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Human Rights Monitoring Report

1-30 November 2010

Extra-judicial killings continue;
Allegations of enforced disappearances following arrest by law enforcement agencies;
Political violence continues;
Border violence continues by the Indian BSF;
A man languishes in prison for 12 years despite his acquittal;
Attack on journalists;
Shrimp plant workers terminated for engaging in Trade Union activities;
Attacks on religious minority community;
Violence against women;
Dhaka City Corporation elections delayed;
Verdict on BDR mutiny trials at Bandorban and Lalmonirhat

Odhikar is concerned with civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and as part of its mission observes, reports and analyses the human rights situation in Bangladesh. Odhikar documents and records violations of human rights and receives information from its network of human rights defenders as well as from the monitoring of media reports in twelve national daily newspapers. Odhikar conducts detailed fact-finding investigations where serious violations occur.

In line with this campaign, an account of the human rights situation of Bangladesh covering the period of November 2010 is presented below.

Extra-judicial killings continue: Incidents of extra-judicial deaths proved in Home Ministry report

1. This month, the Ministry of Home Affairs gave its opinion on two cases of deaths by RAB-Police as being extra-judicial killings. The incidents are - the killing of Mohiuddin Arif on February 3, 2010 at Pallabi in Mirpur and Kaiser Mahmud Bappi on September 10, 2009 at Rampura both in Dhaka city. On the basis of allegations made by the victims' family two separate investigations had been carried out led by the Deputy Secretary responsible for the Law Section of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is mentioned in the investigative report that Arif had died in RAB custody due to torture while Bappi died not in crossfire but being directly shot by RAB, which was published in the media. The Investigation Committees have also made recommendations to punish the perpetrators following due process of law.¹
2. It must be noted here that on September 5, 2010, the current Director General of RAB Mokhlesur Rahman said, "RAB never supports extra-judicial killings. RAB is not involved with these incidents."² While on August 8, 2010 the former Director General of RAB, Hassan Mahmood Khandker, had commented to journalists that "There is nothing called 'extrajudicial killing'. If anything happens out of the purview of law that is called extrajudicial. Nothing has happened so far in this manner. If any incident of death occurs within a legal framework in order to protect public security, RAB is not responsible for that incident. Incidents of gun-fight take place when the RAB members try to prevent the attackers. These are not extrajudicial killings at all."³
3. During the month of November 2010, 14 people have reportedly been killed extra-judicially. It has been further alleged that of these people, 10 were killed by RAB and 4 by the Police. It has been reported that of these extra-judicial killings, all 10 of the deceased were killed in 'crossfire/encounters/gun fights'⁴. All 10 were killed by RAB.
4. Odhikar believes that extra-judicial killings are continuing due to impunity of law enforcers by the state and a weak criminal justice system. Odhikar expresses its deep concern over the continuance of extra-judicial executions.

Tortured to death and false autopsy report

5. On November 14, 2010, a weaver named Sharif Mia (23) allegedly died due to torture inflicted upon him while in police custody in Narshingdi Model Police Station. The mother of Sharif alleged that her son was completely innocent. Wounds were seen on the deceased body by witnesses. She further alleged that police beat her son seriously in her presence before taking him to the police station.⁵
6. On November 22, 2010, Imran Hossain Bappi died in custody at Jessore Kotwali Police Station. Police claimed that Bappi had committed suicide by hanging himself. However, the father of the deceased, Ali Hossain alleged that Sub Inspector Abdur Rahman had arrested his son without any reason and brought him to the police

¹ The Daily Amar Desh, 25/11/2010

² The Daily Kaler Kantho, 06/09/2010

³ The Daily Kaler Kantho, 09/08/2010

⁴ Reports in the press have increasingly used more than one of the terms "crossfire", "encounter", "gunfight" and "shootout" in one article to describe the same incident. It is, therefore, no longer possible for Odhikar to determine which of these descriptions best describes an incident of extra-judicial killing. Odhikar has, therefore, grouped these incidents together.

