



Banglar

Manabhadhikar Suraksha Mancha (masum)

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16.12.2020

The Chairman
National Human Rights Commission
Manav Adhikar Bhawan
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA
New Delhi-110023

Respected Sir,

I want to attract your attention towards the illegitimate restrictions imposed on the villagers of 147 Bhotbari Basakpara under Mekhliganj Block and police station of Cooch Behar district in West Bengal by the Border Security Force personnel attached with Changrabanda Border Out Post, 'E' Company under 148 Battalion BSF. The BSF personnel have blocked the culvert located between gate numbers 2 and 3 of Changrabanda Border Out Post with iron grills resulting to massive water-logging in the agricultural fields of the villagers due to which, the villagers have incurred huge losses as their crops were destroyed.

About 1200 people reside in the 147 Bhotbari Basakpara village having more than 450 acres of cultivable land, where they mostly cultivate tea and paddy. Due to the sudden water-logging after the arbitrary actions of the BSF, about 27 acres of agricultural land was under water. The villagers have suffered huge loss of rupees 25 to 30 thousand per acre in paddy cultivation and rupees 60 to 75 thousand per acre in tea cultivation. In case any villager complains about their loss due to the BSF's actions, they are being restricted to pass through the fencing and enter their fields.

Our fact-finding reveals that apart from this, the farmers have been facing several other restrictions to cultivate their own lands, hence incurring grave financial losses. The BSF authorities have restricted the villagers to cultivate tea in the land located between the fencing and the International Border Pillar (IBP), which is 300 to 400 meters apart. If the villagers want to take fertilizers to their fields, they are asked to mix soil with the fertilizer. While carrying pesticides to the field, the villagers have to apply it on the bushes on the fencing and the BOP first; only then can they take the remaining amount of pesticide to their fields. The villagers also have to perform certain chores whimsically assigned by the BSF, like cutting bamboo and fencing the BOP. The villagers are also restricted to cultivate profitable crops like corn and jute in their own lands beyond the fencing. No agricultural support like agricultural tools, irrigation facility etc. has been provided by the government to the villagers. Under the circumstances the farmers incurred heavy loss instead of income from their fields.

About 20 farmers from 147 Bhotbari Basakpara village, who suffered financial loss, lodged written complaints to the Panchayat Prodhan of Bhotbari gram panchayat on 19.10.20 and the Block Development Officer of Changrabanda block via registered post on 21.10.20 regarding the continuous restrictions imposed on their livelihood and agriculture and the arbitrary actions of the BSF due to which their agricultural fields are water-logged.

Details of the farmers of 147 Bhotbari Basakpara village under Mahismuri – 1 gram panchayat, who have been restricted by the BSF authority:

- Mr. Madhab Basak, aged about 42 years; Khatiyani No. – 348
- Mr. Chand Mohan Roy, aged about 45 years; Khatiyani No 749
- Mr. Arun Roy, aged about 36 years; Khatiyani no. – 461
- Mr. Dipu Basak, aged about 40 years; Dagh no. – 3629 Khatiyani no. - 348.
- Mr. Kamal Basak, aged about 42 years; Dagh no. – 1986; Khatiyani no. – 27.

This whimsical actions and arbitrary restriction imposed by the Border Security Force personnel of Changrabanda Border Outpost upon the villagers of 147 Bhotbari Basakpara is not only challenging their life and livelihood but also

violating the Article 21 and Article 19 of the Constitution of India which reads as “No person shall be deprived of his life and liberty except according to procedure established by law” and “All citizens shall have the rights to move freely throughout the territory of India” respectively and Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the goal number 16 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which Government of India has taken pledge to adhere with.

I request your urgent intervention in this case by fulfilling these demands of the villagers:

- The Border Security Force should be posted at the zero point and not inside the village.
- Immediately opening the iron grills from the culvert and allow free passage of water
- BSF should not restrict the life and livelihood of the villagers particularly of the farmers.
- The villagers should be provided with agricultural support.
- The farmers should be compensated as their crops are destroyed and for financial loss for illegal restriction of the BSF attached with Changrabanda BOP.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

Dipyaman Adhikary
Assistant Secretary
Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM)

Khata No.

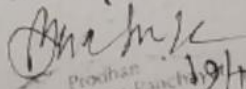
- 2 दीपू ठाणू → ~~362~~ 362g
- 2 बाळमवतक → 1986/27
- 3 Biren Basak
- 4 प्रभाकर ठाणू ठाणू
- 5 Rohi B. Basak → khata No. 384
- 6 माधुसूदन ठाणू → khata No. 348
- 7 बाळम ठाणू
- 8 Manek Raj
- 9 श्याम ठाणू
- 10 रामचंद्र ठाणू → khata No. 513
- 11 बाळम ठाणू
- 12 बाळम ठाणू
- 13 बाळम ठाणू
- 16 बाळम ठाणू → khata No. 864 (861)

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କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଉପାଦାନ କର,

ସିନିଟ, ବିଭାଗୀୟ

ନିମ୍ନ ସୂଚିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଉପାଦାନ କର

Recommend forwarded to
the B.D.O. ^{under} take Necessary Action


Pradhan
Bhotari Gram Panchayat
Block: Mekhliganj
Cooch-Bhar

19/10/2020

5/10/20

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ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ନିୟମାବଳୀରେ

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— (ସମ୍ପର୍କ) —

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