

'Implement HC directives on Vested Property Return Act'

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Rights activists from different platforms demand immediate implementation of High Court directives on vested property law at a press conference in National Press Club, Dhaka on Sunday, May 20, 2018
Dhaka Tribune

Rights activists have requested journalists to work alongside them and investigate the involvement of corrupt officials who are hindering the course of justice

Rights activists have demanded the immediate implementation of the High Court's directives regarding the Vested Property Return Act to ensure a true environment for humane development in Bangladesh.

They placed the demand during a press conference jointly organized by Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad at the National Press Club conference lounge in Dhaka on Sunday.

Activists from Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Sommito Samajik Andolon, Arpita Sampatti Ain Protirodh Andolan, Nijera Kori, Human Development Research Centre (HDRC), and Ain O Salish Kendra were present at the press conference.

“From 1965 to 2006, a total of 1.2 million Hindu households lost a total of 2.6 million acres of land, along with other belongings,” said Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, general secretary of Arpita Sampatti Ain Protirodh Andolan.

He proposed setting up autonomous exclusive tribunals to deal with the return of previously seized properties to their rightful owners. The Vested Property Act have been widely used to discriminate against the Hindu minority in the country, the activists said.

The law was reformed in 2001 by the Awami League government to return properties to the original owners or their heirs. The High court also ruled that listing any property as enemy or vested property after March 23, 1974, is illegal and directed all government officials to refrain from doing so.

Speakers at the press conference also said the prime minister's wishes for quick disposal of disputes over vested property were being obstructed by the civil and land administrations. They claimed that despite an instruction from the Ministry of Law, deputy commissioners are stalling the return of such properties.

Advocate Sultana Kamal strongly condemned the conspiracy by all government parties, including law enforcement officials, blocking the implementation of the act.

“The law enforcement officials are unnecessarily delaying the implementation of the court's directives,” said Kajal Debnath of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad.

The speakers also requested journalists to work alongside them and investigate the involvement of corrupt officials who are hindering the course of justice in this regard.

Link: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/law-rights/2018/05/20/implement-hc-directives-on-vested-property-return-act>

The Daily Star

[City](#)

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Vested Property Return Act

Corrupt officials causing delay in implementation

Says citizen cell, demands prompt action

Staff Correspondent

A section of communal and corrupt officials with ulterior motives are blocking implementation of the Vested Properties Return Act 2001, despite court orders clearing doubts over the matter, said a national citizens' cell that looks into the implementation status of the act.

As many as 2 lakh appeals for recovery of the properties are still pending with the vested property return tribunals, said advocate Subrata Chowdhury at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Against this backdrop, the National Citizen Coordination Cell to Implement the Vested Properties Return Act drew attention of the law ministry and the land ministry to the HC directive.

The listing of any property as enemy property or vested property after March 23, 1974 is illegal and those involved in this would be responsible for the illegal act, said the High Court while disposing of a writ petition filed in 2011. The full verdict was released on the Supreme Court website on April 1 this year. The government had enacted the act to return the properties listed as enemy properties to its original owners and their beneficiaries, and government officials are instructed to implement the court orders without delay, the HC said. No excuse for any delay would be acceptable.

Some land administration officials have been including more and more properties of the minority communities in the list of enemy properties, in violation of the court's verdict and directives, according to a press release issued by the cell. Hindus have lost as much as 26 lakh acres of land between 1965 and 2006 in the country, the press release said citing research by Prof Abul Barakat.

The government may form an exclusive tribunal in each district to deal with appeals filed under Section-10 of the Vested Properties Return Act, the court said, adding that more number of tribunals could be formed in districts with backlog of appeals. The cell demanded effective actions from the ministries immediately to form such tribunals. According to the 2001 act and its amendments in 2011, 2012 and 2013, judgements of the Appellate Tribunal is final in regard to

the return of vested properties, and deputy commissioners are responsible for implementing the orders.

But some of them are not discharging their responsibilities. Some deputy commissioners even went a step further to send proposals to the solicitor's office to file writ petitions with the HC to challenge judgements of the Appellate Tribunal, the citizen cell said.

The law ministry in April declared such proposals were unlawful, it added.

The 2001 act was aimed at recovering properties that the minority communities lost from 1965 due to the enemy properties act and then after the independence of Bangladesh under the vested properties act.