⁵ The Daily Manabzamin, 15/11/2010

station. Later police demanded one hundred thousand Taka from him. Bappi had been beaten by SI Abdur Rahman when he refused to pay him and the police exposed Bappi as a heroin trader. While beating Bappi, at one point SI Abdur Rahman thrashed Bappi's head on the wall, which resulted in skull fractures. Police publicized it as a suicide although Bappi had been tortured.⁶

7. On June 29, 2010 a CNG-run auto rickshaw driver, Babul Gazi, died in police custody. Policed claimed that he got hurt falling on the road while escaping from the police van, which resulted in his death. Family members of the deceased alleged that RAB had recovered two CNG auto-rickshaws from Babul Gazi and also demanded two hundred thousand Taka from him. However, Babul could manage only seventy thousand Taka. He had been tortured to death by police upon failure to pay all the money.⁷ Babul's post-mortem had been carried out on the basis of an un-natural death. Dr. Pradeep Biswas, who conducted post-mortem of the body, mentioned the cause of death as "accidental" in the autopsy report. But the autopsy report did not appear to be consistent before the High Court Division. Later a Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court gave an order to form a special committee to examine the authenticity of the post-mortem report. Following this order, Dr. Kazi Din Mohammad, Principal of Dhaka Medical College, formed a three-member forensic science expert committee. The special committee mentioned in their report that the nature of death of Babul Gazi was found to be homicidal. However, the cause of death mentioned in the post-mortem report was "accidental", which is not true. After this report Dr. Pradeep Biswas admitted that marks of hitting were apparent on Babul's body.⁸
8. The accurate conducting of post-mortems and the publication of proper, unbiased and non-conflicting reports are very important for identifying the genuine causes of death. Odhikar observes with concern that the post-mortems in relation to the deaths in custody are being conducted with biasness, where doctors, do not write accurate reports. As a result, incidents of 'torture' are often passed off in the autopsy reports as death caused by 'illness', 'heart attack' or 'suicide'.
9. Odhikar expresses concern over these incidents and also demands legal action against the people who are involved with such kind of false reports.
10. During November 2010, a total of 04 persons were allegedly tortured to death. All of 04 were allegedly tortured to death by police.

Identity of the deceased

11. Of the 14 deceased, 01 belonged to the Purba Banglar Communist Party (Janojuddho),, 01 was from New Biplobi Communist Party, a detainee in police custody, 04 youths, 01 a businessman, 01 was a power loom worker, 03 were muggers, 01 was a drug dealer and 01 was alleged criminal.

Death in jail

12. It has been found that 04 people reportedly died while in jail due to alleged 'sickness' during the month of November 2010.

⁶ Human Rights Defender of Odhikar at Jessore

⁷ Odhikar documentation

⁸ The Daily Ittefaq, 06/11/2010

Allegation of enforced disappearances following arrest by law enforcement agencies

13. The family members of Nazrul Islam, Chairman of Karoldanga Union Parishad and President of Boalkhali unit BNP in Chittagong alleged that he had been picked up by RAB on November 8, 2010 from Gazipur. On November 9, 2010, people living that area, in protest, surrounded the Chittagong RAB Office following the disappearance of Nazrul Islam. At least 15 people including local journalists were injured while RAB baton charged them. Of them, 6-7 people received head injuries. The family of Nazrul Islam stated that a number of cases have been filed against him at different times which are politically motivated. Nazrul received bail under all those cases. He went to the High Court Division for legal consultation. He also went on to meet a friend at Gazipur during the interval of work in the High Court Division. At that time Nazrul was forcibly picked up from his micro-bus to another vehicle by 4/5 plain clothed men, who identified themselves as members of the law enforcement agency from the Gazipur-Joydevpur bypass lane.⁹ Hamidul Haque Manna, younger brother of Nazrul Islam informed Odhikar that they came to know from different sources that his brother was in RAB custody, but RAB did not admit to this.
14. Many people who have been apprehended by groups claiming to be law enforcement agencies have 'disappeared'. The family of the victims claimed that they have been taken by the law enforcers.
15. Odhikar expresses concern over such incidents of arrest and disappearance and urges the Government to search trace and rescue the persons and put a stop to this alarming human rights violation.

