



November 1, 2014

Human Rights Monitoring Report

October 1 – 31, 2014

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Activities of Odhikar hindered

Odhikar believes that 'democracy' is a form of the State and presupposes that freedom and human rights are its foundations. Democracy is not merely a process of

electing a ruler. Democracy is the result of the peoples' struggle for inalienable rights, which become the fundamental premise to constitute the State defining collective aspirations and responsibilities. Therefore, the individual freedoms and democratic aspirations of the citizens - and consequently, peoples' collective rights and responsibilities - must be the foundational principles of the State.

The State's failure to recognise this at the founding moment is a continuing curse that people in Bangladesh are forced to carry. A State cannot be 'democratic' if the people do not realise and participate as 'citizens' in all sectors of the functioning of the state. The democratic legitimacy of the State is directly related to its commitment and capacity to ensure human rights, such as right to life and livelihood, right to environment and health; and the dignity and integrity of citizens. If all these are not ensured by the State, it cannot be called a 'democratic' state. These civil and political rights, as the foundational principles of the State, must remain inviolable; and accordingly, the Parliament, Judiciary and Executive cannot and should not have any power to abrogate them through any legislation, judicial verdict or executive order. The people's inviolable rights are the foundational principles of the State.

Odhikar, being an organisation of human rights defenders in Bangladesh, has been struggling to ensure these civil and political rights. Odhikar stands against all forms of human rights violations and accordingly participates and remains directly involved in the human rights movement in Bangladesh. Odhikar brings to the movement the strategic perspective that in its demand for civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the human rights movement not only endeavours to protect the victims, but is also constitutive of a democratic state. In recent times, Odhikar's human rights defenders have been persecuted for their work and beliefs. However, this has only strengthened the organisation's resolve to fight for human rights, with no discrimination whatsoever.

The movement to establish the rights and dignity of every individual is part of the struggle to constitute Bangladesh as a democratic, political community. As part of its mission, Odhikar monitors the human rights situation of Bangladesh to report

violations and defend the victims. In line with this campaign, Odhikar prepares and releases monthly situation reports. Odhikar has released this human rights monitoring report for October 2014, despite facing persecution and continuous harassment and threats to its existence since August 10, 2013.

Political violence

1. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in October 2014, 12 persons were killed and 918 were injured in political violence. 43 incidents of internal violence in the Awami League and six in the BNP¹ were recorded during this period. In addition to this, seven persons were killed and 563 were injured in internal conflicts of the Awami League while 51 persons were injured in conflicts within the BNP.
2. Youth and student organisations were used to play a combative role in order to implement the logical demands and rights of the people during protests against the Military junta before and during the Liberation War and also during the 80's. It is saddened but true, that the political parties have successively engaged in criminalisation from the 90's which resulted into financial benefits and the establishment of supremacy. As a result, youths who are engaged with these political parties also participate in such violence.
3. In October 2014, several incidents of intra party clashes took place due to criminalisation and for obtaining vested interest in the Chhatra League² and Jubo League³ activists. This has created many casualties. Furthermore, internal conflicts inside the Chhatra Dal⁴ also occurred during this month. Some examples of political violence in October are as follows:
4. On October 4, 2014 an altercation took place between supporters of Baluakandi Union unit Chhatra League vice-President Jewel Prodhan and supporters of local Jubo League leaders Borhan Bhuiyan and Noor-e Alam, in order to gain supremacy at the Tetoitola area in Baluakandi Union under

¹ BNP: Bangladesh Nationalist Party

² Student wing of Awami League, the ruling party

³ Youth wing of Awami League

⁴ Student wing of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)

Gazaria Upazila in Munshiganj District. During the clash, a man named Mansur Ali Prodhan (65) died on the spot, wounded with a sharp weapon. Eight more persons were injured. Among them, Ivy Akhter (35), Mohammad Sumon (25), Hosne Ara (45), Nazma Begum (33), Manik Mia (25) and Rezia Begum (30) were admitted to various private clinics and hospitals at Dhaka. The deceased, Mansur Ali Prodhan was the uncle of Awami League leader Shamsuddin Prodhan, who was killed in an internal conflict during Gazaria Upazila Elections on March 23, 2014.⁵

5. At least 15 persons, including Kishoreganj District unit Chhatra League President Shafiqul Goni Dhali, were injured during a clash and gunfight between the two groups of Chhatra League, over the creation of a new Chhatra League District Committee. On October 14, 2014 at night, leaders of both groups held a meeting at the resident of Advocate Shah Azizul Huq, President of the District Bar Association and the Public Prosecutor of Kishoreganj District Court, in order to resolve the conflicts between the two factions of Chhatra League. After the meeting, supporters of the group led by Khairuzzaman Puton, Kishoreganj District Chhatra League's former Joint General Secretary and Joint Convener of Gurdayal University College, Jahangir Alam Rana; and supporters of the group led by Shafiqul Goni Dhali, new Chhatra League Committee President, fell into an altercation near the District Awami League office. 11 people were shot during the clash in the presence of police. The injured were admitted to the district hospital. During clash, Shikha Diagnosis Centre in the Bottola area was vandalized.⁶
6. On October 17, 2014 activists and leaders of a faction of the Chhatra Dal were gathered at the Central Shahid Minar in Sylhet from 4:00 pm to protest the whereabouts of disappeared BNP leader Ilias Ali. At around 4:15 pm, some activists-leaders, including Abu Saleh Lokman, the General Secretary of new Chhatra Dal Committee; Senior Vice-President, Chowdhury Mohammad Suhel; and Fakhrul Islam were passing the Shahid Minar area on motorcycles, after attending a programme organised by Ilias Ali Mukti

⁵ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Munshiganj

⁶ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Kishoreganj

Songram Parishad. At that time, activists-leaders of a rebel group of the Chhatra Dal, who were gathered in front of Shahid Minar, attacked them. As a result clashes took place between the two groups. At least 10 people from both groups were injured. Furthermore, three motorcycles were set on fire. Police arrested five Chhatra Dal activists; and filed a case accusing 70/80 people, including the President and General Secretary of Chhatra Dal.⁷

7. Odhikar expresses grave concern over the persistence of political violence. Odhikar also believes that it is very important to curtail confrontational politics in order to contribute to political stability.

