

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina  
Prime Minister's Office  
Old Sangsad Bhaban  
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
BANGLADESCH.

## Shahnewaz Chowdhury

Dear Prime Minister,

Following a storm during which homes were destroyed and concerned about the impact of environmentally damaging projects like the new power plant, which he believed had contributed to an increase in tidal surges, **Shahnewaz Chowdhury** urged young people to speak out on social media against potentially damaging developments.

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 and detained in inhumane conditions for 80 days, without trial. Shahnewaz was granted bail on 16 August 2021, but if convicted, faces many years in prison.

I urge you to drop all charges against Shahnewaz Chowdhury and to release him immediately and unconditionally. Please, also, ensure that the new Cyber Security Act that replaces the Digital Security Act adheres to international standards and you uphold obligations to protect the right to freedom of expression under its constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Yours sincerely,