Political violence continues

16. According to information gathered by Odhikar, a total of 19 persons have been killed and 1380 injured in political violence in the month of November 2010. There were also 26 incidents of internal violence in the Awami League and 02 within the BNP recorded during this period. In addition to this, 02 people were killed in Awami League internal conflict while 437 were injured. While, 16 persons were injured in BNP initiated violence.

BNP observed hartals on 14 and 30 November

17. On November 14, 2010, the main Opposition Party, the BNP called a dawn to dusk hartal¹⁰ in protest of evicting the Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia from her Cantonment house on November 13, 2010 by the government. Incidents of chases and counter chases occurred between law enforcement agencies and activists of BNP all over the country including Dhaka city during the hartal. According to Odhikar documentation 143 people, including hartal supporters were wounded across the country. Hartal supporters vandalized vehicles and set fire on the day before hartal and during hartal.¹¹

⁹ Human Rights Defender of Odhikar at Chittagong, and the daily Shamokal, 10/11/2010

¹⁰ A general strike: the most popular political programme in Bangladesh.

¹¹ The Daily Prothom Alo, 15/11/2010

18. Guardians and students in different parts of the city alleged on November 29, 2010 that school students were forced to attend human chains formed on important roads to campaign against hartals. The children had to stand for a long time in the sun. School teachers also alleged that local Members of Parliament belonging to the ruling party had asked authorities of different schools to take classes on November 30, 2010, risking the lives of the students.¹²
19. On November 29, 2010, hartal supporters again vandalized and set fire to public vehicles. During this time police also baton charged the BNP supporters and arrested many of them. On November 30, 2010, police attacked the picketers during the hartal hours. 212 people were injured during this time.

3 killed in bomb blast at MP's residence

20. On November 13, 2010, three persons were killed in a suicide- bomb attack at the residence of Awami League Parliament Member Afazuddin Ahmed in Kushtia. It has been learnt that a meeting of the School Management Committee of Daulatpur Upazila Targunia High School was going on at the residence of Afazuddin Ahmed before the blast. During the meeting the Parliamentarian and his son Arif Ahmed had gone to another house. At that time three youths wearing *lungi* with *gamcha*¹³ around their waists entered the place. The bomb blew up when Ahadul, one of them, sat on a sofa. As a result, Ashmat Ullah (47), Head Teacher of Targunia High School; Awami League activist Siddique Hossain (38); and Ahadul, who was carrying the bomb died on the spot. Another school teacher named Obaidul Huq was seriously injured. MP Afazuddin Ahmed was not hurt.¹⁴ On November 14, 2010, police arrested former President of Daulatpur Upazila Jubo League, Zahid Hossain (40) in connection with this bomb attack. Police also arrested Moru, one of the principle suspects of this case, on November 19, 2010.¹⁵

Border violence continues by the Indian BSF

21. The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) continued violating the human rights of Bangladeshi citizens at the border areas despite the repeated protests and commitments by the Bangladesh government. On November 15, 2010, a few farmers had gone near the Jamalpur border at Daulatpur under Kushtia district to cut grass for fodder. During this time, the members of (the Indian) Nasirapara 90 BSF Battalion started shooting at them. Muktar Hossain (30) died on the spot.¹⁶ On November 12, 2010 BSF cut the ears and nose of a cattle trader Ishar Ali Mollik at Chanduria border in Satkhira.¹⁷
22. On November 15, 2010, a flag meeting was held between the BDR and BSF at the zero point of the Bhomra Immigration office in Satkhira regarding the tortured to death of a Bangladeshi civilian and the raping of his wife. The wife has given her statement regarding the torture to the investigation officer. Sanjay Kumar, Commandant of Ghoshdanga BSF camp led a 5-member team from the Indian side while Subedar

¹² The New Age, 30/11/2010

¹³ Local towel

¹⁴ The Daily Kaler Kantho, 14/11/2010

¹⁵ Human Rights Defenders of Odhikar at Kushtia and the Daily Prothom Alo, 15 & 21/11/2010

¹⁶ The Daily Ittefaq, 16/11/2010

¹⁷ The Daily Amader Shamoy, 13/11/2010

Mansur Helal of Bhomra BDR camp led the 5-member team from the Bangladeshi side. On April 23, 2009, a housewife had been raped by BSF members at Ghoshdanga Jelapara opposite the Bhomra border when she was returning from India after medical treatment. The victim is a resident of Dholbaria village under Ashashuni Upazila in Satkhira district. The BSF killed her husband, Rabindranath Mandol (42) by inflicting torture upon him as he tried to protect his wife.¹⁸

23. Odhikar observes with concern that the meeting between the BDR and BSF at different levels persistently bring only false promises to stop the violation of human rights at the borders, and that killings continue. Odhikar believes that the government should take pragmatic actions to bring such violations to a stop.
24. As per information gathered by Odhikar, during the month of November 2010, there have been several incidents of human rights violations at the border areas by the BSF. During this time, the Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) have allegedly killed 07 Bangladeshi citizens - of which 05 were gunned down and 02 tortured to death. During this period 02 Bangladeshis were reported abducted by BSF.

A man languishes in prison for 12 years despite his acquittal

25. Hazrat Ali, son of Suman Ali, an under trial (No. 18345/10) inmate of Dhaka Central Jail, was arrested by police on September 24, 1998 under a case filed with Keraniganj Police Station (case No. 62(6)98). He is a resident of Firingikanda Baher Chor at Savar. Hazrat Ali has been detained in jail since his arrest. He had never been produced before the Court in 12 years. On August 24, 2010 Hazrat Ali appealed to the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Dhaka through the senior Jail Superintendent in order to resolve the case which was filed against him. Based on his application, the Court started searching for the status of Hazrat's case. After searching in many courts and the office of the concerned Chief Judicial Magistrate, it has been found that the case had already been resolved on February 12, 2005 at the Court of Magistrate Shahin and Hazrat has been acquitted from the case. However, the prison authority kept him in jail despite his release order.¹⁹
26. Odhikar observes with concern that several such incidents have taken place throughout the years, but no action is taken against the accused persons who are responsible for this. Furthermore, the victims are not getting any compensation.
27. Odhikar demands the government take action against those responsible for such inhuman treatment by conducting an immediate investigation into this matter and also to compensate the victim for 12 years of unnecessary incarceration.

Attack on journalists

28. Recently, Raja Mia, a representative of the local daily paper, Bir Chattogram Mancho at Satkania, had been taken to Satkania Police Station by Sub Inspector (SI) Shrikanta over news published in the daily. He was hit with fists and dragged by his collar to the police station. Raja Mia told Odhikar that the Officer-in-charge (OC) of Satkania Police Station had become annoyed when his report was published in the newspaper against illegal activities of the local police. The OC instructed SI Shrikanta to take action in this regard.²⁰

¹⁸ Human Rights Defenders of Odhikar at Satkhira and the daily Manabzamin, 28/11/2010

¹⁹ The Daily Manabzamin, 10/11/2010

²⁰ The Daily Kaler Kantho, 06/11/2010

29. Odhikar expresses its concern over the incidents of journalists being attacked by police while performing their professional duties.
30. Journalists were also harassed during the two Hartals called by the BNP on 14 and 30 November 2010.
31. Many journalists fell victim to harassment in the month of November 2010. During this period, 32 journalists were injured, 03 threatened, 02 assaulted and 01 case has been filed against a journalist.

