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## A Special Investigative Report on the minority repression at Feni and Netrokona district of Bangladesh

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## **Brutal Gang Rape and Murder: The torment of Hindu minorities at Feni, Bangladesh**

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### ***An Investigative Report from HRCBM***

Date: October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002

*prepared by*  
**HRCBM, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

I, *Rabindra Nath Ghosh*, on behalf of Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) Dhaka visited Feni district on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2002 *both in the jurisdiction of* Sonagazi and Fulgazi police stations about 220 kilometers from Dhaka *where a number of atrocities against* the religious minorities were reported in different news papers.



Miss Rupali Das (16) (Right) & Her Mother Mrs. Bani Das (Left) at Feni dist. of Bangladesh.



Rabindra Ghosh of HRCBM is talking with Miss Rupali Rani Das (16) at Feni where she is staying temporarily in a house.

I was accompanied by Shri Shishir Kanti Majumder, Advocate of Feni Bar Association , Shri Tuasar Kanti Basak, Correspondent of Feni and Shri Jatan Mazumder, correspondent of Daily “Janakantha” at Feni and an Special Correspondent of the Weekly “Fenir Alo”.

I reached Feni from Dhaka by bus on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2002 at about 10 p.m. in the office of “Fenir Alo”, College Road, Feni and started to investigate *the case of rape registered with Sonagazi Police Station under case number 4(9) 2002*. We reached in the house of the victim Miss Rupali Rani Das (16) and Mrs.Kazali Rani Das(25), *daughters of Hara Lal Das at village Bishnupur, Police Station in Sonagazi*, but the victims were not available at their village Bishnupur. I went to Feni again and enquired about the whereabouts of *these rape victims* and ultimately found Miss Rupali Rani Das (16) and her mother Mrs.Bani Das (55) in a house where they are temporarily residing *due to fear of being killed*. Mrs.Kazali Rani was not available as she went to her relative’s house, *as she is afraid of being killed*. I asked Miss Rupali Rani Das and her mother Mrs.Bani Das about the incident *that took place on the night of 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2002 about midnight* Mrs.Bani Das-the mother of victim Rupali Das told us that some terrorists namely Mohammad Faruk son of Ruhul Amin of village Char Laksmiganj, P.S. Sonagazi alongwith Md.Abul Bashar son of late Neazur Rahman of same police station led by Faiz Ahmed *also, from the same neighbourhood knocked at the door of house of Bani Das at about 12 p.m. and threatened her life in order to force open the door of the house* .



Miss Rupali Das (16) with the members of locality & the leaders of HRCBM, Bangladesh.

Being threatened by the terrorists Mrs.Bani Das opened the door and all on a sudden, *the accused*, Mohammad Faruk and *the other accused* Md.Abul Bashar jumped over the victim Mrs.Kazali Rani Das and took her away in a nearby place and started to rape her *brutally one after another in the presence* of her two minor daughters 1) Shika Rani Das(10) and Shima Rani Das(7).

*As a result of continuous rape, Mrs.Kazali Rani became unconscious.*

***(Please read the appeal below from both victim and her mother typed in Bengali language)***

" আবেদন "  
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৩৭ ১/১২/২০০২  
কেনী-বাস, মঙ্গলা, মঙ্গলা

আমি নিম্ন টি বসহিকারীনি বাবী মাস (৪৫) শ্রাধী হরনান  
দান, গ্রাম- বিষ্ণুপুর, থানা- সোনাগাজী, জেলা- ফেনী, বাংলাদেশ  
এই মর্মে বিধি বিবেকের নিকট আবেদন করিতেছি যে বিগত  
১১/১/২০০২ ইং তারিখে রোজ বৃথবার রাত্র অনুমান ১২ ঘটিকার  
সময় অত্র এলাকার সম্প্রদায়ী মোঃ ফারুক-পিতা- হুরুল আমিন,  
গ্রাম- চরনকীপল, থানা-সোনাগাজী, ও মোঃ আবুল বশর, পিতা-  
মুহ- বিষ্ণুপুর রহমান, আমাকে আমার ঘরের দরজা বুলিতে  
বলে আমি তমুে ঘরের দরজা বুলিসে উক্ত সম্প্রদায়ীরা আমার ২টি  
মেয়েকে প্রবে ধারিয়া ফেলার তমুে দেবাইয়া ঘরের বাহিরে নিয়া  
রাত তর ধর্ষন করে এবং এক পর্যায়ে আমার দুই মেয়ে ধর্ষনের  
কসে অজ্ঞান হয়ে পড়ে, আমি একজন পত্নীর অসহায় মা।  
মেয়ের বাবা তমুে রোজপারের পথ তাহার নাই। আমি বিধু বিবে-  
কের নিকট আমাদের পরিবার বর্ণের নিরাপত্তা চাই এবং আমার  
ই ই মেয়ের মধ্যে বড় মেয়ে কাজলী রাবী মাস বিবাহিতা কিনু তাহার  
শ্রাধী তাহাকে পরিচাল্য করিয়া চলিয়া নিয়াছে। অগ্রাণু বন্দুক  
দুইটি কন্যা সনান নিয়া কাজলী রাবী দিবা হারা। আমি এই  
অসহায় বিধু বিবেকের নিকট নিরাপত্তা ও আর্থিক সাহায্য কামনা  
করিতেছি। ইতিমধ্যে বাংলাদেশে সংঘাতিত জ্ঞানবাধিকার সংঘঠবে  
নেতা এডভোকেট রবিন্দ্র ঘোষ আমাকে সহযোগিতা করিয়া  
যাইলেখন।

