13 April 2022

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

Respected Sir,

On the day when our country is mourning on killing with impunity Jalianwala Bagh massacre 103 years ago by the Britishers, here I want to draw your attention towards the incident of brutal torture by the Border Security Force personnel attached with Narayanganj BSF Border Outpost, 'A' Company, Battalion no. 90, on an innocent marginalised Muslim youth from Konamukta village of Dinhata-I block and Dinhata police station area of Cooch Behar district in West Bengal. The perpetrator inflicted brutal torture upon the victim apparently for no reason.

Mr. Titu Miya, the victim was severely injured and taken to the Dinhata Sub-Divisional Hospital for treatment. The victim's mother lodged a complaint to the Inspector-in-charge of Dinhata police station and informed about the incident of torture on 25.03.22. However, the Dinhata police didn't provide a copy of the FIR to the complainant but just put a seal stamp of Dinhata police station on the complaint copy. No proper action was taken by the Dinhata police on the basis of her complaint yet.

The incident violates the rights guaranteed in Article 19 and 21 of Indian Constitution and also the premise of Article 7 and 12 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Goal No. 8 and 16 of the Sustainable Development Goal earmarked by United Nations and in both these international instruments; the government of India is a party and have agreement.

Under the circumstances we demand:

- BSF should be posted in actual borders and not inside villages
- The whole incident must be investigated by a neutral agency appointed by the commission
- The guilty Border Security Force personnel involved must be booked and prosecuted
- The victim must be duly compensated and provided all expense of his treatment
- Security and safety of the victim and his family members must be protected.

Thanking You, Yours sincerely

Kirity Roy Secretary, MASUM National Convener, PACTI

Details of the victim -

1. Mr. Titu Miya, son of Mr. Abdul Khalek Miya, Age - 30 Years, Village – Konamukta, P.S. – Dinhata, Cooch Behar, West Bengal

Details of secondary victims –

1. Mrs. Afsana Parvin, wife of Mr. Titu Miya, Age - 19 Years, Village – Konamukta, P.S. – Dinhata, Cooch Behar, West Bengal

- 2. Mr. Abdul Khalek Miya, father of Mr. Titu Miya, Age 55 Years, Village Konamukta, P.S. Dinhata, Cooch Behar, West Bengal
- 3. Mrs. Jaheran Bibi, wife of Mr. Abdul Khalek Miya, Age 43 Years, Village Konamukta, P.S. Dinhata, Cooch Behar, West Bengal
- 4. Mr. Adil Miya, son of Mr. Titu Miya, Age 7 months, Village Konamukta, P.S. Dinhata, Cooch Behar, West Bengal

Details of the perpetrators – 2 Constables attached with Narayanganj BSF BOP, 90 Battalion, under Dinhata Police Station, Cooch Behar District. The perpetrators were tall, dark complexioned and had moustache and can be identified if the faces are shown to Mr. Titu Miya.

Details of Witnesses -

- 1. Mr. Selim Hoque, son of Mr. Saidar Miya, Village Konamukta, P.S. Dinhata, Cooch Behar, West Bengal
- 2. Mr. Chaddam Miya, son of Mr. Jelal Miya, Village Konamukta, P.S. Dinhata, Cooch Behar, West Bengal

Date, time and place of the incident – 25.03.22, around 6:20 pm, at Makar More of Konamukta village, about 700 metres from the border fencing.

Details of the incident – 30-years-old, Mr. Titu Miya is a daily-waged labourer and sustains a family of 5 with a meagre income of rupees 4 thousand per month. He belongs from a marginalised Muslim OBC (Other Backward Class) family. His house is located about 1 kilometre away from the border fencing inside Indian territory. On 25.03.22, he was heading towards Narayanganj market for shopping, when he was stopped by two armed BSF personnel riding bi-cycles at Konamukta Makar More. Without any intimation, the BSF personnel started beating up Titu Miya severely with their sticks as the victim became unconscious. Later it was revealed that just before the incident, as the perpetrator BSF personnel were passing through the Makar More area, two bystanders, who were talking among themselves, ran away after spotting the BSF personnel. Right at that moment, Mr. Titu Miya was also passing through Makar More, which is located about 700 metres from the border fencing inside Indian territory. The BSF personnel suspected the bystanders as smugglers and also assumed Titu Miya to be associated with them. However, without any confirmation or even talking to the victim, they started torturing him. They continued severe beating upon Titu Miya for about 10 minutes by which the victim received critical injuries on his back, waist, chest, hands and forehead and became unconscious. Soon the villagers gathered around listening to Titu Miva's screams but couldn't interfere into the matter from fear of the BSF's rage. After the BSF personnel left the victim unconscious, the villagers took Mr. Titu Miya to the Dinhata Sub-divisional hospital for treatment. He was admitted there for 3 days, after which, he was released from the hospital on 28.03.22. The victim is still bed-ridden with severe body ache even after being released from the hospital and still is unable to work. The family of the victim is in crisis as the only earning member of the family is unable to earn a living. On 25.03.22, the Inspector-in-Charge of Dinhata police station, Mr. Suraj Thapa visited Mr. Titu Miya to enquire about the matter. On the same day Mrs. Jaheran Bibi, mother of the victim lodged a complaint to the Inspector-in-charge of Dinhata police station. The on-duty police officer received the complaint and put a seal stamp on the copy of the complaint. A copy of the FIR was not provided to the complainant. In the website of Coochbehar police it was not uploaded. However, no action was taken by the Dinhata police, as of now, on the basis of her complaint and the perpetrators are enjoying impunity.

To watch the videography of our fact-finding, please click the link below https://youtu.be/8zl5rVf2Q48

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