

BANGLADESH SHAHNEWAZ CHOWDHURY



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Environmental activist faces jail for Facebook post

On 26 May 2021, Shahnewaz Chowdhury's village was battered by a powerful storm. Heavy rains and fierce winds destroyed a number of homes. In response, he wrote a Facebook post about the impact of a local power plant, linking it to the environmental destruction in his region, Banskhali. He also urged young people in the area to 'resist injustice and support development' by speaking out.

The next day, the power plant company filed a case against Shahnewaz, accusing him of posting false information on social media. He was arrested by the police on 28 May and then detained in inhumane conditions for 80 days without trial.

A passionate writer and keen cricket fan, Shahnewaz was eventually granted bail on 16 August 2021, but if convicted, he faces the prospect of many years in prison, simply for posting on Facebook.

Send a message of support and solidarity

Shahnewaz Chowdhury
c/o Rashid Ahmed Chowdhury
East Baraghona
Post office: West Baraghona
Police station: Banskhali
Chittagong
Bangladesh

Language Bangla or English

Suggested message You are not alone

Creative action Write Shahnewaz a message of friendship and support, take a photo of it and post it on social media, tagging Shahnewaz

@Shahnewaz9

Can I

Send a religious card or message? Yes

Send an Amnesty card or mention

Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Send an appeal letter

Urge the minister to immediately and unconditionally drop the charges against Shahnewaz Chowdhury.

Write to Anisul Huq

Minister of Law, Justice and
Parliamentary Affairs

Law and Justice Division

Ministry of Law, Justice and
Parliamentary Affairs

Building No. 04

Bangladesh Secretariat

Dhaka – 1000

Bangladesh

✉ minister@minlaw.gov.bd

Salutation Honourable Minister

In your letter ask him to immediately and unconditionally drop the charges against Shahnewaz Chowdhury.

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS
2022**

'Environmental and human rights activists are not enemies of anyone. They are friends of... nature and people... For simply sharing my opinion, I have been treated like a criminal.'

Shahnewaz Chowdhury

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