কনি দাস

*Note: In this thumb imprinted Bengali typed letter, the mother of the victim appealed to International community to come forward to protect destitute minorities of Bangladesh as well as her family.*

*In the letter, Mrs. Bani Das mother of the victim of gang rape appealed before International community for the protection of her family and her daughters from the religious motivated organized hate crime. She want justice from International community. Mrs Bani Das also applauded HRCBM's support and legal action in this regards while thanking Advocate Rabindra Ghosh of HRCBM for his great work.*

" আবেদন "  
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১৭ই অক্টোবর '২০০২  
কেন্দ্রী - বাংলাদেশ

আমি নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীনি রুপালী রাবী দাস, পিতা- হরলাল দাস, গ্রাম- বিষ্ণুপুর, থানা- সোনাগাজী, জিলা- ফেনী, বাংলাদেশ। এই মর্মে নিবেদন করিতেছি যে বিপত ১১/৯/২০০২ বুধবার রাত ১২ ঘটিকার সময় অএ এলাকার সশস্ত্র সশস্ত্র মোঃ ফারুক, পিতা- রুহুল আমিন - গ্রাম চরলক্ষীপাড়া, থানা- সোনাগাজী - ও মোঃ আবুল বশর পিতা- মৃত ফিাহুর রহমান আমাকে ও আমার বড় বোন কাজলী রাবী দাস (২৫) কে আমাদের বাসগৃহ হইতে ডাকিয়া রাতের অন্ধকারে উপর্যুপরি ধর্ষন করে। ধর্ষনের ক্ষেত্রে আমি ও আমার বড় বোন অচেতন হইয়া পড়ি এবং আমাদেরকে ডাকাতের বিকট নিয়া যায়। এ ব্যাপারে আমার বড় বোন কাজলী রাবী দাস সোনাগাজী থানায় মামলা দায়ের করিয়াছে। সশস্ত্র মোঃ ফারুক গ্রেফতার হইলেও অন্যথা সশস্ত্ররা আমাকে ও বাবা মাকে হুমকী প্রদর্শন করিয়া যাইজেছে। সশস্ত্রদের ভয়ে আমরা এখনও গ্রাম ছাড়া। আমার বাবা অসুস্থ পর্শীষ ও রুপু আমি টাকার অভাবে সেবা গড়া করিতে পারিতেছি না। আমাকে ও আমার পরিবারবর্গকে কিছু সাহায্য করিলে আমরা আপনাদের প্রতি চির কৃতজ্ঞ থাকিব। ইতি মধ্যে সংঘাতস্থ দানবান্ধিকার সংগঠনের নেতা আমাদেরকে সহযোগীতা করিয়া যাইজেছেন।

রুপালী রাবী দাস

*Note: This signed letter from the victim Ms. Rupali Das is addressed to the International community and human rights activists begging for their kind help to endow justice. In the letter, she has described the brutal gang rape identifying the criminals and appealing for justice and rehabilitation. She also stated the support and legal action of HRCBM and thanked the organization for its great work.*



Miss Rupali Das (16) (middle) describing the incident of rape committed by terrorists with the HRCBM leaders at Feni. Her mother Bani Das is also seen in the left side.



*Advocate Ghosh talking with the victim Mrs. Kazali Das who was subject to brutal gang rape*

Thereafter Miss Rupali Rani Das was *grabbed* by the *same* terrorists and along with others, *they started to rape her* in the house of Mrs. Bani Das and *consequently*, she became unconscious.

