

Joint meeting of 'NEVER AGAIN' Association (Poland) & 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971' (Nirmul Committee)

'Bangabandhu's political philosophy fully reflected in the constitution of 1972'



November 21, 2023, joint meeting of 'Never Again' Association (Poland) & 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh' on 'International Recognition of Bangladesh Genocide' at the Forum's central office, Dhaka. On the stage (From left) President of the Forum Writer Journalist and Filmmaker Shahriar Kabir; Human Rights Defender Natalia Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska, Executive member of 'Never Again' Association; Heroic Freedom Fighter Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, Advisor of the Forum; Political Scientist Professor Rafal Pankowski, President of 'Never Again' Association from Poland and Vice Presidents of the 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh'— Wife of Martyr Educationist Shyamali Nasreen Chaudhury Photo: Saiff Uddin Rubel

A joint meeting of the leaders of 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh' (Nirmul Committee) with the leaders of the Polish 'Never Again' Association was held on November 21 (2023) at the central office of the Forum to determine tasks in terms of global public opinion formation for the purpose of international recognition of the Bangladesh genocide of 1971.

Heroic Freedom Fighter Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, President of 'South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism'; Vice Presidents of the 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh'— Wife of Martyr Educationist Shyamali Nasreen Chaudhury; Educationist Momtaz Latif; Heroic Freedom Fighter, Painter, Professor Abul Barq Alvi; Professor Dr. Uttam Kumar Barua, President of the Medical Assistance Committee of the Forum; Executive President of Jagran Cultural Squad of the Forum, Reciting Artist Md. Shawkat Ali; Central Leaders of the Forum— Heroic Freedom Fghter, Social

Activist Shafiqur Rahman Shahid; Writer Ali Akbar Tabi; President of the IT Cell of the Forum, Son of Martyr, Playwright Asif Munier; General Secretary of Jagran Cultural Squad of the Forum, Filmamker Pintu Saha; Central Leaders of the Forum— Social Worker Sheikh Ali Shahnewaz Parag; Social Worker Saiff Uddin Rubel; Social Worker Shimon Baskey; Social Worker Faisal Hasan Tanvir; Journalist Saif Raihan; General Secretary of the Forum, Human Rights Defender Kazi Mukul and Dhaka City leaders of the Forum were present at the meeting presided over by the President of the Forum, Writer Journalist filmmaker Shahriar Kabir.

Political Scientist Professor Rafal Pankowski, President of 'Never Again' Association from Poland & Human

Rights Defender Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska, Executive member of 'Never Again' Association from Poland and Professor Biman Barua of Dhaka University were present on behalf of the 'Never Again' Association of Poland.

Speakers' remarks

President of the Forum, Writer Journalist Filmmaker Shahriar Kabir, said, 'After the Holocaust of the Second World War, the most brutal and planned genocide among the genocide that took place in different countries of the world took place on the soil of Bangladesh. In the nine months of the war of liberation in 1971, the Pakistani occupation forces and their local allies like Jamaat-e-Islami, Nezam-e-Islam, Muslim League etc. killed three million innocent people in the name of protecting the integrity of Islam and Pakistan. According to the government, two lakh

women and five lakh women have been victims of brutal torture. One crore people have taken shelter in neighboring India to save their lives after losing everything. The international community was indifferent to such a huge humanitarian catastrophe at that time, as it is indifferent to the ongoing Rohingya genocide and the genocide in Palestine. The FSB has been agitating for more than three decades for the trial of the genocide of 1971 and international recognition of this brutal genocide so that an atmosphere of peace can be created in the world. We hope that organizations like Poland's 'Never Again' will be with us in this movement.'

Heroic Freedom Fighter Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, Advisor of the Forum; said, 'China and the United States supported the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators in the genocide of Bangladesh. After the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975, when General Zia took over power in Bangladesh, the spirit of the Liberation War slowed down and the way for international recognition of the genocide of 1971 was blocked. When Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina came to power, activities resumed and the Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh recognized the genocide of 1971. Now we want international recognition of the genocide of 1971 because international recognition of genocide discourages genocide.'

Vice President of the Forum, Wife of Martyr Educationist Shyamali Nasreen Chaudhury; said, 'I am a victim of the genocide of 1971. We want justice for the 1971 genocide and international recognition. Hopefully, we will get 'Never Again' on our side in our struggle.'

Vice President of the Forum, Educationist Momtaz Latif; said, 'To discourage them from going to the liberation war in 1971, the Pak army and their collaborators selectively killed the youths, especially the minorities of Bangladesh, including the Hindu community. They killed doctors, intellectuals, teachers, doctors and journalists indiscriminately to make Bangladesh meritless. We want trial of the killers, organizations and patrons of the 1971 genocide and international recognition of the genocide in Bangladesh.'

Executive President of Jagran Cultural Squad of the Forum, Reciting Artist Md. Shawkat Ali; said, 'The government of Bangladesh has already recognized the brutal genocide of 1971, but we have not yet got international recognition. We hope Poland's 'Never Again' will help us for international recognition of the 1971 genocide.'

Political Scientist Professor Dr. Rafal Pankowski, President of the 'Never Again' Association from Poland; said, 'We are trying to mobilize public opinion around the world to prevent a repeat of the Holocaust. In order to stop genocide, its recognition and trial of the genocide are very important. We are an associate of the international movement of FSB against genocide. Last year on behalf of Never Again we participated in the FSB's international conference held in Brussels on International Genocide Day. We have participated in FSB's international webinars on various occasions. We strongly think that the genocide of Bangladesh should get international recognition. We will continue our activities in Poland and other European countries in this regard.'

Human Rights Defender Natalia Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska, Executive member of 'Never Again' Association from Poland; said: 'During World War II, the German and Romanian armies committed genocide against the Roma community in my native Moldova. The Roma people gained international recognition of their genocide as a result of a long struggle. In this case, the cooperation of political figures and global leaders of the Roma people made it easier to gain international recognition. So we also want to cooperate for international recognition of genocide for those who have been victims of genocide. We hope that the people of Bangladesh will get international recognition of the 1971 genocide soon and we'll extend cooperation in this regard.'

General Secretary of the 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971', Human Rights Defender Kazi Mukul; said, 'The way we have worked with Never Against in the past, this trend will continue in the future.' After the meeting, a documentary titled 'Journey to Justice' by Writer Journalist Shahriar Kabir, President of the Forum, was screened.