Threats and Extremist /Attackson Hezbut Tawheed

Escalate

After the Fall of the Bangladesh Awami League Government on August 5, 2024





Hezbut Tawheed: Facing Extremist Attacks Amid Political Turmoil

In the wake of Bangladesh's recent political unrest, following the fall of the Awami League government, Hezbut non-political religious Tawheed—a movement—has become reformist a target of extremist violence. The collapse of the government, replaced by a military-backed interim administration, has thrown the country into chaos, with extremist groups exploiting the situation to attack Hezbut Tawheed's members and properties.

Hezbut Tawheed's Mission

Founded in 1995 bv Mohammad Bayazeed Khan Panni, Hezbut Tawheed seeks to promote a peaceful and rational interpretation of Islam. The movement stands against religious extremism, intolerance, and the exploitation of religion for personal gain. Hezbut Tawheed advocates interfaith harmony, gender equality, and human rights, a progressive positioning itself as Islamic reformist group dedicated to social welfare.

The movement strictly adheres to five core principles:

- 1. No political involvement.
- 2. No engagement in illegal activities.

3. Members earn legally and fund the movement.

4. No external financial aid.

5. Transparency in all activities.

Over the last 30 years, Hezbut Tawheed has worked peacefully within Bangladesh, organizing over 200,000 public meetings, seminars, and rallies to raise awareness about extremism.

Growing Extremist Opposition

From the outset, Hezbut Tawheed's reformist stance has drawn hostility from radical factions, who oppose its efforts to promote interfaith unity and gender equality. The movement's denunciation of using religion for personal gain and its emphasis on women's rights have made it a prime target for extremists.

Hezbut Tawheed has consistently emphasized that Islam supports gender equality and rejects the forced imposition of ideologies. The movement also advocates cultural freedom and rejects the idea that Arab customs must be adopted to practice Islam. These views directly challenge extremist groups, which exploit religion to gain power and incite violence.

Violent Attacks on Hezbut Tawheed

Since the political upheaval of August 2024, extremist attacks on Hezbut Tawheed have surged. The unrest in Bangladesh has created an environment where these groups can act with impunity, orchestrating mob violence against the movement. Homes, offices, and shops owned by Hezbut Tawheed members have been looted and set on fire, with extremists inciting mobs through social media.

One particularly violent incident occurred on August 20, when extremists attempted to burn down the house of the general secretary of Hezbut Tawheed's Lakshmipur district branch, locking the family inside. Fortunately, the family managed to escape, but the attack highlighted the severe threats facing the movement.

Similar attacks have been carried out against Hezbut Tawheed's offices across multiple districts, including Sherpur, Pabna, and Kushtia. Extremist groups have targeted these locations, vandalizing and destroying properties while inciting hatred and violence against the movement.

The Movement's Resilience

Despite these repeated assaults, Hezbut Tawheed remains committed to its peaceful principles. The movement has consistently sought legal action rather than retaliating with violence. Its leader, Hossain Mohammad Salim, has continued to promote socio-economic development in his village despite the ongoing threats. Projects such as cattle farms, schools, and medical clinics have provided employment and welfare for local communities, benefiting thousands of people.

However, extremist groups continue to perceive Hezbut Tawheed's activities as a threat to their influence. Using social media, they have rallied their followers to organize attacks, threatening violence if the movement is not expelled from certain areas. Recently, they held rallies near the home of Hossain Mohammad Salim, openly inciting attacks and issuing ultimatums to the local population.

Hezbut Tawheed's Appeal for Justice

While Hezbut Tawheed has faced over a thousand attacks in the past 30 years, the

current wave of violence is particularly concerning. Extremist groups are using the political instability to further their agenda of religious extremism and intolerance. The movement has repeatedly called on authorities to bring those responsible for the attacks to justice and ensure the safety of its members.

