

Yasin Hossain, a painter commissioned by the BDR, died due to lack of proper medical treatment and for keeping him in degrading atmosphere

Fact finding Report

Odhikar

On 26 February, 2009, Yasin Hossain (50) was arrested by Army, while unwell, from Pilkhana and admitted to the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology Hospital. His family alleged that on 7 April, 2009 at 8.30 in the morning, he died due to lack of proper medical treatment and keeping him in degrading atmosphere. Yasin Hossain was the son of late Korimuddin Molongi and Bhanu Bibi of Sundorghona village of Bagerhat Thana of Bagerhat district. Yasin Hossain was working as a painter in the EME sector of the BDR administrative office. He was suffering from a kidney disease and was admitted in the hospital at BDR Headquarters, Pilkhana.

Odhikar conducted a fact-finding mission into the matter. Odhikar interviewed:

- relatives of the deceased and
- neighbours



Photo: Yasin Hossain

Lima Begum (37), wife of the deceased, Sundorghona, Bagerhaat

Lima Begum told Odhikar that on 25 February 2009 she was in their house in Pilkhana with her husband and children. She heard the sound of firing outside. She thought that the soldiers were given training but

later on, the noises sounded unusual and out of fear she closed the windows and doors and stayed in the home with her husband and children. The next day, 26 February 2009, her husband had to visit the BDR hospital for kidney dialysis. Besides his kidney disease, her husband was also suffering from high blood pressure and heart disease. When her husband came to know about the BDR mutiny at the Pilkhana Headquarters¹, he became worried for the security of his family and sent them to the village. She said that she believed that her husband would not be hurt, considering his illness. Lima Begum left Pilkhana on 25 February, with her younger son Basher and daughter Yasmin. She kept her mentally handicapped son Hridoy (13) with her husband at Pilkhana house at Dhaka as she thought Hridoy would accompany his father during his dialysis. On February 26, after dialysis when her husband was coming out from Pilkhana hospital, the army picked up Yasin and Hridoy to the Army van. At that time some army personnel used filthy words against Hridoy and kicked him up and they were taken to the Lalbagh police station, Dhaka, Later she went to meet her husband in Dhaka Central Jail and found him in very poor physical condition. She saw swellings on his throat and lips. He continuously talked about hunger and he wanted to see their son Hridoy. In jail her husband was not only deprived of proper food but also of sufficient drinking water and he was also kept in degrading condition. Yasin died on 07 April, 2009. She also informed that she is now in great financial crisis.

Lima Begum added that her husband joined Bangladesh Rifles in 1985 and has always served in the EME sector of the Pilkhana Head office. Since 4 August 2007, he was in Pilkahana hospital for kidney problems, under kidney specialist, Lt. Cornel Mamun Mostafiz. Both kidneys were damaged. After being affected by kidney disease, her husband submitted an application to the Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to sustain his service for up to 25 years, for the better treatment on humanitarian ground.

Yasmin Begum (18), daughter of deceased, Sundorghona, Bagerhaat

Yasmin Begum told Odhikar that on 25 February 2009 at the time of the BDR mutiny they were in their Pilkhana house. They became frightened of continuous firing. She saw people running away from Pilkhana when the firing stopped for a while. The next day on 26 February, 2009 her father had an appointment for dialysis in the BDR hospital. At the time of the chaos her father asked them to go to the village home and he said that he would go later on. She did not agree to leave her father in that situation but Yasin Hossain said that the dialysis is more costly outside the BDR, and he would join them

¹ From 25 – 26 February, a mutiny took place in the BDR Headquarters where several high ranking soldiers and several family members, including the BDR Head and his wife were killed.

after this dialysis. Her father stayed there within the chaos to do his weekly dialysis. She said that her 13-year-old mentally handicapped brother Hridoy was also confined and tortured. Hridoy was confined in Kashimpur Jail for one year without being involved in any offence.

She said that after confinement, due to lack of regular observation, her father's condition declined. Without dialysis, her father's body used to accumulate fluid. After the arrest, the treatment of weekly dialysis did not continue. The doctors forbade him to carry heavy objects, but he was forced to carry goods and loads while in confinement. Her father was so ill that he could not walk properly but he was handcuffed and fettered. Police always tried to restrain her mother from talking to her father in the central jail or hospital. She said that her father died due to lack of medical treatment, decline of proper food, ill treatment and for keeping him in degrading atmosphere.

Sheikh Nasiruddin (40), neighbour of the deceased in his village home

Sheikh Nasiruddin told Odhikar that on 25 February 2009, Yasin was ill and used to dialysis in the BDR hospital regularly. In his physical condition, participation in the mutiny was impossible. He added, It is sad that his mentally handicapped son was also arrested. Hridoy spent one year in the Kashimpur jail despite of being innocent. Nasiruddin went to Kashimpur Jail to meet Yasin's son, Hridoy.

Dr. Shofiuzzaman, Forensic Department, Dhaka Medical College Hospital

Dr. AKM Shofiuzzaman told Odhikar that Yasin died a natural death. He died from complications of the kidney. He said that he did not see any marks of torture on his body.

Odhikar's Statement

Odhikar urges the National Human Rights Commission to investigate the death of Yasin Hossain and illegal confinement and torture of his child Hridoy. Odhikar also demands that the government and the Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB) should take proper care of the family of deceased Yasin Hossain.

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