



KAJSA OLLONGREN  
EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**Brussels, 16 December 2025**

Dear Paulo Casaca,

I am replying on behalf of the President of the European Council, Mr António Costa, to your letter concerning the case of Bangladeshi human rights defender Mr Shahriar Kabir and your request for further European Union action following the recent Opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Allow me to acknowledge that you have raised this issue with the European Union on previous occasions, including your message of late 2025 to High Representative Kaja Kallas, to which the European External Action Service replied on 2 December 2025. We appreciate your continued engagement on this matter.

As reflected in earlier correspondence, the European Union is well aware of Mr Kabir's case, and we continue to follow it closely. We have also taken note of the recent Opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and such assessments are taken into account in shaping our broader human rights engagement with third countries, including Bangladesh.

Through the work of the EU Delegation in Dhaka and our regular contacts with the authorities, the EU continues to underline the importance of full respect for the rule of law, due process, fair-trial guarantees, and respect for fundamental rights—issues we raise during bilateral engagements at the highest levels with Bangladeshi authorities, as well as during the EU–Bangladesh Human Rights and Good Governance Sub-group and the Joint Commission meetings. As part of this ongoing dialogue, the EU also raises individual cases where appropriate and in line with established practice.

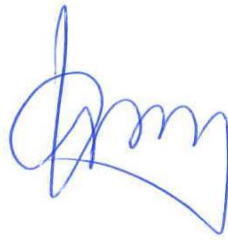
Looking ahead, in our bilateral relations and future contacts with Bangladesh, we will continue promoting a rights-respecting legal and judicial environment and supporting the protection of

human rights defenders. The information you have provided regarding Mr Kabir will inform this broader engagement.

Thank you once again for bringing this matter to our attention.

**Yours sincerely,**

**KAJSA OLLONGREN,  
EU Special Representative for Human Rights**



**Mr Paulo Casaca, Director  
South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF)**