



Bangladesh – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 3 January 2014.

Any information on conflict between Jamat Sibir (Jamaat Shibir) and the Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Commission (Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist & Christian Unity Council?) during the period February – July 2013.

Information specifically referring to conflict between Jamaat Shibir and the Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist & Christian Unity Council was not found among sources available to the Research and Information Unit.

A number of reports refer to attacks against Hindus and Buddhists in March 2013 which were allegedly carried out by members of Jamaat Shibir.

A Human Rights Watch report on protests which followed the conviction of the vice-president of the Jamaat party by the International Crimes Tribunal states:

“The initial information received by Human Rights Watch suggests that the police were responding to attacks by Jamaat members and supporters that resulted in police and civilian deaths after the party called for protests against the verdict. The Jamaat party has denied that their members are responsible for any lethal violence, but media reports indicate that members of Jamaat’s Shibir group were responsible for several attacks, including against Hindu temples and houses.” (Human Rights Watch (1 March 2013) *Bangladesh: End Violence Over War Crimes Trials*)

An Amnesty International report on these events states:

“Over the past week, individuals taking part in strikes called for by Islamic parties have vandalised more than 40 Hindu temples across Bangladesh. Scores of shops and houses belonging to the Hindu community have also been burned down, leaving hundreds of people homeless. The attacks come in the context of large scale violent protests that have been raging across Bangladesh for weeks over the country’s ongoing war crimes tribunal, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT). ‘The Hindu community in Bangladesh is at extreme risk, in particular at such a tense time in the country. It is shocking that they appear to be targeted simply for their religion. The authorities must ensure that they receive the protection they need,’ said Abbas Faiz, Amnesty International’s Bangladesh Researcher. ‘All political parties in Bangladesh should condemn strongly any violence against the Hindu community, and to instruct all their members and supporters not to take part in such attacks.’ Survivors told Amnesty International that the attackers were taking part in rallies organised by the opposition Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and its student group Chhatra Shibir.” (Amnesty International (6 March 2013) *Bangladesh: Wave of violent attacks against Hindu minority*)

An article published by the Indian magazine Tehelka states:

“Unleashing terror on the Hindu community, the Jamaat-Shibir activists damaged at least six temples, including one of Buddhists, and torched houses and business establishments belonging to Hindus in Noakhali, Gaibandha, Chittagong, Rangpur, Sylhet, Chapainawabganj and elsewhere in the country. After pronouncement of the verdict, protesters attacked a police outpost in Gaibandha and killed three cops, stabbed to death a police constable in Chittagong and set fire to a temple and some houses of the Hindu community in Noakhali.” (Tehelka (1 March 2013) *Violence against minorities in Bangladesh after Jamaat leader's death sentence*)

A report originally published by the Bangladeshi newspaper The Daily Star states:

“Jamaat-Shibir fanatics yesterday wrecked havoc on the Hindu community across the country. They damaged at least six temples, including one of Buddhists, and torched houses and business establishments of Hindu people in Noakhali, Gaibandha, Chittagong, Rangpur, Sylhet, Chapainawabganj and elsewhere in the country. In Rajganj of Noakhali, Jamaat-Shibir men set ablaze a temple and eight houses of the Hindu community.” (The Daily Star (1 March 2013) *Bangladeshi Islamists attack Hindu people after death verdict to leader – report*)

This report also states:

“Jamaat-Shibir men attacked two Hindu-majority localities at Jaldi union of Banshkhali upazila and set ablaze a Buddhist temple at Satkania upazila of the district yesterday. They set fire to houses at Dhopapara and Mohajonpara of the union and attacked people with sticks, iron rods and sharp weapons, said Inspector Md Shahjahan of Banshkhali Police Station. Two people had been critically wounded in the attack, said the inspector, adding that the injured had been undergoing treatment at upazila health complex. Jamaat-Shibir men also set ablaze three shops belonging to Hindu people at Kaliaish union of Satkania upazila, said Additional Superintendent (South) Md Illutmish of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.” (ibid)

See also Daily Star report which states:

“Jamaat-Shibir men have looted and set fire to houses of ruling party activists and the Hindu community, and to roadside shops in Kalai village and Panchbibi and sadar upazilas of the district since Sunday night. Police said the activists equipped with bamboo and sticks attacked and set fire to two houses of ruling Awami League adherents in Panchbibi upazila. In the sadar upazila, they attacked and set the houses of two Hindu families on fire Sunday night. Miscreants set fire to a temple at Alidanga area of Shibganj municipality early yesterday, some time between 3:00am and 4:00am, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Shibganj AZM Sharzil Hasan. Milon Pal, president of the temple, said the Hindu community of the area feared further attacks.” (The Daily Star (5 March 2013) *Four more die in Bangladesh violence over war crimes trial; toll rises to 17*)

A report from the Bangladeshi newspaper The New Nation states:

“Leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad (BPUP) on Wednesday demanded judicial inquiry into the recent attacks on minority communities,. BPUP leaders alleged that the Jamaat-Shibir activists after declaration of the verdict against Delwar Hossain Saydee unleashed attacks on the Hindu community across the country. The BPUP leaders came up with the demand at rally held at Chowmuhana area in Moulvibazar town on Wednesday noon. Parishad leader Fonindra Kumar Vottacharjee said that the Jamaat-Shibir activists killed a minority man, looted many houses and places worships of Hindus and Buddhists in Banskhal, Lohagara, and Satkania upazilas in Chittagong.” (The New Nation (11 March 2013) *Attack on temples, houses of minorities condemned*)

A report from the United News of Bangladesh states:

“In Joypurhat, police arrested 23 Jamaat-Shibir men from different places in the district in the early hours. Of them, eight were held in Sadar upazila while nine in Kalai and the rest six in Panchbibi upazila. Police super Hamidul Alam said the Jamaat-Shibir men were arrested in cases filed in connection with clashes with cops, attacking a police station and vandalising, looting and torching of houses and business establishments of the Hindu community and Awami League leaders.” (United News of Bangladesh (11 March 2013) *28 Jamaat-Shibir men held in 3 dists*)

A report from the New Indian Express states:

“While there have been reports of many Hindu villages being attacked and burnt by Jamaat-Shibir activists recently, the economically well-off and influential minority Rakhine Buddhist population have not come under any such attacks. The minority Hindu population in Bangladesh is, in fact, the most vulnerable to Jamaat-Shibir attacks as they have been key witnesses to the 1971 war crimes tribunal proceedings.” (New Indian Express (14 March 2013) *Turmoil in Bangladesh*)

A United News of Bangladesh report states:

“Civil society members at a grand rally here on Saturday demanded a ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics as they are acting like anti-liberation forces as they did in 1971. The grand rally was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city. They also demanded the government bring out a whitepaper on the destructive activities of the Jamaat and its students wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, and find out the sources of their funding considering its recent violent attacks on different Hindu temples, houses and killing people, including policemen.” (United News of Bangladesh (16 March 2013) *Civil society members demand ban on Jamaat-Shibir*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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