



**Businessman Allegedly Tortured by RAB<sup>1</sup> Officer for His Attempt to Recover the  
Outstanding Money at Bangshal in Dhaka  
Fact-finding Report  
Odhikar**

**On July 14, 2009, Md. Liakot Ali Babul from 178/2 Bangshal Road, Lalbagh, Dhaka, was arrested by members of RAB-10 from the ‘Milu Auto’ shop on the Ponchayet Koborsthan Road near the Bangshal crossroads. It has been alleged that after being taken to the Dholpur camp of RAB-10, Babul was tortured by Major Abu Mohammad Siddique Alam the whole day.**

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

- The person who was allegedly tortured
- Father of the RAB officer accused of torture

**Md. Liakot Ali Babul, (42), tortured person**

Md. Liakot Ali Babul told Odhikar that he was engaged in the grill trade. His neighbor was ABM Shah Alam who owned two houses, one at 175 Bangshal Road and the other at Mohammadpur Nabodoy Housing Ltd. In 2006, Babul entered into an oral contract of Taka 550,000.00 with Shah Alam to do the grill work of Alam’s house at Mohammadpur. As per the contract, he began working on April 25, 2007. Due to Shah Alam’s failure to purchase the required grill related materials, roughly Taka 200,000.00 worth of work remained unfinished. Later on, Shah Alam requested Babul to complete the work assuring that Babul would be paid in full in due course. On January 4, 2008, Shah Alam paid Babul Taka 63,000.00 which left an unpaid amount of Taka 137,000.00.

ABM Shah Alam’s son, Abu Mohammad Siddique Alam was then a Captain of the Army. When Babul time and again demanded to be paid in full, Shah Alam provided a cheque (yearly) of Taka 137,000.00 from his son’s account at the Standard Chartered Bank. Babul recalled that the bank thrice denied honouring the cheque. Eventually, the cheque expired and consequently Shah Alam provided Babul with two separate cheques of Taka 70,000.00 and Tk.40,000.00, and refused to pay the remaining amount of Taka 27,000.00. Babul was able to encash the cheque worth Taka 70,000.00 but could not do the same the with cheque of Taka 40,000.00. In the meantime, Captain Abu Mohammad Siddique Alam got promoted to the rank of Major and joined the Dholpur camp of RAB-10. Babul prepared for litigation as the due amount remained unpaid. When Shah Alam found out about Babul’s intention, he filed a General Diary (GD) against Babul at the Kotowali Police Station on July 13, 2009. Afterwards, SI Ashraf of the Kotowali Police Station informed him of the GD over phone and asked him to see him at the police station. When Babul inquired about the contents of the GD, SI Ashraf told him that he had been accused of threatening Shah Alam that he would bring two trucks full of people

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<sup>1</sup> Rapid Action Battallion (RAB) is a law enforcement agency in Bangladesh. This law enforcement agency has been accused of a large number of extra-judicial executions since its introduction in March 2004.

and attack Shah Alam's daughter's wedding at Shenakunja and also of conveying death threats. Babul told SI Ashraf that he would meet him on July 14, 2009. On the same day, a man claiming to be a Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Faruk from RAB-10 telephoned Babul and told him to come to the RAB office on July 14.

Babul went on to tell Odhikar that at around 9.00 am on July 14, 2009, with the intent of going to the Kotowali Police Station, he went to Milu Auto shop at the Ponchayet Koborstan Road and spoke with its proprietor Milu. He told Milu that ABM Shah Alam owed him money and since Babul had asked Alam for the outstanding amount, Alam had filed a false GD against him at the Police Station. He also informed Milu that he had been told to go to the Kotowali Police Station and RAB-10 office. He told Milu that after coming back from the Police Station he would take Milu to the RAB-10 office. As Babul was speaking with Milu, 5/6 plainclothed men arrived in two motorcycles. Two of them grabbed Babul by his belt and placed him on one of the motorcycles. When Babul asked as to why he was being taken in such a manner, they told him that they were members of RAB. They told Babul that he would have to go to the RAB office and if he created too much trouble, he would be blindfolded. The RAB members seized both of Babul's cell phones. At about 11.00 am, Babul was taken to the Dholpur camp of RAB-10. His name was not noted in any register when he was entered into the RAB camp. Babul was then taken to Major Siddique's office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. He was able to recognise Major Siddique because he knew him from before. Major Siddique asked Babul his name. Hearing his name, Major Siddique told one of the RAB officers to bring a cane.

Babul stated that two RAB members held apart his hands while Major Siddique hit him in the whole body. Due to the beating, Babul's right ankle broke and he fell to the ground. The skin of his arms was marked from the beatings and his left hand broke. Despite his injuries, Babul was forced to stand and was beaten repeatedly. That was when Major Siddique told Babul that his father had filed a GD against him at the Kotowali Police Station. Major Siddique told Babul that according to the GD, Babul was planning to attack his sister's wedding which was due to be held in the August 2009. He also said that his father had told him that Babul was involved in the narcotics trade at Lalbagh. Babul went on to inform Odhikar that he fainted several times due to the beatings. After being beaten on several occasions, Babul was kept in a cell on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Again at about 3.00 pm, Babul was brought back to Major Siddique's office and beaten. This time, Major Siddique told Babul that his father had told him over the phone that Babul's brother Mukul had threatened Major Siddique's father. Saying this, Babul was beaten again. Afterwards, Babul was forced to sign a Taka 150.00 stamp document, which stated, 'I am a criminal. I lead the narcotics trade in the area I live'. Babul was set free at around 5.40 pm that day. Babul's brother Mukul, who came to pick up his brother, was forced to sign a document which stated that his brother Babul would be bound to come to the police station or the RAB office whenever summoned.

When the news of this whole incident spread, the members of the 'Bangladesh Motorcycle Parts Merchant Association' kept their shops closed for half of the day on July 15, 2009 in demand of the punishment of Major Siddique. Babul stated that the director of RAB-10, SM Kamal Hossain; RAB officer Abul Kalam Azad, Assistant Superintendent of

Police (ASP) Enam from RAB 10 and the local MP<sup>2</sup> Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin came to him to offer their sympathy. At around 10.00 pm on July 19, 2009, Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin MP held a meeting with the residents of the locality at the Awami League office of Lalbagh. At the meeting, ABM Shah Alam submitted an undertaking where it was stated that his son Major Siddique did not beat Babul. It was further stated that he himself had beaten Babul and that he would never harass or bring false charges against him. ABM Shah Alam also handed Taka 50,000.00 to Babul for purposes of treatment along with the outstanding amount of Taka 40,000.00.

**ABM Shah Alam, father of Major Abu Mohammad Siddique Alam**

ABM Shah Alam told Odhikar that Babul was his neighbour. There was a slight misunderstanding between him and Babul, which urged him to file a GD at the Police Station. Shah Alam also stated that it was him who had beaten Babul. His son Major Siddique had taken Babul to the RAB-10 office to know about the financial exchange between Babul and his father. Shah Alam also stated that he had paid Babul Taka 50,000.00 for his treatment and had also repaid the outstanding amount of money. He refused to say any further.

Odhikar with regard to this incident demands that the concerned parties be brought to justice following a proper investigation.

-The End of Report-

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<sup>2</sup> Member of Parliament.