40A, Barabagan Lane, Serempore,

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

#### 11.04.2020

The Chairman

National Human Rights Commission

Manay Adhikar Bhawan

Block-C, GPO Complex, INA

New Delhi-110023

#### Respected Sir,

Through this complaint, I seek to draw your kind attention to the plight of the villagers of Nalangibari under Mathabhanga I Block and Shikarpur Panchayat and Mathabhanga Police Station of Cooch Behar district. The village has a population of 700, and all of them are belong to Hindu and Scheduled caste. Main occupation of the villagers is cultivation and monthly they earn average Rs. 3500/-. The village is located near the Indo-Bangladesh border and a vast area of cultivable land remains outside of the fencing. As cultivation is the main occupation of the villagers, the whole people of the village Nalngibari are gravely affected by the restrictions placed by the Border Security Forces (BSF) under 140 battalion of Banoghariya Border Out Post.

Main problem is that the villagers of Nalangibari are suffering havoc adverse calamities due to the stagnant rain water of 62 number Culvert which is at a distance of 315 meters from pillar number 875 due to lack of drainage system and irresponsible attitude of Border Security Force jawans. Border Security Force under 140 Battalion of Banoghariya Border Out Post are used to posted at pillar number 875 and distance from pillar number 875 to 62 number Culvert is about 315 meters and every time Border Security Force jawans closed the frontier portion of the Culvert with iron net and thereby in the time of monsoon season water cannot flow through this Culvert and as a result in every year around 1000 bigha land of crops are destroyed and farmers are financially damaged as well as the villagers may suffer from various diseases due to the gradually polluted stagnant water, causing serious hazards to the public health. On 25.07.2012 the villagers jointly made a written complaint before the Executive Engineer (Maintenance Division, CPWD) IBBR and the same was copied to the Superintending Engineer, Siliguri Circle, CPWD and the Assistant Engineer, Mathabhanga Sub Division, CPWD but the concerned authorities did not take any steps in this regard.

Our District Human Rights Monitor also witnessed that the Border Security Force jawans placed illegal restriction upon the life and livelihood of the villagers. Villagers are not allowed to move freely within their own country. The restriction upon the agricultural activities of the villagers by the posted Border Security Force personnel is tremendous at this area. Not only movement but every aspects of daily life and related activities of villagers are being forcibly influenced and being restricted by posted Border Security Force personnel. The villagers are not allowed to carry the crops from their field and adequate fertilizers. Even no villagers can sell their self-produced crops without the permission of Border Security Force. The villagers are also restricted to bring their crops in their houses. They are also restricted to carry their lunch items. Those villagers are also restricted to invite their neighbours who reside other villages. At first permission should be taken from the Border Security Force personnel and if they do not give permission, those guest have to return. Even school children and their books, bags, shoes, clothes are checked by the Border Security Force personnel.

Border Security Force personnel of that area without any cause torture and harass upon the innocent villagers. They use abusive and derogatory language upon them, even they do not show any respect to any women and their family members. After 6 pm Border Security Force jawans restricted the movement of the villagers within 200 meters area from the Gate number 1 and it is to be mentioned IBBR road is placed within 200 meters from the Gate number 1 and as a result villagers cannot move into the IBBR road after 6 pm and it creates a huge problem upon the villagers.

Fencing gate used to remain open three times in a day from 7 am to 9 am, from 11 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 5 pm but every time Border Security Force jawans open the gate late time and problems have arisen for cultivation.

On 23.10.2019 villagers jointly submitted a mass petition before the Block Development Officer of Mathabhanga I Block but till date no actions have been taken.

Agriculture is the main and only livelihood option of the villagers of Nalangibari. The residents were not fully distributed with schedule caste certificates and deprived from facilities under schemes for aged and widow pension. Job cards were not distributed among the residents under Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The other social security schemes of provincial and union governments; Kanyashree, Karmashree, Nija Bhume Nija Griha, Antodoy Anna Yojona, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and so on are not accessible to them.

Several times villagers applied to the Block Development Officer, Mathabhanga I Block for their job cards, old age pension, widow pension or for other social security schemes, but every time Block Development Officer assured them to provide the facilities of social security schemes but till date the villagers are denied the facilities of those social security schemes. In following list I provide several name of the villagers who requested to the Block Development Officer, Mathabhanga I Block, Cooch Behar for their widow pension.

