

A Call for Peace: Bangladeshi civil society calls upon India and Pakistan to prevent any violations of the ceasefire

We, members of civil society in Bangladesh, express our deep concern and alarm at the recent escalation of hostilities between India and Pakistan, following the tragic terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir. We mourn the loss of innocent lives and stand in solidarity with all victims of violence—wherever they may be, whichever border they belong to.

We welcome the announcement of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan—an urgently needed step that can be the beginning of de-escalation and stability in the region. However, reports of renewed shelling and power blackouts along the border remind us that ceasefires on paper mean little unless followed by genuine political will, open dialogue, and a commitment to peace from both sides.

As two nuclear-armed states with a shared and turbulent history, India and Pakistan carry a heavy responsibility—not just to their own citizens but to the entire South Asian region, which remains one of the most densely populated and economically vulnerable parts of the world. Any renewed conflict would be catastrophic, destabilizing the region and threatening global peace.

We categorically condemn all forms of terrorism and the deliberate targeting of civilians, and we support a full, impartial, and international investigation into the Pahalgam attack. Justice must prevail—but it must not come at the cost of more bloodshed.

We call on the governments of India and Pakistan to ensure that the ceasefire is not just a pause in violence but the start of a sustained diplomatic process. Preventing violations now is not just a military task—it is a political, moral, and regional imperative. Both nations must engage in direct and transparent communication, or through trusted intermediaries, to reinforce the ceasefire and address the deeper issues that fuel these recurring crises.

We reject the dangerous rhetoric and communal hate speech being amplified through mainstream and social media, which heightens public tensions and puts religious minorities at risk. The politics of hate, vengeance, and fear must give way to a politics of dialogue, justice, and coexistence.

Bangladesh knows the human cost of conflict—and the transformative power of peace. We urge the international community to act with urgency and unity in preventing any breach of the ceasefire. We also ask the Government of Bangladesh, alongside other SAARC nations, to work together diplomatically to apply moral and political pressure on India and Pakistan to stay the course of peace.

This is a fragile moment. A wrong move, a single miscalculation, or another provocation could plunge the region back into a crisis. That risk must not be taken lightly.

We call on civil society, media, and citizens of conscience throughout South Asia to demand accountability, resist the drums of war, and raise their voices for peace and justice. Let us stand together for a future built not on violence and division, but on cooperation, compassion, and shared destiny.

In peace and solidarity,

Bangladeshi Civil Society for Regional Harmony

11 May 2025

Signed:

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5. **Ad. Taslima Islam**, Chief Executive, BELA
6. **Ambassador Farooq Sobhan**, Distinguished Fellow & Board Member, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)
7. **Dr. Rasheda K. Chowdhury**, Executive Director, CAMPE
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