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From: Ellis, Alex
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 10:21 AM
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Subject: Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

Please consider the below response letter from Dewan Ali Ashraf, Minister (Political) for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

Al Jazeera is wrong when it claims in its November 24 [article](#) that criminal charges against former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia are politically motivated. Zia was found guilty of embezzling funds from a children's orphanage trust. Other charges filed against her by the independent Anti-Corruption Commission relate to the riots in 2014 when her Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its collaborators set fire to thousands of homes, cars, buildings and businesses, demolished power stations and murdered 20 law enforcement officers.

Despite these charges, Khaleda Zia has been granted every right, comfort and protection legally available.

Al Jazeera is out of line when it suggests that Zia is a "victim of Prime Minister Hasina's 'personal vengeance'" and repeats the offensive, sexist trope, the "Battling Begums," meaning important women. Characterizing the rivalry between powerful political figures as a personal battle between two women smacks of colonial-era condescension. The media don't couch rivalries between male political figures using their gender. Isn't it time to stop this for women?

Sincerely,
Dewan Ali Ashraf
Minister (Political)
Embassy of Bangladesh
Washington, D.C.

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