

BANGLADESH

Xulhaz Mannan: Murdered for defending LGBTIQ rights

It was April 25, 2016 and human rights defender Xulhaz Mannan [pronounced Jhool haz] was in his apartment with a colleague. 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.



Artwork © Rebecca Hendin

Why did this happen? Xulhaz co-founded Bangladesh's only magazine dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) 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 LGBTIQ 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 LGBTIQ rights. We defend his rights.

Tell Bangladesh to bring Xulhaz's killers to justice.

To take action, go to the next page.

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

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the Home Minister.

- ◆ Start with Dear Home Minister.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the murders of Xulhaz Mannan and his colleague.
- ◆ Ask him to make sure that the killers are brought to justice.

Send your message to

Asaduzzaman Khan
Ministry of Home Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat, Building 8
Dhaka
Bangladesh

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 880 957 3711
Twitter: @asaduzzaman_mp
Email: stateminister@mha.gov.bd

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Mizanur Rahman
High Commissioner for Bangladesh
350 Sparks Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 567-3213
E-mail: bangla@rogers.com

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



Stand with the family of Xulhaz.

Use a non-religious greeting to send them a message of hope and remind them they are not alone. You could tell them you are supporting their search for justice but it's best not to mention his sexual orientation. You may include your return address and mention Amnesty International in your message **but not on the outside of the envelope.**

Mail your greeting to

The Family of Minhaz Mannan Emon
c/o Amnesty International East Asia Regional Office
16/F Siu On Centre
188 Lockhart Road
Wanchai
Hong Kong

CANADA

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