



Banglar

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The Director General of the Border Security Force has termed the border killings as “unfortunate deaths” in the 48th DG-level conference held between the Border Guard Bangladesh and the Border Security Force, on 12 – 15 June, 2019 at Dhaka, Bangladesh. The statement is unjust and MASUM condemns it.

Despite the fact that India and Bangladesh are friendly countries, the Indo – Bangladesh border is the most vulnerable and violent border in the world registering severe bloodshed on a daily basis. On an average a person is being killed every two days in the Indo – Bangladesh border by the BSF. In case of each of these deaths, surprisingly a couple of things remain constant – deceased is criminal in police case and the murderer under impunity. Trigger happy BSF has no respect upon democratic institutions; like NHRC; example FelaniKhatun case 07/01/2011.

As declared by the Indian constitution, India is a peace loving country, where the Right to Life has been established by the Article 21 of the constitution. Therefore we immediately demand that the BSF should be removed from the Indo – Bangladesh border in order to avoid further bloodshed of innocent people and the SashastraSeemaBal (SSB) or any other force should replace the duty in this border. Until then, as once decided earlier, use of all forms of lethal weapons should be stopped in the Indo – Bangladesh border.

The BSF use pellet guns in the Indo – Bangladesh borders in order to combat crimes. Several Indian and Bangladeshi innocent persons are victims of these pellet guns including severe injury even resulting to death. Many of these victims lost their sight due to pellet injury. We also demand justice for these victims of torture and the family members of the persons who were killed in border by the BSF. We suggest forming a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and conducting the investigation in order to provide justice to these victims of torture and extra judicially killed according to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in open court trials.

Our other demands include establishment of weekly Border Hut every 5 to 10 kilometers away in the Indo – Bangladesh borders to promote legal trade between two countries. We believe this will enrich the peaceful and economic relation between the two countries as well as reduce illegal cross-border smuggling and other incidents of violence. The Customs Department of both India and Bangladesh may also earn some revenue from these huts, while the BSF and the BGB take responsibility for conducting and guarding this huts once a week.

The Bangladeshi women and children, who are being apprehended by the BSF for crossing the international border as trafficked or in search of jobs, should not be treated as criminals. Rather, according to the 1st May, 2012 memorandum of Home Department of the Government of India, they should be allocated to a government transit home and repatriated to Bangladesh maintaining due procedure.

According to the United Nation’s last Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2017, the pledge taken by the Government of India to uphold human rights should be prioritized. United Nation’s Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) should be immediately ratified and requisite domestic law to combat torture be enacted. We hope that our demands will be well accounted and well addressed before 26th June, 2019, which is the day the world observes as the day against torture.

Kirty Roy  
Secretary,  
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