



UNITED NATIONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Attn: News Editor / Chief Reporter

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Secretary-General calls for peaceful elections in Bangladesh

New York – Expressing concern at election-related violence in Bangladesh, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today appealed to the country's major political forces "to work together to find a common ground for the elections acting in the interest of democracy and the welfare of the entire nation."

In a [statement](#) (please see below) issued by his spokesman, he said also voiced confidence that mediation efforts brokered by President Iajuddin Ahmed will "find a way out of the present crisis will bring about the desired results."

President Ahmed recently assumed the additional responsibilities as head of the Caretaker Government, which under the Bangladeshi constitution is charged with overseeing and ensuring free and fair elections, due in January.

Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on Bangladesh

The Secretary-General is concerned by the violence in Bangladesh related to the forthcoming national elections and the transitional arrangements.

He hopes that the efforts of President Iajuddin Ahmed, who has assumed additional responsibilities as head of the Caretaker Government, to consult with the main political parties to find a way out of the present crisis will bring about the desired results.

The Secretary-General appeals to the major political forces in Bangladesh to work together to find a common ground for the elections acting in the interest of democracy and the welfare of the entire nation.

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