

Human Rights Monitoring Report: 1-28 February 2011

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Odhikar defends civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of the people and as part of its mission, observes, reports and analyses the human rights situation of Bangladesh. Odhikar documents and records violations of human rights and receives information from its network of human rights defenders as well as from monitoring 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 month of February 2011 is presented below:

Prime Minister's statement and extra-judicial killings

1. On February 3, 2011 the Prime Minister stated, at a press conference, that "I have always taken a stand against extra-judicial killings. Such killings are continuing for a long time, which can not be stopped over night."¹ A youth named Nurul Islan Shumon had been shot dead by police at the Botanical Gardens in Mirpur in the Dhaka Metropolitan Area, when the Prime Minister was delivering her speech at a press conference. The next day, Hazrat Belal, alleged regional

¹ The daily Prothom Alo, 04/02/2011, 1st page, reported by special correspondent, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2011-02-04/news/128857>

commander of JSD Gonobahini, was reported as being killed by RAB and Police in a joint operation at Harinakunda under Jhenaidah district.²

2. The Prime Minister has addressed the extra-judicial killings for the first time after two years of assuming power. Before that, the government officials at different levels, including the Home Minister had been denying the practice of extra-judicial killings.
3. Odhikar is concerned that the Prime Minister's statement will only encourage those who are involved in extra-judicial killings, to continue this act.
4. According to Odhikar, 17 people were extra judicially killed by law enforcement agencies during February 2011. Among them, 08 were killed by RAB and 06 by police and 03 by RAB-police.

Crossfire/encounter/gun fight:

5. It has been alleged that 15 persons were killed in 'crossfire/encounters/gun fights'. Of these deaths, 08 were killed in the hands of RAB, 04 by police and 03 by RAB-police.

Death due to torture:

6. Of the deceased 01 was allegedly tortured to death by police.

Beaten to death:

7. Of the deceased, 01 was allegedly beaten to death by police.

Identities of the deceased:

8. Of the 17 killed, 02 were from Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Red Flag), 01 was from Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Jonajuddho), 01 was from Gonobahini, 02 were from Gono Bahini (Jashod), 02 were unidentified youths, a 52-year-old man and 08 were alleged criminals.

Death in prison/ custody

9. During the month of February 2011, 09 persons died in prison allegedly due to 'sickness'. Another 04 persons were allegedly killed extra judicially while under custody of RAB and police respectively. One former BDR jawan also died during this time while in custody.

Whereabouts of a shopkeeper, picked up by RAB, remain unknown

10. On February 15, 2011, a grocery shopkeeper Rafiqul Islam (50) was picked up by some plain clothed and uniformed RAB members from 620 North Shahjahanpur of Dhaka city and his whereabouts unknown since his arrest. The family members of Rafiqul Islam informed Odhikar that they have searched for him at various places, including the RAB headquarters and at the local police station. They did not find him anywhere. The eye-witnesses of this incident told Odhikar that 15/20 uniformed and plain clothed RAB members picked up Rafiqul from a shop. They did not know why Rafiqul had been picked up. Many people, including his fellow shopkeepers and passers-by witnessed Rafiqul's arrest. His home district is Gaibandha.³

² The daily Amar Desh, 04-06/02/2011, 1st page, staff reporter/Jheniadah correspondent, <http://amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2011/02/04/66532>

³ Fact finding report of Odhikar/The daily Amar Desh, 18/02/2011, Page 2, staff reporter

11. Many persons have ‘disappeared’ after being detained by men claiming to be members of law enforcement agencies. Some of their dead bodies were also discovered after a time. The families of the victims claim that it is the members of the law enforcement agencies who are making the arrests.
12. Odhikar expresses deep concern over such incidents of arrest and disappearance and demands that the Government arrange for the search and rescue of lost persons and also take action against those involved with such acts.

