



National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) just concluded its first ever Open Hearing/ Camp Sitting for West Bengal on 13th and 14th December 2018 at West Bengal Judicial Academy; Kolkata. During the recent Open Hearing Commission identified total 150 cases for hearing and out of that only 17 of our complaints being identified by the Commission for hearing, out of this 17, for three such complaints, we received communication from NHRC but found that the cases are not in the court wise list published by the NHRC and in one such complaint, the case is in the list but we have not received any communication for the same from NHRC. Further, the Commission whimsically shifted the venue at the last moment from West Bengal Judicial Academy to West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences. Included cases at the fag-end and informed the petitioners and sufferer through local police, they not even included it in the list published in the website. The victims/ complainants who were asked to be present during the open hearing were not paid the expenses incurred for their travel and staying as per legal procedure, even during the proceedings the organizers not arranged any refreshments for

the petitioners/victims though there were arrangements for the officials. Though the session was of NHRC but the hosting was done by West Bengal Human Rights Commission and they convened a meeting on 14th December 2018 with NGOs and Human Rights Defenders but they did not invited us to be present in the said meeting. Thus the meeting with NGOs/ HRD s was just a farce and in no way serve the purpose. We successfully registered our protest of partisan activities of HRIs.

We are in dark about the modalities for identifying the cases for hearing during the Open Hearing as not a single case of extra judicial killing by BSF has been selected for hearing despite the fact that till August 2018, MASUM made 105 complaints on extra judicial killings and overwhelming majority of those cases are still pending before the NHRC, similarly during the time span equal numbers of complaints made by us on attacks upon Human Rights Defenders but not a single case has been identified for hearing during this open session. These anomalies only establish the lacunae within the Commission.