



September 1, 2013

Human Rights Monitoring Report

August 1-31, 2013

1. Odhikar releases its human rights monitoring report every month based on the fact findings carried out by its local human rights defenders across the country and documentation. It has been doing this in an unbiased and responsible manner since its inception in 1994.
2. It does not discriminate in any way when it comes to reporting human rights abuses. It works in a consistent manner, irrespective of political regime. Due to its credible reporting; and its non-partisan position, Odhikar is a constant target of state harassment.
3. As a credible human rights organisation, over the years many national and international organisations quote Odhikar's statistics and fact finding reports, even the opposition parties. The organisation is also a member of internationally reputed human rights networks. This is a credibility that Odhikar has worked very hard to achieve over the last 19 years.
4. This is the first time in 19 years of Odhikar's history that it could not produce a human rights monitoring report. After the apprehending of Odhikar's Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan on the night of 10 August 2013, the Odhikar office was raided by police and three laptops and two CPUs with important documents were seized on 11 August 2013.
5. Since then the Organisation and its staff and members are under constant surveillance and intimidation.
6. Odhikar could not prepare the monthly report for August 2013 as it was unable to gather information on extrajudicial killings, torture, human rights abuse by BSF, and other regular information, from its local level human rights defenders due to fact that they too are facing intimidation by law enforcement agencies.
7. Odhikar is a human rights organisation. It is manned by human rights activists and not by people seeking monetary benefits alone. It is manned by those dedicated to serving all the people of Bangladesh, regardless of ethnicity, religion, social status, gender or political preference. The dedication of those who believe in Odhikar and who support the organisation and what it stands for is unwavering.
8. We, the Odhikar team, thank those who have stood by us throughout. It is your solidarity, support and belief in us that keeps us going through these trying times. We are sorry for not being able to provide you with a monthly report for August 2013; but we will continue our activism, because a human rights activist does not need four walls to work in. Such activism comes from the heart.