**ARTICLES**

Torture under Police Remand in Bangladesh: A Culture of Impunity for Gross Violations of Human Rights – *M Rafiqul and S M Solaiman* 1

Institutional Violence against Women: The Saga of Women in Safe Custody – *Sumaiya Khair* 28

Sexual Harassment and Professional Women in Bangladesh – *Shahnaz Huda* 52

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Human Rights and the Deprived (*Kanta Rehman*) 70

International Human Rights and Islamic Law (*Mashood A. Baderin*) 75

**SELECTED HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTS**

1. Establishing a Regional Human Rights Mechanism for the Asia-Pacific Region 82

2. Eighth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions 88

3. Conclusions of the Twelfth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian-Pacific Region 94

Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Bichelamar 104

**ERRATUM**

An error appeared in Volume 4, Issue 1 of the Asia-pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law. One of the authors was identified in the Journal as Victor M. Ramraj, instead of Victor V. Ramraj. The Editorial team wishes to express its regrets for the inadvertent mistake.
TORTURE UNDER POLICE REMAND IN BANGLADESH: A CULTURE OF IMPUNITY FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

M Rafiqul and S M Solaiman

1. Introduction

In a recent caption “The Prisoner’s Tale” published in New York Time Magazine on 10 February 2003, a BBC Channel Four journalist recounts his personal experience of inhuman brutalities inflicted on him while in police custody in Bangladesh. His account also reveals that, of more than four thousand people arrested since October 2002, 44 have died in custody as a result of torture. Police remand in Bangladesh has become synonymous with violent torture, degrading treatment and inhuman punishment. There appears to be an unholy nexus between law enforcement agencies and empowering magistrates in dealing with cases of suspicious arrest without warrant, which has been causing custodial deaths and injuries to numerous innocent citizens.

A recent survey on the role of the police and the lower judiciary reveals that only less than two per cent of citizens are satisfied with the former, and eight per cent with the latter.¹ The police indiscriminately arrest innocent civilians merely on the basis of suspicion and without any warrant primarily for receiving bribes.² The arrestees who cannot afford to pay bribes for a quick release are being put in remand where they may be subjected to barbarous treatment resulting in death. It may also see them


* Respectively Associate Professor of Law, Macquarie University, Sydney, and Lecturer, Faculty of Business, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia.