



Press Release

Discussion Meeting on the Occasion of International Human Rights Day



10th December, 2025

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day 2025, *Odhikar* organised a discussion meeting today, the 10th of December in Dhaka to discuss the human rights situation in Bangladesh. Speakers from different backgrounds including victims of enforced disappearance, those related to victims of enforced disappearance, as well as victims of the July Uprising, came together to speak on their experiences during the previous regime and current human rights situation.

The meeting was moderated by Taskin Fahmina, Campaign and Advocacy Director of *Odhikar*- who addressed the critical issues surrounding border killings, violence during the fascist regime, *Odhikar*'s long standing struggle for human rights, and efforts to campaign for justice. She went into detail about statistics regarding extrajudicial killings during the Interim Government's term so far, where 40 persons were killed, of which 14 of them were tortured to death.

Following this, Mehedi Hasan, a Dhaka University student, who was involved in the July Uprising, spoke briefly about the movement, as well as judicial reforms and increased freedom of speech under the Interim Government. He emphasised the importance of youth participation in protecting democracy and standing against injustice.

Nasrin Jahan Smrity, the wife of forcefully disappeared (in 2019) Ismail Hossain Baten, elaborated on the difficulties of her family's situation- suffering physically, mentally, financially, as well as socially as a result of her husband's disappearance. To this day, she wonders whether she is a widow or not and struggles to answer her young son's questions regarding his father.

Amena Akhter Bristy is the wife of another victim of enforced disappearance, Firoz Khan. Her husband Firoz Khan and brother-in-law, Miraj Khan, were disappeared from Chittagong and Dhaka respectively in 2012. In the 13 years that they have been gone, she has continued to suffer tremendously. The two women demanded justice and information on the whereabouts of their family members.

Faizul Hakim Lala, the editor of Jonojug, discussed the human rights violations worldwide, including during the July Revolution and Gaza. He advocated for constitutional reform and praised the interim government for its investigation into the BDR Massacre.

Jashimuddin Khan, a July Revolutionary who lost his left eye during the Uprising, shared his tragic story and gave insight into the background of the movement itself.

Jahidul Islam, founder of the youth organisation ANUKUL, detailed his organisation's works. ANUKUL works to bring support to the victims of domestic violence, predominantly at the grassroots level.

ASM Nasiruddin Elan, the Director of *Odhikar*, spoke next, and talked about political violence, as well as electoral violence and Indian aggression.

Marroof Zaman, a survivor of enforced disappearance and founder of United for the Victims of Enforced Disappearance (UVED)- a platform for survivors of enforced disappearance and their families, recounted the torture he experienced while disappeared. He also stated that any kind of enforced disappearance is a crime against humanity and perpetrators should be punished.

Saimum Reza Talukder, prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal spoke about the kangaroo courts set in place by the Awami League under their regime. He followed up by mentioning the Awami League's tactics of dehumanising their targets through labels in order to justify their actions.

Justice Farid Ahmed Shibli, Member of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, elaborated on the importance of *Odhikar's* work and the work strategy of the Commission itself. He emphasised that they are trying to bring forth the truth and will do their best to fulfil their commitment.

Also involved in the meeting was Ikbāl Chowdhury, a survivor of enforced disappearance. A relative of Martyr Mahmudur Rahman Saikat was also present amongst others.

The discussion meeting concluded with a collective call for the protection of human rights, justice for victims, and the establishment of a democratic and accountable state system in Bangladesh. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to continue the struggle against human rights violations.

Organised by: Odhikar

Date: 10 December

Website: www.Odhikar.org

Email: Odhikar.bd@gmail.com, Odhikar.documentation@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Odhikar.HumanRights>

Twitter: [@odhikar_bd](https://twitter.com/odhikar_bd)

Cell Number: +880 1335 084 080