



**BNP leader Mohammad Rafikul Islam Majumdar was abducted and killed by men
identifying as RAB**

Fact Finding Report

Odhikar

On January 5, 2013 at around 7:45pm Haji Mohammad Rafikul Islam Majumdar (42) was abducted and killed by men identifying themselves as RAB officials, claimed his mother in law, brother and relatives. Rafikul was the General Secretary of Ward 56, Dhaka unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and vice president of the Hawkers' Market Committee in Dhaka.

He was the son of Haji Moniruzzaman and Mosammot Sufiya Begum of Chondipur village under Shahrasti police station of Chandpur district. He was a resident at Shonir Akhra under Kodomtoli police station in Dhaka.

On January 4, 2013 Rafikul went to his in-law's house in Anandanagar village under Shailokupa Upazila in Jhenidah district. The next day at around 7:30pm about six or seven men identifying themselves as RAB personnel picked him up from his in-law's house.

The same night at around 10:00pm Rafikul's body was found at the onion field of a man named Alfaz Mia in Adabaria village under Kumarkhali upazila in Kushtia. Rafikul was handcuffed (the word "Police" was engraved on the handcuff in English); there was a wound on the back of his head and he appeared to be strangled with a muffler. According to the police and the post mortem, Rafikul was strangled to death after being tortured.

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

- Rafikul's relatives
- The doctor who conducted the post mortem
- The person who bathed the dead body and
- Members of the law enforcement agencies.



Photo 1. Rafikul Islam.2. Rafikul's handcuffed body and 3. The "Police" sign on the handcuff that was on Rafikul's hands.

Mosammat Lipi Khatun (45), Rafikul's mother in-law, Village: Anandanagar, Upazila: Shailokupa, Jhenidah

Mosammat Lipi Khatun informed Odhikar that she has two daughters, her elder daughter is Snigdha and her younger daughter is Ayesha Siddiqua Jhora. Jhora's husband Rafikul was the ward 56 General Secretary of BNP in Dhaka. Moreover, he was the president of Dhaka Metropolitan Area Hawkers Market Committee. He lived with his family at Shonir Akhra in Dhaka. On January 4, 2013 Rafikul had to come to his mother in-law Mosammat Lipi Khatun's house in Anandanagar village under Shailokupa Upazila in Jehnidah from Dhaka due to some important matters.

On January 5, 2013 at around 7:30pm she heard the sound of a car stopping in front of her house. A man kicked at her gate and told her to open it. As there was no electricity at that time, she carried a candle, went near the gate and asked the man about his identity. The man identified himself as a RAB official. Before she opened the gate, 6/7 men armed and wearing RAB uniforms entered her house by climbing over the boundary wall.

They entered her house and asked her daughter Snigdha about Rafikul's whereabouts. Snigdha got into an argument with them for entering their house without permission. Meanwhile, one RAB official yelled out "Found him! Found him! ...Here." Another RAB official then handcuffed Rafikul and said, "We know everything about when you come and go from Dhaka to Jhenidah." She asked the RAB officials why Rafikul was being arrested and requested them to release him. However, one RAB official told her, rather rudely, to contact Jhenidah RAB camp if they want Rafikul to be released. She fell to the feet of one RAB official to stop them from taking Rafikul but the person kicked her away. They then dragged Rafikul out, put him inside a white microbus waiting outside her house and quickly drove away.

Odhikar Fact Finding Report/Rafikul/Shoilkupa,Jhenidah/January 5,2013

At that time her elder daughter Snigdha's husband Saidur Rahman called her and she told him to come to her house. When Saidur arrived, she told him about RAB officials arresting Rafikul. Saidur called Jhenidah RAB-6 camp and told a RAB official that a few men armed and wearing black clothes came and identified themselves as RAB officials. They took his brother in-law Rafikul away. The RAB official told him that he will inquire about this matter immediately by sending the news to all RAB offices and police stations.

At around 10:00pm, a few RAB officials from Jhenidah RAB-6 camp came to her house on a patrol van and heard about the incident from her. At one point they took Snigdha's husband Saidur to the RAB camp for further inquiry.

On January 6, 2013 at around 3:00am the RAB officials sent Saidur home on their patrol van. Saidur told her that when he was talking to the RAB officials at the RAB camp, one of them told him that the police of Kumarkhali Police Station in Kushtia informed him that a body has been found. However, it could not be ascertained whether the body was Rafikul's or not.

In the morning of January 6, 2013 Jhora, Rafikul's maternal uncle Jahangir and a few others went to Kumarkhali Police Station on an ambulance and identified Rafikul's body and confirmed the death of Rafikul over the phone.

Saidur Rahman (30), Rafikul's brother in-law, Village: Anandanagar, Upazila: Shailokupa, Jhenidah

Saidur Rahman told Odhikar that on the evening of January 5, 2013 he was chatting with his friend Ashraful and Rafikul at his mother in-law's house. At around 7:30pm he heard a car stopping in front of the house. A man kicked the gate of the house and asked to open the gate. He got frightened and instead of opening the gate he along with his friend Ashraful fled the house through the back door. After some time he called his mother in-law Lipi Khatun on the phone and she told him to come back home. When he did so, he got to know that six or seven RAB officials took Rafikul away. He informed Jhenidah RAB-6 camp, their relatives and acquaintances about the matter. At around 10:00pm, a few officials from Jhenidah RAB-6 camp came to his mother in-law's house and wanted to know about the arrest from the family members. Then the RAB officials took him to the camp on their patrol van for further inquiry. At one point of the inquiry, a RAB official told him that they heard through the RAB office's wireless that a body has been found at Kumarkhali police station in Kushtia. However, the body was still not identified.

Odhikar Fact Finding Report/Rafikul/Shoilkupa,Jhenidah/January 5,2013

On January 6, 2012 at around 3:00am, he was dropped off at his mother in-law's house by RAB's patrol van. At around 9:45am, his sister in-law Jhora, Rafikul's maternal uncle Jahangir along with a few others went to Kumarkhali Police Station on an ambulance, identified Rafikul's body and confirmed him about his death.

Mohammad Chotur Ali Mondol (55), Lipi Khatun's neighbour, Village: Anandanagar, Upazila: Shailokupa, Jhenidah

Mohammad Chotur Ali Mondol informed Odhikar that on January 5, 2013 at around 7:30pm he was returning home from Anandanagar Jame Mosque after saying his prayers when he noticed a white microbus parked in front of Lipi Khatun's house. At around 8:00pm upon hearing commotion from Lipi Khatun's house he went there and got to know that the RAB officials came on a white microbus and took away Rafikul, Lipi Khatun's youngest daughter Jhora's husband. In the morning of January 6, 2012 he learnt from Rafikul's brother in-law Saidur that after taking him away the RAB officials strangled Rafikul to death.



Photo: The place where Rafikul's body was found

Monirul Islam (26), farmer, south Monohorpur, Kumarkhali, Kushtia

Monirul Islam told Odhikar that he lives in south Monohorpur in Bagulat Union Parisad. On January 5, 2012 at around 10:00pm, he was returning home from Panti bazaar through

Odhikar Fact Finding Report/Rafikul/Shoilkupa,Jhenidah/January 5,2013

Adabaria village. At that time he heard from the local people that a body has been found on Alfaz Mia's onion field. He went near the body and saw that it was handcuffed and strangled with a muffler. The police came to the scene at around 10:30pm and took the body away on January 6, 2013 at around 12:30am.

SI KM Zafar Ali, Camp in-charge, Bashgram Police Camp, Kumarkhali Police Station, Kushtia

SI KM Zafar Ali informed Odhikar that on January 5, 2013 at around 10:00pm he was on duty at Bashgram bazar when he heard from the local people that someone had left a body at Alfaz Mia's onion field in Adabaria village. At around 10:30pm he went to the onion field and confirmed the news. A woman named Kushum of Adabaria village informed him that the dead man was her relative; his name is Rafikul Islam and he lived in Shonir Akhra in Zia Shorony road under Kodomtoli Police Station in Dhaka.

On January 5, 2013 at around 11:00pm he went to the camp and filed a general diary (GD). The Bashgram police camp GD number is: 111; date: 05/01/2013. He informed the Officer in-Charge of Kumarkhali Police Station Mohammad Ali Nawaz about the matter.

At around 11:30pm OC Mohammad Ali Nawaz, Superintendent of Police Mofiz Uddin Ahmed and Additional Superintendent of Police Joynal Abedin arrived at the scene of incident. Following the order of the OC he prepared the inquest report of the body. He mentioned in the report that there was an injury as if caused by a blunt object on the right side of his forehead and the right side of the back of his head. The body was strangled with a muffler and he was handcuffed. After completion of the inquest report he sent the body to Kumarkhali Police Station.

Mohammad Ali Nawaz, Officer- in Charge, Kumarkhali Police Station, Kushtia

Mohammad Ali Nawaz told Odhikar that on January 5, 2013 at around 11:00pm Bashgram Police Camp in-charge SI KM Zafar Ali sent a wireless message to him saying that a body has been found in Alfaz Mia's onion field in Adabaria village. He then shared the information with Superintendent of Police Mofiz Uddin Ahmed. Afterwards he went to Alfaz Mia's onion field with Mofiz Uddin Ahmed and Additional Superintendent of Police Joynal Abedin. At around 11:45 pm, following his orders, Bashgram Police Camp in-charge SI KM Zafar Ali prepared the inquest report of the body.

