

<case>

## Shahnewaz Chowdhury – Bangladesh

沙尼瓦茲·喬杜里——孟加拉

【2022寫信馬拉松】孟加拉的沙尼瓦茲因一則臉書貼文而面臨監禁

<poster headline – 8 words>

### FACING PRISON FOR A FACEBOOK POST

因一則臉書貼文而面臨監禁

<alternative headline>

### FACING PRISON FOR DEFENDING THE ENVIRONMENT

因捍衛環境而面臨監禁

<long copy 195 words + 20 >

A big cricket fan, Shahnewaz has been playing since childhood. He also has a passion for writing and uses the written word to speak out about the struggles faced by people in his region of Banskhali, a low-lying coastal area in the south-east of Bangladesh, vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

沙尼瓦茲 (Shahnewaz Chowdhury) 是板球的大粉絲，小時候就開始打板球。他也對寫作充滿熱情，並以寫文章的方式，為自己家鄉的人民所遭遇的困難發聲。他的家鄉班絛卡里 (Banskhali) 位於孟加拉東南方沿海的低窪地區，很容易受氣候變遷影響。

A new coal-fired power plant in Shahnewaz's village was supposed to be a turning point in the region's development. But Shahnewaz was scared about the environmental destruction it would bring.

沙尼瓦茲的村莊內有一座新燃煤發電廠，原本應該是這個區域發展的轉捩點，但沙尼瓦茲對於發電廠所帶來的環境破壞感到擔憂。

On 26 May 2021, the area was swept up by a storm. Heavy rainfall and strong winds pounded the village. Homes were destroyed. Worried about the impact of environmentally damaging projects like the new power plant, which he believed contributed to an increase in tidal surges, Shahnewaz took to Facebook to raise his concerns. Encouraging young people

to speak out, Shahnewaz wrote: “the youth of Banskhali must resist injustice and support development through fearless writing.”

2021年5月26日，暴風雨侵襲這個區域，暴雨和強風摧殘整個村莊，房屋遭到摧毀。沙尼瓦茲本來就擔心像新發電廠這類的工程會破壞環境，再加上他認為新發電廠已經造成潮汐起伏更加劇烈，因此他在臉書上提出他的疑慮。為了鼓勵年輕人發聲，沙尼瓦茲寫道：「班敘卡里的年輕人必須透過無所畏懼的寫作，來對抗不公義並支持發展。」

The following day, the power plant company filed a case against Shahnewaz, accusing him of posting false information. On 28 May 2021, he was arrested by the police for his Facebook post under Bangladesh’s oppressive Digital Security Act. He was detained in inhumane conditions for 80 days, without trial. Shahnewaz was granted bail on 16 August 2021, but if he’s convicted, he faces many years in prison.

隔天，發電廠公司對沙尼瓦茲提起訴訟，指控他發表不實資訊。2021年5月28日，因為他的臉書貼文，警方以孟加拉的壓制性法律《數位安全法》將他逮捕。他未經審判就在不人道的條件下被拘留了80天。2021年8月16日，沙尼瓦茲獲准保釋，但若被定罪，他將面臨多年有期徒刑。

### **Tell Bangladesh to drop the charges today**

要求孟加拉今天就撤回指控。

[<poster short copy 60+15= 75 words incl call to action>](#)

In May 2021, Shahnewaz Chowdhury’s village was swept up by a storm. Homes were destroyed. Shahnewaz wrote a Facebook post about the impact of a local power plant, linking it to the environmental destruction of his region. He was arrested for his Facebook post and detained for 80 days under Bangladesh’s oppressive Digital Security Act.

Shahnewaz was granted bail, but if convicted, he faces many years in prison.

2021年5月，暴風雨侵襲沙尼瓦茲·喬杜里的村莊，摧毀了多間房屋。沙尼瓦茲在臉書上發表貼文，提到當地發電廠所帶來的影響，以及區域內環境被破壞的關聯。他因為這則臉書貼文而被捕，並依孟加拉的壓制性法律《數位安全法》遭拘留80天。沙尼瓦茲已被獲准保釋，但若被定罪，將面臨多年有期徒刑。

**Tell Bangladesh to drop the charges today.**

要求孟加拉今天就撤回指控。

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<call to action #1: to target 35 words with target address.>

**Write to the Bangladeshi authorities**

寫信給孟加拉當局

Tell them to immediately and unconditionally drop the charges against Shahnewaz Chowdhury.

要求他們立即無條件撤回針對沙尼瓦茲·喬杜里的指控

Minister of Justice

Law and Justice Division

Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Building No – 04

Bangladesh Secretariat

Dhaka – 1000

Bangladesh

National entities should prepare a cover letter that carries information about what the batch of letters are about, what our calls to action are to the Government of Bangladesh and share this to the embassies both with the hand delivery and by email as a confirmation of the action and copy in (Cc) [Bangladesh@amnesty.org](mailto:Bangladesh@amnesty.org) for the record of the IS.

