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NEVER AGAIN Association - Stowarzyszenie NIGDY WIECEJ

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The Network of Concerned Historians:

" BANGLADESH - On 17 September 2024, after the uprising against Sheikh Hasina's government (in office 2009–2024), police in Dhaka arrested journalist, author, and filmmaker Shahriar Kabir (1950–), president of the Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (Forum for Secular Bangladesh & Trial of War Criminals of 1971), a civil society movement established in 1992 and demanding accountability for war crimes committed by the Pakistan Army and its collaborators during the 1971 war when Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan. Kabir was charged with murder and crimes against humanity in fourteen cases, including cases dating from the July–August 2024 protests, before the International Crimes Tribunal – a tribunal initially created to try 1971 perpetrators. The charges were widely criticized for being politically motivated. Kabir had previously been imprisoned in 2001–2002, during the coalition government (2001–2006) of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami. On 25–29 August 2025, the United Nations (UN) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said that Kabir's detention was arbitrary and that he was denied a fair trial, a view reiterated on 14 April 2026 by five UN Special Rapporteurs. The working group suggested that his arrest was connected to his political and secular opinions and his views against religious extremism, while the rapporteurs criticized the prosecutors for not having provided any evidence yet and for rejecting bail on humanitarian grounds. Kabir used a wheelchair, had reportedly suffered several heart attacks, and was denied proper medical care. On 12 March 2026, several international human rights organizations and many human rights activists, academics, and journalists signed a letter to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman (in office February 2026–) expressing concern over the detention and health of Kabir and urging him to offer humanitarian bail. Kabir had authored dozens of books, including on the history of the 1971 war of independence."

<https://www.concernedhistorians.org/ar/26.pdf>

[#FreeShahriarKabir](#) — campaign supported by the NEVER AGAIN Association.