Rejoinder to the Report published on 17th January 2014 implicating Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami for the attacks on Hindu Communities

"On 17 January, 2014, a report was published in the Star Weekend Magazine under the title "Communal Terror continues" implicating members of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami in the recent attacks on the Hindu communities in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami denies that it was involved in any attacks on the minority communities as alleged in the report dated 17th January 2014, published in your Magazine. The report makes omnibus allegations of Jamaat's involvement in the attacks on minorities. It fails to refer to any victim's account of the atrocities implicating any member of Jamaat in the attacks. Nor does the report identify a single perpetrator of the attacks who is a member of or in any manner associated with Jamaat. As such, it is clear that there is no credible factual basis for making the allegations of Jamaat's involvement in the attack against the minority population.

It is also pointed out that the report dated 17th January 2014, is in fact a translation of several news reports earlier published in the Daily Prothom Alo and the Daily Samakal. However, the portions of the said Bengali reports implicating members of the Awami League in the attacks on the minority communities have been carefully omitted from your report dated 17th January 2014, which is indicative of a mala fide design on your part of maligning Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has in the past strongly condemned and continues to condemn all acts of violence against Bangladesh's minority religious communities. On 9th January 2014, Bangladesh Jamaat demanded an inquiry under UN supervision of all such attacks in order to identify and punish the perpetrators of such offences. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami reiterates its earlier position that if any of its members or supporters are found to be involved in any attack against minority communities, not only will it institute appropriate disciplinary measures against them but will also fully cooperate with the government authorities in apprehending and punishing the offenders."

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Our Reply



The statement that the report "fails to refer to any victim's account of the atrocities implicating any member of Jamaat in the attacks" is false. Please refer to page 13 column 1: "Victims of three villages believe the attack was not an 'outburst of emotion for Bakkar' of Jamaat, rather it was an orchestrated operation. On page 13 (column 2) it says: "A resident of Nondirhat, Abu Salam also alleges that Jamaat and Shibir leaders instigated the violence..." Please also refer to page 14, column1: "The Star has obtained earlier copies of Drishtipath...which show that the newspaper had spread similar propaganda in the past to incite violence against religious minorities living in the area."

The notion that the January 17 cover story is a "translation of several newspaper reports earlier published in the Daily Prothom Alo and the Daily Samakal" is completely false. All information was gathered by the writer himself, through his own investigation at different points in time, interviewing various sources etc. Some of the other information has been taken from reports in The Daily Star. The question of translating the aforementioned reports and omitting certain parts therefore, does not arise.

For your information, the cover story also mentions quite clearly that "there are allegations against Awami League leaders of playing significant roles in the vandalism and attacks..." This information was gathered after interviewing victims, local people and corroborated by news reports in the main section of *The Daily Star*.

A thorough reading of the cover story would make it clear that that the accusations in the rejoinder are false and unfounded.