



## **Mosammat Sabina Akhter of Ghatail in Tangail was allegedly killed after dowry violence**

Fact finding Report

Odhikar

At around 12.00 noon of October 3, 2011 Mosammat Sabina Akhter (21) of Nichunpur village of Gopalpur Upazilla in Tangail district was physically abused by her husband Arif Hossain (28), mother-in-law Rashida Begum (50), and father-in-law Korban Ali (55). Sabina died at around 2.30 in the afternoon of October 9, 2011. Sabina's father Mohammad A. Sobhan filed a case of murder as a plaintiff against Sabina's in-laws and husband in Ghatail Police Station. The case was numbered-08; dated-06/10/2011 under section 11 (kha)/30 of the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain, 2000 (Amended/03). Police arrested Sabina's husband though her mother-in-law and father-in-law are absconded.

Odhikar conducted a fact finding mission and during this they interviewed:

- Sabina's relatives
- doctor and
- members of law enforcement agencies

### **Mohammad A. Sobhan(45), Sabina's father**

Mohammad A. Sobhan told Odhikar that Sabina married Arif Hossain, son of Korban Ali of Shotturbari village of Ghatail upazilla, about two years ago. At the day of marriage, a dowry of 60,000 taka was supposed to be given to the groom, but Mohammad Sobhan gave 15,000 taka. He assured Arif's father, Korban Ali that the rest of the money would be given soon. After a few days of the marriage, he took a loan of taka 10,000 from a NGO named 'Asha' and gave the money to Arif. After 1/2 months of taking 10,000 taka, Arif put pressure on Sabina for the rest of the dowry money of 35,000 taka. Arif mentally and physically abused Sabina for dowry. At the

beginning, he settled the matter within the family. He informed that on October, 2010, Arif abused Sabina physically. Sabina could not tolerate that and returned her father's home. To settle this matter Sobhan complained to the legal aid NGO 'Manabadhikar Bastobayon Parishad' of Modhupur. They sent a notice to Arif Hossain's home. After that on November 4, 2010, Golam Kibria, president of Modhupur Manabadhikar Bastobayon Parishad asked him to bring Sabina to their office and also called Arif Hossain and his family. That day arbitration was held. Arif's uncle Mohammad Shahjahan Talukder, MohammadA. Halim and Mohammad Mizanur Rahman and Arif's fathers' cousin Shohrab Ali were also present. In the arbitration, Arif promised not to abuse Sabina again and that he would not demand dowry. Moreover, he would give Sabina the rights as his wife and he would allow Sabina to visit her father's home thrice a year. After the arbitration, Arif took Sabina back to his home. But after few days, Arif again abused Sabina for dowry and she went to her father's home. Then Arif's father Korban Ali and a few influential people of the village again brought Sabina back to her in-laws home. When Sabina was pregnant, he sent Sabina's mother to Sabina's in-laws home to bring their daughter back. At the time of delivery, he talked to Arif and requested him to come. But Arif only came 3/4 days after the delivery of his child to take Sabina back to his home. However, Sobhan did not allow Arif to take Sabina with him.

15/20 days before the death of Sabina, Arif and his father came to his home. Arif's father told him that no more problems would occur. He assured that he would handle everything and requested to take back his grandson and daughter-in-law. Sabina's father agreed and let Sabina go with them.

After 7 days, his son Mohammad Ujjol Mia (Sabina's brother) called him to inform that Sabina was ill. Two days after talking to Ujjol, at the morning of October 5, 2011 he went to Sabina's in-laws home. Sabina started to cry seeing him and said that Arif beat her a lot for that 35,000 taka. Mohammad Sobhan wanted to bring Sabina away for treatment but Korban Ali did not allow him to take her. He informed Golam Kibria, president of 'Modhupur Manabadhikar Bastobayon Parishad'. Golam Kibria told him to go to Ghatail Police Station.

On October 6, 2011, he went to the Police Station and filed a case as a plaintiff against three people under section 11 (Kha)/30 of the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain (Amendment 2003). He rescued Sabina from her in-laws home with the help of police. On that day she got admitted to the Gopalpur Upazilla Health Complex and on October 7, 2011 she was shifted to the

Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Her condition worsened and that is why they sent her back home on October 8, 2011. At around 2.30 in the noon of October 9, 2011 Sabina died. Sabina's father thinks that she died because of the physical abuse.

**Mohammad Ujjol Mia (23), Sabina's brother**

Mohammad Ujjol Mia told Odhikar that on October 4, 2011 Sabina called him and said that she was ill and asked him to take her back. Then he called his father and told him to bring her back. On October 5, 2011 Sabina's father went to her in-laws home. His father informed him that Sabina was beaten by her husband Arif, father-in-law and mother-in-law. Her health was very bad. Then he told his father to bring Sabina back. On October 6, 2011 he came to know over phone that Sabina was rescued by police and was admitted to the Gopalpur Upazilla Health Complex.

On October 7, 2011 he went to Mymensingh Medical College from Gazipur to see Sabina. At that time Sabina's condition was very critical. There were black bruises below the left eye and injury marks on her body, nose and face. Sabina told him that her husband, father-in-law and mother-in-law punched and kicked her by holding her hair. Ujjol Mia informed that Sabina told him that when she was screaming in pain, her mother-in-law gave her a medicine. After one hour of taking that medicine her condition worsened and she felt like her chest was burning. After staying in the hospital for a few moments, Ujjol Mia came back to Gazipur. On the next day, October 8, 2011 at around 12 at night, he went to their home and saw Sabina there, after she was released from Mymensingh medical college. Sabina died at noon of October 9, 2011. He blames Sabina's husband and in laws for Sabina's death.

**Dr. Mohammad Abul Kalam, (Emergency Medical Officer), Gopalpur Upazilla Health Complex, Tangail**

Dr. Mohammad Abul Kalam told Odhikar that at around 5 in the afternoon of October 6, 2011, Sabina's mother brought Sabina to the hospital. At that time Sabina's situation was critical. There were blue marks below the left eye and injuries on her cheeks, neck, face and body. Her situation was so critical that he suggested not admitting her into the hospital. Later on, her mother signed the bond and Sabina was admitted and Dr. Abul Kalam gave her first aid. Sabina was later transferred to Mymensingh Medical College.

**Golam Kibria, President, Manabadhikar Bastobayon Parishad, Modhupur, Tangail**

Golam Kibria told Odhikar that based on the complaint of Sabina's father they sent a notice to Sabina's husband Arif Hossain. Receiving that notice Arif Hossain along with a few of his relatives came to his office at Modhupur on November 4, 2010 and arbitration was held there. Arif Hossain promised both orally and in writing that he would not torture his wife and would not demand dowry again. On October 5, 2011 Sabina's father informed him that Sabina's husband, father-in-law and mother-in-law beat Sabina for dowry money. He said that on the next day, October 6, 2011 he went to Sabina's in-laws house with police from Ghatail Police Station and rescued Sabina in an injured condition. Then on October 9, 2011 he came to know that Sabina had died.

**Sub Inspector Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, Investigating officer, Ghatail Police Station, Tangail**

Sub Inspector Mohammad Mizanur Rahman told Odhikar that based on the complaint of Mohammad A. Sobhan, on October 6, 2011 he along with three police went to Arif's home at Shotturbari. They rescued Sabina from there and arrested Sabina's husband, Arif Hossain. Among the three accused two are still absconding. He said that at first the case was under section 11 (kha)/30 of the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain (Amendment 2003) and then he brought the case under section 11 (Ka)<sup>1</sup>.

On January 19, 2012 Sub Inspector Mohammad Mizanur Rahman informed that he received the death certificate of Sabina few days ago. But as the viscera report is not prepared yet, he did not get the post-mortem report. As soon as he receives the post-mortem report, he would submit the final charge sheet in the Court.

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<sup>1</sup> The section of the Law refers to causing death due to dowry demands. The maximum sentence is death.