

Letter to the Editor

An elegy for Dr Sajia - Don't we need more than a gentle societal push to end violence against women?

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BMA leaders protesting against murder of Dr Sajia



Human chain by general doctors for the protest against murder of Dr Sajia

To the editor

While men and women around the globe were preparing to gather in billions – the so called “Billion Rise” to be held on 14th Feb '2013 at different places of the world and shake the earth with a view to end violence against women, Dr Sajia Parveen Eva – a young promising physician of Bangladesh was brutally murdered in the cool and melancholy night of November 30, 2012 at the periphery of capital city Dhaka.

Having graduation from Sylhet Osmani Medical College and FCPS part-I in Gynae and Obs, she was preparing herself further through intense training in Shahid Sohrawardi Medical College bearing a dream to alleviate misery of thousands of deprived women of this poor country. Her innocent yet self-esteemed mind could not have thought for a while that a part time job at Dokhinkhan BRAC Clinic, Dhaka would destroy her dream nip in the bud by a man who was appointed by BRAC for the security of that centre!

Younger sister Nadia could not believe that her beloved elder one was no more. Vacant stare of Ex-policeman father would wait for rest of the life for his child to return home next morning. Friends could not believe that their polite and introvert friend would be harmed by anyone. We, the doctor community express our hatred to this horrific act but it seems

that Government, law enforcement agencies and civil society are viewing this heinous act as an outlier freak occurrence or random act of evil that, on occasion, captures the headlines.

Chairman and founder of BRAC was honored with Knighthood from the Queen of England due to the services provided by BRAC to the poor, underprivileged and tortured women of Bangladesh but we do not understand, how on earth, a lady doctor who was serving these poorer women through BRAC could be killed in their own arena.

Well dressed men and women of BRAC Gender Justice and Diversity Program (GJDP) are often seen in the media talking aloud on gender issues but no so called ‘women leader’ was seen to protest strongly after the murder of Dr. Sajia.

Ten Lac taka and a job for her sister offered by BRAC were mere a joke to the family who lost their dearest one, to the friends who lost their nearest one, to the patients who lost their trusted one and to the nation that invested on her for becoming a brilliant, skilled and dedicated professional who could have served these poor women and children for the rest of her life.

We want to see more than a gentle societal push, a sustained community effort and zero tolerance by the law enforcement agencies to eradicate violence against women.

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