Demand for withdrawal of cases against people who demonstrated against an airport at Arial Beel

13. On January 31, 2011, a police officer was killed and more than 100 people, including policemen and journalists, were injured in clashes between the police and local people during a protest rally and blockade of the Dhaka-Mawa highway against the proposed International Airport at Arial Beel. Finally the government was compelled to cancel its plan due to justified protests by the local people against the construction of a new airport at Arial Beel and on agricultural land. After the incident, the government filed cases against the Dhaka University teacher and Professor Emeritus, Dr. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury; Nuclear scientist Dr. Foyzur Rahman Al Siddiqui; Dr. Fakhrul Islam Chowdhury; former Adviser of the caretaker government Engineer Amanul Islam Chowdhury; including the leaders of Arial Beel Protection Committee and 22 thousand local people. Jalil Master, Joint Convener of the Arial Beel Protection Committee, had also been arrested. It has been alleged that the supporters of the ruling party and policemen are harassing local people, ransacking and looting their houses.⁴
14. Odhikar urges the Government for withdrawal of the cases against the leaders of Arial Beel Protection Committee and 22 thousand local people and also urges that the harassment in the name of ‘police operation’ be stopped.

Arrests under Anti Terrorism Act 2009 and allegation of torture

15. On February 25 and 21, 2011, five members of the banned political organisation Hizb-ut Tahrir were arrested for sticking anti government posters on walls. Later they were shown as arrested under the Anti Terrorism Act of 2009.⁵ Furthermore, at least 20 members of Hizb-ut Tahrir were arrested by police across the country in the month of February 2011 for anti-government campaigns.⁶
16. On February 14, 2011, the Public Relations Department of Hizb-ut Tahrir Bangladesh forwarded written allegations to human rights organisations that the members of Hizb-ut Tahrir were tortured by law enforcement agencies at the Task Force Interrogation (TFI) Cell. It has been alleged in the statement that after banning the Hizb-ut Tahrir on October 22, 2009, many were arrested, including Professor Mohiuddin Ahmed, Kazi Morshedul Huq and Professor

⁴ Weekly Budhbar, 09/02/2011 at 2nd page by Ahmed Foyez/ Report from Jahangir Hossain Akash, human rights defender of Odhikar, Munshiganj

⁵ The daily Jugantor, 23/02/2011 at page 20, <http://jugantor.us/enews/issue/2011/02/23/news0901.php>

⁶ The daily Amader Shomoy, 27/02/2011, Page 8, Shahjahan Akond Shuva, Abdullah Titu, <http://www.amadershomoy.com/>

Syed Golam Mawla. They are still detained in jail. On December 22, 2010 and on January 19, 2011, police arrested more Hizb-ut Tahrir members and they were allegedly tortured in various ways at the TFI Cell in 'remand' for extracting information. They were reportedly subjected to electric shocks applied at their genitals. They were stripped naked, tied and suspended upside down. They were also squashed between slabs of ice for long periods of time.⁷

17. It is to be mentioned that many people were allegedly tortured in the TFI Cell during interrogation in the same way after the declaration of the State of Emergency in January 2007 and that the trend continues even after the present government assumed power on January 6, 2009.
18. Torture during interrogation in remand is not only a criminal offence but also a serious violation of human rights. Odhikar is alarmed by the fact that despite 'zero tolerance' on torture, the government has not taken any effective step to stop acts amounting to torture by law enforcement agencies; rather it is inspiring the law enforcers by ignoring the incidents of human rights violations.

Foreign Minister's statement on Felani's killing by the BSF

19. On February 7, 2011, the State Minister for Forest and Environment, Hassan Mahmud stated, on behalf of the Foreign Minister, on the killing of Felani by the BSF that "this was a stray and isolated incident which did not put any negative impact on the friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries."⁸ The BSF kill and torture Bangladeshi citizens living at the border areas on an almost regular basis. This can be proved by reviewing the statistics in this regard. The reality is that the BSF continues its killing missions by violating promises given at meetings at the various levels, and despite assurances of stopping human rights violations. However, the Foreign Minister in Parliament, termed those frequent incidents of killing, as 'isolated'. On February 18, 2011, the Indian BSF tortured Billal Hossain (19), son of Shukkur Ali; Nur Hakim (16), son of Shamsuddin; Munna, son of Manirul Islam; and Rahmat Ali (13), son of Babar Ali by taking them from Darshona border at Damurhuda under Chuadanga district while they were cutting grass. Later they were handed over to Border Guard Bangladesh through a flag meeting.⁹
20. Odhikar condemns the statement made by the Minister in Parliament. Odhikar understands that such statements will further weaken the already weak position of the Government of Bangladesh in the question of continuous human rights violations by India, where pragmatic actions need to be taken by the Government in order to stop human rights abuses by the BSF at the border.
21. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in February 2011, along the India-Bangladesh border, the BSF reportedly killed 02 Bangladeshis. These two were allegedly tortured to death by BSF. Furthermore, 05 were injured by BSF during this period.

