



Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

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Onward, Odhikar!

The Asian Federation against Enforced Disappearances (AFAD) congratulates Odhikar Bangladesh on its 23rd founding anniversary. Odhikar which means “rights” in the Bangla language has been in the forefront of the struggle for human rights in Bangladesh for 23 long years. The precarious and high risk political situation in Bangladesh has not been an obstacle in your fight for a democratic country where rights are respected and protected.

Odhikar has been a reliable partner of AFAD in its struggle for a world without desaparecidos. It has trained human rights defenders on the ground who has helped them with their invaluable task of educating the world and the Bangladeshis about human rights through its awareness, documentation, monitoring, research and advocacy programs. They continue to do this despite three and a half years of financial restrictions as the NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB) bars release of all project and programme related funds of Odhikar, withheld its renewal of registration to block further human rights activities of the organization.

Odhikar has not been spared from arrests and persecutions from the Bangladesh government. The Odhikar Secretary had been picked-up by agents of the Detective Branch of Police (DB) in August 2013 and detained for 62 days. Their office was raided by authorities and the Director was arrested and detained for 25 days. Both Secretary and Director were freed on bail after an international call for their release.

We stand in solidarity with Odhikar in its struggle for a free, democratic and progressive Bangladesh! Salute!

10 October 2017

Signed by,

KHURRAM PARVEZ
Chairperson

MARY AILEEN D. BACALSO
Secretary-General