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

06.10.2020

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

Respected Sir,

I want to draw your kind attention towards the apathetic behavior of the administration to the villagers of Gobra. The Gobra village is situated under Gobindapur Panchayat and Swarupnagar Block and Police station in North 24 Parganas district. This village is situated very near to Indo- Bangladesh border. The total population of this village is around 3000 where half of the population belongs to the Schedule Caste Hindu community and another half belongs to the Other Backward Classes Muslim community.

The northeast part of this village is surrounded by the fence. This fence is situated at least 500 meters away from the border pillar. In the northwest part Ichamati river is situated. The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture. Most of the agricultural land is situated on the opposite side of the fence. Border Security Force personnel from Gobra Border Out Post and 112 Battalion Number is posted there. The villagers are facing illegitimate restrictions imposed by the mentioned BSF personnel. They are not allowed through the gate number 18 to go to their own field. Not only this, the perpetrator BSF personnel also restrict the villagers to carry their lunch to their field. The villagers complained regarding the matter to the Company Commandant of the mentioned Border Out Post. But he did not pay any heed to their verbal complaint.

The main problem of the village is the poor condition of roads. The total length of the road is 5 kilometers. Due to negligence of the administration the condition of the road is very bad. In the rainy seasons, the villagers can't even think about using this road. The students are unable to use the road to go their schools. The situation becomes even more grave in medical emergencies.

There is another road is situated there which is maintained by Central Public Works Department (CPWD). But the perpetrator BSF personnel do not allow the villagers to use that road. Due to this illegitimate restriction the villagers are unable to go to Gopalpur sub divisional area which is adjacent to this village. Due to Amphan cyclone, the water length of Ichamati river has grown by 3-4 feet, causing floods in the mentioned village. Several times, the villagers verbally complained to the Pradhan of the Gobindapur Gram Panchayat but he has not taken any step to solve the issue. On 13.09.2020 the affected villagers lodged one written complaint to the Block Development Officer of Swarupnagar Block but till date the situation remains the same.

This unresponsive attitude of the government and the district administration towards the people of Gobra village is in violation of Articles 14, 19 (d) and 21 of the Constitution of India and Articles 11 of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Goals number 10 and 16 of Sustainable Development Goals. India is a party to both these international instruments.

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 instead of in the middle of the village.
- BSF should not illegally restrict the life and livelihood of the villagers particularly of the farmers.
- Farmers should be allowed to go their agricultural field beyond the fences and continue their agricultural work without any obstruction.
- The villagers should be provided with agricultural support.
- The concerned authority should take necessary steps to solve the issues regarding the horrible conditions of the roadways.
- Border Area Development Programme should be implemented properly at this border nearing village.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

