



A Man Allegedly Shot to Death by Police at Chuadanga

Fact-finding Report

Odhikar

At around 11.30 pm on April 4, 2008, Mohir Uddin (26) from the village of Jagonnathpur of Alamdanga, Chuadanga, was allegedly shot to death by police. However, the police have stated that Mohir Uddin was killed in a “shootout”.

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

- 1) The family members and relatives of the deceased
- 2) The witnesses to the incident
- 3) The law enforcement authorities
- 4) The hospital authorities and a person who assisted in the post-mortem

Sayera Khatun (21), the wife of late Mohir

Sayera Khatun told Odhikar that her husband Mohir was a labourer at the betel-leaf plantation. At around 12.00 pm on April 4, 2008, when Mohir returned home from the plantation, Nurail from the neighbouring village telephoned him and told him to go to the Patikabari bazaar. After receiving the call, Mohir headed towards the Patikabari bazaar but did not return home that night. The deceased’s wife stated that betel-leaf farmers used to call Mohir for work in their

plantation he used to return home after completing the work given by them. She had thought that this time Mohir would come back as usual times. This was why she was not worried as to why Mohir did not return that night. At around 12.15 pm on April 5, 2008, Mohir's uncle Hannan (42) informed her that Mohir had been shot to death by the police.

Alauddin (40), Mohir's elder brother

Alauddin told Odhikar that at around 11.15 pm on April 4, 2008, he woke up from sleep hearing sounds of gun fire. He came out of his house and heard from others that a man had been killed in crossfire and his body was kept at the *JS Maddhomik Biddalaya* (JS Secondary School) field. With a neighbour of his, Alauddin went to the JS Secondary School field and saw a body on the ground lying face downwards. He turned the body over and after throwing a torch light on to the face of the body, he realized that the body was of his brother Mohir's. Alauddin informed that Mohir's hands and legs were broken. He alleged that the police had broken Mohir's hands and legs and shot him to death. He demanded justice for the death of his brother.

Asadul Islam, Choukidar¹, Patikabari Union Parishad²

Asadul Islam told Odhikar that on April 4, 2008 while he was on duty at the Patikabari bazaar two plain clothes men on a motorcycle arrived in front of the temporary shop of Aziz Fakir which was located

¹

² Union Parishad is lowest level of the local government in Bangladesh.

at the crossroads under a banyan tree. Mohir was standing in front of that shop, eating *piyajju*. Asadul stated that the two plain clothes men forcefully tied up Mohir's hands and blindfolded him. When Asadul went forward to ask the men about their identities, the man who was driving the motorcycle introduced himself as the Sub-Inspector (SI) Asad of the Alamdanga Police Station. SI Asad told him that they would let Mohir go after interrogation and saying that the two men left with Mohir. The following day, i.e. on April 5, 2008, Asadul heard from various people that Mohir had been killed in crossfire.

Abdul Aziz Fakir (50), Piyaju seller

Abdul Aziz Fakir told Odhikar that in the afternoon of April 4, 2008, he was selling *piyajus* at his temporary shop at the Patikabari bazaar. At around 2.00 pm, a man in his mid-twenties wearing a lungi and a half shirt came to his shop to buy *piyajus* and began to eat them in front of his shop. While this happened two men on a motorcycle arrived in front of the shop and tied up the hands and blindfolded the eyes of the man eating *piyajus*. When Fakir inquired regarding the identity of the men on the motorcycle, one of them introduced himself as the SI Asad of Alamdanga Police Station. The two men then left the scene with the man eating *piyajus*.

Firoz Sheikh (58), a tea-shop owner

Firoz told Odhikar that at around 11.00 pm, April 4, 2008, when he was closing his shop, a microbus arrived and parked in front of his shop. The headlights of the microbus were turned off. The microbus stopped for a while and then continued to move on slowly. Firoz

stated that by standing on the road he saw the microbus stopped near the JS Secondary School field and two or three police officers got down from it. After dropping the police officers, the microbus quickly went away.

Firoz stated that after the microbus went away, 10/12 police officers from the Pikepara Police Camp arrived in a *Nosimon* (a locally-made vehicle for carrying passengers) and stopped in front of Firoz's shop. He went on to say that the police officers got down from the *Nosimon* and went to the same place where the other police officers of the microbus stopped. At around 12.20 pm, Firoz suddenly heard 10/12 rounds of bullets being fired. After this the police called him and a few other people to show them Mohir's body and ask whether they knew him or not. All of them told the police that they were aware of Mohir's identity. The police then showed them a rifle lying beside the dead Mohir and said that there had been a gun fight between Mohir and his accomplices and the police. They stated that Mohir had been shot and killed during the gun fight and his accomplices had fled. The police officers then took signatures of all the people they had summoned on a white piece of paper and left on the *Nosimon* with Mohir's body.

Riaz (45), Night Guard, JS Secondary School

Riaz told Odhikar that he got scared when he suddenly heard the sound of bullets being fired at around 11.25 pm. He saw some police officers making blank fires with their guns. After 10/12 rounds of bullets were fired, two police officers came to him and took him to the

JS Secondary School field and showed him the face of a dead body with a torch light and asked whether he knew him or not. Riaz identified the body as that of Mohir who was a labourer of the betel-leaf plantation. He saw a firearms lying on Mohir's body and another lying half a yard away from his body. The hands of Mohir were broken. The police informed him that Mohir and his accomplices were out on a robbery mission and after receiving secret information from a source, the police went out on a mission to arrest Mohir and his gang. It was during that mission Mohir was killed during a gun fight with the police and himself and his gang. The police officers showed Riaz everything and then made him sign on a blank sheet of paper. Riaz recalled that the amount of usual blood loss that derives from bullet wounds, was not seen around Mohir's body.

Alam (32), Nosimon driver

Alam told Odhikar that between 7.30 pm and 8.00 pm on April 4, 2008, he was called by SI Asad of the Alamdanga Police Station and asked to take on board his Nosimon an unconscious body along with two police officers to the Hardi Health Centre. After arriving at the Health Centre, the police officers took the unconscious body inside and told Alam to wait outside. After a while, the police officers came out with the body and boarded his Nosimon and headed for the Police Station. The police officers got down at the Police Station with the body and asked Alam to come again that night at 10.00 pm. Alam was told at around 9.30 pm by telephone not to come to the Police Station and instead go to the Pikepara Police Camp. Alam took his Nosimon to the Pikepara Police Camp and there 10/12 police officers

got on to his Nosimon and told him to head for the JS Secondary School field. After reaching Firoz Sheikh's shop which was near to the field, the police officers got down from the Nosimon and went to the field while Alam waited by his Nosimon. 10/15 minutes later, Alam heard the firing of 10/12 rounds of bullets. After the firing was over, he heard from other people that a man called Mohir had been killed in crossfire. At around 12.00 am, April 5, 2008, the police officers returned and told Alam to bring his Nosimon to the JS Secondary School field. When Alam arrived at the field and saw the body, he realized that it was the body of the same unconscious person whom two police officers had taken to the Hardi Health Centre on his Nosimon the previous day. Alam stated that after this the Police took the body on his Nosimon first to the Police Station and then to the Chuadanga General Hospital morgue.

An officer of the Hardi Health Centre

An officer of the Hardi Health Centre, who wished to remain unnamed, informed Odhikar that at around 7.30 pm on April 4, 2008, when two police officers of the Alamdamga Police Station brought in an unconscious body to the Health Centre, the on duty doctor declared the body to be dead. After this the two police officers left with the body.

The person who assisted in the post-mortem

The person who assisted in the post-mortem (he has suggested Odhikar not to disclose his name) informed Odhikar that there were

various wounds over Mohir's body. He said that Mohir's hands were broken and two bullets were found inside the body.

Doctor Mamun Mustafiz, the Doctor who performed the post-mortem of Mohir's body

While talking to Odhikar, Doctor Mamun refused to make any comments about the post-mortem report of Mohir's body.

Kazi Jalal Uddin, Officer-in-Charge (OC), Alamdanga Police Station, Chuadanga

OC Kazi Jalal Uddin told Odhikar that a force from his police station went out on a mission to the JS Secondary School after receiving secret information that Mohir and his gang would be committing a robbery there. When Mohir and his gang understood the presence of the police they began to fire in a haphazard manner. The police fired back as a result which caused the accomplices of Mohir to leave the scene. Accordingly Mohir was shot and killed in the process. The OC also stated that the police was able to recover two firearms that were lying near the body of Mohir.

SI Alam, Alamdanga Police Station, Chuadanga

SI Alam told Odhikar that with regard to the incident, OC Kazi Jalal Uddin filed two cases as the plaintiff. He informed that SI Asad was the Investigation Officer of the two cases.

SI Asad, the Investigation Officer of the two cases filed with regard to the April 4, 2008 incident, Chuadanga Police Station

SI Asad refused to make any comment about the cases filed with regard to the April 4, 2008 incident when Odhikar inquired into it.

The End of Report