⁷ Appeal released by the public relations department, Hizb-ut Tahrir Bangladesh, dated 14.02.2011

⁸ The daily New Age, 08/02/2011, Page 3, Felani murder isolated incident, FM tells JS, <http://newagebd.com/newspaper1/national/8010.html>

⁹ The daily Manabzamin, 09/02/2011, Page 7, Damurhuda correspondent

Obstruction to financial assistance to Felani's family and imposition of section 144

22. On February 9, 2011 a group led by former Wing Commander Hamid Ullah and poet Abdul Hye on behalf of 'Patriots of Bangladesh', went to Kurigram to hand over financial assistance to Felani's family and to hold a meeting at Rahmotia Dakhil Madrassa at Dakkhin Ramkhana. The Awami League supported Chattra League and Jubo League brought out a procession against them in Kurigram and they also called a meeting in the same venue. As a result, the local administration imposed section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on the area. Moreover, police and intelligence agencies surrounded the Hotel Arnob where the organisers of 'Patriots of Bangladesh' were staying. Police also stopped them when they tried to go to Felani's house. Poet Abdul Hye alleged that they went to Kurigram to pay condolences and also to support Felani's family on humanitarian grounds. He alleged that the police kept Felani's father hidden and obstructed their initiatives by imposing section 144.¹⁰
23. Odhikar noticed that the supporters of the government use the practice of calling meetings at the same venue in order to disperse a meeting they think is anti government and called by opponents. As a result, the local administration imposed Section 144 of the Cr.PC on the pretext of avoiding confrontation.
24. Our Constitution allows any citizen of the State has the right to form a political party or an organisation and organise political activities in a peaceful manner. These political parties or organisations also hold the right to criticise the Government. Furthermore, all citizens have the right to organise and take part in meetings and associations and assemblies as guaranteed in Articles 38 and 39 of the Constitution.
25. Reports show that since 01-28 February 2011, Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was imposed 08 times around the country to 'avoid clashes'.

Hartal and political violence

26. The main Opposition party BNP called a dawn to dusk hartal on February 7, 2011 in protest of the deteriorating law and order situation; continuous price hikes and the scandal in the share market; and also in demand of withdrawal of cases filed against the Leader of the Opposition; for repealing the plan to build an international airport against public interest; and to resolve the crisis of electricity, gas and water. Incidents of chasing between police and hartal supporters occurred in many places across the country, including Dhaka, during the hartal. At least 50 people were injured across the country including 25 in Dhaka. Police arrested about 100 picketers from different areas.¹¹ Supporters of hartal also vandalised vehicles and put arson on buses on the day before and during hartal.¹² Furthermore, police arrested a student of class nine of Muradnagar Government High School, Md. Kamrul Hassan Shobuj, while he was returning home from a coaching centre. Later, he was tagged in a case under the Explosives Act, 1884.¹³

¹⁰ The daily Amar Desh, 09/02/2011, Page 1, Alauddin Arif/Hasibur Rahman Hasib, <http://amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2011/02/09/67365>, 10/02/2011, Page 1, Alauddin Arif/Hasibur Rahman Hasib, <http://amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2011/02/10/67562>

¹¹ The Daily Ittefaq, 08/02/2011, Page 1, <http://ittefaq.com.bd/content/2011/02/08/news0810.htm>

¹² The daily Amar Desh, 09/02/2011, Back page, <http://amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2011/02/09/67390>

¹³ Ibid

27. Odhikar expresses its deep concern over attacks on Opponents by ruling party activists and random arrests of people by police.
28. According to information gathered by Odhikar, 10 persons were killed and 1015 injured in political violence during the month of February 2011. Furthermore, 34 incidents of internal violence in the Awami League and 11 in the BNP were also recorded during this period. In addition to this, 03 people were killed and 421 injured in Awami Leagues internal conflicts while 01 person was killed and 82 injured in BNP's internal conflicts.

People struggling for self-determination handed over to the Indian authority

29. Members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) handed over three leaders of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), Captain Antu Chaudang, Second Lieutenant Prodeep Chetia and Corporal Shourav to the Indian authority. On February 5, 2011, Indo-Asian News Service reported that the ULFA leaders were handed over to the Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) through Dauki border near Meghalaya of India after detaining for a long time in Bangladesh.¹⁴
30. The men were engaged in the struggle for self-determination and to protect their own life, had taken shelter in Bangladesh. Article 25(1) (C) of the Bangladesh Constitution states, 'The State shall base its international relations on the principles of respect for national sovereignty and equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, peaceful settlement of international disputes, and respect for international law and the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter, and on the basis of those principles shall –(c) support oppressed peoples throughout the world waging a just struggle against imperialism, colonialism or racialism.'
31. Odhikar expresses concern over the stance taken by the Government of Bangladesh regarding the struggle for self-determination of oppressed people.

Attack on journalists, threats and false cases

32. On February 13, 2011, Billal Hossain Robin, staff reporter of the daily Manabzamin and member of Narayanganj Press Club, was hurt with a pistol by Awami League activist Nazrul Islam and his associates at Siddhirganj under Narayanganj district, over a report published in the newspaper. The criminals threatened to kill him.¹⁵ Police registered a case in this connection after five hours when Robin went to Siddhirganj Police Station. He had to wait five hours at the police station for unknown reasons. Meanwhile, after seven hours of filing the case, an extortion case was filed by the attackers against eight persons, including Robin. Four out of the eight accused were the local correspondents of different dailies. A youth named Tajul Islam filed a case with Siddhirganj Police Station against Robin and others on allegations of extortion, snatching and beating, giving the same time of occurrence when journalist Robin was attacked by the criminals.¹⁶

¹⁴ The daily Amar Desh, 06/02/2011, Page 2, Shirsho News, [http://amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2011/02/06/66929/The daily New Age, 06/02/2011, Page 2, UNB, http://newagebd.com/newspaper1/national/7758.html](http://amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2011/02/06/66929/The%20daily%20New%20Age,06/02/2011,Page%20,UNB,http://newagebd.com/newspaper1/national/7758.html)

¹⁵ The daily Manabzamin, 09/02/2011, Page 1, staff reporter, http://www.mzamin.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2830:2011-02-13-16-36-09&catid=48:2010-08-31-09-43-22&Itemid=82

¹⁶ The Daily Ittefaq, 18/02/2011, Page 12, Narayanganj correspondent

33. On February 17, 2011, some unknown criminals threatened Anwar Hossain, Chittagong correspondent of the daily New Age through two cell phones. He was threatened to be careful otherwise he would be killed.¹⁷
34. Odhikar expresses deep concern over the attacks and threats by criminals on journalists trying to conduct their professional duties. It demands that those responsible be immediately brought before justice.
35. During February 2011, 08 journalists were injured, 05 threatened and 01 journalist was assaulted and 03 cases were filed against journalists.

Violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

36. On February 17, 2011 some ethnic minority community people were injured when local Bengali settlers attacked them at Rangipara and Gulskhali village under Longudu Police Station in Rangamati. The attackers allegedly set fire to the houses of some ethnic minority community people. It was learnt that a local Bangali wood-cutter, Saber Ali, went missing on February 15, 2011 when he went to the jungle to collect wood. His body was found at Rangipara on February 16, 2011. In protest of this incident, local Bengali settlers brought out a procession and attacked the ethnic minority community people. People of the ethnic minority communities alleged that the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members were present when Bengali settlers attacked them.¹⁸
37. Odhikar condemns the killing of wood-cutter Saber Ali and the attacks on the members of the ethnic minority community. It urges the government to investigate the matter.
38. Odhikar urges the government to take immediate action in order to ensure human rights and peace for the Bangali and ethnic minority communities at the CHT, failing which, the situation might become unstable.

