



## **Labour leader, Aminul Islam was allegedly killed after being abducted by the law enforcers**

*Fact finding Report  
Odhikar*

Mohammad Aminul Islam (39) was the son of late Mofiz Uddin and Tosiron Begum of Hijolhati Mridhapara village of Kaliakoir thana in Gazipur district. His family alleged that at around 7 pm of April 4, 2012, members of law enforcement agency abducted Aminul. At 7:45 am of April 5, 2012, police of Ghatail Police Station of Tangail recovered Aminul's body from a road in front of the Bhrammon Shashon Girls' High School. His family claimed that members of law enforcement agency tortured and killed him.

Odhikar conducted a fact finding mission into the matter and interviewed:

- Relatives of Mohammad Aminul Islam
- Doctor who conducted the post mortem and
- Members of law enforcement agencies.

### **Hosne Ara Begum Fahima (32), Aminul's wife**

Hosne Ara Begum Fahima told Odhikar that her husband was the leader of a labour organisation, the Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers' Federation (BGIWF). Moreover, Aminul worked as an organiser for the Bangladesh Centre for Workers' Solidarity (BCWS). On April 4, 2012, Aminul went to the local office of BCWS situated at the home of Abul Kalam at Moddhogazir Chot village of Ashulia thana, Dhaka but he did not return. When Fahima tried to call him at his two cell phones, she found them both switched off. Then, Fahima called Aminul's co-worker, Laboni Akhter to get information about Aminul Islam. Laboni Akhter informed her that a friend named Mostafizur Rahman came to the office in the afternoon, to request Aminul to conduct a marriage ceremony, as Aminul also involved in conducting Muslim marriage ceremonies. At around 6.30 pm, Laboni, Aminul and Mostafizur went out of the office. Laboni informed Fahima that Mostafizur and Aminul left together on a rickshaw.

Fahima searched for Aminul everywhere, including relatives homes, but could not find him. At around 8am of April 7, 2012, one of her neighbours, Mohammad Moslem Uddin brought a daily newspaper, the daily *Amar Desh*. In it, there was news that the police of Ghatail Police Station of Tangail had recovered an unknown body. Seeing the picture of the body, Fahima thought that it might be her husband. She informed the Organisational Director of BCWS, Babul Akhter. Babul Akhter then went to the Ghatail Police Station and informed Fahima that police members buried

the dead body at the Tangail Central Graveyard. With the permission of the Court and with the help of Babul Akhter, they exhumed Aminul's body from the Tangail central graveyard and reburied him in the family graveyard at Hijolhati village under Kaliakoir Police Station in Gazipur on April 9, 2012. She claimed that as her husband was involved in worker's welfare issues, he was arrested and tortured several times by police in 2010.

Fahima told Odhikar that on March 12, 2012, the Detective Branch of Police had information regarding the sending of 10,000 people by Aminul from that locality to participate in the major political meeting organised by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)<sup>1</sup>. She believes that for this reason, police of Sripur Police Station of Gazipur tortured Aminul after arresting him and then released him. Moreover, on March 12, 2012, Aminul was under observation by police officers the whole day. Fahima also suspected that since Mostafizur Rahman was also nowhere to be found, he may have assisted the law enforcement agency to abduct and kill Aminul.

**Laboni Akhter (35), Aminul's co-worker**

Laboni Akhter told Odhikar that at around 6.30 pm on April 4, 2012, she, Aminul and Mostafizur came out of the local office of the BCWS at Ashulia. Laboni also said that at that time there was a police van waiting in front of the office gate. Seeing that van, Aminul assumed that he might face some trouble again. Then Aminul left by rickshaw. Laboni Akhter was on maternity leave when Odhikar contacted her and she suggested that the fact finders should talk to Kolpona Akhter, Executive Director of BCWS for further details.

**Kolpona Akhter (45), Executive Director, BCWS, Head Office, Rampura, Dhaka**

Kolpona Akhter told Odhikar that Aminul was working with BCWS from 2006 and he was a very good organiser. At around 9 pm on April 4, 2012, an employee of her office named Laboni called her. Laboni told her that Aminul's wife called her to say that Aminul had not returned home after work. Kolpona informed the Organisational Director of BCWS, Babul Akhter of this. She also recalled that Aminul had been arrested several times before, including in 2006 and 2010. National Security Intelligence (NSI) had arrested Aminul and tortured him during interrogation from 16 to 18 June, 2010. She presumed that members of the law enforcement agency had killed Aminul after abducting him.