Shrimp workers terminated for engaging in Trade Union activities in Khulna

32. 95 shrimp processing workers have been terminated from various shrimp processing plants in Khulna for engaging in trade union activities. They were verbally terminated from the shrimp processing plants between August 11 and 15, 2010. According to the Labour Law of 2006, the workers formed a trade union in order to get appointment letters, service books, wages, and identity cards, which made shrimp plant owners angry. The owners allegedly illegally terminated the workers without any notice or letter. After losing their jobs only 3/4 workers were re-employed. Terminated employee of Modern Seafood Company, Hasina Begum, told Odhikar that Southern Seafood Company alone had terminated 62 workers and 33 more workers were terminated from three other companies without notice. She and 3 others had filed two separate cases at the Labour Court, Khulna, in order to get their jobs back, in case numbers 149/10 and 285/10. Managing Director of Modern Seafood Company, Rezaul Huq and its General Manager Lutfar Rahman have been accused in these cases. The workers have been feeling insecure since the filing of the cases. Furthermore, they have received threats from paid criminals of the owners to withdraw the cases. Finally, on November 4, 2010, Hasina Begum filed a General Diary (GD No. 148) seeking security with the Rupsha Police Station. Other workers like Hasina still received threats from the goons of the owners after filing a GD. General Secretary of Shrimp Labourer Services Welfare Association Hira Mukta informed Odhikar that there are 26 shrimp processing plants in Khulna and there are about 4000 permanent workers/ labourers. Of them, the minimum monthly salary is Taka 2645 and the maximum is Taka 4000. Furthermore, there are 15/16 thousands temporary workers.²¹
33. As per the Labour Act of 2006 under section 195 sub-section (kha) no worker can be terminated on the pretext of being a member or leader of a Trade Union. Termination from job for engaging in trade union activities is a violation of the Labour Act of 2006, and a punishable offense.

Attacks on religious minority community

34. On November 16, 2010, a group of criminals at Hrishipara of Mozidpur village under Keshabpur Upazila in Jessore set fire to the houses of Swapan Das, Gopal Das, Swashti Das, Roshmi Das, Swaraswati Das and Archana Das, members of the Hrishi community. Many people of the Hrishi community²² had been injured and of them 12 were admitted to the hospital. On behalf of an organisation, Poritran, Milon Das has

²¹ Human Rights Defenders of Odhikar at Khulna

²² A caste of the Hindu community

informed the human rights organisations that the criminals are trying to grab the lands of the Hrishis, a religious minority community.²³

35. Odhikar believes that it is the responsibility of the state to protect legal rights of the religious minority community and also to ensure security of their land and property. The state is failing in its responsibility and violations and repression on religious minority groups continue.
36. Odhikar expresses concern over such incidents and also demands the government take legal action against the perpetrators, as per criminal law and the Constitution.

Acid violence

37. In the month of November 2010, 04 persons were victims of acid violence. Of these, 03 were women and 01 was a girl.

Violence against women

38. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on 25 November. In Bangladesh, however, incidents of violence against women continue and there was no difference in November either.

Incidents of stalking

39. On November 1, 2010, Rupali Rani Tuni, a student of class IX, at Nijhuri village under Raipur Upazila in Sirajganj was stopped by Shushil Chandra Mandol of the same village while she was on her way to attend a tuition class. Later Shushil forcibly took Tuni to his house and detained her for a while putting *sindur* on her forehead. Tuni committed suicide by hanging herself after Shushil left. The local people caught Shushil and handed him over to police following the incident.²⁴
40. On November 2, 2010, a Division Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court comprising of Justice Iman Ali and Justice Obaidul Hasan have given a direction to the government to declare 'high alert' across the country in order to prevent the stalking of women and sexual harassment. The Court at the same time ordered the government to take legal action against the accused persons who are involved in sexual harassment and also to ensure security of the victims of sexual harassment.²⁵
41. Odhikar expresses its deep concern over the acts of stalking and sexual harassment; which may result in killing and the committing of suicide by the victims.
42. In November 2010, 03 girls committed suicide as they could not bear the constant harassment from stalkers. 02 males were killed by stalkers as they protested against stalking of their daughter in law and grand daughter respectively. During this time 54 persons were also injured in various incidents related to speaking out against stalking.

Dowry-related violence

43. On November 13, 2010, one Al-Islam of Shahid Nagar in Narayanganj set fire to his wife Nupur by pouring kerosene over her, due to dowry demands. Local people recovered Nupur with serious burns and admitted her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.²⁶

²³ Report sent by Milon Das, Executive Director of Poritran

²⁴ Human Rights Defenders of Odhikar at Sirajganj and the Daily Amader Shamoy, 02/11/2010

²⁵ The Daily Shamokal, 03/11/2010

²⁶ The Daily Amar Desh, 15/11/2010

44. In the month of November 2010, 26 women and two males were subjected to dowry²⁷ related violence. It has been alleged that of these 26 women, 16 were killed due to dowry related issues and 10 have been abused and assaulted in various ways. During this span of time, one six year old boy was burnt to death along with his mother allegedly by his father for dowry.