After the completion of the inquest report he brought the body to Kumarkhali Police Station. On January 6, 2012 at around 9:30am he filed a General Diary (GD) stating that a body of a man named Rafikul Islam Majumdar was found. The GD number is: 188; Date: 06/01/2013. At around 9:45am Rafikul's wife Jhora came to the police station to identify the body. The same day at around 12:15pm, the body was sent to the morgue of Kushtia General Hospital by Constable Selim Reza for post mortem. Rafikul's maternal uncle Jahangir Hossain took the body away after completion of the post mortem.

Dr. Taposh Kumar Sarkar, Resident Medical Officer, Kushtia 250-bedded General Hospital

Dr. Taposh Kumar Sarkar informed Odhikar that on January 6, 2013 at around 12:15pm, Constable Selim Reza of Kumarkhali Police Station brought the body of a man named Rafikul to the morgue on local van. He conducted post mortem on the body. Body ID - 05; Date: 06/01/13. He saw that there was a cut as if done with a blunt object on the back of the head and there was mark of strangling around his neck. He mentioned in the post mortem report that the man was strangled to death. The body was handed over to the police at around 1:30pm.

Mohammad Kalam (45) the person who bathed the dead body

Mohammad Kalam told Odhikar that on January 6, 2013 at around 2:30pm the body of a man named Rafikul was brought to the Kushtia Pouro graveyard for the bathing ritual. He bathed the dead body. He noticed mark of strangling around the neck and wounds behind the head of the body. After the completion of the bath, the body was handed over to the family at around 3:30pm.

Mohammad Abdul Bari, Officer in-Charge (OC), Shailokupa Police Station, Jhenidah

Mohammad Abdul Bari informed Odhikar that on January 5, 2013 at around 8:00pm, a journalist (unwilling to disclose name) told him that the General Secretary of BNP Dhaka Metropolitan ward 56, Mohamad Rafikul Islam had gone to his in-law's house in Anandanagar village under Shailokupa police station in Jhenidah district from Dhaka. From there he was taken away on a white microbus by a few men identifying themselves as RAB officials. He sent SI Kabir Hossain who was on duty at Churibil-Chandpur Highway to look into the incident. At around 11:00pm a wireless message was sent to Shailokupa Police Station from Kumarkhali Police Station that a body has been found at Adabaria village.

On January 6, 2013 at around 8:05am SI Kabir Hossain filed a General Diary regarding Rafikul Islam going missing. The GD number is: 220; Date: 06/01/2013. At around 9:00am he along with Shailokupa police station's Dhormochondropur camp in-charge SI Dorbesh went to Lipi Khatun's house in Anandanagar to inquire about Rafikul Islam. There they got to know about Rafikul's killing.

On January 13, 2013 Rafikul's brother Mohammad Mofizur Rahman came to the police station and filed a case, as the complainant against six and seven unknown people under section 364/302/201/34 of the Penal Code. The case number is -10; date: 13/01/2013. SI Zubaed has been given the responsibility of investigating the case.

Company Commander Hamidul Haque, Squadron leader, RAB-6, Jhenidah Camp, Jhenidah

Company Commander Hamidul Haque told Odhikar that on January 5, 2013 at around 8:30pm, a man named Saidur Rahman of Anandanagar village under Shailokupa police station told him that a few men identifying themselves as RAB officials have taken his brother in-law Rafikul away. He then sent wireless messages to other RAB camps and a few police stations. The RAB officials talked to the family of the victim, collected evidence and brought Saidur Rahman to the RAB office at around 11:30pm for inquiry.

On January 6, 2013 at around 1:00am a wireless message was received from Kumarkhali Police Station in Kushtia saying that a body has been found at one Alfaz Mia's onion field in Adabaria village. At around 3:00am the RAB sent Saidur home. He said that more than one group of Jhenidah RAB-6 is investigating the case.

Odhikar's view

The incidents of abducting people and then killing them by law enforcing agencies are becoming a regular matter. In 2012, it is alleged that 70 people were victims of such extrajudicial killing. Extrajudicial killings carried out by members of law enforcement agencies must be investigated properly. Odhikar cautions the government again that if extrajudicial killings are not stopped, the culture of impunity will lead to a scary consequence which is not a good sign for a free country.

-End of Report-