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Md Asaduzzaman
Attorney General of Bangladesh
Office of the Attorney General
Bangladesh Supreme Court area
Shahabagh
Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh

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Dear Md Asaduzzaman,

**I am writing to express deep concern over the recent crackdown on protesters in Bangladesh. In addition to over 400 people being killed and thousands of others injured, more than 10,000 protesters have reportedly been arrested or arbitrarily detained in the last few weeks.** The student led protests started with the main demand of fair government job recruitment by removing the 30% quota allocated for descendants of war veterans.

Among those who were arrested is 18-year-old Rony Sheikh who was arrested on 22 July while preparing for his exams. Rony is yet to meet with his family members or lawyer since his arrests. The «shoot on sight» curfew at that time prevented his family from even attempting to go to the police to check whether there was a possibility to visit. Rony has been listed in a group complaint and charged with unlawful assembly, assault with intent to kill, and causing bodily harm. According to his family, the lawyers are finding it difficult to access Rony. While some of the protesters who were arrested have been released since, most of them continue to be detained.

The right to freedom of peaceful assembly is a human right, and these mass arrests and arbitrary detentions of protesters is an alarming violation of this right. I therefore urge the Bangladeshi authorities to:

* **Immediately release Rony Sheikh and all other protesters who have been unlawfully detained solely for exercising their human rights**
* **Ensure that all protesters arrested for a recognizable offence receive a prompt and fair trial**
* **Immediately grant access to the families and the lawyers of those who have been detained, and ensure that the whereabouts of each person in detention is urgently communicated to their families**
* **End custodial torture and other forms of ill-treatment**
* **Conduct a prompt, thorough, effective, independent, and impartial investigation into the deaths and injuries during the crackdown. Those found responsible for the unlawful use of force must be held accountable.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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