



**Everyone has the right to life... No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy...nor to attacks on his honour.  
Everyone has the right to protection of the law against such interference or attacks.**

**– Articles 3 and 12, Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**It was April 25, 2016 and human rights defender Xulhaz Mannan [pronounced Jhool haz] was in his apartment with a friend. Suddenly, men wielding machetes burst in and hacked them to death. Despite ample evidence, including CCTV footage and eyewitness testimony, the killers have gotten away with murder.**

Why did this happen? Xulhaz co-founded Bangladesh's only magazine dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) issues. It was a daring venture in a country where same-sex relations are illegal. The attackers are believed to belong to Ansar al-Islam. The extremist group is responsible for a spate of similar assaults on bloggers who promoted atheism, feminism, science and other secular issues.

The reluctance or unwillingness of the police to find and charge the killers sends a devastating message to LGBTI activists. The government even shifted blame for the murders onto the victims. One minister stated that movements promoting “unnatural sex” are not allowed in Bangladeshi society. Xulhaz's brother Minhaz commented that the inaction of the police shows that “the government ... believes that ‘this’ issue [same-sex relations] has died with Xulhaz”.

**Xulhaz defended LGBTI rights. We defend his rights.**

**Tell Bangladesh to bring Xulhaz's killers to justice.**

*Human rights defenders like Xulhaz Mannan are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.  
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