

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We, the residents of mainly Moreton and Rankin electorates and surrounding areas, are very concerned at the serious violation of human rights in Bangladesh.

Extrajudicial killing, attack on peaceful demonstration and suppression of media is rampant. Thousands of general people, journalists and opposition activists are being tortured and jails hold three times more detainees than capacity. For exposing serious corruption at the top levels of government, one popular newspaper and two TV channels have been closed down.

In the early hours of 6 May 2013, thousands of police, paramilitary and armed government supporters indiscriminately shot, killed and injured thousands of sleeping peaceful protestors. To hide the premeditated massacre in the darkness of night, hundreds of dead bodies were buried secretly. Days after the massacre, many international media published horrifying reports. Amnesty International, Asian Human Right Commission (<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-088-2013>), UN Secretary General and other organisations have called for independent inquiries. Ironically, government has arrested many protest leaders blaming them for the tragedy and banned all protests against the government atrocities.

Human rights violations have become a way of life in Bangladesh and this must stop immediately. We therefore ask the House to do all in its power to join the international condemnation and ask the Bangladesh government to:

- (1) establish a UN led or independent investigation into allegations of human rights violations and killing;
- (2) immediately stop extrajudicial killing; and
- (3) uphold freedom of press, release journalists and political opponents.