Hartal

8. On October 29, 2014 the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced to death to Jamaat-e-Islami Amir, Motiur Rahman Nizami for committing Crimes against Humanity during the Liberation War in 1971. In protest of this verdict, Jamaat-e-Islami called countrywide hartals on October 30, November 2 and 3, 2014.
9. On October 30, 2014 clashes took place between hartal supporters and members of law enforcement agencies in various parts of the country and picketers also set fire to vehicles. Police arrested 372 people from 20 districts.⁸
10. On October 29, 2014 leaders and activists of Jamaat-Shibir⁹ brought out a procession at Shibganj under Chapainababganj district in protest of the death sentenced to Matiur Rahman Nizami. Later an altercation took place between protestors and members of the law enforcement agencies, and 20 people were injured. The injured were taken to Shibganj Upazila Health Complex for primary treatment and those with severe injuries were referred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. In the night of October 29, police arrested Shibganj Upazila Health Complex officer Abdur Rahman, Health

⁷ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Sylhet

⁸ The daily Prothom Alo, 31/10/2014

⁹ Student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami

Officer Afia Ferdous and Health Assistant Shariful Islam allegedly for giving treatment to the injured protesters.¹⁰

Extrajudicial killings continue

11. According to information gathered by Odhikar, a reported total of 20 persons were extra judicially killed in October 2014.
12. Incidents of extrajudicial killings continue despite serious protests from human rights organisations and civil society groups. The Country's laws and criminal justice delivery system have weakened due to the prevalence of extrajudicial killings. In October, 13 people were killed extrajudicially in a single district, Khulna, which is a matter of grave concern.

Types of extrajudicial Killings

- ***Crossfire/encounter/gun fight:***

13. Among the 20 persons extra judicially killed, 17 were killed in 'crossfire/encounters/gun fights'. Among them, 15 were killed by the police and two by RAB.

- ***Shot to death:***

14. Among the deceased, three were shot and killed by police.

- ***Identities of the deceased persons***

15. Of the 20 persons who were killed extra-judicially, one was a leader of Purba Banglar Communist Party, one was a fisherman, and 18 were alleged criminals.
16. Odhikar expresses grave concern over the incidents of extrajudicial killings. Odhikar believes that the Constitution has guaranteed equal protection of law even to the dangerous criminals and they deserve a lawful trial. Furthermore, political activists of the Opposition and ordinary citizens were also killed in the name of prevention of crime by killing 'dangerous'

¹⁰ The daily New Age, 30/10/2014

criminals in 'crossfire'. Odhikar demands the government bring all perpetrators to justice through impartial investigation by forming an independent inquiry commission in order to stop such killings.

Lack of accountability of law enforcement agencies

Many people became disabled due to shot by law enforcers

17. At a meeting in the Secretariat on October 22, 2014, the State Minister for Home Affairs, Asaduzzaman Kamal commented to journalists that the incident of the RAB shooting on college student Limon Hossain, of Rajapur Upazila under Jhalokathi on March 23, 2011, which resulted in his leg being amputated, was merely an accident. He told the journalists that all cases filed against Limon have been removed. The State Minister did not comment when journalists repeatedly asked whether any action would be taken against the responsible RAB members.¹¹
18. On October 14, 2014 Abul Kashem, father of Nazrul Islam, filed a case (Petition Case No. 2/2014) with the Court of Noakhali District and Session Judge, Mohammad Abdul Quddus Mia, under section 15 of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013 against police for the attempted murder of his son in the name of 'crossfire' in Sonapur Union under Sonaimuri Upazila in Noakhali. Nazrul Islam is the President of Sonapur Union's Ward No. 1 unit Chhatra Dal. The Court took cognizance of the case and ordered the District Superintendent of Police to take necessary action. 17 police officers, including the current Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sonaimuri Police Station, Ashraf Ul Islam; former OC Abdus Samad; Sub-Inspector (SI) Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury; and Sub Inspector Mohammad Asad were accused. The lawyer of the complainant, Advocate Mohammad Rabiul Hassan Polash informed that Nazrul Islam, son of Abul Kashem was arrested from Chittagong Port area on September 16, 2014 regarding a murder case; and taken to Sonaimuri Police Station by Sub Inspector Iqbal

¹¹ The daily Manabzamin, 23/10/2014

Bahar Chowdhury. At night the police shot him in his left leg in order to forcibly extract a statement. Police left him seriously wounded in the corridor of Noakhali Medical College Hospital. Later the family of Nazrul Islam admitted him to the same hospital. Nazrul was shifted to the National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation (NITOR - Pongu Hospital) at Dhaka for better treatment where doctors had to amputate his left leg in order to save his life.¹²

19. On October 16, 2014, a woman named Sajoara Akhter Saju (40) went to save her younger brother, Osman Goni from being arrested by police in Kottapara area under Satkania Upazila in Chittagong. Police shot her in her left leg. Sajoara Akhter informed Odhikar that on October 16, 2014 at around 7:00 pm, her younger brother, Osman Goni was sitting in a road side tea stall near their house. Hearing Osman Goni's shouts, she and her mother came out of their house and saw two plain clothed men and three policemen forcibly taking Osman Goni towards the main road. After that Saju and her mother tried to free Osman Goni from the police. At that time one policeman pushed her down and shot her left leg. Sajoara Akhter was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital first and later she was referred to the National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation (NITOR - Pongu Hospital) at Dhaka. On October 18, doctors had to amputate her leg from the knee down. Sajoara Akhter got to know that police of Satkania Police Station filed a case against her and some members of her family. At present she is under secret medical treatment in a private hospital at Dhaka, due to fear of police harassment.¹³
20. A driver named Shah Alam (26) was shot in his legs by Anwar, the Sub-Inspector (SI) of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station over personal enmity. Shah Alam was admitted to the National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation at Dhaka with severe injuries. Shah Alam said that in the night of October 19, 2014, one of his acquaintances took him to Mohammadpur Krishi market area in order to resolve a personal dispute.

