



2 May 2007

Press Release

**5 killed by Rapid Action Battalion. 5 Killed by BSF from
1 - 30 April, 2007**

During the period of 01 to 30 April 2007, as many as **5** persons were reported killed in alleged crossfire by the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB). It is mentioned in the report of Odhikar that among the killed **1** was from Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddho), **2** were alleged arms smugglers, **1** was alleged dacoit, **1** was alleged suspected criminal.

Between 01-30 April a total of **7** Persons died in jail custody, allegedly due to illness. However **1** person died in police camp reportedly due to 'illness' during interrogation.

From 01-30 April 2007 a total of **36495** persons were arrested across the country. It is noted that in Bangladesh, there are 11 central jails and 55 district jails and their total capacity is only **27,227**. Moreover, there have been **3** persons reportedly killed and **28** injured due to political violence in this month.

The report, which covers the human rights situation all over the country, also shows that **3** journalists were injured and **8** were threatened during the month of April, 2007.

Since 1 to 30 April 2007 a total of **31** women were reportedly victims of human rights violations due to dowry demands or were raped or victim to acid violence.

Among them, a total of **14** women were reportedly victims of dowry –related violence. Of them, **13** were killed, **1** was tortured.

A total of **13** women were reportedly victims of rape. Among them **9** women were the victims of gang rape and **3** women were killed after being raped.

During this period, **75** children were reportedly victims of human rights violations. Of them, a total of **25** children were killed. A total of **30** girl children were raped – of which **7** were the victims of gang rape. Besides, **6** children were injured, **2** were allegedly abducted, **4** committed suicide, **7** went missing in this period.

A total of **6** persons including **1** child, **4** women and **1** man were victims of acid attack across the country in this period.

Members of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly killed **5** Bangladeshi nationals in April 2007, and **6** were injured, **1** woman was raped, **13** were abducted and **127** Bangla speaking Indians were pushed in at Bangladesh territory allegedly by BSF have also been reported.

In Chittagong Hill Tracts, on the other hand, **3** people have been killed, and **3** arrested in different incidents of human rights violations.

During 1- 30 April 2007, a total **219** persons were reportedly killed throughout the country

Odhikar also expresses its grave concern regarding the atrocities perpetrated on the jute mill workers of Khalishpur, Khulna who were on strike to demand their unpaid wages and urges the immediate release of the arrested workers and withdrawal of cases against them. The organisation also expresses its concern regarding the atrocities on the students of Khalishpur who expressed solidarity with the jute mill workers.

Odhikar has prepared this report on the basis of 11 national dailies and its own fact-finding reports.

ASM Nasiruddin Elan
Acting Director
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