



Banglar

Manabhadhikar Suraksha Mancha (masum)

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7 January 2020

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

Respected Sir,

Through this complaint, I want to draw your attention to the plight of the villagers of Basghata situated under Block Bagdah, Police Station Bagdah and District North 24 Parganas. Most of the villagers belong to either the Muslim minority or the Scheduled Caste community and are farmers or land labourers by profession. The agricultural lands of many of these villagers are located on the other side of the border fence but inside the International Border Pillar. There are two border outposts monitoring the fence—Sutia BOP and Basghata BOP; Gates 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are constructed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for the movement of the villagers across the border fence. The lands on both sides of the border are well irrigated and conducive for producing a variety of crops. But the lives of the villagers are miserable because of the arbitrary and whimsical restrictions placed by the Border Security Forces (BSF) stationed at the border outposts. The perpetrators of the BSF are attached with Battalion 107.

Out of the 5 gates constructed for the benefit of the villagers, Gate no. 16 and 18 are kept permanently closed by the BSF for no apparent reasons. The rest of the gates also function only at their discretion and are often shut down arbitrarily. The BSF do not allow the villagers to grow crops such as jute, sugarcane and banana or crops that are taller than 3 feet. These crops have also been cut down by them on several occasions without intimation to the farmers. To make matters worse, the BSF also use the villagers for forced labour without providing for any remuneration. Even when people are reluctant, they are forced to oblige because the BSF restrict them from using the India-Bangladesh Border Road (IBBR) which is imperative for the villagers to sell their produce in the markets or buy raw material for production from the markets.

Any dissent by the villagers is met with threats of assault and verbal abuses from the BSF. They also intimidate the villagers with threats to implicate them in false cases of smuggling. The villagers have already complained about this to the Block Development Officer of Bagdah who requested the BSF to remove these arbitrary restrictions but this has made no difference. The local Panchayat (Local self government) is similarly

helpless in providing for any solutions. Finally, on 17 October 2019, the people have sent a mass deputation to the District Magistrate of North 24 Parganas, explaining their problems and demanding easier access to their lands and putting an end to the hostility of the BSF.

Details of the Victims who own land on the other side of the border fence:

Ranjit Mondal, Son of Kinu Mondal: Dagh no. 1667, 1668, 1669, Basghata Mauja

Shiv Prasad Biswas, Son of Devendra Nath Biswas: Dagh no. 1784, 1785, Basghata Mauja

Rabiul, Son of Qurban: Dagh no. 1774, 1777, Basghata Mauja

Bhushan Mondal: Dagh no. 1762, 1763, 1764, Basghata Mauja

Laxminkanto Mondal, Son of Kinu Mondal: Dagh no. 1825, 1826, Basghata Mauja

Bishnupada Mondal, Son of Krishnapada Mondal: Dagh no. 1687, 1688, Basghata Mauja

Pannalal Biswas, Son of Durga Biswas: Dagh no. 1790, 1792, Basghata Mauja

These people, their labourers and many others, can seldom access their due to the threats, abuses, landlord like behavior of border guards and restrictions they have to face. Therefore, I request your urgent intervention in this matter by fulfilling the following prayers:

- The BSF should be placed at the zero point and not inside the territory of the villages
- The villagers should get access to the gates and IBBR road constructed by the CPWD for their benefit.
- Gate Nos. 16 and 18 should be open to ingress and outgress of the villagers, whose lands are situated in Indian territory but other side of the barbed fencing.
- The villagers should not be forced to engage in unpaid labour by the BSF as it is a gross violation of fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India
- The arbitrary restrictions of the BSF on cultivation and movement should be lifted immediately.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

Dipyaman Adhikary

Assistant Secretary

Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM)

Attached Documents

- Mass Deputation of the villagers to District Magistrate North 24 Parganas

To
The District Magistrate
Barasat, 24788(N).

Sub:- B.S.N. কৃষক কৃষক ও ক্ষেত্রমজুরদের চাহিদা বাকী
ও নিম্নোক্ত জমির ইচ্ছা।
Respected
Sir:-

আমরা প্রায় বাঁশবাড়ী, খান বঙ্গদহ, বনো উত্তর বা
পাড়াবাড়ী সংলগ্নে ও পশ্চিমী কৃষক অঞ্চল অঞ্চল
কৃষক ও ক্ষেত্রমজুর ইচ্ছা।
অতএব আমরা বনো উত্তর আমরা পূর্বপূর্ব
বাঁশবাড়ী বনো উত্তর অঞ্চল ও কৃষক শ্রেণীর
উপস্থিত অঞ্চল। এছাড়া চাহিদা ও ক্ষেত্রমজুর
কৃষকদের আশ্রয়, ছোলাসহায়তা পত্র প্রদান
চিঠি আশ্রয় অঞ্চল করতে হয়।

অতএব, B.S.N. B.O.P. কৃষক বনো উত্তর
B.S.N. B.O.P. বাঁশবাড়ী বঙ্গদহ খান কৃষক
বনো উত্তর কৃষকদের উপর অঞ্চল জমা, দিই এলাকা
B.B.R. (Road) এর উত্তরে 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 ফোর্ট
সিটি লেটে ওয়াহ কৃষক ও ক্ষেত্রমজুরদের অঞ্চল
ও অঞ্চল অঞ্চল। 18/16 নং লেটে B.S.N. কৃষক
ইচ্ছা কৃষকদের কৃষক কৃষক। কৃষক লেটে B.S.
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অঞ্চল ইচ্ছা। কৃষক, পাচ, অঞ্চল B.S.N. এর চাহিদা।
B.S.N. বা ইচ্ছা অঞ্চল অঞ্চল কৃষক কৃষক
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D.M General Section
th 24barasat, Barasat

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