

ICSF responds to Pakistan

Downgrade diplomatic relation with Pakistan, initiate investigation to prosecute Pakistani war criminals

- Downgrade diplomatic relationship with Pakistan
- Initiate investigation and prosecution of Pakistani genocidaires in Bangladesh
- Demand compensation and reparation for victims of 1971
- Explore avenues to realise equitable share of the assets of undivided Pakistan including return of foreign aid transferred from Dhaka to Lahore in 1971
- “Citizens’ Global Committee for 1971” (#CommitteeFor1971) convened

International Crimes Strategy Forum (ICSF) strongly condemns Pakistan government’s outrageous statement dated 30 November denying involvement of its armed forces in perpetrating genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. In the war, an estimated 3 million Bengalees were killed, and more than 200,000 rapes were perpetrated by members of the Pakistani army and its local collaborators. Nearly 30 million civilians were internally displaced and an estimated 10 million forced took shelter in the refugee camps of India to escape the marauding Pakistani army’s atrocities. Pakistan’s statement tantamount to denial of historically established facts and overwhelming evidences.

Pakistan’s denial of its commission of genocide and other international crimes in effect questions the genesis of Bangladesh and should be countered at every possible level. Mere condemnation of this audacious statement is not enough. The Government of Bangladesh must immediately take action against Pakistan by downgrading its diplomatic relationship. Pakistan is a country not worthy of maintaining full diplomatic relationship.

In addition, the Government of Bangladesh should without further delay initiate investigation against the Pakistanis involved in international crimes in 1971 in Bangladesh and bring them to justice, demand full compensation and reparation for the victims of Pakistan’s aggression and atrocities in 1971, redouble its efforts to realise equitable share of assets and properties worth about USD 4.32 billion of the undivided Pakistan, and that Pakistan returns USD 200 million of foreign aid transferred to Lahore branch of State Bank of Pakistan from Dhaka branch (Bangladesh Bank) during the War of Liberation in 1971. This aid money donated by the international community for rehabilitation of victims of devastating cyclone in 1970 was siphoned off by Pakistan.

ICSF convenes the “Citizens’ Global Committee for 1971” to realise the longstanding demands for justice and recognition, restoring dignity of victims, and equity. We call upon the international community, including the civil society to join and strengthen this campaign. The campaign can be tracked by following this Twitter hashtag: #CommitteeFor1971 .

To protest against Pakistan’s statement, ICSF has organised a protest event in front of Pakistan High Commission in London on 3 December 2015, calling all concerned citizens to join and take a stand.