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BGD43063.E

16 November 2004

Bangladesh: Membership documents of the Awami League and its student factions (2004)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

According to information provided in 16 November 2004 correspondence to the Research Directorate from the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh, documents allegedly issued by the Awami League can be verified by the Canadian mission, although the mission was "not familiar with any membership cards issued by the Awami League Student faction." During a meeting in October 2004 between officials of the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka and the president and secretary of the Awami League, Canadian officials obtained a copy of the letterhead issued by the Awami League Central Office in Dhaka, along with the letterhead of its student faction, which have been scanned and attached to this Response (High Commission of Canada, Dhaka 16 Nov. 2004). The letterhead used by the central office, however, is not the League's official national letterhead (ibid.). The Canadian mission noted that

[t]here is an Official National Letterhead used by the Awami League central office that only designated persons are allowed to use. These letter pads are kept locked up in the Awami League Central Office, however we have seen this letterhead used in Canada containing non-authentic information. There are also dozens of other letterheads used by the many smaller district offices throughout the country. To complicate things further individual offices often have two or three different letterheads. These letterheads differ greatly from one another which makes it difficult to judge the authenticity based on the document itself (ibid.).

Additional information on membership documents of the Awami League and its student factions could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

Reference

High Commission of Canada, Dhaka. 16 November 2004. Correspondence from the Second Secretary of Immigration.

Additional Sources Consulted

The Bangladesh Observer did not respond to a letter requesting contact information for the Awami League.

Dialog.

The Independent did not respond to a letter requesting contact information for the Awami League.

The South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre, in New Delhi, India, did not respond to a letter requesting information.

Unsuccessful attempts to contact the Awami League.

Unsuccessful attempts to contact the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh, Dhaka.

Unsuccessful repeated attempts to contact the Bangladesh telephone directory with Bell Canada assistance.

Internet sites, including: Awami League, World News Connection (WNC).

Attachments

Awami League. n.d. "Bangladesh Awami League." (Letterhead)

_____. n.d. "Bangladesh Students' League." (Letterhead)

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