

**BANGLADESH**

# XULHAZ MANNAN

## LGBTI activists killed



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On 25 April 2016, LGBTIQ activists Xulhaz Mannan and Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy were killed by members of the armed group Ansar al-Islam, which is linked to Al Qaeda. The pair, who helped to set up and run Bangladesh's first and only LGBTIQ magazine, *Roopban*, were hacked to death after men posing as couriers gained entry to Xulhaz's apartment. Xulhaz's 75-year-old mother, Sakhina Khatun, was also injured in the attack.

A year and a half on from the murders, there has been little progress in the case. The police have made a handful of arrests and claim to have identified other suspects, but no one has been formally charged.

Although same-sex relations are illegal in Bangladesh, LGBTIQ campaigners were beginning to change people's attitudes. The murders have set back this progress.

'The fear is that we have gone back 15 years. We had started having a public presence. Now we are scared to have even small gatherings.'

Bangladeshi LGBTIQ blogger

### SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

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

- » **Language:** English
- » **Suggested message:** We support you in your continued struggle for justice for your brother.

### CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **No**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes (But only in the card, not on the envelope)**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge Bangladesh's Home Minister to ensure that those responsible for the killing are brought to justice.

- » **Write to:**  
Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Bangladesh Secretariat  
Building #8  
Dhaka  
Bangladesh
- » **Salutation:** Dear Home Minister
- » **In your letter:** Express your concern about the lack of progress in the police investigation into the murders of Xulhaz Mannan and Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy and associated criminal prosecution. Urge him to ensure they are concluded promptly and those responsible for the killings brought to justice.

Illustration by Rebecca Hendin: [rebeccahendin.com](http://rebeccahendin.com)



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