During the rape the minor girls of Mrs.Kazali Rani were crying, but it is surprising that nobody came forward for their rescue. Both the daughters of Bani Das were gang-raped by the terrorists on the same night and they were ultimately taken to Feni Sadar Hospital for treatment on the next day. A medical Board was formed for the purpose of ascertaining the alamat of rape and it was reported that Dr.Sarwar Jahan and Senior Staff Nurse Shushila Barai *confirmed* to the reporter of daily “Janakantha” that the proof of rape was detected at the time of examination of both the sisters. I contacted with the Superintendent of Police, Feni Mr. Helaluddin Badari who also admitted the fact and told me that a case has been started against the accused including a Hindu neighbor namely Shreepada Das of the same village.

I also interrogated Miss Rupali Das who told me that Sreepada Das was not involved in rape case *but Sreepada Das has been accused* along with other accused in this case. (Sonagazi P.S. case Number 4(9) 2002). (An appeal from Miss Rupali Rani Das and her mother Bani Das duly signed by them are scanned herewith for your kind perusal and necessary action in this regard.).



Rabindra Ghosh of HRCBM, Dhaka discussing with the S.I Md. Jahangir (Civil Dress) regarding cases against the terrorist filed by raped victim. Mrs. Bani Das, mother of victim also seen in the picture at Sonagazi Police Station, Feni, Bangladesh.

I also went to Sonagazi police station 35 kilometers from Feni and talked with the Investigating officer – Md. Zahangir Hossain as the Officer-in-Charge of Sonagazi was not available in the police station .The I.O. Mr .Zahangir told us that out of 3 accused 1 *has* been arrested in connection with the case and other accused are now absconding. The I.O of the case told me that very soon the charge sheet would be submitted against the culprits responsible for the rape. I also asked the I.O. to show us how many cases have been registered against the culprits responsible for communal persecution and repression upon the religious minorities after the election was over since 2001. The I.O. told us that nobody came forward to register such cases in his police station for the offence. Because,

we came to know that Sonagazi is the most affected place where religious minorities have been compelled to leave the country due to persecution and torture upon them. I told the I.O. that if there is any cognizable cases in the police station it is the duty of the police officer to take up the matter for investigation.



***Adv. Rabindra Ghosh and other leaders of HRCBM-Dhaka, Bangladesh and local community talking with the Officer in Charge of Feni Police station.***

But in this case I found that the I.O or O.C *avoided reporting the incidents, a sign of extreme negligence*. As a result most of the *incidents* of communal repression could not be recorded *and this was evident* from the statements made by Dulal Majumder of village Baktar Munshi, P.S. Sonagazi, Mati Ranjan Basak of Sonagazi, and Subash Chandra Charavorty of Sultanpur village. They told me that they were prevented from *approaching the police station* by some terrorists and as a result they could not file any case in the police station for fear of life.

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### ***Murder of Mr. Uzzal Chakravorty***

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I also investigated the case of deceased Uzzal Chakravorty son of Rishikesh Chakravorty (52) of village Kismat Bijoypur, P.S. Fulgazi, Dist. Feni who was stabbed to death by some terrorists on 29<sup>th</sup> of September, 2002 in business market center at Feni town. This news has been published in the newspapers as dacoity case and accordingly a dacoity case has been started against the terrorists.



Dead body of Uzzal Chakravorty (24) of Feni who was stabbed to death by terrorist on 29/09/2002 in Feni New Market.



Picture of Uzzal Chakravorty (24) before his tragic death on 29/09/2002 at Feni.



The devastated " Alankar Jewellers" belonging to Hindu owner at Feni Town where the murder with dacoity took place .



On protest of killing of Uzzal Chakraborty the people of the locality of Feni are on strike.

I went to the village home of deceased Uzzal Chakravorty at village Kismat Bijoypur by Taxi, 36 kilometers away from town along with reporter Mr. Tuasar Kanti Basak and



***completely religious hate crime. Murder of Uzzal was done to threatened local minority community enforcing the situation to evict the minorities from Bangladesh.***

I questioned some of the neighbors of the deceased Uzzal Chakravorty who were 1. Anil chakravorty, 2. Satya Ranjan Chakravorty- Principal of Borkota School and College, Dawoodkandi, Comilla, 3. Brajendra Chakaravorty, 4) Mon Mohan Chakaravorty- a businessman, 5) Anju Chakravorty and 6) Kanu Rani Banik of the locality.

