

Topic: Focus Group Discussion on Updating Manual on Media and Human Rights

Project: Transparency for Human Rights in Bangladesh

Supported by: European Commission

Organized by: Relief International and Democracywatch

Date: July 1, 2010, Time: 10.30am- 2.30pm

Venue: 4-S restaurant, Gazipur

Assisted by: Shamajik Unnayan Sangstha (SUS)

For developing the media and human rights manual in a right way, three of Democracywatch representatives went to Gazipur for a focus group discussion with the local journalists at 4- S restaurant at Gazipur. A 10 number of district level journalists participated in that Focus Group discussion. They convey their heartiest thanks to European Commission, Relief International and Democracywatch for taking a necessary step to train up local level journalists on human rights and transparency. After the introducing session, Mr. K.Z. Naim, Executive Director of SUS delivered a welcome speech. After that Mr. Mostafa Sohel, Director of Democracywatch gave a brief speech on the aim and objective of the project. Then in the discussion session the journalists were asked which materials they thought should be included in the manual and they provided some recommendations which are as follow:

- Indigenous rights should be highlighted
- Promote non discrimination approach among the journalists
- Develop journalist recruitment policy
- Proper dealing with law enforcers agencies
- Need updated information on Human Rights
- Promoting gender aspect
- Need proper guideline to activate in house democracy of media house
- Activate press council act to prevent yellow journalism.

Mr. Mostafa Sohel ended and delivered the vote of thanks the participants of the focus group discussion.

List of participants:

SL	Name	Designation	Name of news paper
1	Ashraful Islam	District Correspondent	Daily Amader Orthoneti
2	Mr. Delwar Hossain	Reporter	Daily Inqilab
3	Md. Mojibur Rahman	District Correspondent	Daily Ittefaq
4	Sharif Ahameed Shameem	District Correspondent	Daily Kaler Kantha
5	Md. Nazimuddin Sarkar	Staff Reporter	Daily Gonomukh
6	Md. Nazrul Islam Badami	District Correspondent	The New Nation
7	Mr. Rahim Sarkar	District Correspondent	Daily Janata
8	Mr. Hasmad Ali	District Correspondent	Daily Bangladesh Shomoy
9	S.M. Habib	District Correspondent	Daily Ajker Janata
10	Mr. Faridul Islam	District Correspondent	Daily Manabkantha