Name	Husband's name	Age	Date of husband's death	Total family members
Haldi Burman	Late MAnmohon Burman	59	06.02.1989	04
Sindhubala Dakua	Late Gashochandra Dakua	52	13.02.2004	02
Sumitra Adhikary	Late Fulbar Adhikary	63	08.02.2003	01
Jhalki Burman	Late Kokaru Burman	68	02.09.1998	06
Rajbala Barua	Late Rupnarayan Barua	68	06.11.2015	01
Asobala Burman	Late Ananta Burman	56		01
Harmoni Majhi	Late Sushen Majhi	64	15.06.1980	02
Chabita Burman	Late Chandramohon Burman	53	20.04.1985	01
Dhouli Burman	Late Kandura Burman	58	14.08.2007	02
Bachha Burman	Late Tatru Burman	58	09.07.1997	01
Kunti Burman	Late Mahesh Chandra Burman	54	06.02.2015	04
Khako Burman	Late Dhaneswar Burman	55	01.03.2018	03
Kalpana Burman	:Late Sudhir Chandra Burman	29	22.06.2018	02
Balika Burman	Late Mahes	68	06.12.2015	04

	Burman				
Tapati Burman	Late	Sushil	36	01.11.2002	02
	Chandra				
	Burman				
Laxmibala	Late	Rajani	55	08.02.1985	02
Burman	Burman	-			

The following list of the people several time requested to the Block Development Officer, Mathabhanga I Block, Cooch Behar for their old age pension but till date no steps have been taken.

Name	Father's/Husband's	Age	Total family members
	name		
Gajendranath	Toyra Burman	64	02
Burman			
Debadidini Burman	Late Narendranath	68	04
	Burman		
Maneswar Burman	Late Dinkanta Burman	61	06
Hitendranath Burman	Dina Burman	63	02
Bimala Burman	Demdena Burman	63	06
Prathambala Burman	Budaru Burman	68	01
Birendra Burman	Domasu Burman	60	06
Sukaru Burman	Deben Burman	78	02
Binod Burman	Anami Burman	64	05

The arbitrary actions and whimsical restrictions imposed by the Border Security Force personnel under 140 Battalion of Banoghariya Border Out Post not only challenging their rights of 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 or personal 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 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 28 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child which the government of India ratified and the Goal numbers 4,6 and 16 of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which Government of India has taken pledge to adhere with. The neglect and apathy 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 sluice gate should be constructed at Culvert number 62 to drain out the excess rain 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.
- Unrestricted movements for the villagers within the Indian Territory must be ensured.
- Villagers should be allowed to carry and sell their own agricultural crops freely and without any unreasonable restriction.
- Protect the life and livelihood and freedom of movement of the poor villagers of Nalangibari village from whimsical and outrageous rules framed by 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 the continuance of illegal restriction upon the innocent villagers by Border Security Force.
- 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 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)



## **Attached Documents**

## Complaint to Block Development Officer of Mathabhanga-1

# আমরা সীমান্তবাসী

গ্রামঃ- নলঙ্গীবাড়ী, পোঃ- বি,জি,কুটা, থানাঃ- মাথাভাঙ্গা, জেলাঃ- কোচবিহার

তারিখ-----

To

The B.D.O

Mathabhanga-I

মেয়ো নং-----

Coochbehar-736146

বিষয়ঃ সীমান্ত বাসীদের জীবিকা ও কৃষি কাজের বাধা সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য আবেদন পত্র

আমাদের সবিনয়ে বিনীত নিবেদন এই যে সীমান্তবাসীদের পক্ষ থেকে এই মর্মে অবগত করছি যে, আমরা শিকারপুর গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েতের অধীনস্থ নলঙ্গীবাড়ি ও বারঘরিয়া দৃটি গ্রামের ৩০০ পরিবারের ৭০০ জন লোক। BOP বারঘরিয়ার অধীনস্থ বর্ডার রোডের ৬২ নং Culvert দিয়ে বর্ষার সময় পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে জল নিকাশ হতে পারে না, ফলে Culvert এর এপারে থাকা ১০০০ একর জমির ফসল জলের তলায় পড়ে প্রতি বছর ক্ষতিগ্রস্থ হয়ে যাচ্ছে। এর ফলে এই এলাকার কৃষক গন জীবিকা নির্বাহ করতে খুবই কষ্টকর পরিস্থিতি ভোগ করে চলেছেন।

