

EN

E-001670/2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.10.2024)

The EU is following the political and security situation in Bangladesh closely and it is well aware that shifts in power dynamics in a country or a region could lead to more space for extremism. The EU is also aware that Bangladesh in the past has been the victim of terrorist attacks.

On 6 August 2024, the EU Heads of mission in Dhaka expressed concern over reports of multiple attacks against places of worship¹ and members of religious, ethnic and other minorities. The EU understands that the situation has since then improved, but the EU will continue to follow closely and raise the issue during the upcoming Sub-group on Human Rights and Good Governance of the Joint Commission. The Joint Commission and its subgroups are established according to the Cooperation Agreement² that is the framework for the EU-Bangladesh relations and of which the respect for human rights is an essential element. The EU is engaging with the interim government and is ready to support a transition, which should be peaceful and inclusive, respectful of democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law, and would lead to democratic elections.

¹ <https://x.com/EUinBangladesh/status/1820768987598278684/photo/1>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A22001A0427%2801%29>