



Mohammad Anwar Hossain of Bhola district was allegedly tortured at the Lalmohon Police Station

Fact Finding Report

Odhikar

On August 20, 2012 at around 8:00 pm Lalmohon police arrested and took Mohammad Anwar Hossain, son of Manik Showdagar and Bibi Sokhina to Lalmohon Police Station of Bhola district in custody. His family alleged that the police tied his hands from behind, blindfolded him and beat him on the leg inside the police station.

Human Rights Organisation Odhikar conducted a fact finding mission into the matter and interviewed:

- Mohammad Anwar Hossain
- His relatives, and
- Members of law enforcement agency



Mohammad Anwar Hossain

Mohammad Anwar Hossain (24), Victim

Mohammad Anwar Hossain told Odhikar that he had been in a love affair for two years with Halima Sadia Anonna, daughter of Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid and Tania Sultana of Noyani village under Lalmohon Police Station. On August 20, 2012 (day of Eid ul Fitr) at approximately 7:00am Anonna told him that she wanted to meet him at Bhola Government College. He agreed and at around 10:00 am reached the place with his friend Sabbir, Akash and another friend Tanzid Ponchayet's younger brother Tamim by means of two motorbikes. At approximately 11:30 am he met Anonna. At that time his other friends were also present there and joined in their gossip. After some time he came out of the college with his friends.

At around 2:30pm he again met with Anonnya in front of the main gate of the college. Anonnya was with her friends Shanta and two other friends. At around 3:30 pm, they went to Bhola Launchghat Bridge for a stroll. After passing some time there, he started for Anonnya's house with Anonnya. On the way Anonnya's mother Tania Sultana and Anonnya's uncle ABM Siddik Parvez saw them near the Bir Sreshtho Mohammad Mostofa Kamal Bus Stand. They asked Anonnya and Anwar to stop the motor bike. But they went away without stopping. He then returned with Anonnya in front of the Bhola Government College and asked Anonnya to return to her house by Rickshaw. Anonnya left for her house and he went towards Lalmohon at around 5:30 pm. At around 5:45 pm Anonnya's senior maternal uncle called on his cell phone and told that Anonnya had not returned home. He threatened Anwar that a case of abduction would be filed against Anwar. Anwar called on Anonnya's cell phone at approximately 5:50pm to know her whereabouts. Instead of Anonnya, her uncle ABM Siddik Parvez Anwar received the call. He realised that Anonnya was at home, as her uncle picked the phone. At approximately 8:00 pm Anwar's elder brother Mohammad Mahbub Alam told Anwar over cell phone to go to their shop 'Messer's Sowdagar Bhandar'. As soon as he reached near the shop, he saw Anonnya's junior uncle Arshadullah approaching the shop with Sub Inspector of Lalmohon Police Station Mohammad Yusuf Ali in a motor bike. Seeing Anwar, SI Yusuf Ali charged him for abducting a girl and warned him to release her. The police sub-inspector threatened Anwar that it will not be good for him. Without giving him a scope to speak he compelled Anwar to get on the bike and brought him to Lalmohon Police Station. In the police station SI Golam Mostofa handcuffed his hands from behind and blindfolded him. Anwar's waist belt and shoes were taken off. SI Yusuf Ali and SI Golam Mostofa threatened to implicate him in an abduction case and beat him on his ankles, knee and back and told him to disclose the whereabouts of Anonnya. Anwar requested them not to hurt him and screamed in pain. Anwar also told that hearing about his arrest, Mayor of Lalmohon Municipality Emdadul Islam Tuhin, Councilor of Ward no. 2 Helal Uddin and his friend Tanzid Ponchayet came to the Police Station and asked SI Golam Mostofa why Anwar was kept in custody. SI Golam Mostofa did not answer. Mayor requested the police members to unlock Anwar's handcuff. After a while the Officer-in-Charge of the police station, Khondokar Mizanur Rahman unlocked Anwar's handcuff. On August 22, 2012 at approximately 11:00 am Anwar was released from Lalmohon Police Station.

