



## **Disappearance of Jubo Union Organiser, K M Shamim Akhtar, after being picked up by members of LEA from Purana Paltan Line in Dhaka City**

Fact-finding Report  
Odhikar

On September 29, 2011 at around 8.15 in the morning K M Shamim Akhtar (36) was arrested by the members of the law enforcing agency from 6/1, Purana Palton Line, Dhaka-1000. He was the son of Khan Mobarak Hossain and Zohra Akhtar; and a resident of 12/4, Purana Paltan Line (5<sup>th</sup> floor), of Dhaka Metropolitan City. Shamim's family alleged that his whereabouts remain unknown from the day he was picked up by the law enforcing agency.

Odhikar conducted a fact-finding mission into the incident. During the fact-finding mission, Odhikar spoke with:

- The relatives of Shamim
- Eye- witnesses
- Concerned police officers and RAB



Photo: K M Shamim Akhtar

### **Jhorna Khanom (30), wife of K M Shamim Akhtar**

Jhorna Khanom told Odhikar that her husband's home was in the Arazi Dumuria village under Dumuria Police Station in Khulna District. She lives in Dhaka with her husband, mother in law Zohra Akhtar (50), and son Tazbeed Khan Dipto (7). During his student life, Shamim was involved with Chhatra Union<sup>1</sup> and after that he joined the Jubo Union<sup>2</sup>. He was abroad for a few years after completing his studies. After returning from abroad, Shamim was preparing for examinations to be enlisted in the Bangladesh Bar Council as an Advocate.

<sup>1</sup> Chhatra Union is the student wing of the Communist Party of Bangladesh

<sup>2</sup> Jubo Union is the youth wing of the Communist Party of Bangladesh

On September 29, 2011 at around 8.00am, Jhorna left home for her office. At around 12.00 pm her mother-in-law called her on her cell phone and informed that, Shamim had gone out at around 8.15 am in the morning to purchase something and had not returned. She came to know from local shopkeepers that around 7 people, who were allegedly the members of law enforcement agency, captured him and put scotch tape on his mouth and dragged him away into a microbus. Jhorna then rushed to the Paltan Model Police Station after returning to her house and lodged a General Diary (GD), numbered 1839, dated 29/09/2011. On the same day she went to the Rapid Action Battalion-3 (RAB-3) office and made a written complaint, mentioning that her husband had been abducted.

On September 30, 2011 Shamim's family held a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, but the whereabouts of Shamim Akhtar was still unknown.

On October 2, 2011 Jhorna visited the National Human Rights Commission and made a written complaint, given file number 1923, dated 02/10/2011. She mentioned in the complaint that, the police and RAB members did not cooperate with the family in finding Shamim.

Jhorna said that there were eight political cases filed against Shamim with Dumuria Police Station in Khulna. During his student life, Shamim was the Vice-President of the Bangladesh Chhatra Union's Central Committee and was also the President of Bangladesh Chhatra Union of Khulna District Unit.

#### **Zohra Akhtar (50), mother of Shamim**

Zohra Akhtar told Odhikar that, on September 29, 2011 at around 8.15 am, Shamim went out the same time she and her grandson Tazbeed Khan Dipto were going to school. She was worried when Shamim did not come back by noon. Some shopkeepers from the Purana Paltan Line area told her that, a few people picked Shamim up in a microbus. She then informed Jhorna about the incident by calling her on her cell phone. Johra Akhtar was told by the shopkeepers that Shamim was taken away by law enforcing agency members. She organised a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity on September 30, 2011, where she claimed that the law enforcing agency members picked up her son.

#### **Md. Babul (48), Eye-witness**

Md. Babul told Odhikar that he has a vegetable shop at 6/1 Purana Paltan Line. He was at his shop in the morning of September 29, 2011. At that time, around seven plain clothed men captured a man wearing a lungi and fatua. They were pushing him towards the Bottola Mosque located on the Bijoy Nagar road from Purana Paltan Line. At that time, some local people came forward to help the captured man, but they were obstructed by those men.

He said that the men in plain clothes had short hair and were of the same height, but he could not recognise the man who they were taking away. Later some locals told him that he was

Shamim, who was known to him. At around 12.30 pm, he went to Shamim's wife and described everything.

