



Disappearance of Mohammad Akbar Ali Shorder

Fact-finding report

Odhikar

On March 19, 2010 at around 4:30pm, Mohammad Akbar Ali Shorder (28), a resident of Collegepara in Salondo village, Thakurgaon, was arrested by members of RAB-5 from a road in front of the Biswa Islami Mission Mosque, alleged wife of Akbar Mosammat Parvin Akter. At the time, it is also alleged that Sri Chandro Bipin Shorker (36), an inhabitant of Nola Para of Salondo village, was also arrested by the RAB. On March 20, 2010, Bipin returned home at around 10am, however, Akbar did not. Akbar's wife tried to file a General Diary (GD) at Thakurgaon Police Station, but the police did not allow her to do so. Akbar's hometown was in Durail of the village of Dasherchor in Madaripur District. He was the son of late Mohammad Motaleb Ali Shorder, and was a wood trader by occupation.

Odhikar carried out a fact-finding mission regarding the incident. During the fact-finding Odhikar spoke with:

- The relatives of Mohammad Akbar Ali Shorder
- Eye-witnesses
- The Members of the concerned law enforcement agencies.



Mohammad Akbar Ali Shorder

Mosammat Parvin Akter (23), Akbar's wife

Mosammat Parvin Akter told Odhikar, that her husband's hometown was in Madaripur and he was involved in the wood trade. There were two allegations of murder in Akbar's name at Madaripur Police Station. She along with her child Akash (3) lived with Akbar in a rented house as tenant of Chan Mia, at Collegepara. Bipin from Nowlapara was Akbar's business partner. Bipin owned the saw-mill next to her house. On March 19, 2010, at around 4:30pm, Bipin called Akbar to talk with a buyer. Akbar went to the saw-mill. After a while she heard shouts from the road next to the Biswa Islami Mission Mosque. She went to the place and learnt from the eye-witnesses that the men who came to buy the wood were not buyers; but actually, plain clothed RAB members. RAB took Bipin and Akbar into a white microbus and left. She and Bipin's brother, Robin Chandra Sharker, went to the Thakurgaon Police Station (Thana) to file a GD at 5pm. However, hearing the incident and without taking a GD, the police locked her up. The police tried to convince them that Akbar was abducted by Bipin. Subsequently, Robin was forced by police to file a case for abduction instead of a GD. Hearing about Parvin's confinement, UP Chairman Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury and Member Nazrul Islam went to the Police Station at around 11pm and released her by giving bond. After that, she informed Ayub Ali, her brother-in-law, who lived in Dhaka, about the incident over mobile phone.

At around 8am, on March 20, 2010, they came to know from Bipin, who got released that morning that thirteen plain clothed RAB members along with Akbar left Thakurgaon for Dhaka. Ayub Ali went to Thakurgaon to file a case on March 20, 2010. Ayub Ali tried to contact the Superintendent of Police, since the local police refused to take any action. Finally, on March 31, 2010 they filed a petition case, implicating 16 people, at the Thakurgaon Chief Judicial Magistrate Court as per the instruction of Thakurgaon Police Station.

Parvin left Thakurgaon towards Dhaka with Ayub Ali. She submitted an application to the Prime Minister on April 6, 2010 and an application to the IGP Police Headquarter and Home Ministry on April 8, 2010 regarding her husband's disappearance. Parvin informed Odhikar that on April 13, 2010 she also presented the complaint in a Press Conference at the Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association in Dhaka, where she claimed that her husband, Akbar, had been arrested by RAB.

Md. Ayub Ali (43), Akbar's brother

Md Ayub Ali told Odhikar that, he was an inhabitant of Rampura, Dhaka. On March 19, 2010, at around 5pm his sister in law Parvin called him and informed about his brother's arrest by plain clothed RAB members. He left Dhaka for Thakurgaon on March 20, 2010. After hearing about the incident from local people and Akbar's business partner, Bipin, he realised that Akbar had been arrested by RAB. He went to the Thakurgaon Police Station to file a case but the officer-in-charge, Mohammad Firoz Khan, refused to take the case. He also contacted the Police Superintendent of police, but did not get any cooperation from Thakurgaon Police Station.

Later Ayub Ali by following advice filed a petition case, making Akbar's rivals of Madaripur liable, instead of RAB-5. On March 31, 2010 16 people were implicated in a case of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Thakurgaon. The case, numbered-160, and filed under sections-364/365/506(2)34 of the Penal Code. The accused were Mohammad Mojibul Hawlader and Roman Hawlader from Shirkhara village, Madaripur; Md Hiru Seikh from Gunshi; Billal Karikor from South Shirkhara; Shohidul Karikor, Toa Hawlader, Mohammad Kalo Sharif, Belal Hawlader, Khokon Hawlader, Tta Hawlader, Iqbal Hawlader, Sohel and Jakir Hawlader from Durail Dasherchor; Gedu Ram, Noren Chandro and Uttom Chandra from north Beradul Village. However, the Court sent the case for investigation to Dhaka as A. I. G (Criminal-2), reference number 1008/1(2) and the Chief Judicial Magistrate compiled the case with case number 23, which was filed by Robin the brother of Bipin, Akbar's business partner, in Thakurgaon Police Station. He said that the next hearing of this case would be on 20/6/2010.

Bipin Chandra Sharker(36), who got release after abduction

Bipin Chandra Sharker told Odhikar, that he owns a saw-mill in Collegepara at Salondo. Ayub Ali, son of late Mohammad Motaleb Shorder from Durail, Dasher Chor village of Madaripur, was his business partner. Subsequently, his younger brother, Akbar, became his business partner too and started to work with him in his saw-mill. Bipin told Odhikar, on Friday, March 19, 2010, at around 10am, while he was working in his leechi garden his employee, Mohesh Chandro, called him over the phone about a buyer looking for wood, and that the buyer wanted to talk with him. He went to the saw-mill. The buyer talked to him about the amount of wood for fixing a roof, and assured him that he would come in the evening for further

discussion. At around 4pm, two people came to fix the wood price. Bipin then informed Akbar. Akbar came to the saw-mill and then went for tea at a nearby tea-stall. At that time one of the buyers told Bipin to call Akbar for further discussion on the road in front of Bissio Islami Mission Mosque. When they started to walk onto the Dhaka-Thakurgaon road, a white microbus with 11 passengers drew their attention. According to Bipin, among the 13 plain clothed men, one was bearded and another had long hair. Some of them got down from the microbus, approached them from both sides and managed to put them on the microbus and started to drive it. According to Bipin, their mannerisms and conversation confirmed to him that they were part of the RAB. They gagged and blind-folded them and tied their hands from behind with 'gamcha' (thin cotton towels) and threatened them with death if they made any noise. One of them questioned Akbar about the amount of money he earned by sending people abroad. They said that they wanted a ransom of 30 lac.¹ The driver managed to get to Dhaka by asking people directions. Akbar tried to convince them to set Bipin free. At about 10pm they stopped the microbus and untied him, taking away 2260/-taka and a mobile phone and threw him from the microbus. They gave him a contact number to talk about the ransom of 20 lac needed for Akbar's release. The microbus left taking Akbar with them. Bipin said that he came to know that the place was called Vaduria in Dinajpur. According to Bipin, although, it was a dark night he managed to come to a bus terminal by foot and spent the rest of the night, waiting for a bus. Finally, on March 20, 2010, he reached Thakurgaon at around 8am by bus. He tried to call through the mobile number the men had given to him but discovered it was fake. He informed the Thakurgaon Police Station about the incident.

Robin Chandra Sharker (28), Bipin's brother

Robin told Odhikar, on March 19, 2010, at around 5pm, he was told that several men had taken away Bipin and Akbar from the road next to the Biswa Islami Mission Mosque in a microbus. Subsequently, he informed the UP Chairman Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury and Member Nazrul Islam about the incident. They suggested for him to go to the Police Station. He went to Thakurgaon Police Station, at around 8pm, along with Parvin, wife of Akbar to file a GD, however the police convinced him to file a case of abduction, making Akbar liable, since, Akbar had two previous

¹ 30 lac = 43,258.83 USD (source:xe.com) June 15,2010

allegations regarding murder. The case was numbered -23; dated 19/03/2010 under section 365 of the Penal Code. Parvin wanted to file a GD; however, she was detained in police custody as the wife of a criminal. Robin returned police station with UP Chairman Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury and Member Nazrul Islam to set her free by signing bond. The next morning at 8am, he went to the Police Station with Bipin to inform police about Bipin's return and described the incident again and released his name from the bond.

Mohammad Babu (an eye-witness to the abduction)

Mohammad Babu told Odhikar that at around 4:30pm on March 19, 2010, he saw a white microbus containing men standing on the north side of the Dhaka- Thakurgaon road. Suddenly, the men put Bipin and Akbar into the microbus and left towards Dhaka. Md. Babu is an eye-witness of the case filed by Robin at Thakurgaon Police Station.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Md. Ajar Ali, Sodor Thana (main Police Station), Thakurgaon

SI Ajar told Odhikar that on the night of March 19, 2010, a man named Robin filed an abduction case for his brother Bipin. The case was numbered 23 and he was appointed as an investigation officer of this case.

Mohammad Firoz Khan, Officer-in-Charge (OC), Thakurgaon Sodor Thana, Thakurgaon

Mohammad Firoz Khan told Odhikar that at around 9pm on March 19, 2010, a man named Robin and a woman named Parvin came to the Police Station to file a case. They informed that Robin's brother, Bipin, and his business partner had been abducted. Parvin made it clear that her husband's hometown was in Madaripur. Therefore, he telephoned officials, who informed him about Akbar's involvement in several murder cases and he was a fugitive of those cases. He thought that Akbar might abduct Bipin. So he told Rabin to become a plaintiff and to file a case against Akbar for abduction. He came to know that Akbar along with his wife, Parvin, and child, Akash, had changed their residence 21 days ago for self-concealment from Madaripur to Salondo of Thakurgaon. He continued by saying that hearing the incident from Bipin, after his return at 10am on March 20, 2010, it was his assumption that Akbar may have been abducted by the members of a professional

criminal group. He said that refused to take the case without investigation since; Akbar was not an inhabitant of Thakurgaon.

BM Harun-ur-Rashid, Superintendent of police of Thakurgaon

BM Harun told Odhikar that at around 4:30pm on March 19, 2010, he heard about the incident from the OC. He did not take another case from Parvin, since Robin already filed a case in this regard. Akbar was an accused of a murder case; therefore, there was a possibility to transfer the matter to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which convinced him not to take the case. He said the case was under investigation, and continued by saying, that following Parvin's verbal complaint he made contact with RAB-5 but they denied the allegation of abduction Akbar.

Moinuddin Mahmud Chowdhury, Director, RAB-5, Rajshahi

Lieutenant Colonel Moinuddin Mahmud Chowdhury told Odhikar that he heard that a group of people had abducted Md. Akbar Ali Shorder. However, he denied that they belonged to RAB.

Note: On June 19, 2010 Akbar's wife Mosammat Parvin Akter told Odhikar that on May 17, 2010 at around 11.45 a.m. his brother in law Mohammad Ayub Ali went to the Banasree project area for work along with his business partner Abdur Rahman. As Ayub Ali did not return until noon, she inquired about it and came to know from the local people that when Ayub Ali was standing beside the road of Banasree project area at about 1.00 p.m.; a white microbus with a group of people in black clothes stopped beside him and they blindfolded Ayub Ali and put him into their microbus. This time Abdur Rahman, his business partner cried for help. They also put him into the microbus. After hearing this on the same day she tried to trace them and went to the office of RAB-3. As she did not get any information from RAB 3 she went to the police Station and filed a general diary. She suspected that as her brother in law Mohammad Ayub Ali held press conferences twice and mentioned that RAB was responsible for abducting his brother Akbar Ali and also filed a case in Thakurgaon, it might be a reason for RAB to abduct him also.

Mosammat Rowshan Ara (38) the wife of Abdur Rahman told Odhikar that their village home was in Lakhuhati under Hosenpur Police Station of Kishoregonj District. She and her husband used to live in a rented house in Rampura, Dhaka. Her husband was Public Secretary of the labour welfare league Khilgaon Unit. On May

17, 2010 at around 11.45 am he went to Banasree along with his business partner Ayub Ali. As her husband did not return home until the evening, on May 18, she went to the Khilgaon police station and lodged a general diary there. She came to know from people that her husband was abducted along with Ayub Ali.

Odhikar demands proper investigation into this matter and urges the government to find these three abducted persons.

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