

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina  
Prime Minister's Office  
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Bangladesh

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Boksum, Deinum 16 januari 2022

Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

I am deeply concerned by the detention of 17-year-old Hindu girl Dipti Rani Das for a Facebook post which contained a photograph of a woman keeping the Islamic holy book Quran in between her thighs. She publicly apologized for the post by going to the police station. Locals subsequently attacked her home and demanded that she leave the house. The police arrested her in Dinajpur on 28 October 2020 under the draconian Digital Security Act (2018) and accused her of "hurting religious sentiment" and "advancing to deteriorate law and order". She has been in detention ever since.

I urge your government to immediately release Dipti Rani Das, detained solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression. In addition, I urge you to ensure the protection of Dipti Rani Das and her family from communal or politically motivated attacks. Lastly, I call on you to repeal the Digital Security Act or amend it in line with international human rights law, including the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights to which Bangladesh is a party.

Thank you for your attention. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,

(Naam, adres)