

RICH MCCORMICK, MD, MBA
8th District, Georgia

1219 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1089
OFF: 202-455-4171

115 W. County Street, Suite
Columbus, GA 31906
OFF: 706-595-0005

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1006

August 8, 2024

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tactical Air & Land Forces
CADA, Innovative Technologies,
& Information Systems

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Western Europe, Eastern Europe,
& Central Asia
Global Health, Human Rights,
& International Organizations

SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE
Space & Astronautics
Oceanic & International

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Secretary Blinken,

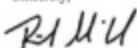
I write with grave concern regarding the recent political upheaval in the People's Republic of Bangladesh and violence targeting protestors, members of the press, and religious minority groups.

As you're undoubtedly aware, a political crisis emerged in Bangladesh in June 2024 with mass protests demanding to reform the quota system for employment in the Bangladeshi civil service. Demonstrations significantly intensified following a June 30, 2024, judicial decision affirming the quota system. On July 16, 2024, six people died in clashes between protestors and police. On August 4, 2024, approximately 100 people died as mass protests took place throughout the country and demonstrators clashed with police. Deeply disturbing reports have surfaced of ethnoreligious violence targeting members of the Bangladeshi Hindu minority and their places of worship.

I hope that the establishment of an interim government heralds an end to this violence and instability, but I must implore the State Department to take all available measures to support human rights, strengthen democratic institutions, and bring an end to any sectarian violence in Bangladesh. I appreciate that top U.S. officials have already called for a democratic political transition and a peaceful resolution to this crisis, and I encourage your department and the administration to act in accordance with these statements.

While much uncertainty remains about Bangladesh's immediate political future, I'm confident that the U.S. can continue to play a positive role in the region and in working with our Bangladeshi partners to achieve a peaceful democratic transition, an end to civil and sectarian violence, a resumption of stable economic and political conditions.

Sincerely,



Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress