



Mohammad Jamal Ahmed from Tongi Model Thana, Gazipur was abducted allegedly by law enforcement officers; and is missing

Fact finding Report
Odhikar

Mohammad Jamal Ahmed (32) is an inhabitant of the Amtali Keranitek slum in Tongi Model Thana of Gazipur district. At around 2 pm on 4 May 2011, he went to the 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company' situated in Cheragali Squib Road for a new electricity connection for his home. When he approached the gate of the Company, some people identifying themselves as law enforcement officers, took him away. Jamal is a vital witness in the murder of Ahsanullah Master, former Member of Parliament (MP) from Gazipur.

His family suspect that the officers of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) in collusion with the accused in the murder case, kidnapped him.

Odhikar conducted a fact-finding mission in to the matter. During this, they interviewed:

- Relatives of Mohammad Jamal Ahmed
- Eye-witness
- Members of law enforcement agencies

Kohinur Begum (28), Jamal's wife

Kohinur Begum informed Odhikar that her husband is the General Secretary of the Awami Jubo League¹ of ward no. 10 of Tongi Thana. She said that he is a vital witness in the murder case of Ahsanullah Master, former Member of Parliament (MP) of Gazipur. Three months earlier, the ASP of RAB 1, Sohel, conducted an expedition in the area to arrest her husband. Since then, she was worried that her husband might be abducted for being a witness to a very high profile murder case.

Around 9 in the morning of 4 May 2011, her husband went to the government-run electricity supply office at Cheragali with electricians Mizan and Halim of Morkun village to take a new electricity connection. Moreover, Jamal called Kohinur's brother, Kabir Hossain to tell him to come to the electricity supply office as well.

Around 12.15 in the afternoon, Kabir Hossain informed Kohinur through mobile phone that a few people in plain clothes took her husband away from in front of the gate of electricity supply office.

Hearing this news, she went to office. The security guard of the electricity supply office, Joshimuddin confirmed the news of her husband's arrest and gave her the license number of the microbus. The number was- Dhaka metro-cha-11-7108.

¹ The youth wing of the Awami League, the present ruling party.

She asked another security guard of the electricity office, Akram Hossain, what he had seen. He informed her that one person was sitting on a chair near the office gate. After the arrest of her husband, Arkam Hossain asked the men their identity. They identified themselves as 'belonging to the administration' and took her husband away with them. They ordered the other people with her husband to go away, otherwise they would shoot them. She searched for her husband in different places but failing to locate him, she ultimately went to file a case in the Tongi Model Police Station. The officer-in-charge of the Police Station, Gazi Ruhul Emam filed her complaint not as a case, but only as General Diary (GD). The number is 265; dated: 06/05/2011. Kohinur also went to the offices of RAB 1, 2 and 3. Duty officers of RAB denied knowledge of arresting anyone called Mohammad Jamal Ahmed. At last, she filed a complaint in the Senior Judicial Magistrate Court-1 as the plaintiff. The number is C, R 1962; dated: 22/05/2011.

Kohinoor Begum informed Odhikar that there had been a disturbance in Keranirtek in Tongi a week before her husband's arrest. Kalu Mia, son of Shabu Shekh; Monir Hossain, son of Amir Hossain; Amena Begum, wife of Monir Hossain; Ruki, wife of Nur Mohammad; and Lengra Dulal threatened her husband and said that they would 'swallow him like a tablet' in a week; and his dead body would not be recovered. For this reason, she suspected that those people and the person accused of the murder of Ahsanullah Master may be behind the abduction and disappearance of her husband.

Rashida (45), Jamal's sister

Rashida told Odhikar that on the morning of 4 May 2011, Jamal took 500 taka from her and went to the electricity supply office. At noon, she was informed through mobile phone that some people had arrested Jamal from the office gate. Later on, two acquaintances, Sundor Mintu and Kala Mintu, who are said to be the 'informants' of RAB, came to her and informed her that RAB officers had arrested Jamal. They demanded money from her, if the family wanted him back. She gave them 12 thousand taka and bought cloths for Sundor Mintu and Kala Mintu. However, Jamal was not returned to his family.

Abul Hashem (60), Jamal's father

Abul Hashem told Odhikar that he and his son were present when Ahsanullah Master was killed. When the perpetrators shot Ahsanullah Master in his chest, Ahsanullah Master had asked Abul Hashem for water. He gave him water and told the perpetrators that he knew them. He was then shot three times in the leg. Jamal admitted his father to the Tongi Sheba Hospital. The bullets taken from his leg were submitted as evidence to the Court. Later on, Jamal was made a witness of the Ahsanullah Master murder case. He said that in the meantime, RAB had arrested Sumon Mozumder, another witness of this case and had beaten him to death. Now they had kidnapped Jamal. He claimed that people of the administration had kidnapped his son with the help of the accused persons to disrupt the trial of the murder case of Ahsanullah Master.

Mohammad Mizan (30), eye-witness

Mohammad Mizan told Odhikar that at around 10 in the morning on 4 May 2011, Jamal called him several times to tell him to go to Cheragali electricity supply office. He went to Jamal's house and from there he went to the electricity office with Jamal. They talked with the electricity investigation officer. Jamal had called Kabir Hossain, his brother-in-law, to come to the office. Kabir came to the electricity supply office on his motorcycle and called Mizan on his cell phone to tell him he had arrived. Jamal and Mizan came out of the office and walked towards the gate. There they saw, what they thought were RAB officers, waiting in a microbus. After few moments, Mizan saw 6/7 people surrounding Jamal. The men ordered him to run away, otherwise they would shoot him. Then he ran towards the second floor of the electricity supply office and saw from the window Jamal being pushed into the microbus, driven by a man with a beard wearing a 'Kabuli suit'².

Kabir Hossain(26), Jamal's brother-in-law

Kabir Hossain told Odhikar that on the morning of 14 May 2011 Jamal called him to tell him to go to the electricity supply office. At around 2.15 in the afternoon, he went to the electricity supply office gate. He saw some people there, one of whom began asking him questions. Then he called Jamal to tell him to come to the gate. Jamal and Mizan came down from second floor and 6/7 people surrounded Jamal. He asked them what they wanted. Then a fair, tall person with cropped hair, punched him and told him to leave, otherwise he would be shot. He assumed that those people were from the administration.

Mohammad Josim (50), Security in-charge, Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited, Cheragali, Tongi, Gazipur

Mohammad Josim told Odhikar that at around 2 in the afternoon on 4 May 2011, a man entered the main gate of the office. He followed that person and saw a few people taking pushing a man into a microbus. He described the driver as a bearded man wearing a 'Kabuli' dress. The microbus started moving away before he could approach it. He noted the license number of the microbus - Dhaka Metro-cha-11-7108.

Shafiqul (34), Eye-witness

Shafiqul told Odhikar that he owns a small shop near the gate of the electricity supply office. At noon on 4 May 2011, a white microbus stopped in front of his shop. There were 5/6 people in the microbus. He told the driver that customers would not come if the car stood in front of his shop. The driver told him that his boss was in front of the mosque and they would leave after he came back. Then the people got out of the microbus. After a few minutes, they brought a man with them, pushed him in, and left.

Mohammad Akram (28), eye-witness

Mohammad Akram informed Odhikar that at around 2 in the afternoon on 4 May 2011 he was carrying out his duty at the gate as the security guard of the Dhaka Electric Supply Company

² A dress worn by Afghan men, but also popular in Pakistan and found in Bangladesh too.

Limited. He saw a few people waiting near a motorcycle and a white microbus. After some time, one person got out of the microbus sat on a chair near the gate. Akram went into the office for some work and when he came out again, the man had gone. He said that security guard Jasim told him that a man had been taken away in the white microbus.

SI Abul Kalam Ajad, Second officer, Tongi Model Police Station, Gazipur

SI Abul Kalam Ajad refused to talk about Mohammad Jamal Ahmed with the representative of Odhikar.

Gazi Ruhul Emam, Officer-in-Charge, Tongi Model Police Station, Gazipur

Gazi Ruhul Emam told Odhikar that he had heard about the news of Jamal being missing. He said that without investigation, it could not be ascertained who abducted Jamal and why. He also told Odhikar that Jamal had been implicated in 12 cases at the police station.

Captain Mohammad Shohayel, Special Company, RAB-1 Headquarters, Uttara, Dhaka

Captain Mohammad Shohayel told Odhikar that Jamal's family had filed a complaint at RAB-1 mentioning that RAB officers had abducted him. This was still under investigation. He mentioned that the complaint made by Jamal's family is not correct because the day when Jamal was abducted, he (Captain Shohayel) was on duty at Shimultoli. He said that Jamal had been arrested by RAB before, but set free. If RAB wanted to abduct him and make him disappear, they would have done it then.

Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, Senior Assistant, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Mirpur-13, Dhaka

Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain informed Odhikar that the microbus used by the people to abduct Jamal had been traced. The number of the microbus is Dhaka Metro-Cha-11-7108, Chassis number A7 R 60-043323, Engine number 1 AZ-5191055; year of making-2005 and the owner of the microbus is Mohammad Renu Mia, Father: Tara Mia, of 'Sweet Home', House no 1/A, Road no 23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Lokon Mia (54), Lamua village, Rajnagar thana, Moulavibazar district

Lokon Mia informed Odhikar that the owner of the microbus was his nephew, Renu Mia. The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) licence was in Renu Mia's name. Around one year ago, he bought the microbus from Renu Mia. However, the ownership was not transferred. Sometimes he rents the microbus out and sometimes he uses it. Earlier the microbus was in Gulshan-1 area in Dhaka and now he drives it in Moulavibazar. He told Odhikar that he had no idea that his microbus had been used in an abduction.

Chalik Mia (23), Lokon Mia's driver, Lamua village, Rajnagar Thana, Moulavibazar district

Chalik Mia informed Odhikar that he had been working as Lokon Mia's driver for 11 months. He drives the microbus. That is all he agreed to tell Odhikar.

Odhikar demands effective steps to be taken to find Mohammad Jamal Ahmed and the real criminals be punished as per the dictates of the Law.