







BBAC VISITS RACIST VIOLENCE EFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN BANGLADESH

Reported by Avijit Barua

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The September 2012 shameless racist attacks on Bangladeshi Buddhist temple in Ramu, Ukhiya, Teknaf and Patiya caused a huge uproar all over the world. The swift and stern response from countries all over the world against the barbarous attack and forever lost damages were unprecedented, to say the least. Bangladesh never experienced such united reaction from these many countries for one issue in remote part of Bangladesh. This goes to show how burning of Buddhist temple incident has touched the very nerve of these nations (including Germany, Srilanka, Thailand etc). Various non-Bangladeshi Buddhist communities, Bangladeshi Buddhist community and organizations living abroad played a key role in conjuring up the awareness of the heinous act. Also significant to say these communities and governments did not just merely protests but also extended their helping hand towards the effected community. I am enormously proud to be a part of such organization named Bangladeshi Buddhist Association of Canada (BBAC). "The timely measure in response to this incident by BBAC is recognized and hugely appreciated in effected communities," said Satyapriya Mohathero (Chief Monk of Shima Bihar, one of the effected temple in Ramu).

On behalf of BBAC , I have recently visited the effected community in Ramu, Ukhiya and Patya in Bangladesh to extend organization's solidarity and goodwill gesture towards effected temple and communities. I have toured and distributed contribution in Ten Buddhist temples and three effected communities at Ramu, Ukiya and Patiya. The atrocity was far beyond explainable and tolerable. The pictures I have seen in various media before visitation of the effected area, in my opinion, said very little. There were more to the violence. The horrendous racist attack was pre-planned and had specific connotation of destroying Buddhist establishment. By talking to local public I got the sense that more than extremist goons and Myanmar refugee were involved in these ferocious attack (list including local political parties and absence minded administration). Bangladeshi Government is now rebuilding all the effected Temples. However, what is lost is gone forever. I will discuss more about the visitation at Mr. Asokankur Barua's house after the Dana ceremony tomorrow.

I would like to convey my deepest gratitude and duly respect to the BBAC steering committee and members for taking such meritorious and proactive stands on this issue. Also, I am very humble for getting the opportunity to represent BBAC in Bangladesh. Concurrently, Monks, Bangladeshi Buddhist leaders and people (including effected and non- effected community) asked me to say, "THANK YOU for the gesture and solidarity." I have only heard blessings, from Bangladeshi people, for all the member of BBAC, from the bottom of their heart . I would like end my e-mail with word that I have heard over and over again. "BAANL OLE NOH BUJHE ITTARA KI GOIRJEY. TOARAREY DEKHI ITARA EKHON DUIBER CHINTA GORIBO. "