¹² Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Noakhali

¹³ The daily New Age, 26/10/2014; and information gathered by Odhikar

There, Sub Inspector Anwar, who was present, put him in blindfolds and handcuffs and pushed him in a van. Later he was taken to the Taltola area where SI Anwar shot him in his right leg with a shotgun and in his left leg with a pistol. Later SI Anwar tried to prove that Shah Alam was a professional criminal and publicized that the incident occurred during 'gunfight'. It is to be mentioned that a personal enmity had been created between SI Anwar and Shah Alam due to an extramarital relation with SI Anwar and Shah Alam's wife.¹⁴ Shah Alam's elder brother, Mostafa Hossain filed a case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station in this regard and on October 22, SI Anwar was arrested by police.¹⁵

21. The trend of shooting in the legs by law enforcement agencies has been observed since 2011 and is a matter of concern. Moreover, the State Minister for Home Affairs statement that the incident of Limon's shooting was a mere accident further acknowledges the culture of impunity enjoyed by law enforcement agencies. As a result, incidents of indiscriminate shooting at people by members of law enforcement agencies continues.

Torture in custody

22. Odhikar has, for the last 20 years, documented and carried out fact finding missions on incidents of torture, highlighting the fact that this practice must stop. On October 24, 2013 the Parliament, through voice vote, passed the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013. Despite this, incidents of torture in the custody by law enforcement agencies, continue in Bangladesh.
23. On October 14, 2014 an attempted murder case was filed with the Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Court against three police officers, including the Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station, for allegedly torturing a transport labour leader after detaining him in the Kotwali Police Station lock-up. The case was filed by the transport labour leader, Masum Ahmed. The Court took cognizance of the case and ordered

¹⁴ The daily Prothom Alo, 22/10/2014

¹⁵ The daily New Age, 23/10/2014

the Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station to take necessary legal action. The accused persons of the case are: Officer-in-Charge (Investigation), Monirul Islam; Sub Inspector Shah Alam; and Constable Touhid. Masum Ahmed told Odhikar that on September 29, 2014 at around 2:00 am, OC Moniurl Islam, SI Shah Alam and Constable Touhid arrested him from his residence at Goalbari area in Pathantuli and took him to the Kotwali Police Station. Later he was accused of stealing a laptop and tortured in custody from September 29 to October 1, 2014. At one stage, Masum Ahmed was released due to pressure from the transport labourers at Court Point area. Locals admitted him to Osmani Medical College Hospital with severe injuries. After prolonged medical treatment, he filed this case in court.¹⁶

24. Odhikar believes that despite the claim of 'zero tolerance' on torture, the Government has not taken steps or effective measures to curtail torture and other forms of custodial violence and acts of impunity by law enforcement officers. Such lack of action against perpetrators only encourages human rights violations.
25. Torture in custody is a severe violation of human rights. It appears that Bangladesh does not respect obligations despite being a State Party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment¹⁷. Article 35(5) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh also prohibits torture.

Death in jail

26. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in October 2014, eight persons died in jail. Among them, six died allegedly due to illness and two committed suicide. There were allegations that prisoners died due to scarcity of proper medical facilities and the negligence of jail authorities.

¹⁶ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Sylhet

¹⁷ Bangladesh has ratified the Convention on October 5, 1998.

27. Odhikar demands that the government provide sufficient medical facilities for inmates in every jail. Odhikar believes that deprivation of medical treatment for any inmate in jail is a serious violation of human rights.

Sedition case filed against two Dhaka University students

28. A sedition case was filed against Jalal Ahmed (20), a first year student of the Television and Film Studies Department of Dhaka University; and a final year student of the English Department, Mohammad Ashique (30), for allegedly plotting to topple the present government. On August 9, 2014 Detective Branch (Motijheel zone team) Inspector Mohammad Rafiqul Islam arrested Jalal, a resident of Mohsin Hall at Dhaka University, at the Baitul Mokarram Mosque, under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; claiming he was in possession of a draft of a handwritten guidebook on a 'master plan of movement'. The police claimed that the 24-page book was full of 'hatred' and 'disobedience' towards the government and involved a plot to topple the government through a violent movement with leaders and activists of various political parties. Jalal was taken into remand, in two phases, since his arrest and a proposal was later sent to the Home Ministry for its approval to prosecute the two students for the offence of Sedition. On October 4, 2014 Detective Branch (Motijheel zone) Sub-Inspector Mizanur Rahman filed the case with the Paltan Police Station against Jalal and Ashique under section 124A of the Penal Code, for treason, after obtaining permission from the Home Ministry on September 29, 2014. Currently Jalal is detained at the Dhaka Central Jail and Mohammad Ashique is absconding.¹⁸

29. Jalal's lawyer, Advocate Mesbah told Odhikar that the allegation of treason against a 20-year-old student is laughable. Furthermore, police kept Jalal detained for 56 days under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, violating a High Court Order. As per the High Court directive, an arrested

¹⁸ The daily New Age, 13/10/2014

person cannot be detained more than 15 days. Jalal's uncle anonymously informed Odhikar that he met Jalal on September 26, in Dhaka Central Jail. Jalal informed him that he was picked up after Asr prayer at Baitul Mokaram mosque on August 9 and police put a paper in his pocket. An allegation of treason was made against him based on this paper.¹⁹

30. Odhikar observes with grave concern that citizens are being labeled 'traitor' for expressing opinions and comments. According to the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution passed on June 30, 2011, the highest punishment for sedition is considered to be the death penalty. As a result, accusing any citizen for being a 'traitor' is a serious matter.

Arrest under Special Powers Act 1974

31. The rights to freedom of assembly and the holding of peaceful meetings, rallies and processions are the democratic and political rights of every citizen, as enshrined in Article 37 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Arresting anybody for conducting meetings and assemblies imply the shutting down of democratic space. It has been observed that activists and leaders of the opposition political parties are being arrested/detained after meetings in the name of holding secret meetings and cases filed under Special Powers Act, 1974; bringing allegations that they might be involved in destructive activities in future.

32. On October 25, 2014 police arrested 63 leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organisations, including Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, President of Central unit Jubo Dal, from his residence at Lalmatia, Dhaka. Sub-Inspector Shihab of Mohammadpur Police Station informed Odhikar that on October 26, Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal was holding a meeting at his residence with leaders and activists for 'plotting destruction' during a hartal called by Islami political parties. Based on secret information, police conducted an operation at around 11:00 am and arrested them while in meeting. A case

¹⁹ Information gathered by Odhikar

was filed in this regard with Mohammadpur Police Station under section 15/1 (ka)²⁰ of the Special Powers Act, 1974.²¹

33. Odhikar observes with concern that the repressive Special Powers Act enacted in 1974 is still functioning and is being used against people who are engaged with opposition politics. This repressive law has mainly been used against the opposition since its birth and there are no indications it will even be repealed.

Allegations of enforced disappearance against law enforcement agencies

34. The whereabouts of persons remain unknown after they are picked up by men alleging to be members of law enforcement agencies. Families of victims claim that members of law enforcement agencies are making arrests and then the victims have disappeared or their bodies are later found.²² The term 'Enforced Disappearance' is defined in Article 2 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance²³. Enforced disappearance is a serious violation of human rights. It is an instrument of repression resorted to by the state. Victims of disappearance are often tortured and those who are found live in constant fear. They are deprived from all rights and even deprived of the protection of law.

35. According to information gathered by Odhikar from January 2009 to October 2014, 162 persons have disappeared; of them, 20 bodies have been found later.

²⁰ No person shall do any act with intent to impair the efficiency or impede the working of, or to cause damage to,-
(a) any building, vehicle, machinery, apparatus or other property used, or intended to be used, for the purposes of the Government or of any local authority or nationalised commercial or industrial undertaking ;

²¹ Information gathered by Odhikar

²² Odhikar only documents allegation of enforced disappearance where the family members or witnesses claim that the victim was taken away by people in law enforcement uniform or by those who said they were from law enforcement agencies.

²³ As the "arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law."

Meetings and assemblies barred

Body of Dr. Piash Karim prohibited at Shahid Minar

36. On October 13, 2014 BRAC University teacher and political analyst Professor Dr. Piash Karim died of cardiac arrest. His family and other renowned citizens decided that as an eminent citizen of this country, the body of Dr. Piash Karim would be placed at the Shahid Minar so that the general public could pay their respects. After this announcement, some government affiliated organisations declared they would prevent the bringing of Piash Karim to the Shahid Minar. Dr. Amena Mohsin, wife of Dr. Piash Karim and Professor of Dhaka University, appealed to the Dhaka University authority in order to get permission to keep the body of Piash Karim at the Shahid Minar. The university authority refused her application and gave permission to the government supported organisations to organise a meeting there. The family of Piash Karim deviated from the decision to take his body to the Shahid Minar; but protesting ruling party supporters organised meeting at the Shahid Minar where nine eminent citizens, including two Editors of daily newspapers, were declared prohibited from coming to the Shahid Minar. It is to be mentioned that late Dr. Piash Karim and nine eminent citizens of the country were vocal against the injustices perpetrated by the current government.

Nine eminent citizens prohibited at the Shahid Minar

37. On October 17, 2014 an organisation named Muktijoddha Sangsad Sontan Command, which is associated with the ruling party, declared nine prominent citizens banned from setting foot at the Shahid Minar. An organisation named CP Gang also called to prevent the prohibited persons by using their names and photographs. The prohibited persons are: Professor Dilara Chowdhury; Dhaka University Professor Amena Mohsin; senior journalist Mahfuz Ullah; TV talk show presenter and the Chief Editor of the daily Manabzamin, Matiur Rahman Chowdhury; Editor of the New Age, Nurul Kabir; Poet and columnist Farhad Mazhar; Dhaka University

teacher, Professor Dr. Asif Nazrul; journalist and talk show discussant, Golam Mortuza; and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh Dr. Tuhin Malik. The President of the Muktiyoddha Songsad Sontan Command, Mehedi Hassan said in a meeting that the nine have been declared persona nongrata at the Shahid Minar as they have asked for bringing the body of 'traitor' Piash Karim to the Shahid Minar. Twenty organisations applied to organise meetings at the Shahid Minar but the University authority permitted only two organisations to do so. Leaders and activists of various government supported organisations and the student organisations associated with the government were present in the meeting.²⁴

38. Citizens who have been prohibited at the Shahid Minar are well-known and vocal against misdeeds and acts of corruption by the ruling party. They have made strong statements at various meetings and TV talk shows protesting the 5th January 2014 elections. Odhikar believes that a political culture of harassment against prominent citizens of the country has been created due to the ruling party's partisan role. This may lead Bangladesh towards segregation, anarchy and instability.

Attacks on journalists

39. In October 2014, according to information gathered by Odhikar, five journalists were injured, three were assaulted, one was threatened and three journalists were sued. Incidents of attacks and threats on journalists continue. There are allegations that such attacks are generally perpetrated by leaders and activists of the ruling party.
40. On October 23, 2014 Jubo League brought out a procession with weapons in Chuadanga town. Police escorted the procession. Journalists were taking photographs while the procession came near the Press Club, with weapons in broad day-light. When Chuadanga correspondent of Mashranga TV, Faizar Chowdhury was taking footage with his camera, Jubo League activists attacked him. Faizar Chowdhury ran to the Press Club for self-

