



22 October 2021

Madam Sheikh Hasina
Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh
Old Sangsad Bhaban
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Bangladesh

Re: Unprovoked Attack and Killing of Hindus; Desecration of Hindu Temples and Property

Your Excellency,

We pray that this letter finds you and your family in good-health. On behalf of the ISKCON Communities of Europe, we express our pain, shock and grave concern over the ongoing attacks on the Hindu community, their places of worship and their properties all over Bangladesh.

The violence in the last ten days has seen many ISKCON and Hindu temples being desecrated, beloved Deities smashed, destroyed, and burned. Monks and devotees were severely beaten, and several Hindus were killed, and temples, homes and other properties were destroyed. The whole joyful festive atmosphere of our sacred Navaratri observance was marred by this violence.

While we are glad to see the assurance given by the Honorable Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina who promised security for minorities and her commitment to bring to justice the guilty attackers, it is most unfortunate that despite the Government's efforts, the security department has even failed to ensure the ongoing safety of Hindus after the violence just a few days ago last Friday.

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The Friday incident should have been a warning to the Government. Despite the promises by the Honorable Prime Minister, continued attacks still took place due what appears to be a conspiracy and intention to create unrest. It is also important to mention that such attacks on the Hindu community have been witnessed in the past in various parts of Bangladesh at regular intervals.

We therefore urge the Government of the Honorable Prime Minister to put in place strong and firm security and safety measures for all Hindu places of worship and localities to ensure that such incidents do not take place again. We also ask the Government of Bangladesh to bring to justice those guilty to the maximum extent of law.

The 'Father of Bangladesh', H. E. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was renowned for his broad-minded policy of "nationalism, secularism, democracy, and socialism" which later became well known as 'Mujibism'. We pray that the Government of Bangladesh, under the able leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, will seriously and expediently work towards providing safety and justice for all vulnerable minority communities of Bangladesh and thereby set an example of leadership for other countries in the region by fostering inter-religious harmony.

Sincerely,

Martin Gurvich

President ISKCON Communications Europe asbl

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