



বাংলাদেশ লিগ্যাল এইড এন্ড সার্ভিসেস ট্রাস্ট (ব্লাস্ট)  
Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

25 June 2021

**Press Release**  
**International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**

**DEMAND FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE**

Marking the upcoming International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, torture survivors, rights activists and lawyers called for establishment of a state compensation fund for torture victims, and stronger action to ensure accountability through prioritising hearings of cases in the courts, application of [the Supreme Court guidelines](#) on prevention of torture and protection of victims. They also demanded training for doctors on medical examinations by using the [Istanbul Protocol](#), and for public information campaigns and mobilisation to enable people to seek justice for cases of torture and ill-treatment.

**Md. Imtiaz Hossain Rocky**, younger brother of Jonny, killed in police custody, spoke of how his whole family had been impacted after his brother's death, and how they were struggling to survive as compensation payments by the trial court were stayed pending appeals by the accused police officers. **Md. Limon Hossain**, who was shot in the leg by law enforcement officers, called for action to ensure that victims do not lose their patience and become frustrated as they navigate prolonged delays in seeking justice. **Dr. Manisha Chakraborty** demanded accountability of law enforcement agencies and emphasised the importance of collective social action to condemn torture.

Human rights activist, **Nur Khan Liton** said that victims do not seek justice against abusers out of fear, and justice sector actors are not sufficiently active in enforcing the law. **Adv. Z.I. Khan Panna**, Senior Advocate and Trustee of BLAST, said that even though the irreparable loss suffered by the families of victims killed in custody can never be measured in any monetary terms, it is essential to ensure adequate legal protection for state compensation. **Barrister Md. Abdul Halim** also spoke about how judges had pioneered orders for compensation in torture cases in neighbouring countries. **Taqbir Huda** of BLAST, called for urgent consideration of the 2007 draft bill by the Law Commission to compensate victims of crime. **Advocate Rezaul Karim**, former Chief Judicial Magistrate, said that most people do not have information about the law, and proposed that more action be taken by state agencies, Bar Associations, and rights organisations to raise public awareness about this law.

The discussion on 'Justice for Victims of Torture' was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June by the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust to mark the upcoming 'International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26<sup>th</sup> June). Sara Hossain, Advocate, Supreme Court, moderated the discussion. Speakers included lawyers, activists and survivors from around the country.

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