**Babul Akhter (42), Organisational Director, BCWS, Head Office, Rampura, Dhaka**

Babul Akhter told Odhikar that at around 9.30 pm on April 4, 2012, Kolpona Akhter, Executive Director of BCWS, Kolpona Akhtar informed him about Aminul gone missing. Then he called some people but failed to trace Aminul and sent a boy named Selim from their Dhaka office to Aminul's village at Hijolhati. He informed Odhikar that at around 10 am on April 5, 2012, Selim took Aminul's wife to Ashulia Police Station. They wanted to file a general diary (GD) but the duty officer refused to take the GD, and suggested that they look for Aminul for a few more

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<sup>1</sup> The main Opposition party

days. On the next day at around 10 am, the police accepted the GD. On April 7, 2012, Fahima informed Babul Akhter that news was published in the daily *Amar Desh* concerning the police of Ghatail Police Station recovering a body. He went to Ghatail Police Station and came to know that after the post mortem the police buried the body at Tangail Central Graveyard on April 6, as no one had come forward to claim it. Babul identified the body from photos taken before the burial. Then Aminul's family applied to the Court and with its permission the body was exhumed and reburied at the family graveyard on April 9, 2012. Aminul went missing on April 4 and his body was found at Ghatail in Tangail district on April 5. Babul recalled that the Industrial police had arrested Aminul on 2006 and 2010 on information provided by the NSI. At around 11.30 am on March 9, 2012, police arrested Aminul from the BCWS office for interrogation. The NSI had received information regarding 10,000 people to be sent by Aminul to Dhaka to participate in the major political meeting organised by the BNP on March 12, 2012. Based on this information, Aminul was taken to the Industrial Police Office-1 for interrogation. The office is situated at Sripur under Savar Thana in Dhaka. Babul Akhtar contacted the Assistant Director of the Export Processing Zone branch of the Industrial Police, Fosiar Rahman (cell phone number: 01730739681) at around 4.30 pm on April 10, 2012. Fosiar Rahman informed him that Industrial police arrested Aminul for interrogation based on the information provided by the NSI. He suggested that Babul should talk to the Additional Director of NSI, Aminul Islam (cell phone number: 01819226130) for further information. However, when Babul called Aminul Islam on April 10, he advised Babul not to take any further initiative and disconnected the line. Babul informed Odhikar that on March 9, Aminul was taken to the Industrial Police Office-1 and Babul brought him out by signing a bond. In the bond, it was written that Aminul would be present at the Industrial Police Office-1 on March 12, 2012 from 9 am to 5.30 pm. He suspected that the law enforcement agency is involved in Aminul's abduction and killing.

**Mohammad Lutfor Rahman (38), Eye-witness of Aminul's body, Ghatail, Tangail**

Mohammad Lutfor Rahman told Odhikar that his residence is behind Bhrammon Shashon Girls' College. At around 5:30 am of April 5, 2012, he saw a crowd near the college gate. Approaching the crowd, he saw a body wearing trousers lying on the road. A piece of cloth was wrapped below his right knee and the blood was coagulated there. Also, the toes of his feet looked bruised and smashed.

**Abdul Hannan (40), Eye-witness of Aminul's body, Ghatail, Tangail**

Abdul Hannan told Odhikar that he lives beside Bhrammon Shashon Girls' College. At around 4.30 am on April 5, 2012, he was going to the mosque for the morning prayers. At that time he saw a body lying in front of the gate of the college. He saw injuries below the right knee and on the toes of the feet of the body. Around the body he saw coagulated blood.

### **Sub Inspector (SI) Shaheen Miah, Ghatail Police Station, Tangail**

SI Shaheen Miah told Odhikar that at 7.25 am on April 5, 2012, he received information through a source that there was a body lying on a road beside the Bhrannon Shashon Girls' College. He went there at 7.45 am and saw a body. In the inquest report, he mentioned that there was a hole below the right knee of the body and the toes had been smashed. He assumed that the deceased was left there some time on the night of April 4, 2012.