Incidents of rape

45. On November 21, 2010, a group of criminals killed Sumi Akhter (15) after violating her at the residence of Mirpur Union Parishad Chairman Dr. Ramij Ali in Bahubal Upazila under Habiganj district. Police arrested Saddam, Jasim, Suhel and Rahel, son of local UP Chairman Dr. Ramij Ali, in connection with the rape and murder.
46. During November 2010, 38 women and female children have been raped. Among them 20 were women and 18 were children. Also, among them 07 women were killed after having been raped and 12 women were the victims of gang rape. 05 children were killed after having been raped and 06 were gang raped.

Dhaka City Corporation elections delayed

47. The tenure of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) expired on 14 May 2007. The Election Commission (EC) failed to conduct the DCC elections, although its duration has expired. The EC wanted to conduct the polls first on 31 May 2010. Later the EC declared its intension to conduct the DCC poll between October and November 2010. Finally, a tentative date for election to be held on 29 December 2010 has been heard from an Election Commission source. The Chief Election Commissioner Dr. ATM Shamsul Huda said that "if the government does not inform anything, the EC will declare the election schedule on 18 April 2011." The EC did not get any response from the government. The CEC Dr. ATM Shamsul Huda earlier indicated that the DCC polls would be delayed, after a meeting with the Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Syed Ashraful Islam and the Prime Minister's adviser H T Imam at the EC Secretariat on October 13, 2010.²⁸ On November 2, 2010, Election Commissioner M Shakhawat Hossain said, the DCC elections have been closed for now as the concerned Ministry does not want to hold the polls for some political reasons.²⁹
48. The Election Commission is given the constitutional obligation to conduct elections without any hindrance in order to elect people's representatives and to institutionalize the foundation of the democratic state. The EC should conduct its responsibilities and the government should provide necessary support to the EC, which is a constitutional obligation. However, constitutional obligations have been violated from both sides. If this continues, it will put the culture of democratic practice in danger. The Election Commission, despite being a constitutional institution, is becoming ineffective. The local government system and elections of the people's representatives can not be obstructed under the willingness of the government or any political party.
49. Odhikar believes that the role of the EC is more important in this regard. The people want to see the EC is performing its duty independently. It can seek legal remedy if it

²⁷ The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980 makes the giving or taking/ demanding of dowry an offence, punishable with imprisonment and/or fine.

²⁸ The Daily Amader Shamoy, 09/11/2010

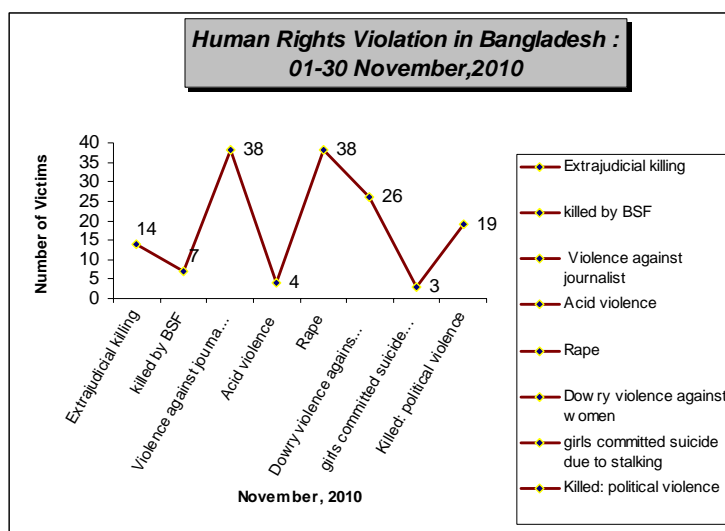
²⁹ The New Age, 03/11/2010

does not get necessary assistance from the government. The scope for this action and authority is guaranteed in the Constitution.