DipyamanAdhikary

Assistant Secretary

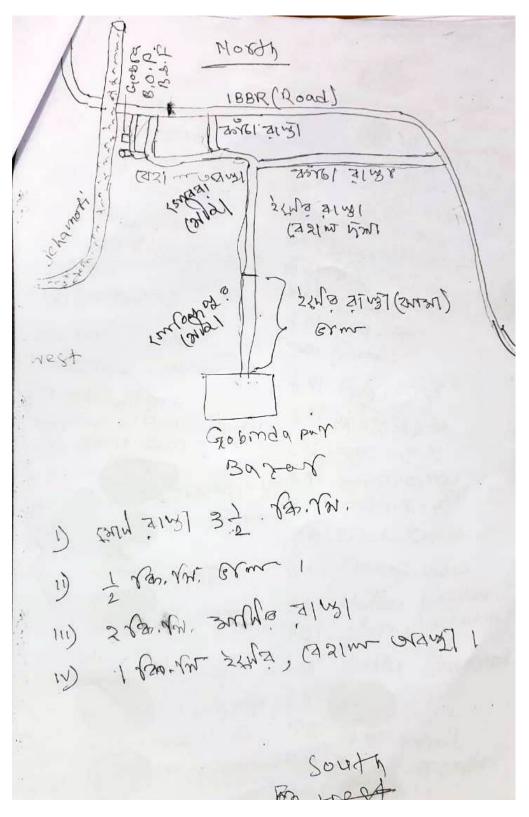
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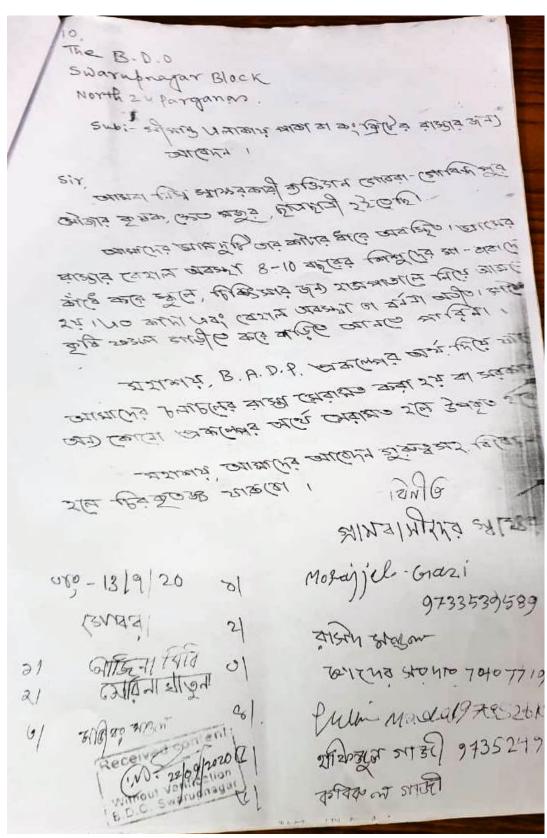
Attached Documents

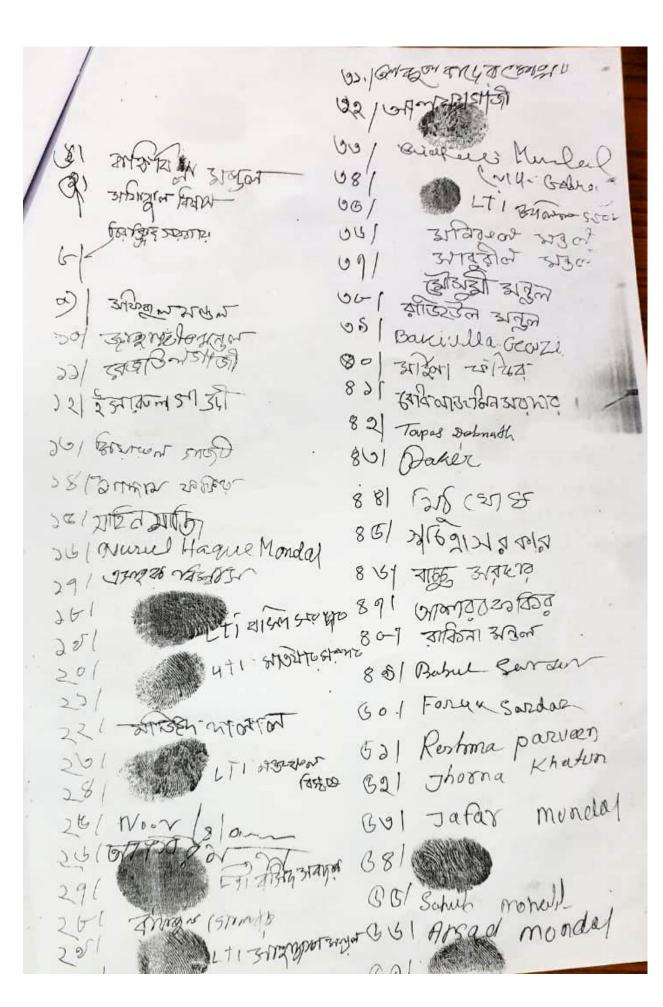
Picture of the affected villagers and the condition of roads



Map of Gobra village







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