



Mohammad Ruhul Ali allegedly killed by BSF at the Shingnagar Border of Shibganj Upazila in Chapainawabganj district.

Fact-Finding Report

Odhikar

On 4th April 2012 at around 3 a.m. Border Security Force (BSF) of India members killed Mohammad Ruhul Ali (32) son of Mohammad Sirajul and Taskera Begum of Tarapur Village of Shahapara in Shibganj Upazila, Chapainawabganj district. He was shot near the number 5-1 pillar of sub pillar 4 of number 168 border pillar at Doulatpur border in Shingnagar. His family claims that when Ruhul Ali went to irrigate his farmland near the border, the BSF members shot him dead.

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

- Relatives of Mohammad Ruhul Ali
- Neighbours
- Doctor who conducted the post mortem and
- Members of the law enforcement agencies.



Picture: Mohammad Ruhul Ali

Mosammot Beli Ara (25), Mohammad Ruhul Ali's Wife, Shibganj, Chapainawabganj:

Mosammot Beli Ara informed Odhikar that on 3rd April 2012 at around 9 pm, her husband Ruhul Ali left the house to irrigate the farmland. As Ruhul did not return home, she went to sleep. On 4th April 2012, at around 3.30 am some local men woke her up and told her about the death of her husband and she saw her husband's body lying in the front yard. She noticed that, the body was bloody, with numerous wounds from the forehead and near the stomach. She did not know who brought the body of her husband home.

Shariful Islam (30), Ruhul's younger brother, Shibganj, Chapainawabganj:

Shariful Islam told Odhikar that he had two brothers; and all three of them work as carpenters in Dhaka. Due to some illness, Ruhul had been living in the village for almost a year. On 4th April

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2012, at around 10 am Ruhul's wife called him on his cellphone and informed him about Ruhul's death. He immediately went to his village from Dhaka and saw his brother's body covered in what he believed was gunshots. The distance between the place near the border where his brother went to work and died (the (5-1) number pillar of sub pillar 4 of 168 number border pillar in Doulatpur, Shingnagar) and their house was almost 1000 yards. Later, on 4th April 2012 at around 12 pm police from Shibganj Police Station came and took the dead body away for post mortem. After the post mortem the body was returned home at around 7 pm. With the help of the local people, Ruhul was buried at Tarapur Graveyard at around 8 pm.

Moriful (40), Farmer and Ruhul's neighbour, Shibganj, Chapainawabganj:

Moriful told Odhikar that because the electricity needed to turn on the irrigations pumps comes after midnight, on 4th April 2012 at around 3 am when returning from work, he heard people and went towards Ruhul's house. A lot of people had gathered in the front yard. He went closer and saw Ruhul's body, drenched in blood. Sometime later, members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) came to Ruhul's house and began asking about who killed Ruhul and who brought his body home.

Masud (30), Owner of Jhilmil Studio and Ruhul's neighbour, Shibganj, Chapainawabganj:

Masud told Odhikar that he has a photography studio at Shaha Para Bazaar. He said that on 4th April 2012 at around 3 am a man who was with Ruhul informed him through cell phone that BSF members had shot Ruhul. While telling him how Ruhul died, he also told Masud that when the four of them reached the number 5-1 pillar of sub pillar 4 of number 168 main pillar at Doulatpur border of Bangladesh after crossing the Shobhapur border of India with cows, the BSF members of Shobhapur Camp targeted them and began firing. As a result, Ruhul died on the spot. As the BSF members chased them, the rest of them left Ruhul and went far away. They could see from a distance that one BSF member was examining Ruhul's body lying on the ground with the stick he was holding and after a while he commented in Hindi, "Your guy is dead, take him away." After that, they left Ruhul's body in the front yard of Ruhul's house and went away. Masud did not want to tell Odhikar the name of the man who was with Ruhul and who had called him.

Monowar, Naye Subedar¹ Shingnagar Border line, Shibganj, Chapainawabganj:

Monowar informed Odhikar that on 4th April 2012, at around 4.30 am he got to know through the local people of the area that the body of a man named Ruhul had been found in Tarapur village. Upon hearing this news, he went to Ruhul's house and saw Ruhul's body was covered by pellet shots. On 4th April 2012 at around 11am a flag meeting was held between BSF and the commander level officers of BGB, near the Shingnagar border. In the meeting, Company Commander Abul Gaffur, 39 BGB Battalion was the chairperson representing Bangladesh and for India Company Commander P. Biswas represented India. The Company Commander of BSF P Biswas denied the allegation of the BSF being associated with the death of Ruhul between the Shobhapur of India and Doulatpur border of Bangladesh.

¹ Naye Subedar is a lower ranking BGB officer.

Masud Parvez, Second Officer, Shibganj Police Station, Chapainawabganj:

Masud Parvez told Odhikar that on 4th April 2012 at around 12 noon, Officer in-charge (OC) Mirza Abdus Salam informed him about Ruhul's death. On the same day at around 4.30 pm he went to Ruhul's house and saw a dead body covered in gunshot wounds. He saw wounds caused by pellets in the chest, stomach, neck and forehead of the dead body. He said that as there are discussions going on between the governments of the two countries about not firing in the border, the BSF are adopting a new way of killing people. He took the body for post mortem to Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital and after the post mortem was completed at around 7pm he returned the body of Ruhul to his family. On 4th April 2012, he filed a general diary (GD) in Shibganj Police Station as a plaintiff. The GD number is : 178; date:4-4-12. Later, Masud Parvez filed a case of unnatural death as the plaintiff. The case number is: 33; date: 15-4-12.

Dr. Asit Sarkar, resident doctor, Modern Shadar (District) Hospital, Chapainawabganj:

Dr. Asit Sarkar informed Odhikar that at around 12 noon of 4th April, 2012, the police of Shibganj Police Station brought a body of a man named Ruhul for post mortem. He conducted the post mortem. After that, when asked for his personal opinion, he said that there were numerous gunshot wounds from the naval area till the forehead. Other than that, there was a circular wound near the left shoulder and in that place there was a blood clot under the skin. After post mortem at around 7 pm, the police of Shibganj Police Station took the body away.

P.S. Odhikar tried to contact the assistant of the morgue of Chapainawangagj Adhunik Sadar Hospital but he was unavailable.

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