²⁴ The daily Manabzamin, 18/10/2014

defense as the armed Jubo League activists attacked journalists. Four journalists, including Mashranga TV correspondent, Faizar Chowdhury; Boishakhi TV correspondent, Moriom Shely; and District correspondent of the daily New Nation, Mizanul Huq Mizan were injured during this attack. Jubo League activists ransacked furniture in the Press Club and vandalized five motorcycles parked outside. At that time, police who followed the procession, were silent. It is to be mentioned that there was a dispute between the two factions of Chuadanga District Jubo League over establishing supremacy in the area and for tender bids. One faction of Jubo League brought out this procession as a show of force.²⁵

41. On October 22, 2014 at night, a group of 10-12 criminals stopped Tongi correspondent of the daily Naya Diganta, Azizul Huq and stabbed him with sharp weapons when he was returning home at Auchpara from Tongi Press Club in Gazipur. The criminals also took away his mobile phone and laptop. Azizul Huq was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe injuries. The Officer-in-Charge of Tongi Model Police Station, Kazi Ismail Hossain said that it was assumed that attack on Azizul Huq was made due to revenge of publishing reports.²⁶
42. Odhikar expresses concern over the vandalization of Chuadanga Press Club and the attacks on journalists.

Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (Amended 2009 and 2013) still exists

43. The latest amendment to the ICT Act was made on October 6, 2013. Section 57 of the ICT Act 2013, states that publishing or transmitting in a website in electronic form, of any defamatory or false information is considered to be a cognizable and non-bailable offence. Moreover, punishment for committing this offence has been increased for a term of a minimum of seven years and maximum of 14 years imprisonment. This law has curtailed the freedom of

²⁵ The daily Prothom Alo, 24/10/2014 and information gathered by Odhikar

²⁶ The daily Prothom Alo, 24/10/2014

expression and the government is using this Act against human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers and people who have alternative beliefs.

44. In October 2014, police arrested six persons for making bitter reproaches on facebook and through mobile phone against the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and for mocking, on Facebook, the former President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Cases were filed against them under the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (amended 2009 and 2013) (ICT Act). Furthermore, another case was filed against a woman under the ICT Act in Rajshahi for making derogatory comments on Facebook against the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shahriar Alam.
45. On October 17, 2014 police arrested Shukur Ali (35) and his son Sizan Hossain (13) for playing parodies mocking about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on a cell phone in Shitlai village under Kahalu Upazila in Bogra District. The Officer-in-Charge of Kahalu Police Station, Sumit Kumar Kundu filed a case against the arrestees under the ICT Act.²⁷
46. On October 20, 2014 the Court framed charges against a member of BNP's Standing Committee, M K Anwar under section 57(1)(2) of the Information and Communication Technology Act. Dhaka Metropolitan Session Judge Mohammad Zahurul Huq made this order. This is the first time that a charge was framed under the ICT Act against any political leader for giving a political statement at a press conference. It is to be mentioned that on May 6, 2013 M K Anwar made a comment during a press conference at BNP's central office regarding the violence at a Hefazate Islam rally on May 5, 2013. He said, "Incidents of looting at Baitul Mokarram was conducted under the leadership of Shechchasebak League²⁸ leader Debashish Biswas. Religious books, including Quran were set on fire". Police initially lodged a General Diary alleging that this kind of communal and provocative statement has created a public disturbance; and later submitted a report on June 27, 2013 against MK Anwar after investigation.²⁹

²⁷ The daily Prothom Alo, 19/10/2014

²⁸ Voluntary wing of Awami League

²⁹ The daily Prothom Alo, 21/10/2014

47. Odhikar believes that a defamation case can be filed under the Penal Code if someone's dignity is hurt due to an express personal opinion. Instead the repressive Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (Amendment 2009 and 2013) is being used indiscriminately and in order to take away freedom of expression. Odhikar urges the government to repeal this repressive law immediately.³⁰

Public lynching

48. In October 2014, 10 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching.
49. People are often being killed by lynch-mobs. The lack of respect for law, distrust of the police and instability in the country has increased the fear and insecurity among people, who have resorted to taking the law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice any other way.
50. Odhikar believes that due to the weak criminal justice system, the tendency to resort public lynching is increasing, as people are losing their confidence and faith in the police and judicial system.

Human rights violations in border areas by BSF

51. According to information collected by Odhikar, in October 2014, two Bangladeshis were shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). Furthermore, 10 Bangladeshi citizens were injured by the BSF. Among them, seven were shot and three were tortured. At the same time, four Bangladeshis were abducted, allegedly by the BSF. Some incidents are as follows:
52. In the morning of October 5, 2014, 15/20 BSF members of Phashidewa Camp chased some cattle traders while they were bringing cows from India through Golangoch border, near the main pillar 448 at Banglabandha Union under Tetulia Upazila in Panchagarh District. The BSF also chased Bangladeshi labourers who were lifting stones from the Mohananda River

³⁰ The ICT Act 2006 (Amended in 2009) is also the law under which the Secretary and Director of Odhikar have been charged.

at the border. In protest Bangladeshi labourers threw brickbats at the BSF. At one stage BSF members entered Goalgoch village in Bangladesh and searched for cows in five houses. At that time they beat Bangladesh citizens and opened several rounds of blanks. A Bangladeshi citizen named Abu Bakkar Siddique (50) was shot and injured. Meanwhile villagers claimed that BSF took gold ornaments and cash at gun point, entering some houses. Azizul Huq of Goalgoch village said, "BSF took one hundred thousand taka and three bhoris of gold ornaments from my house at gun-point. They also beat us". Apart from that the BSF took 20 thousand Taka from Rustam Ali; 30 thousand Taka from Safiqul Islam; and 20 thousand Taka and one bhori of gold ornaments from Mofazzal Hossain of the same village.³¹

53. On October 16, 2014 at night, a Bangladeshi citizen named Ayub Ali (35) was shot dead by BSF members of Pakhidanga Camp, when he was returning Bangladesh with cows from India at the Gazipur border under Satkhira district.³²

54. Odhikar believes that a sovereign state would never sit and watch its citizens being indiscriminately killed, tortured and abducted by another state. According to the Memorandum of Understanding and related treaties signed between Bangladesh and India, if citizens of either country illegally cross the border, it would be considered trespass and as per law those persons should be handed over to the civilian authority. However, we have noticed that India has been repeatedly violating treaties, shooting at anyone seen near the border or anyone trying to cross the border; and illegally entering Bangladesh, which is a clear violation of international law and human rights.

Violence against women

55. In October 2014, many women became victims of rape, dowry related violence, acid attacks and sexual harassment.

³¹ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Panchagarh

³² The daily Prothom Alo, 17/10/2014

Sexual harassment and stalking

56. According to information gathered by Odhikar, a total of 24 girls and women were victims of sexual harassment in October 2014. Among them, four were injured, four were assaulted and 16 were sexually harassed in various ways. During this period, one man was killed and 10 men and three women were injured by the stalkers when they protested against such acts.
57. A youth named Nasir Hossain was beaten to death by a group of criminals as he protested against the stalking of his cousin at Goltek area under Bhashantek in Dhaka. Nasir's brother, Mosharaf Hossain informed Odhikar that some debauched youth, including Bablu, Mamun, Alam, Tokka, Khokon and Sujon were stalking his cousin sister, a student of class VII, for a long time. On October 10, 2014 at around 4:00 pm, Nasir protested when these criminals stalked his cousin again; and he warned them that his family would take legal action if they did not stop. At around 9:00 pm that day, Nasir was drinking tea at Azizul's tea stall in Mazumder Mor. Tokka called Nasir and asked him to come with him. After reaching Goltek, about eight criminals, including Abul, Mamun, Bablu, Alam, Khokon, Sujon and Tokka beat Nasir with iron pipes and left him unconscious. Nasir Hossain was rescued by locals and admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died at around 3:00 am the next morning.³³

Dowry-related violence

58. In October 2014, according Odhikar documentation, 18 women were subjected to dowry violence. Of these women, it has been alleged that seven women were killed because of dowry; 10 were abused in various ways over dowry demands and one woman committed suicide. During this time, a mother of a dowry victim was injured while her son-in-law and his family members torched her house. Some other incidents are as follows:
59. On October 9, 2014, a housewife named Hasi Akhter (20) allegedly committed suicide after failing to provide the dowry demanded by her

³³ The Daily Ittefaq, 12/10/2014

husband, in Purba Arichpur area under Tongi Upazila in Gazipur district. Hasi Akhter's husband Safiqul had demanded one hundred thousand taka from his in-laws after the marriage. Altercations often occurred between husband and wife as Hasi's father was unable to give the money. On October 8, 2014 an altercation took place between them over dowry. The next morning, Hasi Akhter committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan after her husband left home.³⁴

60. On October 14, 2014, a housewife and student of class XI at Pubail College in Gazipur named Ratna Akhter, succumbed to her injuries at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. In the evening of September 22, 2014 Ratna's husband Rubel poured kerosene on and set fire to Ratna after he failed to get dowry money.³⁵

Acid violence

61. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in October 2014, 15 persons became victims of acid violence. Of them 11 were women, two girls and two boys. Some incidents are as follows:

62. On October 7, 2014 at midnight, rivals threw acid at a sleeping husband and wife over previous enmity in Kamarkhand under Sirajganj district. The victims are: Shah Alam alias Rojgar (44), son of late Rahim Box of Modhya Bhodraghat under Kamarkhand Upazila; and his wife Arjina Khatun (38). They were admitted to the Surgery Ward of Sirajganj General Hospital in critical condition. Shah Alam's legs, back and a part of his mouth and Arjina Khatun's legs, right hand and a part of her mouth were burnt. Shah Alam informed Odhikar that at around 2:00 am, criminals threw acid at them while they were sleeping. Residential Medical Officer of Sirajganj General Hospital, Dr. Faridul Islam informed Odhikar that on October 8, 2014 at around 4:00 am, the husband and wife were admitted to the hospital. 50% of Shah Alam's body and 40% of Arjina Khatun's body were burnt. They are

³⁴ The daily Jugantor, 10/10/2014

³⁵ The daily Inqilab, 16/10/2014

being treated in the surgery ward. However, they will be sent to the burn unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital soon for better treatment.³⁶

63. In the early morning of October 17, 2014, a newly married housewife Tania (20) was burnt with acid by her husband Anwar Hossain (25) as she protested against her husband's drug habit in Korbari village under Ghatail Upazila in Tangail District. Tania's mother Khadija Begum informed that she gave her daughter in marriage to Anwar Hossain, son of Joad Ali of Poa Kolaha village under Ghatail Upazila in May 2014. After the marriage Tania learnt that her husband was a drug addict. She requested her husband not to take drugs. When he paid no heed, Tania came to her father's house in an offended state of mind before Eid-ul-Azha. On October 16, Anwar went to his in-laws house to take Tania back, but Tania refused to go to her husband's house until Anwar stopped taking drugs. This made Anwar angry and in the morning of October 17, he entered Tania's father's house and threw acid on Tania and left. Different parts of Tania's body were severely burnt with acid. Her mother was also burnt. Tania was admitted to Ghatail Upazila Health Complex. Anwar was apprehended by relatives of Tania and villagers while he was roaming around the Health Complex and he was handed over to police. Tania's mother Khadija Begum filed a case with Ghatail Police Station in this regard.³⁷
64. Incidents of acid throwing are occurring due to lack of implementation of the Acid Crimes Prevention Act 2002 and the Acid Control Act 2002, as well as ineffective investigation and a weak criminal justice system.