The body was taken for post mortem to the Tangail General Hospital, after which it was buried at Tangail Central Graveyard under his supervision. SI Shaheen filed a case as a plaintiff in the Ghatail Police Station against some unknown people. The case is numbered: 4, dated: 5/04/2012 under section 302/201/34 of the Penal Code, 1860.<sup>2</sup> SI Abul Bashar was the investigating officer of the case.

### **Sub Inspector (SI) Abul Bashar, Ghatail Police Station, Tangail**

SI Abul Bashar told Odhikar that news had been published about the burial of an unidentified person. Reading that news a person named Babul Akhter came to the police station and identified the picture of the body as his colleague, Aminul. Aminul's wife applied to the police to take the body back to their village. Then he informed the matter to the Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Bazlul Karim. The application was granted and on April 9, 2012, Aminul's body was exhumed and sent to his village at Gazipur. The case was transferred to the Tangail Detective Branch (DB) on April 16, 2012 for further investigation. SI Abdul Bashar informed Odhikar that SI Dulal of Tangail DB is the present investigating officer of the case.

### **Sub Inspector (SI) Dulal Miah, Detective Branch (DB), Tangail**

SI Dulal told Odhikar that he received the responsibility of investigating this case on April 16, 2012. He informed Odhikar that on April 25, 2012, there was a meeting in the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard. A four member investigating committee was made headed by the Additional Home Secretary, Moinuddin Khandker, comprising of Superintendent of Police, Tangail, AKM Hafiz Akhter; Director of the Industrial Police 1, Golam Rouf; and Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry, Mohammad Siddique Ullah. They were compiling information about Mostafizur Rahman as the primary suspect. Before this incident, Mostafizur Rahman also had a labour leader named Golam Azam arrested; and that is why the DB was suspecting Mostafizur Rahman was involved in this case too.

### **A K M Hafiz Akhter, Police Superintendent, Tangail**

A K M Hafiz Akhter told Odhikar that they were suspecting Mostafizur Rahman, Aminul's friend, to be involved in this matter. He said that they were trying to arrest Mostafizur Rahman.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 302 talks about punishment for murder, section 201 deals with the punishment of causing disappearance of evidence of offence or giving false information to screen the offender and section 34 mentions the liability of all persons doing an common act with the same intention.

**Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Fosiar Rahman, Assistant Director Industrial Police-1, Sripur, Savar, Dhaka**

ASP Fosiar Rahman told Odhikar that at around 9 am of March 9, 2012, Aminul was arrested for interrogation, based on the information that he was supposed to send workers to the BNP's meeting on March 12, 2012. They got the information from NSI. At around 5 pm of that day, Babul Akhter, Organisational Director of BCWS, signed a bond and left with Aminul. He also informed Odhikar that Aminul came to the Industrial Police Office-1 for his own safety at around 9 am of March 12 and stayed there the whole day, leaving for home at around 5.30 pm.

**Aminul Islam, Additional Director, NSI, Savar Dhaka**

Aminul Islam told Odhikar that the allegation about killing Aminul Islam by the law enforcement agency was not true and that the NSI had no involvement in this matter.

**Dr. Mohammad Rofiqul Islam Miah, Residential Medical Officer, General Hospital, Tangail**

Dr. Mohammad Rofiqul Islam Miah told Odhikar that at around 4 pm of April 5, 2012, the police of Ghatail Police Station brought a body in for post mortem. He conducted the post mortem which is numbered-961, dated-5/04/2012. During the post mortem he saw a hole below the right knee, which he thought to be done by something sharp. He also said that the toes were smashed. In the post mortem report, he mentioned that Aminul died due to excessive bleeding.

**Odhikar's statement:**

During the fact finding, Odhikar talked with Aminul's family, his colleagues and members of law enforcement agencies. His colleagues alleged that law enforcement agency is involved with the abduction and killing of Aminul; and the NSI deny this fact. Regardless of who and what caused the death of Aminul, Odhikar demands a complete and fair investigation of the abduction and killing of Aminul Islam.