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01.09.2020

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

Respected Sir,

I want to draw your kind attention towards the incident of firing pallets by the Border Security force (BSF) personnel attached with 'D' Company under 98 Battalion of Jhaljhali Border Outpost, on a villager of Konamukta village under Dinhata police station area of Cooch Behar district in West Bengal. The victim was severely injured and became complete blind in the sudden pellet firing by the BSF.

From our fact finding it is revealed that the victim is associated with smuggling activities but the on duty BSF personnel without any warning to the victim during the time of cattle smuggling fired pellet which caused complete blindness to the victim.

According to Ministry of Home Affairs of Govt. of India, using of pump guns (Pellets) to "Control the crowd". Present case shows BSF are using pellet guns at their whims. There was no incident reported by BSF before local police. About dozen of foreign metal bodies / pellets are within the victim's eye and face that was fired by BSF.

The poor family of the victim has no resource for his proper treatment by themselves. They lodged a complaint to the Officer in Charge of Tufanganj Police Station and Superintendant of Police of Cooch Behar district but no action has been taken yet.

From the incident it appears that the perpetrator BSF personnel not only violated the rights guaranteed in Article 21 of Indian Constitution but also violated the premise of Article 7 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Goal No. 16 of Sustainable Development Goal earmarked by United Nations and in both these international instruments; the government of India is a party and have agreement. Tufanganj Police Station and Cooch Behar District Police administration also violated the provision of section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court of India in the case of Lalita Kumari vs. State of U.P. & others reported in AIR 2014 SC 187. The incident and subsequent impunity legitimize our long standing demand for immediate ratification of United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment.

I request to your urgent intervention in this case to bring justice to the victim and her family by taking necessary steps:

- The whole incident must be investigated by its own investigating agency of the commission.
- Complete ban and stoppage of using pellet guns by the BSF.
- The guilty Border Security Force personnel involved in committing the offence must be booked and prosecuted.
- Proper treatment of the victims should be borne by the state.
- The victims must be duly compensated and all the expenses for treatment of the victims should be duly reimbursed.
- Security and safety of the victims and their family members must be protected.

Thanking You,
Yours sincerely
Dipyaman Adhikary
Assistant Secretary
Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM)

Details of the victim- Mr. Safikul Mia, aged about 34 years residing at village Konamukta under Dinhata I Block and Dinhata Police Station in the district of Cooch Behar.

Details of the secondary victims- (i) Ms. Motaja Bibi, aged about 30 years, wife of the victim; (ii) Master Rahim Ali, aged about 7 years, son of the victim; (iii) Master Laini Khatun, aged about 10 years, daughter of the victim. All are residing at village Konamukta under Dinhata I Block and Dinhata Police Station in the district of Cooch Behar.

Date and Time of the incident - On 21.12.2019 at around 4.00 am.

Place of the incident – Kaljani river of Jhaljhali Border areas.

Details of the perpetrators- Border Security Force personnel of 'D' company Battalion Number- 98 posted at Jhaljhali Border Out Post.

Details of the incident – On 21.12.2019 at about 2 am Mr. Safikul Mia and others with a group of cattle reached at Jhaljhali border from Najirhat to cross the border. At about 4 am Safikul and other smugglers went down in the Kaljani river with those cattle. At that time the whole area was covered with fog as it was winter season. All of a sudden without any warning the perpetrator BSF personnel attached with Jhaljhali Border Out Post started firing pellets on them. Mr. Safikul

