

Press statement - Joint statement of 20 organizations

For the release of Ruan Laila Sonali - a woman leader in Bangladesh

Tuesday 31 December 2024, by [20 organizations](#) (Date first published: 31 December 2024).

Strong protest and condemnation of the arrest of Runa Laila Sonali, Vice President of the Central Committee of Bangladesh Kishani Sabha and Barisal district branch, in a false, fabricated, baseless and conspiratorial case

Today, 28 December 2024, Bangladesh Krishak Federation President Comrade Badrul Alam and General Secretary Zayed Iqbal Khan, Bangladesh Kishani Sabha President Dr. Samsunnahar Khan Doli and General Secretary Sabina Yasmin, Bangladesh Adivasi Samity President omoli Kisku and General Secretary Swapan Ekka, Bangladesh Bhasman Nari Sramik Union President Hosne Ara Begum and General Secretary Jahanara Begum, Ganachaya Cultural Center President Motahar Hossain, Bangladesh Sramik Federation President Kudrati-e-Khoda Toton and General Secretary AAM Fayez Hossain, Bangladesh National Sramik Federation President Shamim Ara and General Secretary Mojibur Rahman, President of Bangladesh Bhumihin Samiti Mahbub Hossain Badal and Vice President Dr. Shamsul Alam, President of Readymade Garments Workers Federation Lovely Yasmin, General Secretary of National Labor Federation Maryam Akhter Shiuli, General Secretary of Sammilit Sramik Federation Nahid Hasan Nayon, President of Motherland Garments Sramik Federation Saleha Islam Shantana and General Secretary Al-Amin, President of Sramjibi Andolon and Labor Leader Harun Or Rashid, Acting General Secretary of Bangladesh Chashi Samiti Sultan Ahmed Biswas, President of Integrated Garments Sramik Federation Rafiqul Islam Pathik and General Secretary Dolly Akhter, Convener of Bhumihin Constituent Assembly Kamruzzaman Firoz, General Secretary of Sara Banglar Krishak Samity Shibli Anwar, President of Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation Rafiqul Islam Sujon, Jago Bangladesh Garments Sramik Federation President Baharane Sultan Bahar, President of Bachte Sikho Naari Firoza Begum, in a joint statement in the newspaper, strongly condemned and protested the arrest of Bangladesh Kishani Sabha Vice President and Barisal District Unit President Runa Laila in a false case in the early hours of 28 December 24.



Runa Laila Sonali

The leaders said in the statement that a local group of vested interests has deliberately chosen to harass Runa Laila by involving her in a false case to fulfill their personal interests. In the statement, the leaders also said that the allegations against her are false, fabricated, baseless and conspiratorial. She has never created obstacles to the student movement against quotas and discrimination. Rather, she has supported and assisted the anti-discrimination student movement in the district, in line with the center's position in favor of the student movement.

In another statement, the leaders strongly demanded the withdrawal of the false, baseless, fabricated and conspiratorial cases filed against Runa Laila Sonali and unconditional release to the current interim government.

It is worth noting that Runa Laila Sonali joined the organization in 1991 after the birth of Bangladesh Kishani Sabha. As she worked for the organization with utmost honesty and dedication, she was elected as the President of the Barisal district branch of Kishani Sabha in the Barisal district conference in 1996. Later, she was elected as the central vice-president in the central conference of Bangladesh Kishani Sabha. In the past years, she has been closely involved in local social work along with the work of the organization. As a result, she got the opportunity to serve the people by being elected as a member of the local union council for three times. She also has a good reputation for her public service in the area. She is currently a member of the union council under the local government.

In such a situation, the new reality that has emerged in the country due to the change in the political landscape through the student uprising on August 5 has further increased her responsibility. After the uprising, the chairman of the union council fled the area being an ally of the fallen dictator and fascist government. According to the rules of the council, after going through various stages, Runa Laila was made the panel Chairman for the Union Council. Angered by this, some selfish groups in the area filed false cases to remove Runa Laila from the post of chairman. They tried to make her act against the student movement that had led the uprising. In fact, she was in favor of the student movement and helped them in every way.
