

One person allegedly killed and another missing after torture by BSF in Birampur of Dinajpur

Fact Finding Report

Odhikar

At around 4.30 am on March 5, 2012, a group of Bangladeshi cow traders were returning with cows from India. On their way to Bangladesh, they were chased by members of the Border Security Force (BSF) at the border of South Daudpur of Birampur thana in Dinajpur district. BSF fired pellets and threw hand bombs towards them. BSF also charged them with bayonets and after apprehending two of the traders, beat them with rods and sticks.

One of the apprehended traders, Mohammad Jalil Hossain (40), is the son of late Mofiz Uddin of Munshipara village of Birampur thana of Dinajpur district. Jalil was wounded by the BSF pellets, tortured and was taken away by them. He is now missing. Mohammad Golap Hossain (24) was the second cow trader apprehended, who returned Bangladesh in an injured condition and died in Rangpur Medical College Hospital while under treatment on March 9, 2012. Sumon (25) son of Ilias from Munshipara village, Erfan Ali (26) son of Shirajul Islam of Khiyar Mahmudpur village, Mirajul Islam (34) son of late Shamsuddin of Kosba Shagorpur village and Nurujjaman (30) son of Mohammad Bahar Uddin were with Golap and Jalil that night but managed to enter Bangladesh. However, Erfan Ali, Sumon and Nurujjaman are now absconding, which is why the fact finder could not talk to them.

Odhikar conducted a fact finding mission into the matter. During this they interviewed:

- Relatives of the deceased and injured cow dealers
- Mirajul Islam, who was with Golap and Jalil
- Members of law enforcement agencies.



Photographs of deceased Golap and missing Jalil and Jalil's National ID card

Rumi Akhter (20), wife of deceased Golap Hossain, Birampur, Dinajpur

Rumi Akhter told Odhikar that at around 8 pm on March 4, 2012, Golap went outside. At around 4.30 am on March 5, 2012, two acquaintances, named Erfan Ali and Nurujjaman brought Golap home in an injured condition. Erfan Ali informed her that last night a group of six people, including Golap, Sumon, Mirajul, Nurujjaman and Jalil went to Chagol Dongi village of Hili thana in India to bring cows. They were returning home with the cows near the 290/40 border pillar when BSF members of Bolpara camp of BSF-28, Gobindopur chased them. BSF members threw hand bombs and pellets towards them. As a result, Golap and Jalil were injured. Then, BSF arrested both of them. They charged them with bayonets and beat them with rods and sticks. Erfan said that the four of them rescued injured Golap but could not bring Jalil back. Rumi recalled that she saw a massive injury on the left side of Golap's head, from where she saw brain matter seeping out. She also saw marks of injury on different parts of his body. Golap was admitted to a local clinic of Birampur at first and then taken to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Rumi was concerned about his safety from the police¹ and that is why she took him to the Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital, where he would not be easily found. At around 9.50 pm on March 9, 2012, Golap died in the Rangpur Community Medical College Hospital while under treatment. The district police did not order any post mortem, as he died under treatment. Later on, Golap's body was taken to South Daudpur village of Birampur thana and buried in the family graveyard.

¹ If police or Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB) receive information that anyone had tried to cross the border without the required papers, that person would be harassed by them. Rumi Akhter, wife of Golap came to know that police and BGB were already searching for Golap to arrest him. That is why his family took him to different hospitals for treatment.



This mosque of India is located at Jamalpur Hilli, South Dinajpur of India. The other side is Bangladesh's Munshipara village of South Daudpur at Birampur. The border between the two countries is marked in white colour.

Mosammat Azima Khatun (35), wife of missing Jalil

Mosammat Azima Khatun told Odhikar that at around 6 pm on March 4, 2012, her husband went outside on a bicycle saying that he was going to the market. At around 6 the next morning, an acquaintance named Nurujjaman informed her that BSF members had arrested Jalil when he was returning to Bangladesh with cows from India. Hearing this Azima went to Jalil's brother-in-law, Afij Uddin and told him about Jalil. Later on, she came to know that in the flag meeting between Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), BSF admitted to arresting Jalil. However, they did not release him.

Azima also informed Odhikar that on March 6, 2012, an Indian newspaper 'Uttorbongo Shongbad' published news titled 'In the Hili border, a smuggler was arrested with cows'. The news article referred to the BSF Company Commander of Bhimpur camp and stated that BSF arrested a Bangladeshi named Jalil Mondol (40) from north Jamalpur of Hili border at mid night on Sunday. His home is at Birampur thana of Dinajpur district, Bangladesh.