Verdict on BDR mutiny trials at Bandorban and Lalmonirhat

50. The verdict of the BDR mutiny at the 10 Rifles Battalion, Bandorban was given on November 9, 2010. Col. Mohammad Bashirul Islam read out the verdict at the BDR Special Court 16. The Court sentenced 35 accused BDR jawans of the 10th Rifles Battalion to different terms of imprisonment from the highest imprisonment of 7 years to a minimum 6 months. All of them have been fined with 100 Taka. 12 out of 35 BDR jawans have admitted their involvement in the mutiny. The Court decreased their punishment as per the BDR Act of 1972 for admitting their crimes. The Court ordered to hand the convicted BDR Jawans over to police and to keep them in Bandorban District Jail.
51. The judgement of the BDR mutiny case had been delivered in Lalmonirhat on November 23, 2010. Dinajpur BDR sector commander Col. Saleh Ahmed announced the verdict in the Special Court. 23 out of the accused BDR jawans of the 31st Rifles Battalion were sentenced to different terms of imprisonment from 5 years to 4 months along with a fine of Taka 100. The Court acquitted one BDR jawan named Abu Bakkar Siddique.

<i>Statistics of Human Rights violations</i>	
<i>01-30 November, 2010</i>	
Human Rights Violation	Victim Persons
Extrajudicial killing	14
killed by BSF	7
Violence against journalist	38
Acid violence	4
Rape	38
Dowry violence against women	26
girls committed suicide due to stalking	3
Killed: political violence	19



Recommendations

52. An independent Commission regarding extra-judicial killings should be formed and perpetrators of all extra-judicial killings must be brought before justice through proper and independent investigation.
53. Torture during remand and other forms of custody must end. The Government must practice 'zero tolerance' regarding torture and the 2003 Court directives of BLAST vs. Bangladesh must be implemented.
54. The Government owes an explanation to the families of the persons who have disappeared after allegedly being picked up or arrested by law enforcement agencies.

55. Odhikar demands that the Government sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, which was adopted at the UN General Assembly on December 18, 2009, and the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture.
56. The Government should be responsive and transparent in order to stop political violence. It must take effective action against those involved in violence, irrespective of political beliefs.
57. The Government should refrain from shrinking the space for the practice of democracy and also abstain from repression on opponent political activists, which will only provoke resentment.
58. The human rights violations at the border areas need to be incorporated into all the discussions between the Governments of India and Bangladesh. Entering into another independent country's territory and firing deliberately without adequate reason goes beyond the norms of international law and human rights. Odhikar urges the Bangladesh Government to take effective steps with the Indian Government to ensure the prevention of further unlawful entry, firing and killing by the BSF. Bangladesh should also ensure the security of those citizens residing in the border areas. Odhikar also urges the Bangladesh Government to demand from the Indian Government adequate compensation for the families of the victims. Furthermore, the incidents of firing and killings by the BSF must be investigated so that those involved are brought to justice.
59. The Government should take immediate legal action against the persons who were responsible for Hazrat Ali's case. Odhikar also demands that Hazrat Ali be compensated.
60. Shrimp plant workers who were illegally terminated by the owners of the shrimp processing plants in Khulna should be reappointed and compensated.
61. The State must restore the fundamental rights of religious minorities and provide physical protection to those who have been abused, along with providing security to their property.
62. The Government must take effective steps with the goal to end stalking and violence against women. The offenders must be brought under the purview of the law to ensure that justice is served. The victim must be provided with adequate legal support. Public awareness regarding the rights of women, prevention of violence against women and children as well as related laws must be incorporated into the primary, secondary and higher secondary school books. Continuous public awareness to the electronic and print media to stop violence against women.
63. The Election Commission must conduct all local government elections including DCC polls immediately and the government should support the EC so that it can play an independent, neutral and influence free role in order to conduct a free and fair election.
64. Transparency and accountability must be ensured during the trial of the BDR jawans accused of treason and mutiny.

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Notes:

1. Odhikar seeks to uphold the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people.
2. Odhikar documents and records violations of human rights and receives information from its network of human rights defenders and monitors media reports in twelve national daily newspapers.
3. Odhikar conducts detailed fact-finding investigations into some of the most significant violations.
4. Odhikar is consistent in its human rights reporting and is committed to remain so.