The properties that have seen schools, colleges established on them or those being used in public interests need not be returned, said Subrata. In these cases, compensations should be given, he added. "It is unfortunate that neither do we obey law, nor the court," Subrata added.

"Our question [to the authority] is on what grounds the implementation has been barred," said rights activist Sultana Kamal.

Nine organisations comprising the citizen cell, including Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad and Ain O Salish Kendra, organised the press conference.

Link: <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/corrupt-officials-causing-delay-implementation-1579308>

NEWAGE

VESTED PROPERTY

Bureaucratic obstacles barrier to solution: Sultana Kamal

[Staff Correspondent](#) | Published: 00:05, May 21,2018 | Updated: 00:49, May 21,2018

Bureaucratic obstacles has held back the implementation of Vested Property Return Act 2001, said Human rights activist and lawyer Sultana Kamal while addressing a news conference in Dhaka on Sunday.

Addressing as the chair of the news conference at National Press Club, she said the minority people, who had lost their properties due to the Vested Property Act since 1969 and onwards, were not benefited by the Vested Property Return Act 2001, and a series of its amendments between 2011 and 2013.

Several directives of the Supreme Court were yet to be followed in this regard, she added. Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, ALRD, Arpita Sampatti Ain Pratirodh Andolan, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Nijera Kori, Sammilita Samajik Andolan, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, Ain O Salish Kendra and HDRC jointly called the conference.

On April 1 2018, Appellate Division's nine directives and five observations on quick implementation of the Vested Property Return Act were published where the top judicial body ordered the district deputy commissioners to check further inclusion of minority properties as 'vested' ones.

The Supreme Court also directed the ministries for law and land to take necessary steps so that no writ petition could interrupt judicial procedures solving land disputes over the vested properties.

Sultana questioned authority of the cabinet secretary who, for scrutiny, halted a law ministry's note to district administrations following the Supreme Court's order.

Citing lack of implementation of the Supreme Court's order, lawyer Subrata Chowdhury, who presented a keynote paper in the conference, complained that the district administrations dithered the implementation of the directives showing excuses that they got no direction from the law ministry.

Subrata suspected that the district administrations were killing time to serve the interest of land grabbers.

Kajal Debnath, Shamsul Huda and Tabarak Hossain, among representatives from the host organisations, were present.

Link: <http://www.newagebd.net/article/41667/plots-to-not-return-%E2%80%98vested-properties%E2%80%99-violation-of-justice:-sultana-kamal>

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Quick implementation of HC directives on vested property demanded

Asian Age Online



Speakers at a programme on Sunday demanded for quick implementation of the directions of High Court on the Vested Property Return Act to ensure people's rights affected by Enemy Property Act.

They came up with the demand at a press conference jointly organized by Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and eight other organizations under the banner of National Citizens' Coordination at National Press Club.

In a written statement, a Coordination leader Subrata Chowdhury, said, the High Court has clearly directed in its verdict not to take any attempt in future to declare any property as vested property as well as set up tribunals in each district for solving cases of vested property only.

But, due to the lack of interest of the administrations and ministries, the implementation of the HC direction and the act has not seen any light, he alleged.

He also claimed that despite a law ministry instruction, many district commissioners are not returning the vested properties to their owners showing excuses of not received any direction from the ministry.

"Under the Enemy Property Act and the Vested Property Act, from 1965 to 2006, thousands of minority families have been affected and are still suffering", said the Supreme Court lawyer.

Chairing the programme, advocate Sultana Kamal said, the National Citizens' Coordination Cell is protesting the conspiracies of the law enforcers hindering the implementation of the act.

Kajal Debnath, a leader of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, said, the law enforcers are doing unnecessary delay in implementing the act despite clear verdict from the HC. The speakers came up with a seven-point demand that include: taking steps to halt irregularities of land officers, setting up special tribunals, taking actions for regular monitoring on irregularities and corruptions while implementing the Vested Property Return Act.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda and advocate Tobarak Hossain also spoke, among others, on the occasion.

Link: <https://dailyasianage.com/news/122182/quick-implementation-of-hc-directives-on-vested-property-demanded>



Quick implementation of HC directives on vested property demanded

UNB NEWS

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Speakers at a press conference jointly organized by Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and eight other organizations under the banner of National Citizens' Coordination at National Press Club on Sunday. Photo: Bayazid Akter/UNB

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Link: <http://www.unb.com.bd/bangladesh-news/Quick-implementation-of-HC-directives-on-vested-property-demanded-%C2%A0/71159>