Minister of Home Affairs

Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal

Bangladesh Secretariat

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dear Home Minister:

I write with great concern for the case of Shahidul Alam, a photographer and outspoken social activist who has been charged under Section 57 of Bangladesh’s Information and Communication Technology Act after giving an interview to Al-Jazeera on the current wave of school student protests in Bangladesh.

The charges against Shahidul Alam come against the backdrop of student protests calling for safer roads. The largely peaceful protests have been met by excessive police force. More than two hundred students have been injured.

I respectfully request that you immediately and unconditionally release Shahidul Alam, who is a prisoner of conscience, and drop all charges as he has been detained solely for peacefully exercising his human right to freedom of expression. Also, I ask you to ensure that activists, human rights defenders, journalists, academics and members of the political opposition and other members of the public are able to peacefully exercise their rights to freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

Yours sincerely,