



**The death of Mohammad Saiful Islam allegedly caused by BSF firing at Birampur
border of Dinajpur District**

*Fact-Finding Report
Odhikar*

On 3rd February 2012 at around 3 am, Mohammad Saiful Islam (25) son of Mohammad Nobitullah and Rowshon Ara Begum of Chaturpur village was killed by Border Security Force of India (BSF) shooting near the number 291 main pillar at Bhaigar border, Birampur police station, under Dinajpur district, claimed by his family.

Odhikar conducted a fact finding mission into the incident. During the fact finding mission, Odhikar interviewed:

- The relatives of the deceased
- People who helped the family
- Members of the law enforcement agencies



Photo: Mohammad Saiful Islam

**Mohammad Nobitullah (65), Saiful's father, Village: Chaturpur, Police Station
:Birampur, District: Dinajpur:**

Mohammad Nobitullah told Odhikar that Saiful was a driver and occasional farmer. On 2nd February 2012 Saiful left home at around 4.30 pm and when he did not return at night Nobitullah began searching for him.

On 3rd February 2012 at around dawn, he got to know that BSF members had killed a man near the border. However he could not be certain whether the dead man was Saiful or not. In the meantime, his elder son Nazrul Islam used his cell phone to contact one Babu of Srirampur village, under Hili police station in the South Dinajpur district of India, whom he was acquainted with. Babu informed Nazrul that a group of 10 cowherds which included Saiful, were crossing the border at around 3 am to enter Bangladesh with cows from India. Babu himself had come to the border with them. BSF members began chasing the cowherds. Everyone but Saiful managed to escape and cross the border into Bangladesh.

Standing at a distance, Babu saw that the BSF members lighted a torch, stabbed Saiful with the bayonet of a rifle and then shot and killed him. Babu confirmed the news about Saiful's death to

Nazrul. Getting the news, Mohammad Nobitullah went to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Bhaigar border outpost and informed camp commander Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali that his son's body was in India. He claimed that Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali did not provide him with any assistance. After that, Mohammad Alamgir Hossain, a journalist of the daily 'Prothom Alo' came and talked with Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali. After that, Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali told Nobitullah to bring the Union Parishod Member of the area.

Mohammad Nobitullah told Mosammat Atara Banu, a female *member* of ward number 3 of Jotbani Union Parishod. At last, due to the pressure applied by the local people of the area Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali was forced to sit for a flag meeting with BSF members. Then the BSF members said that they would return the body of Saiful Islam after post mortem. On 3rd February 2012 at around 8 pm the BSF members returned Saiful's body. Nobitullah saw what he believed to be a bullet entry wound in Saiful's left chest, which had come out through his right chest. He brought Saiful's body home. On 4th February 2012 at around one in the morning, Saiful's body was buried in his family graveyard.

Mohammad Alamgir Hossain (28), Village:Chaturpur,Police Station:Birampur,District:

Dinajpur:

Mohammad Alamgir Hossain told Odhikar that on 3rd February 2012 at around 10 am he got to know from local people that BSF members had killed a Bangladeshi man at the Bhaigar border. He then went to Bhaigar border outpost and talked to Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali. At around noon a flag meeting took place between BGB and BSF members near the number 291 main pillar of the border and at around 8 pm BSF members returned the body of the deceased. As per what he observed, he believed a shot was fired at Saiful's left chest and the bullet had come out through his right chest. He also assumed that the BSF members must have shot him after stabbing him with something sharp, like the bayonet of a rifle.

Camp Commander Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali, Bhaigar border outpost, 40 Border Guard Bangladesh, Birampur, Dinajpur:

Camp Commander Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali informed Odhikar that in the morning of 3rd February 2012, a man named Nobitullah from Chaturpur village came to the camp and told him that on the previous night while bringing cows from India, his son Saiful was killed by the BSF. Immediately he informed the Battalion Headquarter about this news, he said. Under the approval of the Commanding Officer he sent a letter requesting a flag meeting to Bhimpur Company Commander Assistant Commandant Santosh Kumar Singh, of 28 Battalion of Indian BSF. Assistant Commandant Santosh Kumar Singh came near the number 291 main pillar along with other BSF members. The flag meeting between the BGB and BSF members was held there. Assistant Commandant Santosh Kumar Singh told him that in the morning, BSF members informed the police of Hili Police Station about a body lying in a mustard field in Lalpur area near the border. The police of Hili Police Station took the body and carried out a post mortem. However he claimed that BSF members did not shoot anyone. When BSF members brought the body to the border, a man named Nobitullah identified the body as his son Saiful Islam. Then BSF members handed over the body to the family through Sub Inspector (SI) Mohammad Razzak of Birampur Police Station.

Sub Inspector (SI) Mohammad Razzak, Birampur Police Station, Dinajpur:

SI Mohammad Razzak told Odhikar that on 3rd February 2012 at around 5 pm, a man from Jotbani Union informed him that BSF members had killed a man named Saiful of Chaturpur village and that the BSF members were going to hand over the body to Bangladesh. That is why he went to the Bhaigar Border outpost to meet Camp Commander Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali. Subedar Mohammad Rajab Ali took him near number 291 pillar of the border. The police of Hili Police Station, carrying Saiful's dead body; and 28 Battalion of Bhimpur Company Commander Assistant Commandant Santosh Kumar Singh came to the pillar. Assistant Commandant Santosh Kumar Singh informed them that an unnatural death case has been filed at the Hili Police station regarding Saiful's death, numbered 5/12; date: 03/02/2012. As it has been proved in the post mortem report that Saiful has been killed by shooting, a police of Hili Police Station filed a regular case as the complainant. The number of the Hili Thana case is: 26/12; section- 302/201/IPC (Indian Penal Code); date: 03/02/2012. Later when the BSF returned the body, it was handed over to the family members.

Mohammad Gojimuddin, the person who bathed the dead body:

Mohammad Gojimuddin told Odhikar that on 3rd February 2012 at around 8am he got to know from his neighbor Mohammad Nobitullah that his son Saiful was killed by BSF firing while he was returning from India at night. At around 8 pm when the BSF members returned the body, he bathed it. He noticed that Saiful was shot on his left chest and that had come out through his right chest.

Odhikar's view:

The BSF members on duty at the Bangladesh India border are torturing and killing unarmed Bangladeshi citizens without any provocation by shooting, throwing stones, throwing hand bombs, beating, stabbing, and by injecting poisonous substances to their body through injection. Despite the constant meetings being held between BGB and BSF, the BSF members are not keeping any of their commitments. Odhikar demands that the government should protest against such killings and demand compensation from India.

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