

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP
Ministry of Home Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat
DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, April 2020

Honourable Minister Khan,

I am worried about the safety of Shaifqul Islam Kajol, a Bangladeshi newspaper journalist, who has not been seen or heard from since the day police registered a case against him and 31 others. The police deny having him in custody and his family fears that he could be a victim of enforced disappearance.

Bangladesh has denied all allegations of enforced disappearance in the country. However, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance's expressed its concern in 2017, stating that "the practice of enforced disappearance was occurring increasingly frequently in Bangladesh."

I therefore call on you to immediately launch an investigation to determine the fate and whereabouts of Shafiqul Islam Kajol, keep his family fully informed, and ensure his immediate release if under state custody. In addition, I urge you to put an end to the practice of unacknowledged detention and enforced disappearances, and ensure that every person arrested is adequately registered.

Thank you for your attention. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,