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**REMARKS  
BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA  
RAPID ACTION BATTALION INTERNAL ENQUIRIES CELL  
TRAINING PROGRAM  
CERTIFICATE GIVING**

**RAB HEADQUARTERS, KURMITOLA, DHAKA  
MAY 22, 2014**

Director General Rahman  
Assistant Director General Ahmed  
Assistant Director General Ahsan

... and you ... you, the graduates of this intensive training course ... you, whose task it now becomes to help the Rapid Action Battalion hold its own members accountable for their actions and conduct ... that is your responsibility ... and it is a critical mission.

Asalaam Alaikum! Good afternoon!

As every Bangladeshi knows, recent events have cast a dark shadow over the Rapid Action Battalion.

All are aware of allegations against members of RAB for committing abuses and misconduct.

But government support for this intensive, eight week-long training course to strengthen the effectiveness of the RAB Internal Enquiries Cell makes clear that the senior leadership of the government is endeavoring to hold accountable members of the Rapid Action Battalion.

I believe that such accountability is now more important than ever in light of recent alleged incidents of abuse of power.

I believe that it is now more important than ever that the Internal Enquiry Cell plays its critical role both in launching investigations of RAB conduct on its own initiative and in responding to complaints from the public of reported abuses and excesses by members of RAB.

Nobody has a greater interest in holding accountable those who commit abuses in the name of RAB than those members of RAB itself who work with integrity and honesty, for it is the bad apples that tarnish the reputation of the entire force and all of those who serve honorably.

Now, the burden shifts to you. You should take the lead in conducting thorough, timely and credible investigations of alleged abuses by members of RAB. You should carry out these investigations fearlessly and share the conclusions in a transparent manner that builds greater public confidence and trust in the organization.

More broadly, I continue to urge the government to conduct thorough, timely and credible investigations of all alleged human rights violations and abuses...and to report findings in a transparent manner. This is how law enforcement agencies around the world, including those in my own country, deal with those elements that abuse their power.

Today, by training and now graduating this class of 23 individuals to staff the RAB Internal Enquiries Cell, the government and leaders of RAB have taken a big step in holding RAB members accountable for conducting themselves lawfully, while protecting the rights of the victims and the accused, and fulfilling their promise to serve and protect the citizens of this country. I am pleased that America has helped you develop the skills you will need to hold accountable those members of RAB who abuse their authority.

The structures and procedures of the Internal Enquiries Cell offer promise for a better and more effective RAB, one of professionalism at the highest standard, one in which all Bangladeshi citizens can take great pride. But structures and procedures themselves are not sufficient to effect change. Implementation of the Cell's mandate is the key to a RAB that is fully responsive to the rights and dignity of the nation's citizens.

This is where you, today's graduates, come in. This is your opportunity to manifest deep courage as you undertake the difficult task of implementing the Internal Enquiry Cell's mandate to hold all RAB members to the highest standards.

The government and leaders of RAB have given their support to your training to manage effectively the Internal Enquiries Cell. I trust this support will continue undiminished as you undertake your service to the nation.

I truly believe that today could prove to be a great day for the Rapid Action Battalion as you undertake to help RAB write a new chapter in its history.

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*\*As prepared for delivery*