# Bangladesh issues arrest warrant for Sheikh Hasina's aunt over 2024 crackdown killings



The political landscape of Bangladesh is undergoing seismic shifts following the recent arrest warrant issued against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's aunt, who faces heinous charges of crimes against humanity. These allegations stem from her purported involvement in mass killings during a brutal crackdown on anti-government protests in 2024, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 1,400 individuals. In the wake of escalating violence, Hasina fled to India, igniting a diplomatic crisis as her interim government faces calls for retribution from a public emboldened by a vigorous civil rights movement.

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has escalated its inquiries, asserting that Hasina directly orchestrated a campaign of violence against dissenters when her Awami League government faced widespread protests last summer. The Tribunal's prosecutor, Manynul Karim, has articulated allegations that the ousted leader instructed state forces to employ lethal methods against demonstrators, suggesting that attacks included the use of helicopters and drones. The testimony relayed by eyewitnesses has particularly shocked the public, portraying horrific incidents in which protesters were reportedly burned alive.

Hasina's governmental reign has not only been challenged by allegations of human rights violations but also corruption claims that implicate family members in embezzling funds, potentially amounting to £4 billion tied to a controversial nuclear power deal with Russia. This investigation has ensnared Tulip Siddiq, a prominent Labour MP and Hasina’s niece, who resigned from her ministerial position earlier this year amid mounting scrutiny. Siddiq's legal representatives have decried the allegations against her as "targeted and baseless," emphatically denying any wrongdoing while insisting that the inquiries are politically motivated.

Concurrent with these developments, Bangladesh’s interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, has requested Hasina’s extradition from India. India’s reception of this request is complicated by existing regional tensions and its historical ties with Hasina. The recent calls for her extradition came after thousands rallied in Dhaka, demanding accountability for the violence perpetrated during her time in office. This unrest has led to a series of protests organised by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, which not only seeks justice for the victims of state-sponsored violence but also calls for a new political framework in the country.

Despite the increasing pressure from both domestic and international spheres, Hasina remains at large, claiming that she is innocent of the charges and that political opponents, including Yunus, are complicit in the unrest. However, with arrest warrants issued against her and over 40 others linked to her administration, the potential for her return to power appears grim as the interim government seeks to distance itself from past allegations of tyranny and corruption.

