

## Durul Huda dies allegedly by BSF firing in Shibgonj, Chapainawabgonj district

### Fact-Finding Report

#### Odhikar

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, at around 3.30 am, BSF members entered Bangladesh and shot at Mohammad Durul Huda (24) son of farmer Abjal Hossain and Suraton Begum of Hudmapara village under Shibgonj thana of Chapainawabgonj district, while he was guarding a corn field near the 181/8 S pillar of the Bangladesh border. He died on the same day at around 9.45 am while undergoing treatment at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, informed his family.

Odhikar has carried out a fact finding mission into the incident. During the fact finding mission, Odhikar interviewed:



Picture 1 and 2: Durul Huda and his National ID card

- The relatives of Durul Huda
- Neighbours
- The person who bathed the dead body
- The doctor who conducted the post mortem and
- The members of the law enforcement agencies

### Suraton Begum (55), the mother of the deceased Durul Huda :

Suraton Begum told Odhikar that they have a corn field near the 181/8 S pillar of the India-Bangladesh border. On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 10pm her son Durul Huda went to guard the corn field. At 3:30 in the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, a group of 10/15 BSF<sup>1</sup> members fired at her son without warning and when they left Durul after shooting him, he began screaming for help. A few local people approached him and found Durul lying beside the corn field. At around 4 am she learnt from the local people that the BSF members shot Durul. Upon hearing the news, her husband along with the rest of the family went to the corn field and brought Durul home. At that time she saw that he had been shot in the stomach. Her elder son Mohammad Aatur Rahman, his wife Mosammot<sup>2</sup> Sokina and Mohammad Khadimul Islam along with a few other neighbours took Durul to Rajshahi in a microbus, for treatment.

<sup>1</sup> Border Security Force, the Indian border patrol.

<sup>2</sup> Mossammot-A title like Miss/ Mrs used to refer to women.

Ataur informed her from Rajshahi that Durul had been admitted to Dolphin Clinic at Greater Road in Kadirgonj at Kodomtola and given primary treatment. Then Durul was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 10 am Ataur informed her from Rajshahi Medical College Hospital that Durul had died at around 9.45am.



Picture 3: Durul was guarding this corn field



Picture 4: 181/S pillar is adjacent to this corn field

**Abjal Hossain (60), father of the deceased:**

Abjal Hossain informed Odhikar that he has a corn field near the 181/8 S border pillar on the Bangladesh-India border. On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 10pm his son Durul Huda went to guard the corn field. On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 3.30am he heard a gunshot and then after some time he heard the shouts of the villagers. Upon hearing the gunshots he assumed that the BSF members had fired blanks at the border. Soon after that he heard from the villagers that the BSF members had shot his son. He then went near the 181/8 S border pillar and brought Durul home. He saw Durul was shot under his navel, and that area was bleeding. He immediately sent Durul to Rajshahi with his elder son Ataur for treatment. On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, Ataur informed him on a cell phone from Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, that Durul had died at around 9.45 am.



**Alom (30), cousin of the deceased:**

Alom told Odhikar that on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 3.30 am he heard a gunshot near the 181/8 S border pillar. At that time he along with a few other villagers went to his cousin Durul's corn field. There he could see Durul lying beside the aisle of the corn field, screaming and saying that BSF members had shot him and gone away. He saw a gunshot wound under Durul's naval and there was also an exit wound on the right side of his lower back. The underside of Durul's right elbow was badly bruised. Durul informed him that BSF members suddenly fired at him while he was on guard at the corn field. He then laid Durul on a wooden bed with the help of some villagers and took him home and from there took him to Dolphin Clinic at Greater road in Kadirgonj at Kodomtola of Rajshahi. From there Durul was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 9.45 am Durul died while undergoing treatment. At around 5.30 in the evening he took Durul's body to the village. Durul was buried at the village graveyard at around 7.30 pm after the *Janaza*<sup>3</sup> took place



Picture 5: Indian wire fencing at Ajmotpur Border

**Durul Huda's neighbour:**

Durul Huda's neighbor informed Odhikar that on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 3.30 am he heard a gunshot near the 181/8 S number border pillar of the Bangladesh- India border. While going through the same path to cut the crop<sup>4</sup>, he along with a few other villagers spotted a wounded Durul lying beside the aisle of the corn field and when they went near they saw that Durul had been shot under his naval and was screaming for help. He and the people who were with him, called other villagers for help. From there all of them together brought Durul home. After that Durul was taken to Rajshahi on a microbus. He further informed that the BSF members of the Shoshani camp of India frequently cross the Indian border and enter Bangladesh at will. Sometimes they fire blanks and sometimes they light fire crackers to create panic. Sometimes BSF members even pick up villagers and beat them up for no good reason. On 15<sup>th</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Janaza-A muslim final prayer for the deceased before burial.

