in discussions surrounding the formation of the interim government.

The Guardian. (2024, August 8). Bangladesh: how the 'Gen Z revolution' forced the prime minister to flee — video explainer. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2024/aug/08/bangladesh-how-the-gen-z-revolution-forced-the-prime-minister-to-flee-video-explainer>

Use in petition: Video evidence and independent visual documentation of the political transition and the post-uprising environment.

The Guardian. (2024, August 10). 'We're freed, but it doesn't end here': Bangladeshis mix hope with vigilance after PM flees. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/10/bangladeshis-pm-flees-protesters-sheikh-hasina-muham>

Use in petition: Contextual evidence of reprisals and uncertainty immediately following 5 August 2024; useful for establishing the broader environment in which attacks and institutional pressure occurred.

The Tribune. (2024, September 1). 49 minority teachers in Bangladesh forced to resign. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/49-minority-teachers-in-bangladesh-forced-to-resign/>

Use in petition: International reporting reproducing the Bangladesh Chhatra Oikya Parishad's [Bangladesh Students' Unity Council] 49-teacher figure and its account of physical assaults and forced resignations.

Deutsche Welle. (2024, September 16). Mob justice: Where does it end? <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/358561/mob-justice-where-does-it-end>

Use in petition: Particularly relevant international reporting: it describes post-5 August mob justice, forced resignations of university vice-chancellors, attacks and the targeting of teachers, while noting the lack of arrests or legal action in reported cases.

Associated Press. (2024, October 23). Fresh tension grips Bangladesh as student protesters demand president's resignation. <https://apnews.com/article/b65b740b014f12aff2d7043650e6f7b2>

Use in petition: International reporting documenting continued political instability and student mobilisation during the post-transition period; contextual rather than direct teacher-repression evidence.

Global Center for Democratic Governance