

## **BSF Beat a Bangladeshi Citizen to Death and Raped His Wife**

### Fact Finding Report Odhikar

At 2.00 am on April 23, 2009, Rabindranath Mondol (45) and his wife Kollani Rani Mondol (38) from the village of Bolabari, of Ashashuni, Shatkhira were arrested by BSF Officers from India's Ghojadanga Camp as they were returning to Shatkhira from India along Main Pillar Number 4. The BSF Officers beat Rabindranath to death and tortured and raped Kollani. Towards dawn, the BSF Officers left the dead body of Rabindranath and injured Kollani Rani Mondol near the Main Pillar Number 4 of the Shatkhira-Lokkhidari border. Rabindranath and Rani had gone to the Nodiya district of India to undergo treatment 6 months prior to the incident.

Odhikar engaged in a fact finding of the incident. During the fact finding, Odhikar spoke with,

- Relatives of the deceased Rabindranath Mondol
- Eye witnesses
- Doctors at the hospital
- Members of the law enforcement agencies and local government representatives



Rabindranath Mondol

### **Kollani Rani Mondol (45), Wife of the deceased and eye witness to the incident**

Kollani Rani Mondol told Odhikar that she had been suffering from an ulcer and 6 months prior to the incident, she and her husband had left for India to receive further treatment and their daughter Rupa Mondol (14) and son Joyonto Mondol (6) were left in the care of her brother-in-law Shomiron Mondol from the village of Bolabari. Rani informed that they obtained lodging at the home of Shomor Mondol in the village of Goriya, Nodiya. Her husband was employed as a carpenter during their time there. Later on they discussed their decision to return to Bangladesh with Nironjon Das, a broker of the locality. Nironjon said that in exchange for 1600 Rupees, he would arrange for their crossing over the border. As per the contract, at 8.00 am on April 22, 2009, Rani, along with Nironjon and her husband, set off with the objective of returning to Bangladesh.

Towards the evening, Nironjon brought them to the home of a man residing at the Ghojadanga border area of India. Nironjon told them that he would arrange for them to cross over to Bangladesh during the night when there would be no people in the border area, but till then, Rani and Rabindranath would have to wait in that house. Rani went on to say that on April 23, 2009 at 2.00 am, Nironjon, on the pretext of crossing them over the border, took them to the zero point near the Ghojadanga BSF<sup>1</sup> Camp. When several BSF Officers surrounded them, Nironjon escaped. The BSF Officers arrested them on the spot and began to beat Rabindranath in front of Rani. Rani begged the BSF officers to spare her husband. The BSF officers hung Rabindranath Mondol to a tree and beat him to death. Afterwards, the BSF officers grabbed Rani by her hair and dragged her to their camp. Two BSF officers gagged her and raped her. After raping Rani, they used canes and rifle butts to beat her. They also kicked her on her chest with their boots. There were swollen wounds on Rani's feet. Her body was bruised and there were further wounds on her back, head, neck and chest. Rani went on to say that the BSF officers left her and her dead husband on the enclosed dam at Lokkhidari zero point in Bangladesh. Rani began to cry beside the body of her dead husband. Soon the local residents and BDR<sup>2</sup> officers arrived and rescued her. Rani contacted her brother-in-law at home through cell phone and told him to come to her. At 11.00 am in the morning, the Police from the Shatkhira Police Station arrived at the place. At 12.00 pm, the police officers took Rani and her husband's body from the Lokkhidari border to the Police Station. Rani said that the Police sent Rabindranath's body to the hospital for post mortem and her to the Shopno Clinic in the city for treatment after which she returned home. At 7.30 pm, Shomiron Mondol returned home with her husband's body after completion of the post mortem and performed the formalities relating to the cremation at 8.00 pm.