Mohammad Mahbub Alam (32), Anwar's elder brother

Mohammad Mahbub Alam told Odhikar that on August 20, 2012 at approximately 7:50 pm when he came at the 'Messer's Sowdagar Bhandar', he saw Anonnya's father Harun-or-Rashid and uncle Arshadullah were sitting there. Harun Ur Rashid told him that Anwar abducted his daughter. Mahbub called on Anwar's cell phone and told to come at the shop. When Anwar came he was asked about Anonnya. Anwar said that Anonnya was at her uncle's house. After a while SI of Lalmohon Police Station, Mohammad Yusuf Ali and Arshadullah Mamun came and charged Anwar for kidnapping a girl and said there was a case filed against. They said Yusuf came to take him in custody. At around 8:30 pm SI Yusuf and Arshadullah took Anwar to the police station by means of motor bike. Mahbub went to the police station but he was not allowed to enter inside. After a while SI Yusuf came to him and

asked him about Anwar's motor bike. SI Mostofa Kamal informed Mahbub that there was a case filed against him. So, he had to be in the police station and he was told to wait in the operator room. When he entered operator room, he saw Anwar, handcuffed and blindfolded, sitting on the floor. He came to know from Anwar that Anwar was beaten on his legs, knee, back and other parts of the body while he was blindfolded and handcuffed. They both were released on August 22, 2012 at around 11:00 in the morning.

Mohammad Tanzid Ponchayet (24), eyewitness

Mohammad Tazid Ponchayet told Odhikar that on August 20, 2012 at around 8:00 pm went to the Anwar's shop 'Messer's Sowdagar Bhandar'. S I Yusuf Ali asked Anwar about where he kept Anonnya after abduction. Anwar replied that Anonnya was at her uncle's house. Hearing this, SI Yusuf Ali and Arshadullah Mamun forced Anwar to go to the police station with them. Tanzid also went to the police station, but as he was not allowed to enter the station, he waited outside. After a while he heard Anwar screaming. He was later allowed to enter inside the station and saw that SI Mostofa was beating Anwar, handcuffed from behind and blindfolded. Tanzid asked why Anwar was being beaten. SI Mostofa told that Anwar abducted a girl. Tanzid called on his Uncle Milton's cell phone and informed him about Anwar being tortured in police custody. At around 9:00 pm his uncle Milton and Ward Commissioner of ward 2 of Lalmohon Municipality came to the police station and ordered SI Mostofa to stop beating Anwar.

Emdadul Islam Tuhin, Mayor of Lalmohon Municipality

Emdadul Islam Tuhin told Odhikar that on August 21, 2012 at around 8:50 pm, a relative of Anwar informed him that police men of Lalmohon Police Station arrested and took him to custody on charges of abducting a girl named Anonnya. As soon as he heard the news, he went to the police station at around 9:00pm and saw Anwar sitting handcuffed in operator's room. He came to know from Anwar that after Anwar was brought to the police station, SI Mostofa blindfolded and beat him on his hands, legs and knees. Emdadul Islam wanted to know from OC Khondokar Mizanur Rahman why Anwar was beaten without any charge. OC Mizanur Rahman replied that he did not know anything about the matter. He then called Circle SP (superintendent of Police) Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman's cell phone and asked about the matter.

Halima Sadia Anonnya (17)

Halima Sadia Anonnya told Odhikar that on August 20, 2012 at around 10:00 am she met Anwar at Bhola Government College. She told Anwar to meet her at the Kheyaghat Bridge. She and her friend Shanta met Anwar at Kheyaghat Bridge at around 2:30 pm. Two hours later when she was returning home with Anwar on his motorbike, they met with her mother Tania Sultana and uncle ABM Siddik Parvez at '*Tin Rastar Moar*'. She told Anwar not to stop. Anwar stopped the motorbike about one kilometer away from her house and got her on a rickshaw. At around 5:00 pm she returned to her house.

