

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2006

The Honorable Shamsheer M. Chowdhury  
Bangladeshi Ambassador to the United States  
Bangladesh Embassy in Washington D.C.  
3510 International Drive NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Chowdhury,

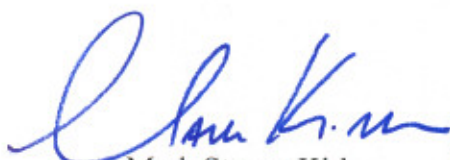
It has come to our attention that the Government of Bangladesh is proceeding with a sedition trial against Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury. As Chairmen of the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus, we are very concerned with this development.

As you know, Bangladeshi security forces arrested Shoaib 26 months ago on suspicion of anti-state activities and espionage while on his way to Israel to participate in a conference with the Hebrew Writers Union. It was our strong judgment that Shoaib was arrested for attempted travel to Israel. Under Bangladeshi law, this was a crime punishable by three months in jail. Shoaib was instead incarcerated for 18 months without arraignment. While imprisoned he received no treatment for his debilitating glaucoma.

At the time of Shoaib's release on bail eight months ago, we were assured by the Government of Bangladesh that bail would be a prelude to the dropping of all charges against him and the return of his passport and seized possessions. As such, we were dismayed to learn that the Government of Bangladesh plans to fully prosecute Shoaib on treason and sedition charges.

If this trial proceeds, we assure you it will come under intense international scrutiny. We urge the Government of Bangladesh to stop the legal proceedings against Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury, drop the false charges against him, return his passport and seized possessions, and end his continued harassment.

Sincerely,



Mark Steven Kirk  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress