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## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The recent events that occurred in Mumbai, India on November 26, 2008, were an outrage that shocked the entire world. People across national and political demarcations, outside of government and its official agencies, have uniformly expressed their sorrow and their anger over this appalling episode that represents an affront to the very idea of a peaceful, tolerant, and prosperous community.

It is therefore particularly surprising to note that there has hardly been any response from civil society in Bangladesh regarding this event. There has been no statement, public demonstration, or protest condemning what happened in Mumbai and unequivocally declaring Bangladeshi peoples opposition to and vigilance against extremist thinking and terrorist violence in any form, anywhere, including in their midst. This lacuna is particularly distressing to observe in light of the fact that even in the country suspected by many to be the home of the perpetrators of the Mumbai carnage, Pakistan, there have been vociferous protests and public processions from social groups vigorously reproving the deed and its authors.

We hope that members of Bangladeshi civil society will also recognize the importance of taking an explicit stand on this issue and make clear in as public and visible a manner as possible that Bangladesh is a humane, tolerant, and progressive nation and will never accommodate extremist thinking and irrational violence as a solution to any issue or cause. There is an occasion at this auspicious moment in the country's history, when it is embarking on a healthy new political life, to affirm what the values of its peoples are, and taking a determined stand against the kind of political and criminal behavior perpetrated in Mumbai.

The above statement has also been endorsed by the following organizations:

- *Taranga of California*
- *Taranga of Boston*
- *Porichoy of New Haven*
- *Friends of Bangladesh*
- *Bangladesh Association of Greater Hartford*