Mr. Guria, Inspector of 28 Battalion of BSF told the reporter of Uttorbongo Shongbad that Jalil had been injured and was admitted to the Hili local hospital. Then he was taken to Balurghat District Hospital for better treatment. However, Azima did not find any trace of Jalil.

Afij Uddin, Jalil's brother-in-law

Afij Uddin told Odhikar that at around 4.30 am of March 5, 2012, his neighbour Golap's wife, Rumi informed him that BSF had tortured Golap. He saw a bad injury on the left side of Golap's head. Then he and Rumi took Golap to the local hospital. At around 6 am he went to the Bhaigor border station of the BGB. Afij informed *Subedar*² Abdur Rahim of BGB of the whole incident of March 5 night. Abdur Rahim informed the battalion head quarter.

Between 12 and 2 pm in March 5, 2012, there was a flag meeting held between S R Mukul, 28 Company Commander of Gobindopur Camp, BSF and Commander Tayef-ul-Huq, Lieutenant Colonel of 40 BGB of Phulbari at Dinajpur. In that meeting, BSF members said that they handed Jalil over to Hili Police Station and Jalil was under treatment in Hili hospital. BGB members wanted to see Jalil but BSF members did not agree to do that.

Afij Uddin told Odhikar that he brought neighbour Anil Prodhan of Jamalpur village to his home. Anil Prodhan lives in India. The border is just between their houses, which is why they frequently cross the border and visit each other, Afij Uddin requested Anil to go to Hili hospital in search of Jalil, as Afij Uddin did not have any documents to enter India.

At around 5 pm on March 5, 2012, Anil Prodhan informed that he went to Hili Hospital and learnt that a Bangladeshi patient had been sent from there to Balurghat District Hospital for better treatment. When Anil went to Balurghat Hospital they said that they referred Jalil to Shiliguri Hospital for better treatment. Then he went to Shiliguri hospital, but did not find Jalil there.

Afij also informed Odhikar that on getting this information, he informed the BGB. On March 6, 2012, the BGB sent a letter to BSF asking for the return of Jalil. However, they have yet to receive a reply.

² Low ranking soldier



The border is between the courtyard of Anil Prodhan of Jamalpur, Hilli, South Dinajpur of India and AfijUddin of Munshipara, South Daudpur, Birampur of Bangladesh

A person whose identity is not disclosed due to his safety, neighbour of Erfan Ali, Khiyar Kahmudpur village, Birampur thana, Dinajpur

The person told Odhikar that after the incident of Golap's death and Jalil's arrest by BSF on March 5, 2012, Erfan Ali was absconding with his family to avoid the police. He also said that the BGB made a list of the names of all young men living in the border area and submitted it to the local police station. As a result, police from the local police station come to the village almost every night and demand money from them. If their demands were not met, people had to tolerate harassment from the police.

Mirajul Islam (34), the person who was with Golap and Jalil, Kosba-Sagorpur, Birampur thana, Dinajpur

Mirajul Islam told³ Odhikar that after Golap was tortured and Jalil was abducted by BSF on March 5, 2012, BGB members and police came to his house repeatedly, to arrest him. In fear of police, he and his family members all are living away from their house.

Mohammad Nasir Uddin, Officer-in-Charge, Birampur Police Station, Dinajpur

Mohammad Nasir Uddin told Odhikar that he heard from his source that on March 5, 2012, BSF arrested a Bangladeshi named Jalil from Daudpur border. Also, a person named Golap died. He said that nobody informs the local police station after being tortured by BSF, rather they go into hiding.

Lieutenant Colonel Tayef-ul-Huq, Commander, 40 BGB, Phulbari Dinajpur

Lieutenant Colonel Tayef-ul-Huq told Odhikar that when he learnt of the incident of March 5, 2012, he sent a letter to the BSF. Then BSF agreed to sit for a flag meeting. He attended the flag meeting at the 289/46 pillar of South Daudpur border with S R Mukul, 28 Company Commander of Gobindopur camp, 28 battalion of BSF. In that meeting, the BSF informed him that they did not kill any Bangladeshi at the border.

Odhikar's Statement

Odhikar is highly concerned about the death of Golap and the disappearance of Jalil by the BSF. Odhikar demands the government take effective steps regarding the torture, killing and enforced disappearances that take place by the BSF in the border of Bangladesh-India.

-End of Report-

³ Mirajul Islam is absconding so the fact finder met him secretly and took his interview.