



Banglar

Manabhadhikar Suraksha Mancha (masum)

40A, Barabagan Lane, Serempore,
Hooghly - 712 203 West Bengal, India

Phone : +91-33-2622-0843 /45,
Tele Fax : +91-33-2622-0843
E-mail : masumindia@gmail.com
Web : www.masum.org.in

21.12.2020

To
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 and severe harassment imposed on the villagers of Kaliyani of Chhaygharia gram panchayat under Bongaon Block and Petrapol police station of North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal by the Border Security Force personnel attached with Kaliyani Border Out Post, 'E' Company under 158 Battalion BSF. The BSF personnel apart from imposing restriction on agricultural activities of the villagers have also put an embargo illegally on the movement of the villagers.

About 3000 people reside in the Kaliyani village, where 70 percent of the villagers belong from Scheduled Caste backgrounds. The BSF is posted inside the village on the gram panchayat road and restricts the villagers while their ingress and egress to the village. Due to the arbitrary restrictions, the villagers of Kalyani are suffering from endless harassment and torture of the BSF personnel.

Our fact-finding reveals that the villagers have been facing several other restrictions to cultivate in their own lands, hence incurring grave financial losses. The BSF authorities have restricted the villagers to use the panchayat road after dark and no one in the village is allowed to visit others' houses during then. The BSF also restricts the villagers to take daily essentials such as rice, lentils, salt, edible oil and fertilizers to their houses. One is only allowed to take 5 kilograms of rice at a time. Villagers are allowed to organize any social or religious events only after having necessary permissions from the BSF by submitting the minute details of the said event. There have been instances where, the BSF personnel on duty were drunk and conducted search on the villagers passing through the panchayat road; the villagers included women as well, who were molested in the name of searching by drunken BSF personnel.

Even the panchayat members are harassed and insulted by the BSF officials. The fishermen in the village are being restricted to fish in the Ichamati River as a result of which, their livelihood is being hampered. Agriculture is being affected by the whimsical restrictions of the BSF, as the cultivable lands have become single cropped land from multi-cropped. The fencing gates are not opened regularly for the villagers to go to their fields for cultivation. Under the circumstances, the villagers are being forced to migrate elsewhere in search of other livelihood options.

More than 150 villagers from Kaliyani village lodged mass petition to the Petrapole police station, the Panchayat Proddhan of Chhaygharia gram panchayat, the Block Development Officer of Bongaon block, the Sub-divisional Officer of Bongaon Sub-division and the District Magistrate of North 24 Parganas district on 29.9.20 regarding the continuous restrictions imposed on their livelihood and agriculture and the arbitrary actions of the BSF due to which the villagers are suffering huge losses.

This whimsical actions and arbitrary restriction imposed by the Border Security Force personnel of Kaliyani Border Outpost upon the villagers of Kaliyani 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. The illegitimate restrictions imposed by the BSF on the livelihood of the victim violates the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs under section 6 (i and ii) vide report number **15011/20/2011-HR-II** dated 7.04.11 that states “BSF as a Border Guarding Force should not be involved in regulating movement of rice and other grocery items purchased by persons in border areas either for their consumption or for local trade...” and “BSF has accordingly been advised that they need not object or fix quota of rice/flour etc. that the villagers might be bringing to their border villages after purchasing them from the local market either for their own consumption or for local trade.”

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.
- BSF should not restrict the life and livelihood of the villagers particularly of the farmers.
- The villagers should be provided with agricultural support.
- The guilty BSF personnel responsible for harassing the villagers and molesting women should be booked and disciplinary actions should be initiated against them
- The farmers should be compensated for the financial loss for illegal restriction of the BSF attached with Kaliyani BOP.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

Dipyaman Adhikary
Assistant Secretary
Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM)

Attached Documents

The copy of complaint before Sub Divisional Officer Bongaon, by the affected villagers

To
The S D O Bongaon
Bongaon, North 24 Parganas

OC

SUB: BSF দ্বারা প্রতিনিরত অত্যাচার এর অবসানের আবেদন।

Respected Madam,

যদি বিহিত সম্মানের সহিত আপনাকে অবগত করা যাইতেছে যে, আমরা নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীগণ কল্যাণী গ্রামের অধীনস্থ হরখরিয়া গ্রামপঞ্চায়েত এর অন্তর্গত সীমান্তবর্তী কল্যাণী গ্রামের স্থায়ী অধিবাসী বৃন্দ। আমরা সাধারণ দিনমজুর, চাষাশ, মাহ খরিয়া জীবিকা নির্বাহ করি। আমাদের গ্রামের মধ্যে অবস্থিত BSF Camp এর জওয়ান দ্বারা আমরা বিভিন্নভাবে অত্যাচারিত। এমনকি সমুদায় পর শুরু হয় মদ্যপ অবস্থায় প্রায়বাসীর উপর পানবিক নির্বাহনে। সমুদায় গ্রামের কাইরে থেকে কাল করে বাজার থেকে নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিস কিনে বাড়িতে তামার পথে BSF এর Out Post এ আটকে দাঙ বন্ধিয়ে রেখে বিভিন্ন ভাবে হেনস্তার পর্ব চলে। আমাদের গ্রামের মেথ রেব আবেদন গ্রহণ করেন। উল্লেখ করা যায় যে মদ্যপ অবস্থায় মহিলাদের বিভিন্ন ভাবে তরাসি করেন।

শ্রুতএব মদ্যপায়ন নিকট বিদিত অনুবেধ আমরা গ্রামবাসীর সহায়তে সৃষ্টভাবে বসবাস করিতে পারি এবং BSF এর গুলিবর্ষকে বেহেই পাই তার কারণে দানে আঙ্ক ইউক।

কল্যাণী, কল্যাণী
তার 29.09.20

বিনীত
নিবেদক

কল্যাণী গ্রামের বাসিন্দাবৃন্দ

- ১) Biswajit Sarkar.
- ২) Suman 203 m.
- ৩) Gautam Mon Zabi.
- ৪) ...
- ৫) Rup Ke Monchil



- 1. BDO BONGAON
 - 2. C PETRAPOLE P.S
 - 3. PRODHAN, CHHAYGHARIA
 - 4. DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, BARASAT
 - 5. SDPO, BONGAON
 - 6. COMENDENT OFFICER, KALYANI
- 158 km BSF
Recd
29/9/20
158 km Dist.

Received without Verification
Reading Clerk
S.D.O., BONGAON
North 24 Parganas
29/9/2020

