MOTION

Recognizing that religious extremism is threatening democratic institutions and constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion in Bangladesh, as well as fomenting hatred and violence towards minority ethnic and faith communities of Bangladesh, and towards secularists and secular institutions:

Alarmed that the Bangladesh previous authorities have not only failed to stop extremist repression and violence, but have colluded with religious extremist groups to violate and usurp human rights of minority groups, namely, but not limited to, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Ahmadiyya Muslims, secular civil society members, NGOs, journalists and members of opposition parties:

Deploring the government ban on Ahmadiyya publications, renaming of mosques and the burning of books and important historical documents which violates the freedom of religion and expression supposedly enshrined in the Constitution of Bangladesh:

Regretting the state’s abject failure, despite clear evidence and warnings of intelligence agencies that fanatic militant groups are organising themselves, to investigate effectively and prosecute the criminals responsible for violent attacks and grenade blasts on leading members of the opposition, the British High Commissioner, arts and cultural events, members and institutions of religious minorities and others;

Noting with concern the abuse of Islam, a religion of peace, for political objectives and the co-ordinated and orchestrated terrorist explosions, which occurred throughout the country in August 17; 2005.

1. Call upon the Government of Bangladesh to allow and authorize independent, comprehensive and transparent investigation by international intelligence agencies, in order to
(i) to bring to justice the perpetrators and planners of violence in Bangladesh including the attack on Anwar Chowdhury, the British High Commissioner; Shah AMS Kibria MP, the former finance minister; and Ahsanullah Master MP

(ii) to halt immediately extrajudicial killings and custodial tortures

(iii) to bring to justice those responsible for attempting to assassinate Leader of the Opposition HE Sheikh Hasina by throwing grenades at the anti-terrorism rally being addressed by her on 21st August 2004, in which 24 people were killed and hundreds maimed.

(iv) to institute an urgent impartial enquiry into the August 17 bombings and take effective action against the perpetrators.

2. Call on the Government of Bangladesh to establish an Inspectorate of Madrassas and to close down those which are being used to incite the commission of criminal offences and communal hatred.

3. Urge the Government of Bangladesh to ensure the independence of the Judiciary, and to prevent and reverse party politicisation of the police, administration, the judiciary and other important institutions;

2. Call upon the government of Bangladesh to repeal the anti minority and racist laws such as the vested property legislation;

3. Demand the implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord of 1997 and an end to the demographic transformation of the CHT under military occupation.

4. Remind the government of Bangladesh that in accordance with the constitutional rights of the people, Ahmadiyyas as well as all other communities and minorities have equal rights in all respect

5. Call upon the Government of Bangladesh to establish a permanent and independent commission for the promotion of ethnic, gender and religious equality.