***All of these witnesses told me that the murder was totally communal and the terrorists want the Hindus to leave the country.***



পুলিশ পাহারা।

After murder of Uzzal Chakravorty the police is on duty at Feni town.

We came to know that after the murder of Uzzal, Additional Dy. Commissioner (General), Feni, Upazila Nirbahi officer (UNO) Fungazi visited the house of Uzzal at Kismat Bijoypur and promised them *that he will* find out the terrorists for murder of Uzzal. Mr. V.P. Joynal, the local Member of Parliament visited the house of Uzzal and paid an amount of Tk.10,000/- to Mrs.Shova Rani Chakravorty – mother of Uzzal to mitigate the expenses of her family.

Fulgazi is the constituency of Syed Eskander, M.P. (brother of Begum Khaleda Zia,P.M) who was elected from this constituency. From a reliable source we came to know that some terrorists belonging to BNP murdered Uzzal and accordingly police arrested 5

accused and Feni P.S. case number 61 dated 29.9.2002 has been started under section 396 of the Bangladesh Penal code and the case is under investigation by the police.



Rabindra Ghosh of HRCBM, Dhaka discussing with the OC Feni Mr. Mahafuz for dacoity with murder of Uzzal Chakravorty at Feni Police Station, Bangladesh.

We went to Feni police station on 17<sup>th</sup> October and talked with – Md.Mahafuz, O.C of Feni P.S. he told us that the murder with dacoity is not a communal incident rather it is a dacoity by some terrorists. He told us that 140 tolas of gold (valued at Taka 12,40,000/-) has been robbed of from “Alankar Jewelers” belonging to Babu Ranadhir Banik on *October 29.2002* at about 7 p.m., but no recovery of gold from the criminals has yet been made. Babu Ranadhir Banik was injured at the time of dacoity in his shop, but we could not find him at his house as he is under treatment at Comilla . O.C. also disclosed *to* us that one Md. Kamal son of Advocate Mir Hossain Bhuiya was arrested and it has been revealed from the statements of accused Kamal while he gave 164 statements in court that some identified BNP cadres are involved in this case. But the O.C. did not disclose the name of other accused responsible for the murder for security reason. I asked the O.C Feni that why the terrorists did not commit any robbery or dacoity in other Gold Jewelry shop adjacent to “Alankar Jewelers”, although there are other Jewelry shops such as Uma Jewelry, Mamoni Jewelry and Prity Jewelry belonging to Muslim community. The O.C did not give us any satisfactory reply on this point. I also talked with Md.Helaluddin Badari, Superintendent of Police, who also denied the incident as communal repression on Hindus. I also put question to Md.Badari why cases of various nature upon the religious minorities in the locality have not been registered in the police station, the S.P. told me that in one case, although the Hindu victim did not want to register the case but

the S.P. directed the O.C. to register the case as the case was cognizable offence. S.P. also told me that most of the cases minorities are not coming forward to register the cases in the police station for reason best known to victims. It is quite clear from the statements of Md. Badari that generally the minorities are weak and they don't bother to come to the police station or court for proper justice and as such their cases are not properly investigated and as a result the fate of the cases remain unattended and the cases *are closed* in final report due to lack of proper *evidence* or witnesses.

I also talked with Jatan Majumder, the local correspondent of daily "Janakantha" at Feni town who told me that one Babu Sukdeb Nath (Tapan) Editor of Weekly "Fenir Alo" has been implicated in a "Jalil murder case" although Sukdeb Nath was neither involved in this case nor he committed any offence of such murder. We came to know that as Babu Sukdeb Nath had been publishing a paper like "Fenir Alo" and ventilating authentic news in the news papers, and he also won the case from the High Court. *Some* people wanted to ban the newspaper in past and some don't want him to publish such news in the newspaper. And as such Sukdeb was falsely implicated in the murder case with intention to damage or impair his reputation in the society. We observed that there is always a vindictive attitude towards religious minorities and as a result Rupak Majumder (24) of Feni left for India due to repression and torture. One Dulal Majumder son of late Nipendra Lal Majumder of village Baktar Mnshi, P.s. Sonagazi Feni have become subject of torture and terrorists wanted huge amount of money from him. On October 3, 2002 "Hari Mandir" of Sadar Upazilla of Sharshdi Union south Abupur village belonging to Jatan Majumder, reporter of Janakantha was ransacked and a case has been started and one image of Hari Thakur has been damaged and some belongings have been robbed of.

