

BSF allegedly kills a Bangladeshi at Nagorbhita border in Thakurgaon

Fact-Finding Report

Odhikar

The Border Security Force of India (BSF) has allegedly tortured and killed Mohammad Hajirul Islam (27), son of late Iyaz Uddin and Hajera Khatun of South Dowari village in Baliyadangi Upazila of Thakurgaon district in Bangladesh on the night of September 1, 2012. Nagorbhita border of Bangladesh on its opposite has Tingao border of Goalpukur Police Station in North Dinajpur district of India. The Company Commander of 30 BGB, Barkat Ullah told Odhikar that at the flag meeting held on September 1, 2012 the Inspector of Tingaon BSF outpost Kapoor Singh said that Hajirul Islam died when BSF shot him while he was trying to cut the barbed wire fence at the Tingaon border of India. However, the doctor and the person who bathed the dead body found no marks of gunshot in Hajirul's body. Moreover, they mentioned that there were bruises behind Hajirul's head, indicating he suffered to death.

Odhikar carried out a fact-finding mission into the incident. During the mission Odhikar interviewed:

- Hajirul's relatives
- The post mortem doctor
- The person who bathed the body and
- The members of the law enforcement agencies



Mohammad Hajirul Islam (Photo: collected)

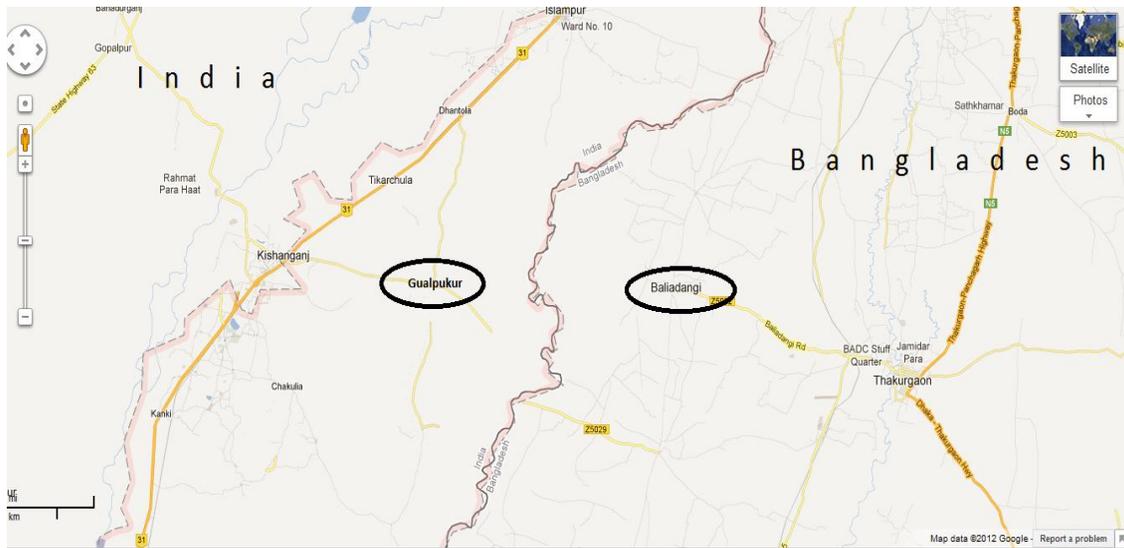
Mosammot Dulali Begum (19), Hajirul's wife:

Mosammot Dulali Begum informed Odhikar that her husband was a poor farmer. On August 31, 2012 at around 2:00pm Hajirul had lunch and left the house. However, he did not return home that night. On September 1, 2012 at around 6:00am a stranger informed her that the BSF has killed her husband. She also learned that the BSF took her husband's body to India

when they identified the body was of a Bangladeshi. They completed the post mortem on the body there and returned it to Bangladesh. On that day at around 6.30 pm she came to see her husband's body when the Baliyadangi Police were passing by her house with her husband's body. From Nagorbhita Border outpost BGB camp. She saw her husband bore marks of injury behind his head.

Mohammad Shohidul Islam (32), Hajirul's brother:

Mohammad Shohidul Islam told Odhikar that on September 1, 2012 at around 8:00am, he came to know from his mother that Hajirul had died from BSF firing. On September 2, 2012 he went to Thakurgaon Adhunik Sadar Hospital and after the completion of the post mortem he received the body from the police and returned home. On September 2, 2012 at around 4:00pm Hajirul was buried at Bhangapukur graveyard, he said.



The circle on the left indicates Goalpukur police station of India and the circle on the right indicates Baliyadangi Police Station in Bangladesh.

Mohammad Barkat Ullah, Company Commander, Nagorbhita BGB border outpost, 30 Border Guard Bangladesh, Thakurgaon:

Mohammad Barkat Ullah informed Odhikar that on September 1, 2012 at around 3:30am he heard a gunshot. He informed the BGB officials on patrol about the matter. According to information from the patrolling members of the BGB, he went to the scene of incident at around 6:00am and saw a body near the barbed wire fence, about 400 yards away from number sub pillar no. 4 of main pillar no. 376. Around 8:00am he sent a letter to Tingaon BSF camp for attending a flag meeting. On September 1, 2012 at around 9:30am the flag meeting was held at the Indian border, on the opposite of River Nagor, about 10 yards away from sub pillar no. 4 of main pillar no. 376. He headed the meeting on behalf of BGB and Tingaon camp while Inspector Kapoor Singh headed the BSF at the flag meeting. Inspector

Kapoor Singh informed him that on September 1, 2012 at around 3:30am, a man had gone to cut the barbed wire fence at the border. The BSF shot him at the time and he died. He along with four other people from South Dowari village went to see the body and they identified it was Hajirul. The BSF took the body to India for post mortem. After completing the post mortem, at around 6:00pm that day, Sanjeev Marma, Inspector of Goalpukur Police Station handed Hajirul's body to the BGB through the BSF. He received the dead body and handed it over to SI Anwarul Karim of Baliyadangi Police Station. Mohammd Barkat Ullah told Odhikar that if a person crosses the border and trespasses another territory, he/she should be arrested and brought to trial. The BSF cannot kill a Bangladeshi citizen.



Hajirul's dead body was found near the barbed wire fence at the circled area in the photo.

(Photo: Odhikar, September 6, 2012)

Lieutenant Colonel Touhidul Islam, Commander, 30 Border Guard Bangladesh,

Thakurgaon:

Lieutenant Colonel Touhidul Islam told Odhikar that at around 4:00am on September 1, 2012, Company Commander Mohammad Barkat Ullah informed him that there was a sound of gunshot at the border at around 3:30am. He ordered Barkat Ullah to inspect the border area as soon as morning arrives. At around 10:00am, Barkat Ullah informed him that a man named Hajirul Islam from South Dowari village was killed in BSF fire. Barkat made arrangements to bring the body back on his orders, carried out another post mortem and then handed over the body to the family.

SI Mohammad Anwarul Karim, Baliyadangi Police Station, Thakurgaon:

SI Mohammad Anwarul Karim informed Odhikar that on September 1, 2012, at around 8:00am he heard from the 30 BGB's Nagorbhita camp officials that a body of a Bangladeshi man was found on the Indian border opposite River Nagor. At around 8:30am he went to the Nagorbhita border outpost camp and later to the number sub-pillar no. 4 of 376 main pillar of the Bangladesh border and saw a body of a person near the barbed wire fence of the Indian border. A flag meeting between BSF and BGB was underway at that place. At the

end of the meeting, he walked over the river (the water level was low) to the other side and went near the body. He came to know from BGB Company Commander Barkat Ullah that the body was of a man named Hajirul from South Dowari village. The BSF took Hajirul's body to India for post mortem. At around 6:00pm the BSF officials of Tingaon BSF camp of Goalpukur police Station in North Dinajpur of India handed over Hajirul's body to the officials of Nagorbhita border outpost of BGB. On September 2, 2012 at around 9:00am, the body was sent to Thakurgaon Adhunik Sadar Hospital for post mortem. After its completion the body was handed over to Hajirul's brother Shohidul.

Dr. Mirza Azgar Ali, Adhunik Sadar Hospital, Thakurgaon:

Dr. Mirza Azgar Ali told Odhikar that on September 2, 2012 at around 10:00am, the police of Baliyadangi Police Station brought the body of a man named Hajirul to the morgue. He along with the Resident Medical Officer Dr. Mohammad Mahmud Hasan and Medical Officer Mohammad Sayeduzzaman completed the post mortem at around 12:30pm. (Whose number is 74; dated: 2/9/2012) He informed that the back of Hajirul's head was bruised and there was an inch deep wound caused by a sharp weapon in the middle of his back. The length of the wound would be half an inch and the width would be another half inch as well, he observed. He stated that he did not find any wounds of gunshot on the body. He submitted the post mortem report to Baliyadangi Police Station on September 10, 2012. He mentioned in the post mortem report that Hajirul's death has been caused by severe injury behind his head.

Mohammad Rokibul Islam (30), the person who bathed the dead body:

Mohammad Rokibul Islam informed Odhikar that on September 2, 2012 at around 10:00am he learned from locals that Hajirul was killed in BSF fire. At around 4:00pm he came to know from Shohidul that Hajirul's body was brought home. He went to Hajirul's house and completed the bath ritual of the dead body. He noticed bruises behind Hajirul's head.

Odhikar's view:

The killing of Bangladeshi citizens by BSF at the Bangladesh-India frontiers is rising at an alarming rate. Odhikar expresses grave concern on the matter. In this case Odhikar requests the National Human Rights Commission to take the cases seriously under consideration. Odhikar believes that the Bangladesh government needs to become sincerely proactive about saving its citizens from being tortured or killed by the BSF and obtain compensation from the Indian government for the victims or their families.