

## Tulip Siddiq to face corruption trial in Bangladesh



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Labour MP Tulip Siddiq is due to stand trial in Bangladesh on August 11 over corruption allegations linked to her family's political legacy. Siddiq, who resigned from her role as treasury minister in January, has denied any wrongdoing and described the charges as part of a politically motivated campaign.

The case centers around allegations that Siddiq used her influence to help secure land in

Purbachal, Dhaka, for her close relatives during the tenure of her aunt, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hasina was removed from office last year and is also among over 20 individuals named in the trial.

Siddiq has not responded to several court summons and may be tried in absentia. Her legal team insists she has not received any official notice and that she does not own any land in Bangladesh.

“For nearly a year, false claims have been made against Ms Siddiq,” said her lawyers in a statement. “There has been no contact from the court and no request for her to respond in person. This investigation appears more focused on political theatre than legal process.”

The Anti-Corruption Commission in Bangladesh also continues to probe a separate case involving Siddiq and her family, related to a Russian-backed nuclear energy deal in 2013. Siddiq has strongly denied any involvement.

Interim Bangladeshi leader Muhammad Yunus declined to meet Siddiq during a recent visit, saying the matter is for the courts to decide.

Back in the UK, a government standards adviser found no evidence of misconduct by Siddiq, but did warn she should have been more cautious about the potential risks tied to her family’s political connections.

Siddiq remains MP for Hampstead and Highgate, where she says she is focused on serving

her constituents.