**Shomiron Mondol (33), Rabindranath Mondol's younger brother**

Shomiron Mondol told Odhikar that at 8.00 am on April 23, 2009, he received a telephone call from his sister-in-law who informed him that she and her husband Rabindranath had been arrested by the BSF while they were on their return journey from India and that the BSF had beaten Rabindranath to death. Hearing this news, Shomiron left for the village of Lokkhidari of the border along with Member Dilip Kumar Mondol and several other local residents. Upon his arrival, Shomiron saw several BDR officers and local residents standing around his dead brother's body and his sister-in-law was crying beside it. At 11.00 am, the Police arrived to take the body away to the Police Station. Afterwards at 3.00 pm, the body of Rabindranath was transferred to the hospital for the post mortem. Shomiron stated that at 4.30 pm, after the completion of the post mortem, he collected his brother's body and arrived home at around 7.30 pm in the evening. The body of Rabindranath was at 8.00 pm.

**Lokkhi Rani Mondol (80), Mother of the late Rabindranath Mondol**

Lokkhi Rani Mondol told Odhikar that during the evening of April 23, 2009, her daughter-in-law Kollani Rani who had been raped and her dead son Rabindranath Mondol returned home. She stated that the BSF had taken the law into their own hands

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<sup>1</sup> Border Security Force. The Indian Border guards.

<sup>2</sup> Bangladesh Rifles. The Bangladeshi Border guards.

by killing her son and raping her daughter-in-law. She demanded justice from the Government regarding the incident.

**Shamsuddin Gazi (30), Village: Lokkhidari, eye witness**

Shamsuddin Gazi told Odhikar that at 5.30 am on April 23, 2009, he saw a woman crying beside a male body over the enclosed dam of the border. He approached the body to see numerous grievous wounds all over it. After hearing about the whole incident regarding the BSF from the woman, he informed the area's local Union Parisad<sup>3</sup> Member Arshad Ali of the incident. Later on Arshad Ali informed the BDR authorities and the local Chairman of the incident.

**Arshad Ali (50), Member, Ward Number 6, Bhomra Union Council, eye witness**

Arshad Ali told Odhikar that at 6.00 am on April 23, 2009, he heard from Shamsuddin Gazi from his locality that a woman had been found, crying beside a dead body on the enclosed dam of the Lokkhidari border. After informing the matter to Shamsul Alam, Chairman of the Bhomra union Parisad, Arshad went to the place. Upon his arrival, he saw a woman sitting beside a dead body with BDR officers and local residents surrounding her. The woman informed him that her name was Kollani Rani Mondol. She and her husband Rabindranath had been arrested by the BSF officers of the Ghojadanga Camp at 2.00 am, while they were on their return journey to Bangladesh from India. The BSF Officers had beaten her husband to death and had raped her. Arshad recalled seeing numerous wounds all over the deceased's body. Later on, the police arrived from the police station and left with the dead body.

**Shamsul Alam (48), Chairman, Bhomra Union Parisad**

Shamsul Alam told Odhikar that at 6.00 am on April 23, 2009, he heard from Member Arshad Ali that BSF officers had arrested a Bangladeshi couple and killed one of them and raped the other. He informed the Shatkhira Police Station of the matter and left for the place after contacting the Bhomra BDR Camp. Upon his arrival, Shamsul saw the dead Rabindranath from the village of Bolabari, Ashashuni and his wounded wife beside him both of whom he knew. Rani and the deceased Rabindranath were both on the enclosed dam of the border. There were numerous wounds all over Rabindranath's body. Later on the police arrived and took the body away.

**Sub Inspector (SI) Asadul Islam, Shatkhira Sadar Police Station, the man who prepared the Inquest Report of the body**

Sub Inspector (SI) Asadul Islam told Odhikar that on April 23, 2009, he was on mobile duty with Constable Eskendar Ali. At 11.00 am, he heard from the Officer-in-Charge of the Police Station over the radio that, there was a dead body and an injured woman on the enclosed dam of the border opposite the house of Shamsuddin Gazi. Asadul set off for the place with his force. On their arrival at Main Pillar Number 4, Asadul saw BDR Officers and local residents surrounding a body and a woman crying beside it. The woman informed him that her name was Kollani Rani Mondol and her home was the village of Bolabari of Ashashuni, Shatkhira. She also stated that the deceased's body was that of her husband Rabindranath Mondol. Both husband and wife had been arrested by BSF officers

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<sup>3</sup> Union Parisad is the lowest tier of local government in Bangladesh.

of the Ghojadanga Camp while they were on their way back to Bangladesh from India. Kollani Rani informed that the BSF Officers had beaten her husband to death after which they had raped her. SI Asadul Islam went on to say that the Inquest Report of the body was prepared after the Police had initially filed a GD<sup>4</sup>. With regard to the Inquest Report, he stated that there were dark blood clots all over the body. The elbows were smashed and there were swollen wounds on the head, neck and back. There were also numerous swollen wounds in the region from the heels to the thighs. Following the completion of the Post Mortem at the Shatkhira Sadar Hospital, the body was returned to the deceased's family.

On May 28, 2009, SI Asadul Islam told Odhikar that he had received the results of the Post Mortem of Rabindranath. The Report stated that torture by the BSF officers had caused brain hemorrhage which ultimately resulted in his death. SI Asadul further informed that after visiting the area, he himself filed a case against 3-4 unknown persons on May 26, 2009 under Sections 323/302/34 of the Penal Code. He stated that SI Emdadul Huq was the Investigation Officer of the case.

**Mohammad Abu Sufian, Police Super, Shatkhira**

Mohammad Abu Sufian told Odhikar that at 2.00 am on April 23, 2009, he heard of the torturing to death and rape of a Bangladeshi couple by the Jawans<sup>5</sup> of the the Ghojadanga BSF Camp of India at the Lokkhidari border of Bangladesh. He ensured that legal steps would be taken after receiving the results of the Post Mortem Report.

**Subedar<sup>6</sup> Abdul Kuddus, Bhomra BDR Camp, Shatkhira – 41 Rifles Batallion**

Subedar Abdul Kuddus told Odhikar that at 6.00 am on April 23, 2009, he learned from the local residents and the BDR officers on mobile duty that BSF officers of the Ghojadanga Camp of India had arrested a Bangladeshi couple and had beaten one of them to death and raped the other and left them on the Lokkhidari enclosed dam. Subedar Abdul left for the scene along with 4-5 of his force members. As they approached the Main Pillar Number 4, he saw the body of a man and a woman crying beside it. After asking the woman what had happened, he learned that the couple was returning to Bangladesh from India when they were arrested by the BSF officers who beat her husband to death and raped her. Afterwards the BSF officers crossed the border with them and left them there. Subedar Abdul Kuddus informed further the BDR authorities had conveyed strong written dissent to the authorities of the 94 BSF Battalion of India.

**Doctor Modhushudon Mondol, Medical Officer, Shatkhira Sadar Hospital, the person who had performed the Post Mortem of the deceased's body**

Doctor Modhushudon Mondol told Odhikar that at 3.00 pm on April 23, 2009, he performed the post mortem of the body of Rabindranath Mondol that the police had brought to him. He informed that the whole body was covered in wounds. Modhushudon stated further that the deceased's body would be sent to Mohakhali, Dhaka for the necessary Viscera Report.

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<sup>4</sup> GD: General Diary.

<sup>5</sup> Rank of a BDR officer

<sup>6</sup> Rank of a BDR officer

**Doctor Goutom, Medical Officer, Ashashuni Upazilla Health Complex, Shatkhira**

Doctor Goutom told Odhikar that at 10.25 am on April 26, 2009, Kollan Rani Mondol from the village of Bolabari was admitted to the Emergency Ward of the hospital in a severely injured state following which she was transferred to Bed Number 30 of the Women's Ward. The wounds on Rani's body were concentrated on her breasts and genital areas. There were burn wounds and blood clots on her back and thighs. Doctor Goutom stated, however, that although Kollani Rani had been raped it was too late, to gather any evidence concerning her rape, as she had been admitted to the hospital a long time after the incident.

**-The End-**