Hezbut Tawheed's demands are simple:

1. Prosecute those inciting violence and making threats.

2. Hold accountable those using social media to spread extremist rhetoric.

3. Investigate recent attacks and bring perpetrators to justice.

The movement stresses that it has no political ambitions and only seeks to practice and promote a peaceful interpretation of Islam. Despite facing significant threats, Hezbut Tawheed remains steadfast in its commitment to counter extremism through education, dialogue, and reform.

Conclusion

Hezbut Tawheed's non-violent resistance to extremism stands as a beacon of hope in a country grappling with political chaos. While extremist groups continue to target the movement, Hezbut Tawheed's resolve to uphold the true teachings of Islam, promote peace, and fight religious intolerance remains unshaken. The movement calls for justice and protection, urging the government to take decisive action against those who seek to incite violence and suppress peaceful reform.



The houses in Bipulashar Village, near the Imam's residence, where 50 families of Hezbut Tawheed lived as tenants, were set on fire and the families were evicted. Property worth 2 crores was looted and destroyed.

05 August 2024, Joypurhat





Joypurhat district office vandalized.



05 August 2024, Pabna



Hezbut Tawheed members' shops and houses were vandalized in Pabna.





05 August 2024, Sunamganj



Sunamganj district office was vandalized and signboards, banners were torn down.



09 August 2024, Noakhali



On the night of August 9, in Saharpur village, Sonaimuri, Noakhali, miscreants set fire to eight haystacks collected from 30 acres of land. These haystacks were intended for a cattle farm located 100 meters away.







In Bipulashar, around the house of the Hezbut Tawheed Imam, there are 50 families living nearby. During the attack, the houses ware completely looted and vandalism is carried out.





The homes of the members of "Hezbut Tawheed" were attacked, set on fire, and everything inside was completely destroyed by the flames.









The attackers broke the windows of the house and looted valuables from inside. They also smashed the shop's shutters and destroyed the furniture.





20 August 2024, Lakshmipur



They set the house on fire in the middle of the night, trying to kill the whole family.







At the Sonaimuri Crossroads, they incited the crowd with provocative speeches.









The frenzy was broadcasted live on Facebook.





They threatened that if we complain to the police station, they will surround the police station





At the illegal gathering, the radical mullahs issued an ultimatum to kill the Imam of Hezbut Tawheed and evict the movement's members from the area.







Mufti Rizwan Rafique is a mastermind behind inciting the frenzy and mobilizing the mob.



Four days after the incident, on September 11, extremist speakers threatened to wipe out Hezbut Tawheed and kill its imam in Maijdee, Noakhali.



10 September 2024, Press Conference



Hezbut Tawheed held a press conference at the Bangladesh Crime Reporters Unity to demand legal action against those who attacked Hezbut Tawheed, issued threats, and made provocative statements both online and at illegal gatherings.



Media Coverage of the Press Conference



THREATS AND EXTREMIST ATTACKS ON HEZBUT TAWHEED





21 September 2024, IDEB, Dhaka





On September 21, 2024, Hezbut Tawheed organized a protest at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) in Dhaka to address threats from extremist clerics. The Honorable Imam of Hezbut Tawheed, Mr. Hossain Mohammad Salim, was the Chief Guest and called upon the Government of Bangladesh and the international community to take notice of the situation.



Incitement to Attack Hezbut Tawheed on Social Media



THREATS AND EXTREMIST ATTACKS ON HEZBUT TAWHEED



THREATS AND EXTREMIST ATTACKS ON HEZBUT TAWHEED





মেসেজ দিন সকল প্রকার সহযোগিতা করা হবে ইনশাল্লাহ।

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সম্মানিত ওলামায়ে কেরাম, আপনারা বাতিল ফিরকাগুলোর বিরুদ্ধে এতবছর ধরে মাহফিল, মাশওয়ারা, মুযাকারা করাসহ মানুষকে সচেতন করতে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করেছিলেন।

কিন্তু অবৈধ প্রশাসনের ছত্রছায়ায় ওরা ছিল অদম্য। সরকারের সহায়তায় ওরা মানুষের ঈমান কেড়ে নিতো। তাদেরকে প্রতিহত করার মোক্ষম সুযোগ এখন। হিযবুত তাওহীদ, কাদিয়ানী, মাইজভান্ডারি, দেওয়ানবাগী, কোয়ান্টাম মেথডসহ বিভিন্ন বাতিল ফিরকার বিরুদ্ধে জনমত সৃষ্টি করে, এলাকার মানুষজনকে নিয়ে তাদের ঘাঁটিসহ উৎখাত করুন।

যেখানে তারা নড়বড়ে অবস্থায় আছে সেখানে কালক্ষেপণ না করে ওদেরকে এইসব জায়গা ছেড়ে যাওয়ার আল্টিমেটাম দিন। অন্যথায় এলাকাবাসী, স্থানীয় লোকজন, ওলামায়ে কেরামদেরকে সাথে নিয়ে তাদের বিরুদ্ধে অবস্থান নিন। এখন চাইলে পাল্টা দাওয়াত, ভয়ভীতি দেখানো, কিংবা তাদের ভ্রান্তিগুলো প্রকাশ্যে খণ্ডনের সুযোগ আছে।

এই সুযোগ কাজে লাগানোর ফিকির করুন ইনশাআল্লাহ।



Md Shahadat Hossain • Follow

সোনাইমুড়ী উপজেলা "৩ নং চাষীর হাট ইউনিয়ন" পোরকরা গ্রামে "হিজবৃত তওহিদ" একটি বিকৃত নামধারী ইসলামী সংগঠন। যার এমাম মোঃ সেলিম ঐই গ্রামের। সে ও তার পরিবার আওয়ামীলীগের ছত্রছায়ায় বীগত ১৫ বছর আমাদের আশেপাশে সব গ্রামের মানুষদের অত্যাচার করে গেছেন। তাদের সাথে বেশ কয়েকবার গ্রামবাসীর সংঘর্ষ হয়, আমি নিজেও উপস্থিত ছিলাম, তাদেরকে গ্রাম থেকে বের করে দেওয়া হয় কিন্তু তারা সোনাইমুড়ী আওয়ামীলীগের নেতাদের আশ্রয়ে ফিরে এসে এলাকায় ত্রাস সষ্টি করেন। তারা একটা বাহিনী তৈরি করেছে। তাদের মামলায় আমাদের ইউনিয়ননের হাজার হাজার মানুষ আসামী, বছরের পর বছর গ্রামের মানুষ বাড়িতে থাকতে পারেনি। তাদের অত্যাচার আমি নিজে সয়ং দেখেছি। নোয়াখালী সোনাইমুডী জনগণের কাছে বিনীত অনুরোধ করছি তাদেরকে উচ্ছেদ করেন 🙏 , তারা আমাদের ধর্মের শক্র, সমাজের শক্র। আমাদের সমাজের মানুষের ঈমান নষ্ট করে দিচ্ছে। তাদেরকে আইনীভাবে অথবা অন্য যেকোনভাবে পারেন উচ্ছেদ করুন। সবাই ঐক্যমত গঠন করুন, এগিয়ে আসুন। তাদের হাত থেকে আমাদের সমাজকে বাঁচান।

আপনারা বেশি বেশি শেয়ার করুন, এটা নিয়ে কথা বলুন, ব্যবস্থা গ্রহন করুন, আমরা স্বাধীন নাগরিক, আমাদের আর ভয় নেই,,,,, - with Jamil Hassan and **19 others**.





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তার কোন ক্ষমা নেই



Diaul Haque and 37 others
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THREATS AND EXTREMIST ATTACKS ON HEZBUT TAWHEED



THREATS AND EXTREMIST ATTACKS ON HEZBUT TAWHEED



2016 MASSACRE



Extremist mullahs demolished Imam Hossain Mohammad Salim's house and mosque in Sonaimuri, Noakhali. They falsely claimed that Hezbut Tawheed members were Christians and that their mosque was a church. Armed with sharp weapons, they slaughtered two members and burned their bodies in front of the police.

