

Communiqué from the International Alliance of Independent Publishers

Call for freedom of speech and publishing in Bangladesh 10 November 2015

For several months, authors, bloggers, publishers and booksellers have been the victims of violent and deadly attacks in Bangladesh. Avijit Roy (blogger and author) was assassinated on 26 February earlier this year; his publisher, Faisal Arefin Dipan ([Jagriti Prokashoni publishing](#)) was found dead on 31 October; the publisher Ahmed Rahim Tutul (Shudhdhoswar publishing) has been attacked the same day; other publishers, authors, bloggers and booksellers live under threat because of their criticism of religious extremism.

The International Alliance of Independent Publishers, representing 400 independent publishers from 45 countries in the world, **condemns these murderous attacks and assault on freedom of speech and publishing**. The Alliance also reaffirms the essential role needing to be played by public authorities, in Bangladesh and throughout the world, **to enable the emancipation of its citizens, and to guarantee a public space conducive to dialogue and peace. Plurality and diversity of ideas constitute the foundation of democracy. It is urgent that the Bangladeshi government protect and support actors of the book industry, thus safeguarding the foundations necessary to their work and freedom of speech.**

We call on the Bangladeshi government not to allow a climate of violence to further spread in the country by putting an end to the impunity for authors of these crimes: **against the rise of religious intolerance, bibliodiversity is a necessary condition for freedom and democracy.**

The International Alliance of Independent Publishers conveys its warm thoughts to the victims' family, friends and stands in solidarity with all the book professionals who suffer all kinds of intimidations in Bangladesh.



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