



Date: 14 February 2017

Press Release

The Honourable High Court Division issues a Rule Nisi on the extra-judicial punishment imposed in the name of 'fatwa' in a local salish held at Char Martin Union, in Kamalnagar Upazila of Lakshmipur District

The High Court Division bench, comprising Mr. Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Mr. Justice A. K. M Shahidul issued a *Rule Nisi* upon the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; the Officer-in-Charge at Lakshmipur Police Station; the Chairman of Char Martin Union Parishadas well as eight other respondents, to show cause as to why the Chairman's involvement in the imposition of extra-judicial penalties on a man and woman at a village *salish* at Char Martin should not be declared to have been without lawful authority and why legal action should be taken against him, and also as to why legal action should not be taken against the Officer-in-Charge for his negligence in discharging his duties. The High Court has ordered the Chairman of Char Martin Union and the Officer-in-Charge at Lakshmipur Police Station to appear before the court on 22 February 2017 to give their respective statements. The Court further ordered the Superintendent of Police at Lakshmipur to ensure the safety and security of the man and woman who have been victims of this extra-judicial punishment and to ensure that those involved with imposing such punishment under the name of 'fatwa' are present in court on the given date.

On 31 December, 2016, the Chairman of the Char Martin Union Parishad imposed extra-judicial punishment on a man and woman in the name of 'fatwa' during *salish*. Today, on 14 February 2017, the news was published by bdnews.24.com. The Honourable Court took this matter into consideration today after it was brought to their attention by Mr. S. M Rezaul Karim, Legal Advisor and Director, BLAST. He was assisted by Ms. Sharmin Akter, Senior Staff Lawyer at BLAST.

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