Trials of BDR members

Trial at Philkhana BDR mutiny case

39. BGB Director General Major General Rafiqul Islam, judge of the Philkhana BDR mutiny case at BGB Special Court 7, rejected the application for identifying accused BDR jawans by witnesses. On February 5, 2011 an accused BDR jawan Nazimuddin requested the court to identify the accused persons by their name one after another through one of the witnesses out of 60. But the judge, BGB Director General Major General Rafiqul Islaml rejected this appeal. Furthermore, another accused BDR jawan alleged in the court that a witness had given false statement against him.¹⁹

¹⁷ The daily New Age, 21/02/2011, Page 2, Chittagong correspondent

¹⁸ Report from Somen Chakma, Odhikar's human rights defenders, 18/02/2011

¹⁹ The daily New Age, 06/02/2011, Page 3, staff reporter

Verdict of the BDR mutiny cases

40. The verdict of the BDR mutiny at the 8 and 9 Rifles Battalion in Rangamati was given on February 5, 2011. In the verdict, 95 accused BDR Jawans were punished and received various sentences.²⁰
41. The verdict of the BDR mutiny case at the 46 Rifles Battalion in Naogaon was declared on February 20, 2011. The court declared the judgement of the BDR mutiny case by accusing 11 BDR jawans who were then sentenced to different terms of imprisonment, with fine.²¹
42. The judgement of the BDR mutiny at the 42 Rifles Battalion in Teknaf was delivered on February 23, 2011 in the Special Court-16. In the verdict, 51 BDR jawans were sentenced to different terms of imprisonment and fine.²²
43. The verdict of the BDR mutiny case at the 17 Rifles Battalion in Cox's Bazar was declared on February 24, 2011. The court declared the judgement of the BDR mutiny case by accusing 71 BDR jawans who have been sentenced to different terms of imprisonment, with fine.²³
44. The verdict of BDR mutiny case in Rangpur was declared on February 28, 2011. The Special Court-13 declared the judgment by accusing 11 BDR jawans who have been sentenced to different terms of imprisonment.
45. The verdict of the BDR mutiny case at the 27 Rifles Battalion in Kurigram was declared on February 28, 2011. The court declared the judgement of the BDR mutiny case by accusing 49 out of 50 BDR jawans, who have been sentenced to different terms of imprisonment, with fine and 1 BDR jawan was acquitted from the charges. BGB Dinajpur Sector Commander Colonel Saleh Ahmed declared the verdict at the Special Court-13.²⁴
46. Odhikar urges the government to ensure transparency and accountability in the trials of BDR mutiny cases and at the same time it also demands that the full investigation report prepared by the government regarding BDR mutiny be made available to the public.

Discrepancy in autopsy report of the victim of illegal fatwa

47. The second post mortem report of Hena Akhter, a victim of illegal fatwa, was submitted to the Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court comprising of Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Justice Sheikh Md. Zakir Hossain on February 9, 2011. Hena became a victim of illegal fatwa on January 31, 2011 at Noria in Shariatpur district. The 2nd autopsy report states that Hena died due to hemorrhage as she was injured by blunt weapons. Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain said that there was a huge difference between the previous and new (second) post-mortem report. Eight marks of injuries have been indicated in the new post-mortem report although 'no sign of hurt' was mentioned in the previous post-mortem report.

²⁰ Report from Bijoy Dhar, human rights defender of Odhikar at Rangamati, 06/02/2011

²¹ Report from Selim Chowdhury, human rights defender of Odhikar at Naogaon, 21/02/2011

²² The daily Manabzamin, 24/02/2011, Page 7, staff reporter,

http://www.mzamin.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3524:2011-02-23-16-25-31&catid=62:2011-01-03-21-36-54&Itemid=93

²³ The daily Amar Desh, 25/02/2011, Page 13, Desk report, <http://amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2011/02/25/69690>

²⁴ Report from Ahsan Habib Nilu, human rights defender of Odhikar at Kurigram, 28/02/2011

The High Court Division stated that the first post-mortem report was prepared deliberately by officers to make justice fail.²⁵

48. The accurate completion of post-mortem and the preparation of proper, unbiased and non-conflicting reports are very important for identifying the genuine causes of death. Odhikar observes with concern that the post-mortem in relation to deaths due to torture and ill-treatment are being conducted with biasness, where some doctors are also involved, and do not write accurate reports. As a result, incidents of beatings or torture are often passed off in the autopsy reports as death caused by 'illness, 'suicide' or 'accident', despite people witnessing bruises, broken bones, cuts and other injuries on the bodies.