The situation remains fluid, with potential implications that may reshape the governance of Bangladesh in the years to come. As the international community observes the plight of Bangladeshi citizens protesting for justice, the intertwining destinies of leaders, their families, and the populace unravel in the face of a burgeoning demand for accountability.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14773627/Tulip-Siddiqs-aunt-charged-crimes-against-humanity-Bangladesh-involvement-mass-killings.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/1277b3bb-a299-47e1-8973-e68591e7d982)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14773627/Tulip-Siddiqs-aunt-charged-crimes-against-humanity-Bangladesh-involvement-mass-killings.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.apnews.com/article/e5ccb5ce4c340e86b0ecac7d9d98893f), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/bangladesh-crimes-tribunal-issues-arrest-warrant-exiled-former-prime-minister-2024-10-17/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14773627/Tulip-Siddiqs-aunt-charged-crimes-against-humanity-Bangladesh-involvement-mass-killings.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/09/10/le-bangladesh-va-ouvrir-la-procedure-d-extradition-de-sheikh-hasina-refugiee-en-inde_6310745_3210.html), [[7]](https://www.apnews.com/article/8cfdec3ca4eea91a72c7bafc9c2b028b)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.apnews.com/article/353ca862e4343779a8c420507d93c28a), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/1277b3bb-a299-47e1-8973-e68591e7d982)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14773627/Tulip-Siddiqs-aunt-charged-crimes-against-humanity-Bangladesh-involvement-mass-killings.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.apnews.com/article/e5ccb5ce4c340e86b0ecac7d9d98893f> - On June 1, 2025, Bangladesh commenced the trial of deposed former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through a special tribunal for alleged crimes against humanity related to a 2024 mass uprising in which up to 1,400 people were reportedly killed. The tribunal accused Hasina of orchestrating violent crackdowns, resulting in mass killings, injuries, and targeted attacks, particularly against women and children. Hasina, currently in exile in India, along with former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan (also believed to be in India), and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun (under arrest), are to appear before the court on June 16. The tribunal, originally established by Hasina in 2009 to prosecute war crimes from the 1971 independence war, is now being used against her following her ouster in August 2024. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus assumed interim leadership and banned Hasina’s Awami League party. In a parallel development, the Supreme Court has paved the way for the Jamaat-e-Islami party to regain political registration. Meanwhile, tensions persist over election scheduling between Yunus's administration and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by Khaleda Zia.
3. <https://www.apnews.com/article/353ca862e4343779a8c420507d93c28a> - Thousands in Dhaka, Bangladesh, rallied for the prosecution of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and those responsible for the mass deaths during the July uprising against her government. The "March for Unity" was organized by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, who demanded trials for Hasina and the banning of her Awami League party. Hasina fled to India in August after the violence, which resulted in hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries. Bangladesh has requested Hasina's extradition, and she faces multiple court cases, including charges of crimes against humanity. Protesters called for a new constitution and a formal proclamation by January 15 detailing the uprising events. The interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, promised to prosecute Hasina and her aides for their alleged crimes and invited the United Nations to help investigate the killings.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/1277b3bb-a299-47e1-8973-e68591e7d982> - Bangladesh's interim government has officially requested India to extradite former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India after being ousted by student-led protests in August. The tribunal in Bangladesh has issued arrest warrants against her and over 40 others, accusing them of orchestrating massacres and crimes against humanity during the protests. Sheikh Hasina denies these allegations. This diplomatic request is likely to strain relations between Dhaka and New Delhi, especially as India's foreign secretary recently visited Bangladesh to soothe tensions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed concerns over the treatment of Hindus in Bangladesh, with Yunus, the current caretaker leader, acknowledging limited violence against them. While Yunus had initially stated they would wait for a verdict before seeking her extradition, last month's arrest of several former officials led him to call for her return. Sheikh Hasina, unseen in public since her exile, has publicly accused Yunus of masterminding the violence and her ousting. Additionally, investigations have been launched against her and her niece, UK Treasury minister Tulip Siddiq, over allegations of embezzling $5bn, which Siddiq denies.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/bangladesh-crimes-tribunal-issues-arrest-warrant-exiled-former-prime-minister-2024-10-17/> - On October 17, 2024, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal issued an arrest warrant for exiled former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, accusing her of involvement in mass killings during violent protests earlier this year. The unrest, initially a student-led movement against job quotas, escalated into deadly violence, leading to over 700 deaths and forcing Hasina to flee to India on August 5. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus now heads an interim government. The tribunal, led by Justice Golam Mortuza Majumdar, received requests to arrest 50 individuals, including Hasina, by chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam, citing the need for arrests to enable the investigation. Over 60 complaints have been lodged against Hasina and her Awami League party, alleging serious crimes. With many party leaders arrested or hiding, Hasina's son, Sajeeb Wazed, asserted that Hasina is prepared to face trial, maintaining her innocence.
6. <https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/09/10/le-bangladesh-va-ouvrir-la-procedure-d-extradition-de-sheikh-hasina-refugiee-en-inde_6310745_3210.html> - La justice bangladaise va demander l'extradition de Sheikh Hasina, ancienne première ministre du Bangladesh réfugiée en Inde depuis le 5 août. Sheikh Hasina, âgée de 76 ans, avait fui Dacca en hélicoptère à la suite de manifestations et du retrait du soutien militaire. Actuellement en Inde dans un lieu secret, elle est accusée par le Tribunal des crimes internationaux de massacres commis durant ses quinze années de pouvoir. Une douzaine de plaintes pour meurtre, génocide et crimes contre l’humanité ont été déposées contre elle et d'autres membres de son cabinet ou officiers. Cette procédure est facilitée par un traité d’extradition signé entre l'Inde et le Bangladesh. Le Premier ministre indien Narendra Modi, ancien allié proche de Hasina, se trouve dans une position délicate, devant choisir entre remettre Hasina à la justice bangladaise ou risquer la détérioration des relations bilatérales et l'influence croissante de la Chine dans la région. Le ressentiment anti-indien grandit au Bangladesh, où la population soupçonne l'Inde d'avoir maintenu Hasina au pouvoir malgré ses violations des droits humains. Muhammad Yunus, actuel dirigeant du gouvernement de transition, a appelé à des relations fondées sur l'équité et la justice avec l'Inde.
7. <https://www.apnews.com/article/8cfdec3ca4eea91a72c7bafc9c2b028b> - On Thursday night, attackers set fire to the headquarters of Bangladesh's Jatiya Party, which supported ousted leader Sheikh Hasina. Located in Dhaka’s Bijoy Nagar area, the headquarters was stormed by attackers who clashed with party members before setting the building on fire. The extent of the damage and whether there were any injuries remains unclear. Firefighters responded to the incident, but no group immediately claimed responsibility. This attack follows Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August after a student-led protest, which evolved into an anti-government movement. Prominent student leader Hasnat Abdullah, from the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, called for the destruction of the Jatiya Party for supporting Hasina’s government. The situation in Bangladesh remains volatile, with an interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus struggling to restore order.