國家分會應準備一封信函，向孟加拉政府說明這些信件的主題資訊以及我們的訴求，親手將信件交給大使館後以電子郵件確認這個行動，並將副本寄至 [Bangladesh@amnesty.org](mailto:Bangladesh@amnesty.org) 以利資訊系統記錄。

Email: [minister@minlaw.gov.bd](mailto:minister@minlaw.gov.bd)

電子郵件 : [minister@minlaw.gov.bd](mailto:minister@minlaw.gov.bd)

Salutation: Honourable Minister

稱謂: 尊敬的部長

<call to action #2: solidarity>

### **Show Shahnewaz he's not alone**

讓沙尼瓦茲知道他並不孤單

Write him a message of friendship and support. Take a photo of it and post it on your social media channels, tagging Shahnewaz. Or send cards and letters by post to the address below.

寫下支持的訊息給沙尼瓦茲, 拍照上傳社群媒體並標記他, 或將卡片和信件寄送到下方地址。

Twitter: @Shahnewaz9

### **Address:**

地址:

Shahnewaz Chowdhury

C/O Rashid Ahmed Chowdhury

East Baraghona

Post office: West Baraghona

Police station: Banshkhali

Chittagong

Bangladesh

※Important Sensitivities and Risks:

**None identified**

在社群媒體上, 請使用

None

關鍵字

Censorship and freedom of Expression; detention; human rights defenders and activists;  
internet & social media; justice systems

言論審查、表達自由、拘留、人權捍衛者、社運人士、網路和社群媒體、司法系統

## 摘句

“I grew up in the coastal areas and that is why I strive to speak about the miserable conditions of the people in these areas through my writing and activism.” - Shahnewaz Chowdhury

沙尼瓦茲·喬杜里：「因為我在沿海地區長大，所以我努力透過寫作和倡議，為沿海地區居民所面對的惡劣現狀來發聲。」

“I lost many of my playmates with who I played even the day before the cyclone (in Bangladesh in 1991). Their bodies were floating in the tidal waters after the cyclone. I still feel numb when I think of those days,” said Shahnewaz.

沙尼瓦茲表示：「1991年，熱帶氣旋侵襲孟加拉的時候，我失去了許多玩伴，氣旋來臨的前一天我甚至還跟他們一起玩。氣旋走了以後，他們的遺體在潮水中漂流。每當我想到那些日子，我還是覺得全身發麻。」

“I felt like I was buried alive. I did not know how my family was doing, my family did not know how I was spending my days in prison. It was suffocating. I was deprived of all care and affection. I was always anxious and could not sleep well.

「我感覺自己像是被活埋了一樣，我不知道我的家人過得怎麼樣，我的家人也不知道我在監獄裡是如何度日，那種感覺令人窒息。所有對我的照顧和關心都被剝奪，我一直很焦慮也睡不好。」

“Environmental and human rights activists are not enemies of anyone. They are friends of the nature and people. Still, they face the ire of some people. For simply sharing my opinion, I have been treated like a criminal.” - Shahnewaz Chowdhury

沙尼瓦茲·喬杜里：「環境和人權社運人士不是任何人的敵人，他們是大自然和人民的朋友，但他們仍然需要面對某些人的怒火。我僅僅因為分享自己的看法，就被當成罪犯來對待。」

“I exercised my right to freely express my opinion in support of an environmentally friendly power plant instead of a coal-fired power plant, but it became my nightmare. For sharing my opinion, I was imprisoned for nearly three months without trial under the Digital Security Act and the case is still ongoing. I do not write in the media or social media anymore. I will use

my pen again if I can enjoy the right to freedom of expression that the country's constitution has entitled me with. I believe that I have not done anything wrong, and I will be free from this false case following the legal process.” - Shahnewaz Chowdhury

沙尼瓦茲·喬杜里：「我行使我的權利，自由表達我支持環境友善的發電廠，而不是燃煤發電廠的看法，但那卻成為我的噩夢。我因為分享我的看法，就被依《數位安全法》，未受審判就遭拘留將近3個月，且這個案件仍在進行。我停止在媒體和社群媒體上寫作了。如果我能享有這個國家憲法賦予我的表達自由，我才會再次提筆。我相信我沒有做錯任何事，且我相信在法律程序之後，我就不會再因這個案件而受苦。」

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<Letters to Target>

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

LAW AND JUSTICE DIVISION

MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

BUILDING NO – 04

BANGLADESH SECRETARIAT

DHAKA – 1000

BANGLADESH

Honourable Minister,

尊敬的部長：

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges against Shahnewaz Chowdhury, who is charged under Bangladesh's Digital Security Act (DSA) and if convicted faces up to a decade in prison just for expressing his views on Facebook.

The DSA is being weaponized by the government and powerful non-state actors to stifle dissent, and the least powerful are disproportionately targeted. I call on you to repeal or amend the DSA and other domestic laws in line with international human rights standards on the right to freedom of expression.