এছারা **ঠ** নং গেটের সামনে ২০০ মিটার IBBR রোড দিয়ে সন্ধ্যা ৬ টার পর BSF যেতে বাধা দিছে,এর ফলে এই এলাকার মানুষ জনের যাতায়াতের খুবই সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হতে হচ্ছে,এই এলাকার মানুষের চলার এটি একমাত্র রাস্তা।

অতএব,মহাশয়ের নিকট বিনীত অনুরোধ দয়া করে যাতে কৃষক গনের ফসল নষ্ট না হয় তাই Culvert এর পরিবর্তে যাতে ব্রিজ তৈরি করা হয় এবং ২০০ মিটার রাস্তার রাত্রে স্বাধীন ভাবে যাতায়াতের অনুমতি পাওয়ার সুবাবস্থার জন্য মহাশয়ের নিকট আজ্ঞা হয় ৮

ধন্যবাদান্তে

আমরা সীমান্তবাসী

Apurba Barman

\*অপর পৃষ্ঠায় আবেদনকারী কৃষক গনির স্বাক্ষর দেওয়া হইল।

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## দাবীসনদঃ-

- Culvert এর পরিবর্তে ব্রিজ নির্মাণ করা।
- ২) ২০০ মিটার IBBR রোড দিয়ে রাত্রি বেলা স্বাধীন ভাবে যাতায়াতের অনুমতি দেওয়া।
- ৩) সকাল ৬ টা থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৬ টা পর্যন্ত কাঁটাতারের গেট কৃষিকাজের সুবিধারতে খোলা রাখতে হবে।
- ৪) গ্রামীণ কৃষি কাজের জন্য কাঁটা তার বন্দী সীমান্তবাসীদের জন্য ভিতরে নিরাপত্তার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
- ৫) সীমান্তবাসী কাঁটাতার বন্দী কৃষি জমিতে সেচ ব্যবস্থা ও কৃষিজাত ফসল বহনের সুবিধারথে রাস্তা ঘাটের
  ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
  - ৬) B.A.D.P –এর টাকা সীমান্তবর্তি এলাকার উন্নয়নের জন্য খরচ করতে হবে।
- ৭) সীমান্তবর্তি এলাকার ছেলে-মেয়েদের সরকারী চাকুরীর ক্ষেত্রে অতিরিক্ত সুযোগ একান্ত ভাবে দিতে হবে।
- ৪) কাঁটাতারের বেড়ার ভেতরে পানীয় জলের সুব্যবস্থা ও প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের থেকে নিরাপত্তার ব্যবস্থা করতে
  হবে।
- ৯) চাষবাসের অসুবিধার জন্য ভর্তুকির ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
- ১০) তাঁরবন্দী জমিতে সেচ জনিত ব্যবস্থার জন্য বিদ্যুৎ ও অন্যান্য কৃষি যন্ত্রের সুব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
- ১১) কাটাতারের ওপারে যাতে পাট,ভুত্তা,গাছ গাছালি লাগানোর ও পশু পালনের অনুমতি পায় তার ব্যবস্থা করা হোক।



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### Letter to Executive Engineer

To

The Executive Engineer, (Maintenance Divn., C.P.W.D.), I.B.B.R. (MZ), R.R.N. Road, Cooch Behar.

Subject:- Application for taking necessary steps for smooth drainage of rain water.

Sir,

We, the below signatories of this application are residents of Village-Nalangibari East and West and B.G.Kuta. We are suffering havoc adverse calamities due to the stagnant rain water of No.62 Culvert Nalangibari which is at a distance of 315 metres from Pillar No. 875 due to lack of drainage system. Every possibility of damage of standing crop (Aman Paddy etc.) has arisen as well as the neighbouring people may suffer from various diseases due to the gradually polluted stagnent water, causing serious hazards to the public health. We have already drawn the attention of Gram Panchayat Prodhan, D.O., B.O.P. Camp authority and Panchayat Samity's Chairman but in vain.

In this regard, the ASH Commandant of B.O.P. has recommended to construct a sluice gate at C.L.No.62 - 15 - 4 - 1 at B.P. No. 875 to drain out the excess rain water.

Therefore, we request you kindly take necessary arrangement for constructing the same for passing rain-water and oblige thereby.

lecon of E copy to:

 The Superintending Engineer, Siliguri Circle, C.P.W.D.

Nirmal Bhaban, Matagara, Siliguri.

2. The Asstt. Engineer,

Mathabhanga Sub-Division, C.P.W.D.

Yours faithfully,

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