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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by "Women and Modern World" Social Charitable Centre, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Extrajudicial Executions in Bangladesh

Our organization draws the attention of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council and other UN human rights monitoring mechanism to the Extrajudicial executions in Bangladesh, which have been targeting journalists, political activists, and individuals who have criticized the Bangladeshi government's policies. Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) of Bangladesh who is involved in Extrajudicial killings, Enforced disappearances and other violations of human rights in Bangladesh.

On 10 December 2021 the United States of America imposed the sanctions on Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and several of its current and former officials in response to credible and widespread allegations of serious human rights abuses including extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances. From December 2021 to April 2022, Bangladeshi authorities have responded to the United States of America sanctions on Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) by retaliating against victims' relatives, human rights defenders and their families, and human rights organizations. Since the sanctions, credible sources have confirmed that the RAB and National Security Intelligence (NSI) have been making threatening phone calls to victims and human rights defenders, summoning them to their local offices, and visiting their workplaces and homes in the middle of the night. In one case, the RAB and intelligence agency harassed a family of a human rights defender from February to early April 2022, accusing them of involvement in "anti-state activities" for supporting families of victims of enforced disappearances. RAB officers visited another human rights defender's home at midnight while his children were asleep to interrogate him about the sources of funding for their work with families of victims of enforced disappearance. RAB officers then visited this activist's workplace, threatening them by saying that "hiding information will invite more troubles to yourself." The Bangladeshi government has also targeted human rights organizations. The government uses draconian laws and the courts to harass human rights defenders for their work.

Custodial deaths have long been a grave concern in Bangladesh because they have never been properly addressed. Custodial deaths by Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) are raising in Bangladesh. 15 Rapid Action battalion size field units spread all over the Bangladesh, among them, 5 are located in the capital Dhaka.
