



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
29 August 2022

English only

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Stichting Basug (Bangladesh Support Group), 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.

[17 August 2022]

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



## **Demand for international recognition of the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide Committed by the Pakistani Occupying Forces against the Bengalis**

In commemorating the Bangladesh Liberation War and the bloody birth of Bangladesh in 1971, the Bangladeshi Diaspora organization, Stitching BASUG (Bangladesh Support Group) with Special Consultative Status of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations along with Projonmo '71 (an organization for the children of martyrs in Bangladesh Liberation War), Aamra Ekattor (an online platform to discuss and take steps to achieve a brighter progressive Bangladesh shunning extremism) and Seraji Foundation e. V. (a Diaspora organisation of Bangladeshi origin in Germany) has issued a statement incorporating the following points reiterating the demand for international recognition of the 1971 Bangladesh genocide committed by the Pakistani occupying forces against the Bengali nation.

1. We should recall that the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh, which was planned and perpetrated by the Pakistani military, is one of the worst mass atrocities witnessed after the Second World War. In 9 months, the occupation army killed approximately 3 million people, subjected between 200,000-400,000 women to sexual slavery, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and forced 10 million people to cross the border and take refuge in India, abandoning all their worldly possessions and ancestral homes. The United Nations helped form an international team of abortion specialists to deal with the fallout from the Pakistani rape camps. The 'Birangonas' (brave or courageous woman), were the victims of a systematic campaign organized by the Pakistani military. An industrious act of evil committed by the Pakistani military.

2. The history of Bangladesh is intrinsically tied to the Liberation War of 1971. A story of violence and bloodshed. The nascent state of Bangladesh emerged from the remnants of the carnage carried out by the West Pakistani armed forces and radical paramilitary groups under the command of Pakistan. It has been a long struggle. The Bengali population in East Pakistan had little choice but to demand self-determination. They had little choice but to rise against the systematic subjugation by its western Pakistani counterpart.

3. The 1971 genocide by the Pakistan military and their allies is well documented and reported in the international media. Diplomatic correspondences and parliamentary reports during that period acknowledged what was taking place. The world media, including The Telegraph, The Times, The Sunday Times, The New York Times, TASS, AFP and other news agencies worldwide, reported the Bengalis massacre all by Pakistan Army. Some stories reached their front pages, The Sunday Times of London was the first to state it was a genocide, in block capitals, in an article by Pakistani journalist, Anthony Mascarenhas. Mascarenhas had to flee Pakistan for speaking the truth to the world. The stories of the massacre of the fateful night of 25 March 1971 and onwards were highlighted worldwide.

4. Academic scholarship related to the study of genocide in its many aspects has largely recognized the Bengali genocide in 1971. Moreover, the non-governmental organizations dedicated to working on genocide prevention and accountability, Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Genocide Watch, expressively recognized the 1971 Bengali genocide in statements released and at the end of December 2021 and early February 2022, respectively.

5. The Pakistan Army used organized systematic rape as a weapon of war. Young girls and women were abducted and repeatedly gang-raped in special camps run by the Pakistani servicemen.

6. The Pakistani Army and its jihadi stormtroopers, namely Razakars, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams, under orders from the Pakistani Army High Command, systematically killed intellectuals and professionals of Bangladesh. This spiteful and evil act stood with and apart from the mass-indiscriminate killings of civilians. This act was designed to cripple the country intellectually-devoiding it of a brighter future.

7. We demand a UN Resolution without further delay recognising the heinous genocide and their work on the abortion clinics. There is an urgent need for an UN-sponsored

resolution condemning atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army and their allies in 1971. The perpetrators must be brought to justice, an unconditional apology by the Pakistan Authorities must be sought, and proper compensation arranged for the genocide victims. Without these, a justified closure of the miserable genocide is inconceivable. New generations across the world must know what took place in Bangladesh in 1971. We cannot forget. We must learn from atrocities in the past to prevent future ones.

8. Unfortunately, Bangladesh genocide is becoming a forgotten chapter in contemporary history. We know the common phrase ‘justice delayed is justice denied’ accompanies and mocks the global humanitarian mantra of ‘never again’. The genocide of 1971 was never meant to happen after the Holocaust. The global system based on a renewed commitment to human rights failed to protect the Bengali people and so far, has failed to bring justice to the victims.

9. Due to lack of international recognition, the history of this genocide has faded in the world today. The lack of accountability undermines human rights for all and is painful, especially for Bengalis. Not only are they denying genocide victims closure and a more peaceful future further out of reach.

10. Therefore, we strongly demand that the 1971 genocide be recognized to give justice to the victims of the atrocities and bring the perpetrators to justice. We also call upon the United Nations General Assembly and other international entities to formally recognize the Bangladesh genocide of 1971 – one of the darkest yet most overlooked chapters in human history. We believe that only through confronting the past with sincerity and truth we can acknowledge our shared humanity and truly flourish.

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Projonmo '71, Bangladesh, Aamra Ekattor, Bangladesh, Seraji Foundation e.V. Germany, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement