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PRESS RELEASE

Appeal for Security and Justice for BLAST Colleague in Cox's Bazar

We are deeply shocked by the recent allegations of sexual abuse against our female colleague at a BGB checkpost in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar district on 8th October 2020.

We have taken measures to ensure our colleague's safety and security. Being an organization established for ensuring access to justice for all, we will take all steps necessary to seek an investigation into these allegations, and accountability of those found responsible.

We are particularly disturbed to learn of reports that various parties have named the person concerned.

We call for all parties to respect the Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain 2000 (the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000) which prohibits any disclosure of the identity of women and children in cases concerning allegations of sexual violence.

We believe that it is of utmost importance that all including state institutions and agencies respect the Government of Bangladesh's commitments and initiatives at the highest level to end violence against women, and the constitutionally guaranteed rights of all to live free from violence.

We are concerned that inaccuracies in reporting and speculation may hamper due process and respectfully call for diligence by all parties involved when reporting.

Where allegations of sexual abuse are raised, it is imperative that these be fully and promptly investigated and that all protection be provided to the complainant.

As allies in the fight towards ending violence against women in Bangladesh, we expect the full cooperation of all including concerned state institutions and agencies.

Threats and harassment of our colleagues are not acceptable. We call on all parties involved to ensure this does not continue.

We are carefully monitoring the measures being taken to investigate the incident and to ensure our colleague's safety and that our staff are able to continue their work without any threat or intimidation.

For further information please contact:

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