Violence against women

Sexual harassment and stalking

49. In February 2011, according to information gathered by Odhikar, a total of 83 girls and women were victims of sexual harassment. Among them 03 girls committed suicide, 05 were injured, 25 were assaulted, 02 abducted and 02 were victims of attempted to rape. Furthermore, 46 women were harassed in various ways by stalkers. To protest against sexual harassment against women, 01 man was killed and 23 men were injured by the stalkers and to protest against stalkers, 06 women were injured. Furthermore, posters with photographs and leaflets were published by the stalkers in order to smear the character of victims.²⁶

Dowry-related violence:

50. Parul Begum, a housewife, was set on fire after being beaten by her husband Al-Amin Fakir and in-laws due to dowry demands at Shahjira village of Gouranodi Upazila under Barisal district. She was admitted to the burn unit at Shohrawardi Hospital in Dhaka in critical condition. She succumbed to her injuries on February 7, 2011 in the hospital. Police arrested the victim's mother-in-law Monwara Begum in connection with this incident.²⁷
51. During the month of February 2011, a total of 34 women were subjected to dowry related violence. Of these women, it has been alleged that 18 women were killed because of dowry, 11 were ill-treated in various other ways for dowry demands and 05 women committed suicide as they could not bear the ill treatment against them by husbands or in laws.

Rape:

52. During January 2011, a total of 47 women and girls were reportedly raped, where 16 were adults and 30 were children and one female whose age was unidentified. Of the adults, 01 was killed after being raped and 11 were victims of gang rape. One woman committed suicide after being raped. Besides, 03 children were killed after being raped and 09 were victims of gang rape. Two children committed suicide after being raped.

Acid violence:

²⁵ The Daily Ittefaq, 10/02/2011, Page 1, Ittefaq report, <http://ittefaq.com.bd/content/2011/02/10/news0568.htm>

²⁶ The daily Prothom Alo, 09/02/2011, Page 24/The daily Manabzamin, 11/02/2011, Page 17

²⁷ The Daily Ittefaq, 09/02/2011, Page 8, Gouranodi correspondent, <http://ittefaq.com.bd/content/2011/02/09/news0911.htm>

53. According to information gathered by Odhikar in February 2011, it was reported that 07 persons were burnt due to acid violence. Of these affected persons, 04 were women and 03 were men.

Recommendations

1. An independent and unbiased 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. The Government must practice 'zero tolerance' regarding extra-judicial killings and torture.
2. 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. 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 to the Convention against Torture.
3. 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 belief.
4. The Government should refrain from shrinking the space for the practice of democracy and also abstain from repression on opponent political activists. Odhikar demands the release of prisoners, including Mahmudur Rahman and Moshrefa Mishu, who were detained for political reasons.
5. Attacks on journalists and threats to media must be stopped. Persons responsible for the attacks on journalists must be arrested and brought to justice and the false cases filed against journalists be withdrawn.
6. The Government must withdraw cases filed against the people who demonstrated against airport at Arial Beel. Harassment towards the local people and the leaders of Arial Beel Protection Committee should be stopped.
7. Communities struggling to attain self-determination need to be treated with sympathy and political sensitivity as well as in line with the international norms and covenants.
8. The Government must take appropriate measures to stop sexual harassment and violence against women. The offenders must be brought under the purview of the law to ensure that justice is served. Furthermore, the victims must be provided with adequate legal support. A Cyber Crime Act should be enacted in order to prevent violence against women through the internet.
9. Appropriate action must be taken against doctors and officers engaged in conducting the first post-mortem of the deceased Hena Akhter.
10. Transparency and accountability must be ensured during the trial of the BDR jawans accused of treason and mutiny. Full investigation reports prepared by the Government regarding BDR massacre must be made public.

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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.