

## Memorandum of Protest

PRESENTED by the International Crimes Strategy Forum [ICSF], and all UK based allied pro-1971 pro-trial organisations on this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2013, to the Turkish Embassy, London at 43 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PA;

AGAINST the content of a letter sent by the President of the Turkish Republic to the President of Bangladesh and the violation of diplomatic courtesy afforded to a Turkish delegation during their visit to Bangladesh.

### The Facts

1. Mr Abdullah Gull, President of the Republic of Turkey, in his letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012, to Mr ZillurRahman, President of Bangladesh, requested him to exercise his right of clemency in the case of Mr Golam Azam, 'to forgive him' and 'not to hang him'. Golam Azam is being tried before the International Crimes Tribunal in Bangladesh, for his alleged involvement in Genocide and other serious international crimes during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. He is believed to be the mastermind and leader of the civilian collaborators, whose actions resulted in the killing of over 3 million people and the rape and torture of four thousand women and children.
2. Subsequently, a twelve member Turkish delegation visited the Tribunal in Dhaka. While there, they breached all security and legal provisions of the ICT, by contacting the accused individuals directly.

### WE BELIEVE

- ✘ That Mr Gull's letter and the incident during the delegation's visit constitute a grave breach of diplomatic etiquette;
- ✘ That the above can be viewed as inappropriate interference with the Justice Process of a Sovereign Country;
- ✘ That both actions are motivated by political reasons, as is evident from their ties to other Islamist groups now allied to accused individuals before the ICT;
- ✘ That the Government of Turkey has no moral right to dictate to Bangladesh how to proceed with the trials, in view of its stance over the Armenian and Kurdish genocide issues, and the fact that it supported invading Pakistani armed forces during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 when they were directly engaged in mass-scale Crimes Against Humanity, Genocide and War Crimes to suppress the movement of independence.

**On behalf of all coalition partners of ICSF, of all allied organisations in the United Kingdom, of all the victims of 1971, and the people of Bangladesh and in consideration of the forgoing,**

WE THANK the Government of Bangladesh for summoning the Turkish Ambassador in Dhaka to explain the said letter as well as the delegation's conduct;

WE CALL UPON the government to disclose the communication in public;

WE URGE all progressive, secular and democratic forces in Turkey to be aware of how President Gul and his delegates are representing their country worldwide;

WE DEMAND that an independent enquiry into the conduct of the President and his delegation be carried out in Turkey and that the findings be published;

WE FURTHER DEMAND an apology from the State of Turkey to the people of Bangladesh for offending the spirit of justice for 1971;

We urge people to protest and condemn Turkey's interference and attempts to thwart the ongoing justice process at the International Crimes Tribunals of Bangladesh.

**PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS IN SOLIDARITY (in alphabetical order):**

AmarBlog  
AmraBondhu Blog  
AwamiAinjibiParishad, London  
Bangladesh Centre for Genocide Studies (BCGS)  
Cadet College Blog  
Charon Shangskritik Kendra (UK)  
E-Bangladesh  
Genocide Bangladesh Archive  
JatiotabadiSamajtantrik Dal, UK (JSD-UK)  
London Lawyers' Forum  
Muktangon  
Muktomona  
Nagorik Blog  
News Bangla  
ProbashiPeshajibiParishad - UK  
Projonmo '71, UK  
Radio Hoichoi  
Sachalayatan  
UK Awami League  
War Crime Trial Stage, UK

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<http://icsforum.org>