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## Religious Persecution report from Netrakona

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*Prepared by :*

*Advocate Rabindra Ghosh, President, HRCBM-Dhaka, Banglades.*

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2002

I along with **Miss Mika Kotora from Japan, a human rights activist** visited Netrakona district on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2002 by Bus 180 kilometers from Dhaka and talked with the Officer-in-charge Mr. Nur Nabi, Durgapur police station where the images of "Durga Devi" had been demolished by some unidentified terrorists on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2002 at about 3 a.m. night. Shri Dilip Kukar Majumder, (72) President of Moktarpara Jagarani Club and also an renowned teacher of the locality lodged complaint in Durgapur police station in writing stating that some unidentified persons with ill motive and with a view to impair

the sacred mind of religious Hindu minority demolished the images of “ Durga Devi” on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2002.



Rabindra Ghosh of HRCBM is discussing with OC Md. Nornobi & S.I of police in Durgapur police Station Netrokona where images of Durga Devi was demolished on 05/09/2002.



Miss Mika Kitora is talking with Dilip Kumar Mazumder (72) President of Jagorani Club at Durgapur P/S where images of Durga Devi was demolished on 5/09/2002 at Durgapur.

The Officer-in-Charge started Durgapur p.s. case number 2 dated 6.10.2002 under section 295 and 497 of Bangladesh Penal code against the culprits responsible for the offence, We also talked with the Officer-in-Charge of Durgapur p.s. who very politely told us that this is the first time in Durgapur P.s. that this unhappy incident of demolition of images of Durga took place, O.C. also told us that as the national paper focused the matter seriously *but that* no such incident of *a* serious nature took place, two minor boys have been arrested in connection with this case and the case is under investigation and the real culprits will be brought to book. We saw that the O.C. issued identify card for the volunteers from the police station and that *tight* security is being observed and we also talked with some Muslim BNP leaders who also showed due respect on us and wanted us

to show other Puja Mandap and we saw that in 24 places within Durgapur police station “Durga Puja “ was being celebrated peacefully. We also talked with Shri Dilip Kumar Majumder, President of Jagaroni Club who told us that he can not say who demolished the images of Goddess “Durga Devi” but he *suspects that in order to* tarnish the image of BNP, *some people might have done this.*



Miss Mika Kitora (middle) with the member of family Dilip Kumar Majumder at Durgapur Police Station, Netrokona who is talking with them regarding demolishing of image of Durga Devi.

Shri Dilip Kumar Majumder gave us a list of volunteers who participated and volunteered the Durga Puja , He requested us to remain at Durgapur till “Dashami”but we could not stay there due to other assignments. The names of the volunteers are as follows:-

1. Dilip Kumar Majumder,
2. Ratan Kumar Ghose
3. Alak Kumar Roy
4. Sadhan Chandra Saha
5. Biplab Kumar Saha
6. Nitish Chandra Saha
7. Asish Kumar Roy
8. Kazal Chandra Dey
9. Suman chandra Dey
10. Rajesh Chandra Saha

We started for Dhaka from Netrokona on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2002 and reached at night at Dhaka and on hearing the news of atrocities committed in Feni District I started for Feni from Dhaka on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2002 *for carrying out an investigation there.*

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*HRCBM's invite Ms. Mika Kotora from an NGO of Japan visited various places to see the ground zero projects of HRCBM and meet the victims of gang rape and religious persecution. Here are some pictures of her visit:*

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HRCBM sponsored little heart greets Ms. Kotora (*behind wearing black shirt*) of Japan. HRCBM sponsors and rehabilitate little hearts through its partnered orphanages through out Bangladesh.



HRCBM sponsored “little hearts” of “Manab Kalyan Anathalaya” greets Ms. Mika Kotora of Japan through dances and songs.



*Currently these three “little hearts” were placed at “Manab Kalyan Anathalaya” for education and rehabilitation. HRCBM continues to sponsor women and children for rehabilitation at orphanages. To continue this effort we need generous donation of kind hearted individuals.*



Miss Kitora is taking interview of the HRCBM President & Secretary Mr. Jinobodhi Bhikku and Mr. Tapash Hore of Chittagong Committee regarding death of Bhuddist Monk (Gynajoti Bhikku) who was killed by the terrorist at Rauzan, Chittagong.



Ms. Mika Kitora is taking the interviews of Dr. Jinobodhi Barua (Bikku) and Mr. Tapash Hore, President and Secretary of HRCBM-Chittagong. Accompanying them is Advocate Ghosh.

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