

charges by the oppressive regime of Bangladesh.

Ghulam Azam Denied Bail

Former chief of Bangladesh Jamaat Islami (BJI) Professor Ghulam Azam, 89 years old, rejecting the bail petition, was sent to central jail by the special Crimes Tribunal that was set up by the



Medical Board was constituted on 5th November 2011 and the ruling Bangladesh Awami League (BAL), on absolute bed rest and to continue treatment of regular phy Wednesday morning in accused connection with movement and further to use lumber corset and walking stick, war crimes held 40 years ago in a civil war between then east and west Pakistan. Though submitted that one of the Accused persons, Abdul Alim has been by the same tribunal, former BNP minister Abdul

Alim had been freed on conditional bail because of his poor health. Former Chief Judge

and as such considering his physical conditions and on hu and entered the tribunal on 8th December 2011.

the petition, Ghulam Azam's family said he is suffering from different old age complexities.

Bail petition filed by the lawyers

author of many books and he is aged more than 89 years. He is suffering from old age complications.

Mr. AR further submitted that on 9.1.2012, the Tribunal took the Accused Petitioner for allegedly committing Crimes Agai offences related to ICTA 1973, and on receipt of the news, the the Tribunal.

In support of the medical conditions of the Accused Petitor the Accused Petitioner for allegedly committing Crimes Agai offences related to ICTA 1973, and on receipt of the news, the the Tribunal. Mr. AR further submitted that on 9.1.2012, the Tribunal took the Accused Petitioner for allegedly committing Crimes Agai offences related to ICTA 1973, and on receipt of the news, the the Tribunal.

According to Mr. Razzaq, Professor Ghulam Azam stands on a before the tribunal in line with a previous order and entered the tribunal on 8th December 2011.

The learned Chief Prosecutor opposed the bail and submitted against this Petitioner under different sections of ICTA, which ir

He further submitted that this Accused Petitioner was the mai Charge has been submitted and cognizance taken. He further

same time. He cannot even sit on the ground for prayer. A b
The learned Chief Prosecutor also submitted in different cases, older persons have been tried but not enlarged on bail. Initially he submitted the name of one American and finally common grounds on which the bail might be reje
submitted the name of Hosne Mubarak who is being tried for similar offences will reside. The Tribunal Judge failed to consider these ve
Accordingly, the Chief Prosecutor submits that the bail application of Professor Ghulam Azam clearly shows the biasness of the tribunal.
should be rejected.

Prof Azam was granted VIP status (known as Division) in Jail in 1
The learned judges then said that we have heard the learned Counsels for both sides. This tribunal refused to grant him the division and now he is
ordinary criminals.
Upon perusal of the order granting bail to the Accused Abdul Alim, we found that it was
observed by us that he was in a wheel chair and he cannot move freely without the assistance of other persons. This is not so here.

Also the position of Abdul Alim was that the case was under investigation. But the case of Professor Ghulam Azam is different. In this case, petition of formal charge has already been submitted. The Trial proceedings will now commence.

Lawyers Council condemned the arrest
There is no case that Professor Ghulam Azam cannot move freely. This is a case where the involvement of persons in Liberation War is involved. We are not inclined at this stage to grant bail.

The order of rejection

Any sober person going through the order will observe that the bail was rejected on a ground which is hilarious and self-contradictory. The tribunal is trying to say, Alim was in wheel chair

without any charges. Hundreds of lawyers demonstrated on the Supreme Court premises when the Tribunal sent former party chief Ghulam Azam to jail.

Protest in the City

Leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami including mass were arrested when they brought out protest processions in the capital Wednesday soon after the Tribunal sent the party's former chief Ghulam Azam to jail custody.

In December on a private television channel former Jamaat Chief Ghulam Azam said he has been victims of ruling BAL government's conspiracy terming those war crimes charges as scattered and irrelevant.



Pretext of his arrest

The secularist Awami League government in Bangladesh is in the process of conducting a War Crimes Trial in relation to its war of independence in 1971. The International War Crimes Tribunal has targeted prominent

International Criticism of so-called war crime tribunal

International human rights organisations and lawyers have expressed the impartiality of the trial. Steven Kay (an international criminal) that constitutional rights have been withdrawn from the accused. The outcome of such a trial would not stand under international law. Human Rights Association has also submitted a written legal opinion that the required international standard and recommended 17 changes (Tribunals) Act of 1973. Disturbingly, all the judges on the tribunal the government are known Awami League sympathisers, and as to skew the findings of the trial.

Human Rights Watch has also condemned the harassment of threats and intimidation of lawyers and witnesses. They "Harassment of defence counsel and witnesses further tarnish the Bangladeshi government wants these trials to be taken seriously of the accused are fully respected. That means making sure they face threats or coercion."

Number of government ministers has accused these leaders of there being no charges against them and no trial has yet been conducted. even declared that there is no need for a trial and that these Crimes Tribunal has targeted prominent seems that the trial process is just a show and the verdict is



Court judgement in 1993, which totally exonerated Prof. Azam from any crimes in 1971. The complete absence of criminal procedural rules; the tribunal has appealed to the government for his arrest based on false allegation and witnesses. Total disregard of international norms; and He has consistently denied these accusations. He campaigned for Pakistan to remain united as a Removal of constitutional rights and wide one Islamic nation, but denies any involvement in the crimes committed by the Pakistani army and other forces. In recent interviews, he spoke about his role and his protests against army fundamental protections. A kangaroo court atrocities and how these protests were never allowed to be published in newspapers due to There are also a number of procedural issues that will prejudice the outcome of the cases. These include, *inter alia*: censorship.

At the age of 89, he has been made the subject of a campaign of propaganda and The lack of protection for defense witnesses; misinformation, after having been active in politics for many years before and after the The coaching of Prosecution witnesses apparent independence war. There are concerns for his welfare if he is placed under arrest as well as the case, against Delowar Hossain Sayedee; and legality and impartiality of the outcome of a trial under the circumstances. Ghulam Azam had Omission of recording of proceedings. recorded setting a unique example in political culture of Bangladesh by stepping down voluntarily from the highest post of his party over a decade ago which was known as the **Stand of the international Community regarding the so-called 1971** and abroad. The international community continues to voice its criticism of United States Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes Issues, Stephen

Fact about war crime charges against Azam

Warcrime charges have been brought against Azam in a politically hostile environment that stated that "much [could] still be accomplished to ensure that justice has pre-determined their fate. It is of note that the Law Minister himself, Barrister Shafique done in these historic proceedings". Ahmed, on 27 December 2011 addressed the media stating that in the matter concerning Ghulam Azam he "thinks the former Jamaat chief was involved in crimes against humanity The manner in which the current trial is proceeding against the across the then East Pakistan during the 1971 Liberation War. So there should be more Hossain Sayedee, provides a clear exemplification of the intent (investigation into allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity against Ghulam Azam" are poorly drafted and ill-defined, the defense is prevented from case put forward and the conduct of the prosecution is nothing

1. write to the Foreign Secretary of your country or residence to urge them to highlight concerns and to ensure the trial reaches international standards of justice
2. Highlight concerns regarding the trial and raise awareness using social media
3. Write to the various electronics and print media
4. organize protest and public meeting
5. Send letter, Email condemning the arrest of Ghulam Azam to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh
6. Start online petition
7. Inform various human rights organization highlighting the violation of human rights in Bangladesh by state machineries of the country.

To know about Human Rights situation in Bangladesh Please Visit

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/>

<http://awamibrutality.com/>

<http://www.bangladeshcrisisgroup.com/>

<http://www.hrw.org/>

<http://humanrightsinbangladesh.com/>