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March 21, 2012

The Hon. Md Abdul Hamid, Advocate, MP  
Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament,  
Parliament House  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar,  
Dhaka 1207, BANGLADESH

Dear Honorable Speaker Abdul Hamid

I am requesting your attention regarding the housing tragedy caused by the City of Berkeley to Dr. Rash B. Ghosh, the founder of International Institute of Bengal and Himalayan Basins (IIBHB). Your generous consideration of this matter will help to restore justice by ensuring that the city shows proper respect for Dr. Ghosh's property and minority rights. Suddenly and without prior notification the city illegally closed and seized the IIBHB nonprofit and temple activity center located on the commercially desirable property on the corner of 1700 Dwight Way and 2507 and 2509 McGee Ave in Berkeley. I am appealing to you because there is an urgent need to restore justice and help us to save the institute and prevent the sale of the property by the city and its receiver. Dr. Ghosh has been paying mortgages, tax and insurance along with other cost and expenses since the property was closed 54 months ago. Dr. Ghosh has been singled out, the City of Berkeley has been continuously harassing him for two decades, and now the city is moving against his current residence at 1248 Ashby Ave, Berkeley.

As you are aware that Dr. Ghosh is a long time associate of the late founding father of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sk Majibur Rahman as well as the current president, Zillur Rahman, (Founding father of the Nation). For many years, he has been committed to addressing the Global water Crisis, and I and a number of other Nobel Laureates (in Physics and Chemistry) have been assisting and promoting his mission (IIBHB.ORG). Dr. Ghosh's house and the nonprofit IIBHB center and Hindu (monotheist) temple were closed by the City of Berkeley over four years ago. Meanwhile, the IIBHB's co-founder, National Professor Kabir Choudhury and the governments of Bangladesh and India have requested the City of Berkeley to honor their approval of remodeling projects in 1992 (Dwight Way) and 1997 (McGee) as well consider his advance age and financial hardship. I also wrote many letters to US officials, including Attorney

General Eric Holder and USHUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. The US Small Business Ombudsman also requested the city of Berkeley expressing his concern about sudden closure of the properties but the City ignored these requests.

I have taken this matter to all levels (see enclosed letters) and the city finally admitted in Public (The Daily Planet, December 23, 2009) that their "line-level" staff did in fact approve Dr. Ghosh's projects in 1997 (McGee) and 1992 (Dwight Way), but it was not approved by higher authority. But the same line level people routinely approve many other projects without causing any problem. One of these same line level people is now the city's building chief. Needless to say, this retroactive reassessment and revocation of so many prior approvals by so many qualified inspectors is highly unusual, and serial incompetence is the least likely explanation. Unfortunately the city dishonor Dr. Ghosh's doctors' request for reasonable accommodation for his unstable housing situation and denied all due process to Dr. Ghosh, to our non-profit institute, and to its tenants Recently the city and its receiver have collected more than two hundred thousand dollars from Dr. Ghosh (in early December 2011) with the understanding that they would undertake the repair work the city deems necessary, and allow him to return to his home and reopen the institute facility at 1700 Dwight Way and allow us to continue our good work. But this understanding has also been rescinded; the city is now, as many times before, moving the goal posts and demanding more money. In fact, it intends to sell the property for \$300,000, which is worth 1.5 million dollars. The property is located at a prime location, and is a proposed candidate for multistory condominiums to be developed by the prospective developers. This seems to have been the city's real agenda for so many years. I believe Dr. Ghosh has become a victim of massive injustice by the city because he has been exercising his civil rights so vigorously by fighting for so many years to save his properties and prevent the Government take over without paying. Dr. Ghosh is a man of very noble political and religious beliefs, and I very much admire his commitment to his monotheistic faith and his desire to bring people of all faiths under one roof, and his dedication to restore mutual respect for the human and civil rights of all people. Among many examples of his actions in these regards, I will provide you with two examples: 1) he is a number one signatory and petitioner against the Qu'ran burning in the USA two years ago, and 2) Dr. Ghosh won a discrimination law suit against the state of California which was sued by the US Government on his behalf, this became a Case law in the US Employment Law.

I have known Dr. Ghosh personally for many years. He is a man of great vision and courage, and I respect his honesty and integrity. I am also impressed with his achievements, his qualifications as a scientist, and his dedication to address the Global water crisis. In pursuit of the common good, he has foregone the use of his exceptional qualifications and political connections to obtain highly paid jobs or political appointments. Because of his exceptional understanding of hydrology and his devotion to humane goals and principles, I recently established a chair after my name for him and now raising funds to attach this at the University of California, Berkeley. The purpose of the chair is to serve the people of the Bengal and Himalayan Basins and the rest of the world and to support him in his fight to convince the US Government to mitigate the depletion of groundwater resources around the world through the construction of environment-friendly water infrastructure where needed in association with the governments of developing countries and their local scientists and engineers to improve water quality and reduce toxics in the drinking water resources.

These matters are very important to all of us, and particularly to the people of the Bengal and Himalayan Basins. We would be very grateful for your kind efforts not only to bring justice, but also to save and to protect the property rights of ordinary American citizens, including Dr Ghosh. I understand you offered your help and support about 4 years ago when Dr. Ghosh brought this matter to your attention during a personal meeting with you. I strongly feel that your help is vital at this point to bring this matter to the attention of the speaker of the house of representative of USA to reopen our institute and resolve this long over due housing problems or at lest requests to investigate this matter immediately

Respectfully requested

*Char. H. Townes*

Charles H Townes  
Nobel Laureate in Physics  
Advisor and co-founder of IIBHB

Cc: Rep. John Boehner  
Speaker Of The House Of Representatives  
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