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25 DU teachers urges trial of war criminals in special tribunal

Twenty-five pro-Pink Panel teachers of Dhaka University yesterday called for setting up of a special tribunal for the trial of 1971 war criminals, reports UNB.

In a statement, they also urged the government to take steps for withdrawal of the "so-called cases" filed against those involved in televising a documentary on BTV on May 31 last year.

Bangladesh Television had telecast the documentary, "Ghataher Arale" (Behind the scene), narrating the role of a section of people who were behind the killing of intellectuals, rape and repression on women, genocide, arson and looting during the liberation war.

"Being frightened by the process of unfolding the truth, this identified national traitors led by Golam Azam, have recently filed a defamation case of Tk 17 crore with a First Class Magistrate Court in Dhaka against those involved in presentation of the programme," they said.

"These *rajakars* and *al-badars* could not dare to resort to such behaviour if they were tried for perpetrating barbaric acts against the Bangalees during the Liberation War," the statement said.

The signatories to the statement include Prof KM S'aad Uddin, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Prof Ahsanul Haq, Prof AFM Khodadad Khan, Prof M Abu Zafar, Prof Kazi Nurul Islam, Prof Hashem Khan, Prof Rawshan Ara, Prof A K Monwar Uddin Ahmed, Prof Zarina Rahman Khan, Prof Azizunnahar Islam and Prof Syed Manjurul Islam.