ABM Siddik Parvez (28) , maternal uncle of Halima Sadia Anonnya

ABM Siddik Parvez told Odhikar that on August 20, 2012 at about 2:30 pm, Anonnya went out of the house with her friend Shanta. Anonnya took his cell phone with her. At around 3:00 pm, he called on the cell phone that was with Anonnya. He found the cell phone switched off and called on Shanta's cell phone and asked about Anonnya. Shanta informed him that Anonnya was at the Kheyapar Bridge. He went to the bridge along with Anonnya's mother Tania Sultana by an auto rickshaw. They met Anwar at Tin Rastar Moar at around 4:45 pm. Anonnya was sitting behind Anwar. He told Anwar to stop but Anwar rode away towards Lalmohon instead. He informed the matter to the Member of Parliament of Bhola Nurunnabi Shaon, Superintendent of Police Bashir Ahmad and Officer in Charge of Lalmohon Police Station Khondokar Mizanur Rahman. MP Nurunnabi Shaon told him not to worry and he would get Anwar arrested. At around 5:30 pm, he met Anonnya near home in a rickshaw and he told her to return home. Later, at around 8:30 pm he went to the Bhola Police Station. He filed a complaint against Anwar for harassing Anonnya.

Sub Inspector (SI) Yusuf Ali, Lalmohon Police Sation, Bhola

SI Mohammad Yusuf Ali told Odhikar that he received complaint that a person named Anwar had abducted a girl named Anonnya. On August 20, 2012 at approximately 8:00pm Anwar was arrested from 'Messer's Sowdagar Bhandar' and brought to the police station for interrogation. He added that Anwar had not been beaten in the police station.

Sub Inspector Golam Mostofa, Lalmohon Police Sation, Bhola

SI Golam Mostofa told Odhikar that on August 20, 2012 Anwar was not beaten after he was taken to the custody.

Mohammad Monirul Islam, Investigation Officer, Bhola Police Station, Bhola

Mohammad Monirul Islam told Odhikar that on August 20, 2012 at around 5:00 pm he got news through wireless at the office of Superintendent of Police of Bhola that a man was abducting a girl by a motorbike. It was ordered to set up check post in different roads. At around 9:00pm ABM Siddik Parvez came to the Police Station. He complained that Mohammad Anwar Hossain had abducted his niece Halima Sadia Anonnya. On August 21, 2012 at around 12:00am ABM Siddik Parvez informed over cell phone that Anonnya had returned home. At around 1:00am he went to Siddik Parvez's residence. He talked to Anonnya and came to know that Anonnya was at Shanta's home. On August 22, 2012 at around 8:00am he informed OC of Lalmohon Police Station Khondokar Mizanur Rahman over cell phone that Anonnya was found.

Khondokar Mizanur Rahman, Officer in Charge (OC), Lalmohon Police Station

Khondokar Mizanur Rahman told Odhikar that on August 21, 2012 news came over wireless that a man abducted a girl and was going towards Lalmohon on a motorbike. He informed the matter to the Patrol Police at Bhola road and other Police Camps. That afternoon he went outside the police station for some work. He returned to the police station at around 9:00pm. He saw Anwar sitting in the room when he returned at police station. On August 22, 2012 at around 8:00 am he came to know over cell phone from the inspector of Bhola Police Station

that Anonnya had been found. Anwar and his elder brother Mohammad Mahbub Alam were released from the police custody at around 11:00am. He told that he knew nothing about any assault on Anwar.

Bashir Ahmed, Superintendent of Police, Bhola

Bashir Ahmed told Odhikar that on August 20, 2012 police of Lalmohon Police Station arrested Anwar on charge of abducting Halima Sadia Anonnya and brought him to the police station. Anwar was interrogated at the police station. As Anonnya was found on August 20 at night, no case was filed by Anonnya's parents. Anwar was released on August 21, 2012 at around 11.00 am.

Odhikar's Statement:

Torture is a clear violation of Section 35(5) of the Constitution of Bangladesh. Incident of torture is increasing day by day because of the culture of impunity of law enforcement agencies. Odhikar demands a fair trial for the mental and physical torture on Anwar in the police custody without having any official charges against him.