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Massive Airline Banner Over New York City's Hudson River and the Statue of Liberty Calls to Stop the Genocide of Hindus in Bangladesh

New York, October 3, 2024 – In a powerful appeal to the global community, Hindu American groups organized a massive airline banner, calling for urgent action to stop the ongoing genocide of Hindus in Bangladesh. The banner flew over the Hudson River and circled the Statue of Liberty, an international symbol of human dignity, freedom, and equality.

The 1971 genocide, as documented by U.S. Congress Resolution HR 1430 in 2022, claimed 2.8 million lives and saw at least 200,000 predominantly Hindu women raped, leaving an indelible mark on the region. Since then, Bangladesh's Hindu population has dwindled from 20% in 1971 to just 8.9% today. Recent reports of targeted violence, systematic impoverishment, lynchings, kidnappings of minor girls, forced job resignations affecting up to 200,000 Hindus, and property seizures pose a serious existential threat to the 13 to 15 million Hindus living in the country. As of today, about 250 verified attacks and more than 1,000 total reported attacks have occurred since August 5, 2024.

One of the event organizers, Sitangshu Guha from the Bangladesh Hindu Community, highlighted the threat, saying, "Hindus in Bangladesh are on the verge of extinction. Hopefully, this will create awareness among the civilized world and prompt the UN to take action to save the victims of militant Islamic forces in Bangladesh. If Bangladesh becomes Hindu-free, it will become Afghanistan 2.0, and militants will spread to the West and other parts of the world. This is everyone's problem."

Pankaj Mehta, another activist and member of the Interfaith Human Rights Coalition who helped organize the event, added, "It is time for the UN Human Rights Council to put aside politics and officially recognize the 1971 Bangladesh genocide, the largest genocide since World War II. Three U.S.-based organizations—The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention, Genocide Watch, and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience—have already recognized the atrocities committed by Pakistani occupation forces and their Islamist allies in 1971 as genocide, primarily targeting the Hindu minority. The UN must follow suit and take urgent steps to prevent another looming genocide."

The rise of Islamist fundamentalism in Bangladesh has generated anxiety among Americans, similar to concerns raised during the crisis in Afghanistan. Humanitarian watchdogs are closely monitoring the worsening conditions, fearing that escalating violence could lead to a full-blown genocide. Americans are being urged to boycott Bangladesh's garment industry, which accounts for 85% of its export earnings, until the violence is stopped and perpetrators are brought to justice. A plea has been made to executives of major buyers of Bangladeshi garments, such as Walmart, H&M, Gap Inc., Target, PVH Corp, and VF Corporation, to halt shipments from Bangladesh. Any economic support to Bangladesh today is seen as supporting terrorism against Hindus and other minorities in the country.

The Jewish community in America has also expressed solidarity with the Hindu minority, drawing parallels with the atrocities committed by Hamas terrorists in Israel. Just as the world rallied against extremist violence in Israel, many are now calling for immediate intervention in Bangladesh to prevent further atrocities.

The event was live-streamed on StopHinduGenocide.org, which methodically captures the ongoing atrocities, historical context, and the ominous future awaiting Bangladesh's Hindus unless the global community takes action.

For more information:

Phone: +1 (732) 939-2060

Email: StopHinduGenocide@gmail.com

Visit: StopHinduGenocide.org