



# Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

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Press Release

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## **AFAD CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ARRESTED BANGLADESHI HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER IN MALAYSIA**

Manila—The Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) urgently calls on the Malaysian authorities to immediately release recognized human rights lawyer and defender and AFAD Council member, Adilur Rhaman Khan. Khan, 57 was arrested by the Malaysian immigration police at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) at 4am, Thursday morning (July 20 12AM GST). He was accosted by Malaysian authorities without charges.

The arrest was reported by Khan to his colleagues at the Anti-Death Penalty Asian Network (ADPAN), a Malaysian non-government organization. Khan is currently being held in custody by the Malaysian authorities and is currently incommunicado as of press time and has had no access to a lawyer or any other person or organization.

In an earlier news report, the [Suara Rakyat Malaysia \(SUARAM\)](#), Malaysian FORUM-ASIA said that he was transferred to the immigration lock-up after his arrest. His colleagues in the Bangladesh-based organization Odhikar said that Khan's purpose of travel to Malaysia was to attend a forum on the death penalty law in Malaysia. The Forum was organized by the European Union and Australia's DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) in coordination with the local Malaysian SUARAM Forum Asia.

"This arrest is arbitrary and warrantless," Mary Aileen Diez-Bacalso, AFAD Secretary-General stated. "The Malaysian authorities have no basis to keep Khan in their custody without clear charges and no access to legal support. This is a clear violation of human rights under international law," Bacalso further said.

Khan was arrested and detained in Bangladesh in August 2013 as the Bangladesh government cracked down on the opposition and human rights activists who have called for justice for alleged cases of corruption and killings of street protesters. Khan joined the call for justice against the government's alleged crimes of torture, killings and enforced disappearances. He was released on bail after his organization, Odhikar and AFAD rallied for his release. He was released on bail.

"Khan is an astute human rights defender. His only advocacy is the protection of human rights especially of the Bangladeshi citizens and for the Bangladeshi government to stop killings, torture and enforced disappearances," Khurram Parvez, AFAD Chairperson and also a former political detainee, emphasized. The Malaysian government should unconditionally release him without delay."