Rape

65. In October 2014, Odhikar recorded a total number of 80 females who were raped. Among them, 27 were women, 51 were children below the age of 16 and the age of two persons could not be determined. Of the women, five were killed after being raped; 12 were victims of gang rape. Out of the 51 child victims, six were killed after being raped; 10 were victims of gang

³⁶ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Sirajganj

³⁷ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Tangail

rape. Furthermore, five women and children were victims of attempted rape. Some incidents are given below:

66. On October 10, 2014 at midnight, a housewife was raped by criminals in the absence of her husband at Moukhali village of Chandkhali under Paikgachha Upazila in Khulna District. Criminals also tried to strangle and kill her. Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and the rapists fled. She was referred to the One Stop Crisis Centre in Khulna Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. The Officer-in-Charge of Paikgachha Police Station, Sikdar Akkas Ali said that her father-in-law, Selim Talukder had been missing since the incident. As a result, he is under suspicion.³⁸
67. On October 21, 2014 at around 10:00 pm, a man named Shariful Islam of Kolaroa Upazila under Satkhira district, was going to Bhobanipur under Sharsha Upazila in Jessore with his cousin sister (35) by motorcycle. When they reached at Kuchmora in the Navaran-Satkhira road, 7 or 8 criminals stopped their way. The criminals tied Shariful to a tree and raped his sister in front of him. The victim, who is under treatment at Jessore Medical College Hospital, informed that she heard the names of some of the rapists when they were talking to each other. Their names are: Raju, Arif, Latif and Babu. Locals informed that the rapists are supporters of Baghachra Union Chairman and Awami League leader Ilias Kabir Bakul. A case was filed with Sharsha Police Station in this regard.³⁹
68. Odhikar expresses serious concern over the increase in violence against women. Odhikar believes that women are being victimized mainly due to lack of implementation of laws; failure of the Judiciary; lack of victim and witness protection; corruption and criminalisation of the members of law enforcement agencies; economic instability; and weak administration. Odhikar believes that since the perpetrators of violence against women escape punishment, potential violators are encouraged and incidents of violence increase.

³⁸ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Khulna

³⁹ Report sent by human right defender associated with Odhikar from Jessore

Anti Corruption Commission and its accountability

69. The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) was formed under the Anti Corruption Commission Act, 2004 in order to prevent corruption in the country and to investigate other specific crimes, including forgery. According to Article 2 of this Act, "This Commission will be independent and impartial". As per law, the ACC will act as an independent and neutral institution, but the ACC is unable to play an independent or neutral role. ACC is functioning as per instructions of the ruling party, which has been reflected in several of its activities. ACC had initiated investigation into acts of corruption by the former Ministers, Members of Parliament, influential politicians and bureaucrats. However, most of the accused persons under investigation are being given a 'clean chit' by the ACC which is filing the cases secretly. ACC has given impunity to all the accused in 5349 registered cases, including cases registered by the then Anti Corruption Bureau (now abolished and formed as ACC) in three years and eight months.
70. Between January and August 2014, about 1600 politicians backed by the ruling party and high-level government officers were given clean chits. Among them, the ACC has given impunity to 10 persons, including former Communication Minister, Syed Abul Hossain for the Padma Bridge scam; and former Health Minister AFM Ruhul Huq for possessing illegal property. Furthermore, allegations of corruption have been removed in eight months, from the Deputy Leader of the Parliament, Sajeda Chowdhury; former Health Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, Syed Modassed Ali; Minister for Rehabilitation and Disaster Management, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya; Health Minister, Mohammad Nasim; and former Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Philippines, Mazeda Rafiqun Nesa.
71. The Commission also removed the allegations brought against some senior leaders of Awami League and some men associated with the ruling party in 2013. Among them, the Commission acquitted former parliamentarian HBM Iqbal and former Chief Whip and Awami League leader Abul Hasnat

Abdullah from two cases. In June 2013, the ACC acquitted former Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir from an allegation of corruption. In addition to this, several government officers were given clean chit and acquitted from cases. In the meanwhile, the ACC continues legal proceedings under the cases filed against top leaders of the BNP.⁴⁰

72. Furthermore, about 50 officials of the Anti Corruption Commission have been accused of taking bribes from persons under investigation in order to set them free. There were allegations that the ACC officials demanded bribes from the accused by threatening to file case against them, investigate and provide charge sheet. Most of the victims did not dare to complaint to the ACC, but made allegations to some intelligence agencies.⁴¹
73. On August 10, 2013 men from the law enforcement agency picked up Odhikar's Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan without warrant and showed him arrested under the ICT Act for publishing a fact finding report on extrajudicial killing centering a rally by Hefazate Islam on May 5-6, 2013. Soon after this incident, the Anti Corruption Commission started investigations into the financial transactions of Odhikar; which escalated in January 2014 after Adilur Rahman Khan was freed on bail. The ACC is putting pressure on a 20-year old human rights organisation, Odhikar since August 2013, in the name of investigation.
74. Odhikar believes that all institutions of this country have to be accountable. Odhikar too, has ensured accountability in its every activity. Odhikar submits its project related audit reports to the NGO Affairs Bureau every year. The ACC is trying to make Odhikar's activities and achievements controversial in order to stop its human rights work, by following the repressive dictates of the government. Odhikar has often criticised the discriminatory actions of the ACC and its non-transparent activities. Odhikar has also been asking for the annual income and expenditure of ACC officials to be publicised on the ACC website. The ACC can investigate Odhikar's financial transaction any time with due process of law. However,

⁴⁰ The daily Manabzamin, 10/10/2014

⁴¹ The Daily Ittefaq, 23/10/2014

the ACC is harassing Odhikar in the name of investigation at a time when the government is trying to close down Odhikar by putting pressure on it from different quarters.

Activities of Odhikar hindered

75. The state repression on Odhikar, that commenced on August 10, 2013, continues. The case filed under section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (Amended 2009) against Odhikar's Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and its Director ASM Nasiruddin Elan, has been stayed by the High Court Division. Human rights defenders who are associated with Odhikar are being watched and harassed. Apart from that, the NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB), which is under the Prime Minister's Office, has barred the release of all project related funds that were to be utilized by Odhikar for its human rights programmes.
76. The government has taken a strategy to stop Odhikar from functioning as an effective human rights watch dog. For example, activities of the two-year 10-month project on 'Human Rights Research and Advocacy', funded by the Netherlands Embassy was accomplished in June 2013 but the NGOAB has not released the last phase of funds. This project had been implemented mainly to document, research and advocate human rights violations by the Indian Border Security Force along the border, extrajudicial killings, political violence, rights of religious and ethnic minority communities and violence against women. In order to implement the project on time, Odhikar had to borrow money from its general funds. It is to be mentioned that the NGOAB has been barring the release of funds of this project since October 2010.
77. After the completion of the first year activities of the project 'Education on the Convention against Torture and OPCAT Awareness Programme in Bangladesh', funded by the European Union, Odhikar applied for the release of funds for the second-year activities on March 6, 2013. On May 15, 2013 the Bureau gave 50% of the funds for the second year, three months

after the submission of Odhikar's request. On August 21, 2013 Odhikar submitted an application to the NGO Affairs Bureau for releasing the remaining 50% of funds, along with a project completion audit report of the first year. A year has passed and the NGOAB has not released the remaining 50% of the project funds.