**Md. Dulal Reza (28), Eye-witness**

Md. Dulal Reza informed Odhkar that he used to sell tea in front of the Bithi Pharmacy located at 27 Bijoy Nagar. On September 29, 2011 at around 7.30 in the morning a silver coloured microbus stopped in front of his shop. About seven men came out and the driver of the microbus started to drink tea from his shop. At 8.15 am the men returned with a man wearing lungi and fatua from the Purana Paltan Line area and they pushed him into the microbus forcibly. The captured man shouted once, "Please save me, they are going to kill me". Before the arrival of local people, the microbus went away. Dulal recalled that the hair style of all the men was short and they were approximately of the same height. He believes that the abductors were from law enforcement agencies.

**Major Emarot Hossain, RAB-3, Tikatuli, Dhaka**

Major Emarot Hossain told Odhkar that, on September 29, 2011, a lady named Jhorna Khanom from the Purana Paltan Line area came to RAB office and made a written complaint. That complaint was registered on 2 October 2011 as Regd. No. 1041. Jhorna Khanom mentioned in her complaint that her husband K M Shamim Akhtar was picked up by some strangers in a microbus from in front of his house. Major Emarot Hossain said that Lieutenant Commander Jarrar Hossain Khan was assigned to take necessary steps on that complaint on October 3, 2011.

In order to know updates about the case, Odhkar tried to contact Major Emarot Hossain on his cell phone many times but he did not answer.

**Lieutenant Commander Jarrar Hossain Khan, RAB-3, Tikatuli, Dhaka**

Lieutenant Commander Jarrar Hossain Khan told Odhkar that he is investigating the complaint made by Jhorna Khanom of Purana Paltan Line area about her husband's abduction. He informed that he was ordered by the RAB Forces Headquarters to investigate the matter.

**Sub Inspector Shyamol Chandra Dhar, Paltan Model Police Station, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Dhaka**

Sub Inspector (SI) Shyamol Chandra Dhar told Odhkar that on September 29, 2011, he was on duty at the Bijoy Nagar and Paltan areas. The duty officer from the police station sent a message to him that, a lady named Jhorna Khanom of Purana Paltan Line area lodged a General Diary (GD), which was numbered 1839. He was told to investigate on that GD. Then he went to the Purana Paltan Line and Bijoy Nagar areas. By investigating, he found some evidence that around 7 people picked up a man named Shamim Akhtar in a microbus. He contacted Jhorna Khanom for further information. He also contacted Shamim's permanent address under Dumuria Thana of Khulna District. He was informed by the Officer-in-Charge

of Dumuria Police Station through a fax that around 13 cases, including a murder case were filed against Shamim. Police of the Dumuria Police Station were also searching for Shamim to arrest him.

On December 14, 2011 when Odhikar contacted SI Shyamol Chandra Dhar, he stated that the case had been transferred to SI Nasir Uddin.

**SI Nasir Uddin, Paltan Model Police Station, DMP, Dhaka**

On December 18, 2011, when Odhikar contacted SI Nasir Uddin, he informed that he has investigated the complaint based on GD No. 1839 and talked with some people at the place from where Shamim was picked up. But he could not find any clues regarding who were responsible for abducting Shamim. He told Odhikar to contact the Officer-in-Charge of the police station for further information.

**Md. Shahidul Huq, Officer-in-Charge, Paltan Model Police Station, DMP, Dhaka**

On January 18, 2012 Mohammad Shahidul Huq told Odhikar that Shamim's wife Jhorna Khanom filed a GD alleging that her husband was abducted on September 29, 2011. SI Shyamol Chandra Dhar initially investigated the matter under this GD. Later the responsibility was handed over to SI Nasir Uddin. It was known during primary investigation that some unidentified people picked up Shamim. But the details could not be known. He also informed that Jhorna Khanom was told to file a case as continuing investigation was not possible based on a General Diary.

Odhikar talked with the policemen, RAB members, and eye-witnesses during the fact-finding mission. According to the RAB and police they did not arrest anyone named KM Shamim Akhtar on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 from Purana Paltan Line area. However, it was known by the statement of Shamim's mother during the fact finding conducted by Odhikar that, on September 29, 2011, Shamim was picked up allegedly by the members of law enforcement agency in broad daylight from Purana Paltan Line area, in the presence of many people. SI Shyamol Chandra Dhar of Paltan Model Police Station said that he found primary evidence after investigating into the complaint. During investigation, he got to know that Shamim was picked up by some people in a microbus. He also sent a message to Shamim's village home in Dumuria Thana. Officer-in-Charge of Dumuria Police Station told him that about 13 cases were filed against Shamim in his police station. Shamim's wife Jhorna informed that there were 8 pending political cases, which were under process for withdrawal.

Odhikar demands that the Government take appropriate steps to find K M Shamim Akhtar and bring the perpetrators before justice through a proper and unbiased investigation.

**-The End-**