我呼籲您立即無條件撤回針對沙尼瓦茲·喬杜里的所有指控。他僅因在臉書上表達自己的觀點，就被孟加拉的《數位安全法》起訴，如果定罪將面臨最高10年有期徒刑。政府和有權的非官

方人士，正利用《數位安全法》作為打壓異議的武器，而毫無權勢的一方遭受針對的情況不符合比例原則。我呼籲您撤銷或修改《數位安全法》和其他國家法律，以符合表達自由的國際人權標準。

Yours sincerely,  
敬此

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<W4R DIGITAL ACTION>

## **FACING PRISON FOR A FACEBOOK POST**

因一則臉書貼文而面臨入獄服刑

**Shahnewaz Chowdhury was worried about the impact a new coal-fired power plant would have on his village. He took to Facebook to raise his concerns. Now he faces years in prison for speaking out.**

沙尼瓦茲·喬杜里因擔心一座新的燃煤發電廠將對他的村莊造成影響，因此在臉書上表達他的疑慮。現在他因為發聲而面臨多年有期徒刑。

A big cricket fan, Shahnewaz has been playing since childhood. He also has a passion for writing and uses the written word to speak out about the struggles faced by people in his region of Banshkhali, a low-lying coastal area in the south-east of Bangladesh, vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

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**Take action and demand justice for Shahnewaz now.**

立即採取行動替沙尼瓦茲要求正義。

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[\(Internal Use\) Background information](#)



Shahnewaz Chowdhury, 37, was incarcerated for 80 days under Bangladesh's draconian Digital Security Act (DSA) for a Facebook post where he shared his personal opinion that was critical about a power plant in his area. He could face up to 10 years in prison, if convicted.

The Banshkhali village was swept by a tidal surge after cyclone Yaas made its landfall on 26 May 2021. As the village is in the coastal belt, saline water from the sea, which rose by 15 feet, went above the embankments and infiltrated croplands, fishing hatcheries, and households. Shahnewaz Chowdhury had written a Facebook post about it that day.

In the Facebook post, he stated, "Breaking News: The people of Banshkhali thought that the environmentally destructive coal power plant, which became the cause of the killing of 12 people, would have set afloat the Gandamara Union in the tide of development. But in reality, Gandamara is drowning in the tidal surge. The youth of Banshkhali must resist injustice and support development through fearless writing."

On 27 May 2021, the powerplant company filed a case against him accusing him of posting "false and offensive information", "tarnishing the reputation of the power plant" and "creating animosity, instability and chaos" under sections 25, 29 and 31 of the draconian Digital Security Act (DSA).

On 28 May 2021, after he returned home from visiting the affected areas and families from the flood, he was arrested late at night by the Banshkhali police. He was detained at 12:05am on 28 May 2021. Later in morning he was presented at the court and then the court ordered him to be sent to the Chittagong Central Jail.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Banshkhali granted him bail on 16 August 2021 after 80 days of imprisonment without trial.

The police completed its investigation and filed charges against Shahnewaz Chowdhury on 30 October 2021. He was charged with posting "false and offensive information", "tarnishing the reputation of the power plant" and "creating animosity, instability and chaos" under sections 25, 29 and 31 of the draconian Digital Security Act (DSA).

A five-member defense counsel filed a discharge petition at the Cyber Tribunal in Chittagong, in support of Shahnewaz Chowdhury on 17 May 2022. The Cyber Tribunal dismissed the petition and ordered the trial to begin.

The trial is scheduled to begin on 12 July 2022.

### **Protests at the Banshkhali Power Plant**

In April 2021, a writ petition filed by five rights organizations said that at least 12 people were killed in different incidents at the power plant in Banshkhali in 2016, 2017 and most recently in April 2021. In 2016, at least four people were killed when police opened fire at protesters for resisting the construction of the power plant. In April 2021, at least seven more people were killed when police again opened fire at protesters who were demanding from the plant authorities, unpaid wages and reduced working hours during Ramadan, observed by Muslims worldwide as the month of fasting.

### **Impact of the Digital Security Act**

Introduced in October 2018, the Digital Security Act (DSA) is increasingly being used to stifle dissent on social media, websites, and other digital platforms, with punishments that can extend to life imprisonment. The law contains vague and overbroad provisions that are increasingly being used to target people from all walks of life solely for expressing dissent and exercising their right to freedom of expression online. According to Bangladeshi media, as of July 2021, at least 1,300 cases have been filed against about 2,000 people under the DSA and nearly 1,000 people have been arrested since the law was enacted in October 2018. In February 2021, Mushtaq Ahmed, a Bangladeshi writer died in prison after languishing there for 10 months in pretrial detention for criticizing on Facebook the Bangladeshi government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A case filed under the DSA, whether by a private individual or a public official, is prosecuted by Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh, as the accusations are of criminal offence.

### **Impact of Climate Change in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh was ranked seventh among nations most affected by extreme weather in the past 20 years. Tens of millions of people were at risk from the devastating impact of frequent cyclones, floods, erosion and rising sea levels, which continued to cause displacement. Farmers' livelihoods were threatened by waterlogging and high levels of salinity, which killed crops. From March to May, at least four strong heatwaves dominated the pre-monsoon period in 2021. Bangladesh's climate continued to shift towards hotter and longer summers, warmer winters and longer monsoons from February to October.