suffered multiple pellet injury in his eyes, face and cheeks. As the metal particle of pellets entered in the two eyes of Mr. Safikul, he became completely blind and he could not see anything at that time. Other smugglers fled in such a situation. The victim was in severe pain and unable to move as he could see nothing. Groaning in pain and unable to understand anything, he somehow came to the bank of the river. The victim came and sat up the land areas of Kasiabari. He sat there for a long time because he could not see anything. After a while two stranger women saw the injured and blind victim sitting there. Those two women informed the people of the area and admitted him to the Dinhata Hospital for his treatment. Those people also informed the family members of the Safikul that he was admitted to the Dinhata Hospital. Ms. Motaja Bibi, wife of Mr. Safikul went to Dinhata Hospital and from there she could know that his husband has been blinded with the pellets firing by BSF. On 25.12.2019 Dinhata Hospital referred the victim to the Cooch Behar Hospital. At that time when the wife of the victim requested to the on duty sister to give her any written documents for referring the victim to the Cooch Behar hospital, they showed her the fear of police case. Out of fear the Motaja Bibi took her husband to the Siliguri Medical College and Hospital instead of taking him to Cooch Behar Hospital. Doctor of Siliguri Medical College and Hospital advised Ms. Motaja Bibi to take the victim to Kakarvita Eye Care Centre situated at Nepal. Ms. Motaja Bibi took to her husband to Kakarvita Eye Care Centre and there his treatment lasted for one month. But as no positive result had been found, they came back home. Wife of the victim collecting some cash by borrowing and again took her husband to Mechi Hospital in Nepal. There he underwent eye surgery two times but still he cannot see completely with his eyes and doctors said that one of his eyes is completely damaged. Now the victim somehow sees blurred with one of his eyes.

On 14.03.2020 wife of the victim lodged one written complaint about this incident to the Tufanganj Police Station, but the police did not register the case as First Information Report which is a clear cut violation of section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. On 29.06.2019 she again sent another written complaint to the Superintendent of Police, Cooch Behar through the medium of registered post but till date no action has been taken by the district police administration till date.

Safikul was the only earning member of the family and the whole family, including his two kids and wife are dependent on his income. Since the incident, Safikul is unable to work and earn for the family, moreover, the expense on his treatment is huge, which is almost impossible for the family to bear.

Attached Documents

Picture of the victim



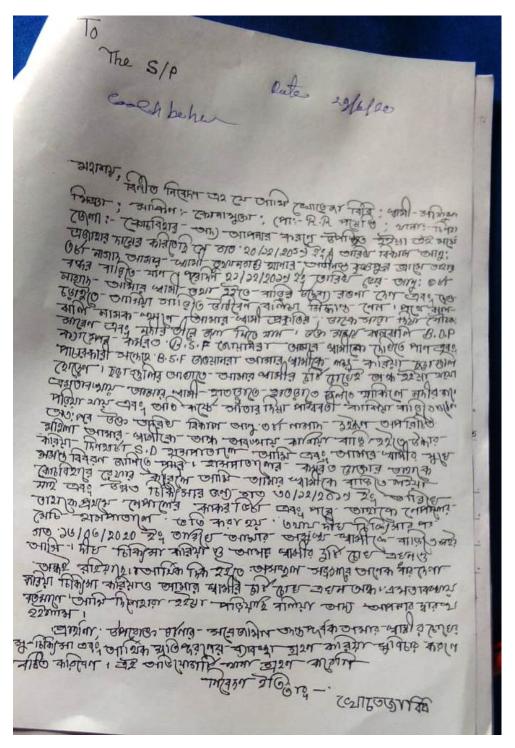
Victim's Statement

https://youtu.be/MGvLq7BJ7JE

Complaint before officer in charge of Tufanganj Police Station

Dated 14/8/20 (Jelisconjaj: Smalast days; my myst हिर न्यानिकः भारता निर्मातिः तित करिया कार्य क ue, co st son de angle este entre au co co state entre au co contra de angle este este de la contra anno est per de au contra anno est per de au contra au c इसका एक अक्ट्राइक्ट्र खड़े नक नक कारा कारा कारा उत्तात कामक अमीव मीत क्राक क्राक वामें। वामक अमुद्ध वाक्षित प्रकृत क्राक मित्र क्राक क्राक्षित प्रकृष्टिमाठ अठ भव २२/००/२०१० के व्यवस्त क्राक उत्ताह अमानकार्ण कृति क्राक क्रा रहा । व्याह सुन

Complaint before the Superintendent of Police, Cooch Behar



Medical Documents of victim