78. The NGOAB has not released the second-year funds of the project 'Empowering Women as Community Human Rights Defenders' funded by the Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS). The project was designed to take effective action in order to stop violence against women in four districts. The project will end in December 2014. In order to stop violence against women (VAW) Odhikar worked on dowry related violence, acid violence, rape and sexual harassment; and also monitored cases of VAW, conducted research and advocacy in coordination with trained women human rights defenders in first year. Odhikar cannot implement the project activities for the second year due to non-release of funds.
79. Human right activities of Odhikar face serious barriers due to non-release of funds and seven staff have already left the Organisation due to financial and security reasons.
80. As a human rights organisation it is Odhikar's duty to highlight human rights violations and take appropriate actions and measures to prevent future violations. The Government is harassing Odhikar, everyone associated with the organisation and victims of human rights violations; gagging their voices and hampering their activities.

Statistics: January-October 2014*												
Type of Human Rights Violation		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Extrajudicial killings**	Crossfire	20	13	7	14	5	7	11	6	5	17	105
	Torture to death	0	2	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	10
	Shot to death	18	1	6	4	1	0	3	0	1	3	37
	Beaten to death	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
	Total	39	17	14	18	9	10	15	7	7	20	156
Disappearances		1	7	2	18	2	0	0	3	2	0	35
Human rights violations by Indian BSF	Bangladeshis Killed	1	1	2	2	4	4	0	6	7	2	29
	Bangladeshis Injured	4	3	3	2	1	10	6	13	4	10	56
	Bangladeshis Abducted	13	8	12	4	17	5	9	8	6	4	86
Death in Jail		1	5	4	7	5	4	3	8	2	8	47
Attack on journalists	Killed	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Injured	2	9	7	25	5	2	1	14	8	5	78
	Threatened	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	3	4	1	17
	Assaulted	0	1	0	2	15	0	0	1	2	3	24
	Arrested	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
Political violence	Killed	53	10	22	17	17	13	8	6	14	12	172
	Injured	1472	1166	1343	593	412	246	599	497	652	918	7898
Dowry related violence (including women victims, their children and relatives)		12	15	14	22	18	32	26	19	26	19	203
Rape		39	51	42	59	65	47	57	60	49	80	549
Sexual harassment /Stalking of women		14	12	29	25	22	12	22	20	40	24	220
Acid Violence		1	3	6	7	6	4	5	4	8	15	59
Public lynching		16	6	11	13	11	6	8	12	5	10	98
RMG Workers	Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Injured	60	135	65	51	49	115	122	98	50	0	745

*Odhikar's documentation

**From January-October 21 persons were extra judicially killed by the law enforcement agencies due to political violence which is also included in the statistical part of the Political Violence

Recommendations

1. Political violence must stop. The Government should take legal action against criminal acts also perpetrated by its party activists. Free and fair Parliamentary elections must be held immediately by ensuring participation of all political parties, under a neutral, interim government. All parties must come to a consensus to curtail violence and confrontational politics and stop 'blame games' when violence occurs.
2. Incidents of extrajudicial killings and torture by law enforcement agencies must be investigated and the perpetrators be brought to effective justice. The Government should ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture; and effectively implement Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.
3. The Government has to explain all incidents of enforced disappearances and killings allegedly perpetrated by men claiming to be Detective Branch police and RAB. The Government must bring the members of the security forces who are involved in the incidents of enforced disappearance and killing to justice. Odhikar urges the government to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the UN on December 20, 2006.
4. The Government should refrain from attacking peaceful public programmes and carrying out repressive, unconstitutional activities.
5. The Government should investigate incidents of attacks on journalists and take legal measures to punish the perpetrators. The ban on the publication of Amar Desh, Diganta TV and Islamic TV should be removed. The detained Acting Editor of the daily Amar Desh, Mahmudur Rahman should be released.
6. The repressive Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (Amended in 2009 and 2013) and the Special Powers Act, 1974 should immediately be repealed.
7. The Government should protest strongly against human rights violations on Bangladeshi citizens by the BSF and take initiative to investigate and make

the Indian Government accountable and compensate the families of the victims. The Government should also ensure the safety and security of the Bangladeshi citizens residing at the border areas.

8. Human rights violations on readymade garment factory workers must be stopped. RMG factories need to be brought under synchronized security programmes and the factories should be made with adequate infrastructural and other facility.
9. The Government must ensure the effective implementation of laws to stop violence against women and the offenders must be effectively punished. The Government should also execute mass awareness programmes in print and electronic media in order to eliminate violence against women.
10. The Anti Corruption Commission has to be independent and neutral instead of acting under the government's instruction.
11. The case filed against Odhikar's Secretary and its Director under the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (Amended in 2009) must be removed. All repressive measure and harassment against human rights defenders associated with Odhikar should be stopped. The government must release the funds of Odhikar to enable it to continue its human rights activities.

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Notes:

1. Odhikar seeks to uphold the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people.
2. Odhikar documents and records violations of human rights and receives information from its network of human rights defenders and monitors media reports in twelve national daily newspapers.
3. Odhikar conducts detailed fact-finding investigations into some of the most significant violations, with assistance from trained local human rights defenders.
4. Odhikar is consistent in its human rights reporting and is committed to remain so.