

TRANSLATION FROM BANGLA

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police

Police Headquarters

Dhaka

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Media Release

Police did not commit extrajudicial killings

Statements of Odhikar and BAMAK are unlawful; only subversive campaigns

Dhaka, 2 August 2015 AD

The report entitled 'Extra Judicial Killings' published in the newspapers, written by citing information from 'Odhikar' and 'Bangladesh Human Rights Commission' (BAMAK) has caught the attention of the Bangladesh Police. The Bangladesh Police reject the report outright and strongly protest the submissions [of the organisations]. In analyzing the statements, it is seen that the two organisations' statements contravene the existing laws of Bangladesh, which is synonymous to challenging Rule of Law and the judicial system.

In fact, the Bangladesh Police risk their lives to save the lives and property of the people of this country. As an example, in July Constable Pervez was stabbed and killed while trying to save the property of a tourist in Coxs' Bazaar. The next day, Constable Alauddin was killed at Meherpur checkpost. In 2014, a total of 102 policemen were killed on duty. Bangladesh law allows for the voluntary causing of death of those who threaten the lives of police and ordinary citizens. An executive committee headed by a Magistrate investigates whether the police has implemented the right of self-defense correctly, or whether he has used excessive force. This matter can also be tried in court. Only the Magistrate or the court can determine whether the right of self-defense practiced by the police at a particular time was legal or unlawful. In the month of July, no Magistrate or court claimed that incidents where the police were engaged in gunfights were extrajudicial acts. Those two NGOs are jumping to the conclusion that Bangladesh Police are to be held responsible for acts of murder. This is making the activities of the police controversial; and lowering the reputation of the police in the eyes of the public. This is synonymous to defamation and a criminal act. This country's laws have not given any NGO the right to act like a court.

Therefore, the statements made by those two NGOs regarding extrajudicial killings challenge the laws of this country and the courts.

It has been noticed that there is a similar attempt in Bangladesh to act like the 'Fifth Column' in Spain, which wrote against its own country. Reports from various organisations using foreign funds, are making this country's law enforcement and judicial systems look controversial in the eyes of the world. This has a negative impact on Bangladesh's reputation, foreign investment and political and other issues; and may be considered as subversive activities.

The public are especially requested to be aware of such negative campaigns. It is requested that enlightened journalists question the legal basis of any allegations against the police and negative comments against Rule of Law.

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