

Ellis, Alex

From: Ellis, Alex
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Ellis, Alex
Subject: Digital Security Act Facilitates Justice

Greetings,

The Digital Security Act facilitated the [arrest](#) of 43 individuals who incited violence and vandalized several Hindu temples earlier this month. The Hindu temples were attacked after a Facebook posting deemed offensive to many Muslims was shared widely. Authorities have stated that the posting was created to incite religious tensions. The original poster has been arrested.

Without the Digital Security Act these arrests would not have been possible.

Bangladesh also deployed additional law enforcement officers to 22 districts to ensure a peaceful Durga Puja celebration.

Fact sheet from the Government of Bangladesh

Digital Security Act Protects Citizens' Data and Privacy, Combats Speech that Incites Violence

Bangladesh has moved rapidly into the digital age and, like many countries, has adopted measures that regulate technology. Several Western media outlets and non-governmental groups have mischaracterized the new laws, wrongly accusing the Government of Bangladesh of quashing press freedoms and the freedoms of its citizens.

The Digital Security Act, which was adopted in 2018:

- Prohibits digital extortion, defamation, blackmail and cyberbullying
- Safeguards the rights of minorities by providing penalties for disseminating information intended to intimidate the powerless
- Prohibits online defamation
- Protects citizen data and privacy
- Prohibits data theft from government computers and servers
- Prohibits hacking into government networks, computers and servers
- Prohibits online "hate speech" that incites violence

The Digital Security Act also takes a landmark step to ensure that the lives and memories of the approximately 3 million people who were killed during Bangladesh's War of Liberation are not desecrated. Like Germany and 15 other European nations, the Act prohibits the deliberate dissemination of misinformation about or propagandized distortion of Bangladesh's War of Liberation and the genocide that occurred then.

The Bangladesh government has long nurtured the rights of its people to speak openly and freely, while simultaneously fighting to protect minority rights. Curtailing the press's free speech is the last thing the government is seeking to do with the Digital Security Act.

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