



Banglar

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To

The Chairman

National Human Rights Commission

Manav Adhikar Bhawan

Block-C, G.P.O. Complex, INA

New Delhi – 110023

Respected Sir,

Through this letter, I seek to draw your kind attention to the plight of the villagers of Jhaukuti under Tufanganj Block and Balabhut Panchayat and Tufanganj Police Station of Cooch Behar district. Main occupation of the villagers is cultivation and monthly they earn average Rs. 3500/-. The village is located near the Indo-Bangladesh border. As cultivation is the main occupation of the villagers, the whole people of the village Jhaukuti are gravely affected by the arbitrary action by the Border Security Forces personnel of Jhaukuti Border Security Force Camp under 62 Battalion, 'B' company. The village of Jhaukuti is bounded by Indo-Bangladesh border in three directions. The Kaljani river flows in this bordering area. River erosion in this place is very high. Due to river erosion of the Kaljani, every year a lot of villagers in this area lose their house, agricultural field and their minimum resource of income.

The poor villagers several time verbally requested to the Block Development Officer of Tufanganj Block and Sub Divisional Officer of Tufanganj Sub Division, but they did not care about it. Some villagers told to our District Human Rights Monitor that those officers do not treat people as human beings. If any ordinary man goes to them with any complaint, they treat with them badly and drive them away.

In this village about 6,700 people are residing among which 2000 people are Hindus and majority people are Muslims and the main occupation of the villagers are agriculture. In this village total about 5000 bigha of agricultural land have situated. Road condition in this village is very much worsening. There is no health facility system in the village. After 73 years of Independence, the Government failed to connect the electricity lines in this village and provide proper sanitation facility.

Beside land border with Bangladesh, Kaljani river also stands as the water border with Bangladesh. Fencing is constructed in this area at a distance of 150 to 200 yards from the International Land Border Points. Besides the fencing several culverts were made to pass the water of the Kaljani river. Border Security Force personnel of Jhaukuti BSF camp closed those culverts with bolders and stones and this creates flood in the village. The Company Commander of Jhaukuti BSF camp told that through those culverts smuggling activities are being run and therefore to stop this illegal work, they closed the gate of the culvert with bolder and stones.

For this arbitrary action of the Border Security Force personnel attached with Jhaukuti Border Security Force Camp 'B' company, 62 Battalion; 5 to 6 times Aman paddy were destroyed. Due to BSF made flood total agricultural land in this area were gone under the water. On 16.07.2020 the villagers jointly lodged one written submission to the Block Development Officer of Tufanganj Block and Sub Divisional officer of Tufanganj Sub Division but the administration did not take any steps in this respect.

At about 1600 bigha land of Aman paddy were completely destroyed by this arbitrary action of the Border Security Force personnel of Jhaukuti BSF camp. During that time, covid 19 pandemic spread throughout the world and therefore the villagers could not go to the other states as migrant laborer. The whole financial situation of the villagers are completely broken down as their agricultural land were under water for this human (BSF) made flood. More so, the villagers may suffer from various diseases due to the gradually polluted stagnant water, causing serious hazards to the public health.

In the following list I provide some name of the villagers whose agricultural land are totally damaged.

Serial no.	Name	Father's name	Dag number (LR)	Mouza
01	Mr. Ajgar Ali	Mr. Chobahan Ali	483, 505	Jhaukuti
02	Mr. Rashidul Haque	Mr. Chobahan Pramanick	530, 540	Jhaukuti
03	Mr. Nur Alam Mia	Mr. Iman Mia	245, 246	Jhaukuti
04	Mr. Atoar Ali	Mr. Hajrat Ali Mondal	277, 278	Jhaukuti
05	Mr. Aminul Mia	Mr. Fajle Pramanick	1581, 1582	Jhaukuti
06	Mr. Anoar Ali	Mr. Jasimuddin Ali	1410, 1411	Jhaukuti
07	Mr. Abdul Ali	Mr. Jasimuddin Ali	248, 249	Jhaukuti

Not only these seven people but more than hundred farmers in this area are affected by this arbitrary action of the Border Security Force personnel.

The arbitrary actions of the Border Security Force personnel of Jhaukuti BSF camp, 'B' company, 62 Battalion not only challenging their rights of life and livelihood but also violating the

Article 21 of the Constitution of India which reads as “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law” and the Goal numbers 2, 8 and 16 of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which Government of India has taken pledge to adhere with. The neglect and apathy of the Government of India and Government of West Bengal towards this area is also an infringement of Articles 15 and 21 of Indian Constitution and Articles 9 and 11 of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Hence I request your urgent intervention in this matter with the following demands –

- A small dam should be constructed against those Culverts to drain out the excess water.
- The Border Security Force personnel should be posted within 150 yards from the international boundary, not to be posted in the village
- The Border Security Force authority must be directed to protect the interest of the villagers living at the border nearing villages.
- Protect the life and livelihood and freedom of movement of the poor villagers of Jhaukuti village from the arbitrary action of the Border Security Force.
- Border Security Force should follow the decisions taken in the meeting with Border Security Force and National Human Rights Commission on 16-17 February, 2012.
- The Commission must initiate an independent investigation over this matter and take necessary steps.
- Institutional Deliverances regarding rural employment under MGNREGA, old age and widow pension, schedule caste certificates, and other facilities of social security schemes must be ensured for all villagers.
- The errant administrative officials responsible for neglect and underdevelopment must be identified and adequately punished.

Thanking you,

Yours truly

Dipyaman Adhikary

Assistant Secretary

Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM)

