

3 December 2015

His Excellency Syed Ibne Abbas
The High Commissioner for Pakistan in the United Kingdom
Pakistan High Commission
34-36 Lowndes Square
SW1X 9JN
London, United Kingdom

Re: Registering citizens' protest against Pakistan government's blatant denial of international crimes perpetrated in 1971 by its own army

Your Excellency,

We present this letter of protest on behalf of the International Crimes Strategy Forum (ICSF), a global coalition of justice activists and experts, acting for the victims of grave international crimes. We write to express our strong condemnation to Pakistan government's outrageous statement dated 30 November denying involvement of its armed forces in perpetrating genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 ("War").

Based on overwhelming evidence, it is well-established that during 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 took shelter in the refugee camps of India to escape the marauding Pakistani army's atrocities. Therefore, the above statement of Pakistan government tantamounts not only to typical genocide denial, but also distortion of historically established facts that in effect questions the genesis of Bangladesh. The false statement of your government also belies Pakistan government's overriding obligation under established norms of international law to try the 195 officers of Pakistan army against whom credible evidence of international crimes were found. The officers on that list, forming only a fraction of the total number of alleged offenders among Pakistani military personnel deployed in the War, were handed over to Pakistan as POWs only to face trial there. By not trying those alleged offenders so far, your government has failed to fulfil its obligations.

Your Excellency,

We demand an immediate withdrawal of the said statement made by your government, and an unreserved apology for issuing it in the first place. We also demand that your government initiates investigation of the Pakistani army personnel alleged of international crimes during 1971 war, or alternatively, cooperates with Bangladesh government if proceedings are initiated against them at the International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh. We also demand that your government take adequate measures - to ensure reparation for the victims of Pakistan's aggression and atrocities in 1971, to settle the equitable share of assets and properties worth about USD 4.32 billion of the undivided Pakistan that is now owed to

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Bangladesh, and to return the USD 200 million in foreign aid transferred to Lahore branch of State Bank of Pakistan from Dhaka Branch (now Bangladesh Bank) during the War. This aid money, as records show, was donated by the international community for rehabilitation of victims of devastating cyclone in 1970, was siphoned off by Pakistan.

Your Excellency,

The fulfilment of the above demands, in our opinion, is a prerequisite to continuing any meaningful relationship between the people of the two countries. Therefore, we would request you to convey our objections, as well as our demands, to the concerned members of your government.

Yours sincerely,

(Suhana Zaman)

(Rana Meher)

(Pushpita Gupta)

(Saikat Acharjee)

(Sushanta Gupta)

(Dr Rayhan Rashid)