<sup>4</sup> As it is very hot during the day, farmers go to cut the crop at around dawn and early in the morning

May 2012 at around 8.30 pm some BSF members of the Shoshani camp of India entered Bangladesh, misbehaved with the local people and threatened them. The villagers got angry at this kind of behaviour of the BSF members and at one point they got together and chased them away. He assumed that as the BSF were chased on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012, on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, deep into the night they shot Durul when they found him alone, as revenge. He said that due to the harassment of BSF it is no longer safe to live or harvest crops in that area and the villagers living near the border constantly feel terrified and suffer from insecurity.

**Omor Faruk (23), the person who bathed Durul Huda's body:**

Omor Faruk told Odhikar that he learnt Durul being shot by the BSF on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 3.30 am from the villagers. At that time he along with other villagers approached the corn field to look for Durul. He saw Durul's whole body was covered in blood and blood was seeping from a wound near his naval. Durul was first taken to his house and then to Rajshahi for treatment. At around 9.45 am, Durul died while undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Durul's body was brought home at around 5.30 pm. At around 6 pm while he was bathing Durul's body he saw a gunshot wound under his naval which had exited through the right side of his lower back. Other than that, he saw a mark of injury on the underside of his right elbow. At around 7.30 pm, after the Janaza was completed, Durul was buried in the village graveyard.

**Habildar Nojrul Islam, Camp Commander, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Ajmotpur border outpost:**

Habildar Nojrul Islam of BGB Ajmotpur Border outpost informed Odhikar that on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 a flag meeting was held with BSF Camp Commander P.Biswas of Shoshani camp, Golapgonj thana, Maldoho district, India from around 8.40 am till 10 am, regarding the death of Durul Huda. The flag meeting was held near the 181/7 S border pillar. Besides the Camp Commanders of India and Bangladesh, 10 members each of BSF and BGB were also present.

**Mohammad Fojlul Korim, Duty Officer, Shibgonj Police Station, Shibgonj:**

Mohammad Fojlul Korim told Odhikar that on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 3.30 am when Durul Huda went to guard his corn field near 181/8 S pillar of Ajmotpur border of Shibgonj thana the patrol team of 125 BSF Shoshani camp fired at him. He died after he was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. The ASP and DSB of Chapainawabgonj were informed about this matter on behalf of Shibgonj Police Station. The police radio message number is- 365, date : 16.05.2012, receive number-161330, Clearance number-161340.

**Sub Inspector (SI), Mohammad Mahmudul Hassan, Rajpara Police Station, Metropolitan Police, Rajshahi:**

Mohammad Mahmudul Hassan informed Odhikar that on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, at around 12.45 pm an unnatural death case was filed based on Rajshahi Medical College Hospital's ward master SM Mahbubur Roshid's complaint. The Case number is: 227/12 date: 16/05/12. In the First Information Report (FIR) he wrote that a person named Durul Huda of Ajmotpur village was wounded by BSF firing and died while undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Durul Huda was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital at around 9.30 am in a critical condition and died while undergoing treatment at around 9.45 am. After Durul died, he prepared the inquest report of Durul Huda's body. He said that the death of Durul was a sensitive issue and was unwilling to speak about the inquest report. However, he told Odhikar to contact Zillur Rahman, Officer in-Charge, Rajpara Police Station, Rajshahi to know about the inquest report.

**Officer in-Charge (OC), Zillur Rahman, Rajpara Police Station, Metropolitan police, Rajshahi:**

Zillur Rahman told Odhikar that on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, Durul Huda was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition at around 9.30 am and died at around 9.45 am while undergoing treatment. He got to know this from Rajpara Police Station's Sub Inspector Mohammad Mahmudul Hassan who prepared the inquest report of the dead body. SI Mohammad Mahmudul Hassan informed him that, an unnatural death case was filed at around 12.45 pm regarding Durul Huda's death based on a complaint by Rajshahi Medical College Hospital ward master SM Mahbubur Roshid. The case number is: 227/12 date: 16/05/12. When Odhikar asked him about the inquest report of Durul Huda's dead body he said that, there was a bandage on the underside of Durul Huda's right elbow. After opening the bandage, quarter inch deep and bloody wounds could be seen in two spots under the elbow. There was also a bandage tied around the stomach, after opening the bandage, bloody wounds could be seen in three spots right below the naval.

**Dr. Mohammad Ali Majrui Rahman, Lecturer, Forensic Medicine Department, Rajshahi Medical College Hospital:**

Dr. Mohammad Ali Majrui Rahman told Odhikar that on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at around 2.05 pm, the police of Rajpara Police station brought the dead body of a man named Durul Huda into the morgue. He prepared the post mortem of Durul's dead body from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. He said that he saw a gunshot wound in Durul's body along with a few injuries.

**Odhikar's view:**

Odhikar expresses grave concern over the death of Durul Huda due to BSF firing. Odhikar is dissatisfied over the weak stance of the government and BGB regarding the torture, killing and disappearance of Bangladeshi citizens at the Bangladesh-India border. Odhikar demands that the government take strong action against the continuous killing of and other human rights violations on unarmed Bangladeshis by the Border Security Force of India.

-The End-