

## DISAPPEARANCE OF JUSTICE



*A report based on the interviews of Families of Enforced  
Disappearance in Bangladesh*

Released on 30 January 2018

**Cover Photo: victims of enforced disappearance. A few have returned. Many have not.**

**First Column (from top to bottom):**

1. Imam Hassan alias Badal
2. Humayun Kabir Parvez
3. Khaled Hasan Sohel
4. Somrat Molla
5. Zahirul Islam alias Habibul Bashir Zahir
6. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Sohel

**Second Column (from top to bottom):**

7. Md.Parvez Hossain
8. Md. Hossain Chanchal
9. AL Amin
10. AM Adnan Chowdhury
11. NizamUddin Munna
12. Tariqul Islam Jhantu

**Third Column (from top to bottom):**

13. Mahbub Hasan Sujon
14. Selim Reza Pintu
15. Yasin Mohammad Abdus Samad Talukdar
16. Sheikh Mokhlesur Rahman Jony
17. Abdul Kuddus
18. Mohammad Ahsan Habib

**Fourth Column (from top to bottom):**

19. Mohammad Ruhul Amin Khan
20. Maulana Shahidullah Sarkar
21. Mehdi Hasan Babul
22. Farhad Mazhar
23. Md. Sohel Khan
24. Md. Abdullah Al Faruq Rahid

## PROLOGUE

Since 2009, along with extrajudicial killings and torture, a new trend of human rights violation became visible in Bangladesh– i.e. enforced disappearance (ED). Even though enforced disappearance is a crime against humanity, its continuing in full force.

Reported incidents of Enforced Disappearances 2009 - 2017				
Year(s)	Total number of Disappeared persons	Found Dead	Returned Alive	Whereabouts of the disappeared persons still unknown
2009	3	1	0	2
2010	18	1	0	17
2011	31	5	1	25
2012	26	1	12	13
2013	54	2	19	33
2014	39	10	21	8
2015	66	11	48	7
2016	91	14	66	11
2017	86	9	62	15
Total	414	54	229	131

### Enforced disappearance

is used as a strategy of the government and security force to spread terror within society. The fear and insecurity is not only limited to the relatives of the disappeared. It also affects the whole society/ country. Through enforced disappearance a culture of fear is being established.

In 2017 a network formed by victim family members (called ‘Goom Howa Bektir Shojonder Daak’) and human rights defenders associated with Odhikar, visited 24 victim families of enforced disappearances to collect field documentation. Another purpose was to highlight the socio-economic condition of the victim families. The twenty four families were selected randomly.

Five types of professional / political identities were determined from the 24 victims of ED. In the first category we found political opponents (belonging to the out of Parliament opposition, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party or BNP) who mostly fell victim to ED in 2013, during the movement for a caretaker government and the subsequent violence before the controversial 2014 national election. In the second category we found people who had disappeared after being picked up in the name of combating militancy, after the 2016 Holey Artisan Bakery incident; and in the third category there were business men/ expatriats who were believed to have a significant amount of money and were picked up. In the fourth category there were ruling party activists and due to internal feuds they became victims of ED; and in the fifth category, a writer and poet, who used to be critical of the government’s activities had, for a time, disappeared.

The victims were picked up allegedly by plainclothed men- claiming to be from a law enforcement agency or ‘administration’; or men from the Detective Branch of Police or were

BRIEF INFORMATION AND PRESENT STATUS OF VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

believed to be from Rapid Action Battallion. In one case the returnee victim did not clearly mention which force picked him up.

We also found that the victims who surfaced alive feared to talk about the incident and tried to dodge the issue or were vague about the details.

The victim families were prevented from filing a general diary by the duty officers at the police stations. The police there were unwilling either because it was a ‘political’ issue or because they refused to acknowledge that another law enforcement team or group had committed the act. They pushed the victim families to write ‘missing’ instead – and not give further details.

SL NO	The victims of enforced disappearance	Date picked up Up	Place of Picking Up	Force allegedly involving for picking up	Political / Professional Identity/	Present Status
1	Imam Hassan alias Badal (24)	March 5, 2012	Anwara Park at Farmgate, Dhaka by kidnappers but after being ‘rescued’ by RAB-2, it is alleged that they ‘disappeared’ him	RAB-2	Working in a shutter and grille making factory in Dhaka	Disappeared
2	Humayun Kabir Parvez (49)	November 27, 2013	Alisohor Bazaar, Laksam , Comilla	RAB	President of Laksam municipality unit of BNP	Disappeared
3	Khaled Hasan Sohel (27)	November 28, 2013	Outside Dhaka Central Jail	Law enforcement agency	Khaled Hasan Sohel, President of Ward No. 79 unit BNP under Sutrapur Police Station, Dhaka	Disappeared
4	Somrat Molla (27)	November 28, 2013	Outside Dhaka Central Jail	Law enforcement agency	Organizing Secretary of Sutrapur unit BNP, Dhaka	Disappeared
5	Zahirul Islam alias Habibul Bashir Zahir	December 2, 2013	Shahbagh crossing, Dhaka	Detective Branch of police	President of Ward No.71 of Bongshal unit BNP	Disappeared
6	Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Sohel (36)	December 2, 2013	Shahbagh crossing, Dhaka	Detective Branch of police	Co-President of Bongshal Thana Juba Dal	Disappeared
7	Md.Parvez Hossain (26)	December 2, 2013	Shahbagh crossing, Dhaka	Detective Branch of police	Secretary of Ward No. 71 of Bongshal unit BNP	Disappeared

BRIEF INFORMATION AND PRESENT STATUS OF VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

8	Md. Hossain Chanchal (35)	December 2, 2013	Shahbagh crossing, Dhaka	Detective Branch of police	An activist of BNP	Disappeared
9	AL Amin (25)	December 4, 2013	Bashundhara, Dhaka	RAB	Joint Secretary of BNP of Jagannath University, Dhaka	Disappeared
10	AM Adnan Chowdhury (27)	December 5, 2013	From his house at Shahinbagh, Dhaka	RAB	Supporter of BNP	Disappeared
11	NizamUddin Munna (24)	December 6, 2013	Mollartek, Dhaka	DB/ RAB	Joint secretary of BNP student wing at Biman Bander Thana	Disappeared
12	Tariqul Islam Jhantu (28)	December 6, 2013	Mollartek, Dhaka	DB/RAB	Joint General Secretary of the student wing of BNP of Tejgaon College unit	Disappeared
13	Mahbub Hasan Sujon (32)	December 8, 2013	Farmhouse in Narayanganj	DB	BNP activists at Sabujbagh	Disappeared
14	Selim Reza Pintu (33)	December 11, 2013	From his brother's flat in Pallabi in Mirpur.	Law Enforcement Agency	President of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's student wing in the Sutrapur part of old Dhaka	Disappeared
15	Yasin Mohammad Abdus Samad Talukdar (34)	July 14, 2016	Near to Banani police outpost, Dhaka	RAB	Teacher in a coaching center	Disappeared
16	Sheikh Mokhlesur Rahman Jony (27)	August 4, 2016	A place adjacent to the New Market area of Satkhira city, Satkhira	Police	Homeopathic physician	Disappeared
17	Abdul Kuddus (54)	March 30, 2017	From Alok nagar Village of Bagmara, Rajshahi	Law Enforcement Agency/ RAB	Farmer	Disappeared
18	Mohammad Ahsan Habib (40)	March 30, 2017	Alaipur Upazila of Koloroya of Satkhira	Law Enforcement Agency /RAB	Expatriate- was living in Malaysia and came to Bangladesh two months back before the incident	Shown arrested on 02 April 2017 and received bail after two months of his arrest from High Court Division of the Supreme Court.
19	Mohammad Ruhul Amin Khan (42)	March 30, 2017			Expatriate- was living in Malaysia and came to Bangladesh two months back before the incident	

BRIEF INFORMATION AND PRESENT STATUS OF VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

20	Maulana Shahidullah Sarkar (45)	April 25,2017	From his home, Khagdohor Mymensingh	DB	Madrassa Teacher	He returned on 15 June, 2017 after 49 days of his disappearance
21	Mehdi Hasan Babul (27)	May 03, 2017	From his home, Modhupur, Tarakanda, Mymensingh	Law enforcement Agency	Businessman	Disappeared on May 3, 2017 and family came to know his whereabouts on July 1, 2017. He was shown arrested by RAB under a case filed under Anti Terrorism Act, 2009 (amended in 2012). Currently he is in Kashimpur Jail.
22	Farhad Mazhar (70)	July 03,2017	Near to his home at Shyamoli	He didn't want to mention	Poet, writer	Returned and now facing criminal charges.
23	Md. Sohel Khan (27)	July 17, 2017	Behind the bar association building of the Bagerhat District and Sessions Judge Court	Law enforcement agency	General Secretary of youth wing of Awami League of Ward No. 6 Chingrakhali Union of Morolganj Upazila	Surfaced alive on 22 January 2018
24	Abdullah Al Faruq Rahid (22)	July 18, 2017	From the house of a person named Tariqul in Haripur Union of Poba Upazila, Rajshahi	RAB-5	He is an activist of student wing of Awami League of Haripur Union unit.	Disappeared

## **BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS WITH THE FAMILIES/VICTIMS.**

### **• Mohammad Imam Hassan alias Badal (24)**

On March 5, 2012 Mohammad Imam Hassan alias Badal (24) who was working in a shutter and grille making factory, was abducted from Anwara Park at Farmgate, Dhaka. The abductors informed his father Ruhul Amin, of Rajnagar Village under Panchagarh Municipality in Panchagarh district, about the abduction of his son by a cell phone call and claimed that his son had been abducted as per instruction of a man named Zahid. Ruhul Amin gave the name of the kidnappers and their cell phone number to RAB-2, over telephone from Panchagarh. Members of RAB-2 carried out an operation and rescued his son the next day at 10.30 pm and also arrested two abductors, namely Zahid and Babul. Later, one of the kidnappers informed him over a cell phone that his son was taken by RAB. When Ruhul Amin made a phone call to RAB-2 and wanted to know about his son, RAB told him to come to Dhaka if he want his son back. On March 13, 2012, Ruhul Amin went to RAB-2 office in Dhaka with his wife. On behalf of RAB, he was asked to file a case against the abductors. Ruhul Amin went to Tejgaon Police Station to file a case as per suggestions given by RAB-2, but the Officer-in-Charge, Mahbubur Rahman, forced him out of the police station without taking his case. Later he lodged a General Diary (GD) mentioning the abduction of his son. GD no. 740 dated 13.03.2012. He was also ejected from Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station while he went to file a case on the same allegation. After that he went to the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) to lodge a complaint. The DCP Mohammad Hossain informed him that his son was in RAB custody at Agargaon, Dhaka. They went to RAB-2 office and the duty officer of RAB-2, Sub Inspector Raju took his signature on an application for rescuing his son. SI Raju demanded one hundred thousand Taka for his son and asked him not to tell anyone about this demand of money. Ruhul Amin was also given threats that his son would be killed if they did not get the money. In order to save his son's life Ruhul Amin gave SI Raju Taka forty thousand. SI Raju was in RAB uniform while taking the money. Another RAB member asked him to have patience and told him that a signature from the higher authority will be needed for taking his son back. On March 19, 2012, he informed the matter to the Member of Parliament (Panchagarh-2) and member of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs, Advocate Nurul Islam Sujan. Advocate Nurul Islam Sujan wrote to RAB-2 for taking necessary action to return Ruhul Amin's son. Despite this, RAB did not release his son. Ruhul Amin also said that he got to know that after receiving letter from the MP, his son was taken away from RAB-2. More than five years have been passed still Ruhul Amin is searching for his son.

Ruhul Amin said that he has two sons. The family is poverty-stricken. Due to disability of his other son he had lots of hopes centering around Mohammad Imam Hassan Badal. Both Ruhul Amin and his wife became sick as they still could not find Badal. But he said that he did not lose hope and never stop searching. He regularly communicated with the RAB office and National Human Rights Commission but there is no progress to find Badal.



Mohammad Imam Hassan alias Badal's father Ruhul Amin

### • **Humayun Kabir Parvez (49)**

Four years have passed but still there is no trace of Humayun Kabir Parvez, the President of Laksam Municipality unit of BNP<sup>1</sup>, who was picked up along with Mohammad Saiful Islam alias Hiru, former elected parliament member from the constituent area of Laksam under Comilla district and President of Laksam upazila unit, BNP. On 27 November, 2013 at around 9.30 pm Mohammad Saiful Islam Hiru, Mohammad Humayun Kabir Parvez and a man named Mohammad Jasim Mia had started for Comilla Hospital in an ambulance (number-Dhaka Metro-Cha 71-1265) belonging to Fair Health Hospital. After crossing the Alishor Bazaar the ambulance was stopped by some plain clothed men and also some people dressed in RAB uniform. They beat the ambulance driver, Saidul Haque Sadek and picked up Saiful, Humayun and Jasim. Later Jasim Mia was handed over by the police to his family but Saiful and Humayun remain traceless. Mohammad Rongu Mia, father of Mohammad Humayun Kabir Parvez filed a case against the Commander of RAB-11 Lieutenant Colonel

<sup>1</sup> Bangladesh Nationalist Party, opposition political party



Tareque Sayeed<sup>2</sup>, Major Shahed Hasan Rajib of Crime Prevention Camp-2 of RAB-11, Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Mohammad Shahjahan Ali, Sub Inspector (SI) Oshit Kumar Roy, Sub Inspector (SI) Kazi Sultan Ahmed at cognizable Comilla Court No.6 under sections 147<sup>3</sup>/148<sup>4</sup>/149<sup>5</sup>/447<sup>6</sup>/448<sup>7</sup>/380<sup>8</sup>/364<sup>9</sup>/34<sup>10</sup> of the Penal Code, 1860. Case number- CR 247/14, dated 14/05/2014.<sup>11</sup>



Humayun Kabir Parvez's wife Shahnaaz (Right)

While talking with Humayun Kabir Parvez's family at their Dhaka home, his wife Shahnaaz expressed that they had lost all hope of getting Parvez back. Parvez's father Rongu Mia died last year. He had always been very sad about his son's disappearance. She said after filing the case, the Court ordered the police to submit an investigation report. Police submitted the investigation report to the Court where

<sup>2</sup> Awarded death penalty for seven person murder in Narayanganj district

<http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/2017/08/22/hc-delivering-narayanganj-7-murder-verdict/>

<sup>3</sup> Section 147 of Penal Code, 1860 states about Punishment for rioting. It states that, "Whoever is guilty of rioting, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both."

<sup>44</sup> Section 148 of Penal Code, 1860 states about Rioting, armed with deadly weapon. It states that, "Whoever is guilty of rioting, being armed with a deadly weapon or with anything which, used as a weapon of offence, is likely to cause death, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."

<sup>5</sup> Section 149 states about every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object. It states that, "If an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly, or such as the members of that assembly knew to be likely to be committed in prosecution of that object, every person who, at the time of the committing of that offence, is a member of the same assembly, is guilty of that offence."

<sup>6</sup> Section 447 of Penal Code, 1860 states about punishment for criminal trespass. It states that, "Whoever commits criminal trespass shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both."

<sup>7</sup> Section 448 of Penal Code, 1860 states about Punishment for house trespass. It states that, "Whoever commits house-trespass shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka, or with both."

<sup>8</sup> Section 380 of Penal Code, 1860 states about theft in dwelling house, etc. It states about, "Whoever commits theft in any building, tent or vessel, which building, tent or vessel is used as a human dwelling, or use for the custody of property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine."

<sup>9</sup> Section 364 of the same Code states about Kidnapping or abducting in order to murder. It states that, "Whoever kidnaps or abducts any person in order that such person may be murdered or may be so disposed of as to be put in danger of being murdered, shall be punished with imprisonment for life or rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."

<sup>10</sup> Section 34 of the same Code states about acts done by several people in furtherance of common intention. It states that, "When a criminal act is done by several people, in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such people is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone."

<sup>11</sup> Information collected by Odhikar

they stated that there was no involvement of members of RAB. Then the family members submitted a Naraji (Objection) Petition to the Magistrate against the police report. After that, Magistrate ordered the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to investigate the incident again. The investigation report has yet to be submitted by the CID. There is no progress in the case. Besides, she also said that some influential people from the government are trying to occupy their lands in Comilla in the absence of Parvez. The wife could not access the bank account of her husband either. They have one son and one daughter.

- **Khaled Hasan Sohel (27) and**
- **Somrat Molla (27)**

On 28 November 2013 five (5) opposition BNP leaders Khaled Hasan Sohel, President of Ward 79 unit of the student wing of BNP under Sutrapur Police Station; Somrat Molla, Organizing Secretary of Sutrapur unit of the student wing of BNP ; Anisur Rahman Khan, President of Ward 78 unit of the student wing of BNP under Sutrapur Police Station; Biplop, Assistant Organizing Secretary of Ward 78 unit of student wing of BNP under Sutrapur Police Station; and Mithu, Secretary of Ward 80 of workers wing of BNP under Sutrapur Police Station of Dhaka were allegedly picked up by law enforcement agencies when they went to meet two BNP activists at Dhaka Central Jail. After 11 days, on December 8, 2013 Anisur, Biplop and Mithu were released but the whereabouts of Somrat Molla and Khaled Hasan Sohel still remains unknown. A shopkeeper in front of the jail gate of Dhaka Central Jail who wishes to be remain anonymous, informed that men in plain clothes came up, asked the five some questions, grabbed their belts and pulled them into a silver coloured microbus on the main road opposite the token counter, just outside the jail gate. The witnesses stated that it was not clear which state agency these men belonged to, but felt that they were from a police or law enforcement authority. One of the witnesses assumed that they were the members of Detective Branch (DB) of police.<sup>12</sup>



Khalid Hasan Sohel's mother Hosne Ara

Khalid Hasan Sohel's mother Hosne Ara said Sohel was her elder son and used to sustain the family through his book business in Banglabazar. After his disappearance it has become hard to run the family. His wife is now trying to provide for the family by working in an office. The Police are harrassing them a lot. They come occssionally and accuse them of hiding Sohel.

<sup>12</sup> New Age, November 28, 2014

Somrat Molla's older sister Kaniz Fatema said that Somrat had a small spice business and after his disappearance the family is facing financial crisis. She also added that they filed a General Diary ( G.D) on December 6, 2016 in Chawkbazar Police Station as 'missing' though at the beginning the police didn't want to take GD labelling it as a 'political issue'. Kaniz Fatema said that she and her family members miss Somrat a lot. Somrat Molla was very caring to all of them. Nothing can fulfil his absence. The Police occasionally visit their house and accuse them of hiding him.



Somrat Molla's sister Kaniz Fatema

- **Zahirul Islam alias Habibul Bashar Zahir (30)**
- **Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Sohel (36)**
- **Md. Parvez Hossain (26)**
- **Md. Hossain Chanchal (35)**

On December 2, 2013 at around 4.00 pm **four opposition political party activists**, Zahirul Islam alias Habibul Bashar Zahir, President of Ward No.71 of Bongshal unit Student wing of BNP; Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Sohel, Co-President of Bongshal Thana youth wing of BNP ; Md. Parvez Hossain, Secretary of Ward No. 71 of Bongshal unit student wing of BNP , and Md. Hossain Chanchal an activist of BNP had gathered at the Shahbagh crossing in Dhaka. 15-20 armed men in plainclothes came and picked them up in two white microbuses, which were parked nearby. Another activist of BNP named Mithu, witnessed the incident. Mithu informed the family members of the disappeared persons that some armed plainclothes men picked them up and took them away. Mithu told Farzana Akhter that they had been taken away by some men in plainclothes, who he assumed were from the Detective Branch (DB) of Police; and told Farzana to check with the DB Police office. He also told her that there were two vehicles. The family members of the victims contacted different law enforcement agencies but there was no trace of them.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Information collected by Odhikar and New Age, 28 November 2014

While talking with Hosne Ara Begum, mother of Zahirul Islam, alias Habibul Bashar Zahir, in their Old Dhaka home, she said that Bashir was the youngest of her five children. He used to work in a confectionary shop. As he was involved with opposition politics there were some political cases against him. In 2014-15 police harassed them a lot. They came to confiscate their property, but left after the family began to loudly protest. She said 'everyday and night I think Zahir will come back to me'. They are also facing financial hurdles.



Zahirul Islam alias Habibul Bashar Zahir's mother Hosne Ara Begum



Mahfuzur Rahman Sohel's wife Shilpi and father Shamsur Rahman

When we talked with Mahfuzur Rahman Sohel's wife Shilpi and father Shamsur Rahman they were grief-stricken and expressed their sadness after the disappearance of Sohel. Shilpi said they have two sons. The elder son is studying in class ten and the youngest son is 5 year old. Being a homemaker she is facing lots of trouble meeting her son's tuition fees and she is afraid to think about her

younger son's education as he would be starting school soon. Shamsur Rahman is supporting Sohel's family after his disappearance but it has become tough for him as he has gotten older and can no longer work for long periods. Before Sohel's disappearance, he was the bread winner of the family, running a phone / fax shop. Shilpi said that the police sometimes harassed them. Police compelled them to write 'missing' in their General Diary- they have spent lot of money to find the whereabouts of her husband. Bongshal and Dhaka Police came to confiscate their property but they loudly protested. However they come frequently and charge the family and accuse them of hiding Sohel.

Parvez Hossain's wife Farzana said that when her husband was picked up, she was four months pregnant. She said that her son is now three and her daughter is five years old. Parvez was the main breadwinner of the family. He used to run a fabric business in Old Dhaka area of Islampur. She also added that her father-in-law died in November and her father died on December 2016. As she is a homemaker, her father mainly supported her financially and she is now facing difficulties meeting her and her children's financial needs. Farzana said that Parvez had four political cases and for those cases he was jailed. So as his wife,



Parvez Hossain's wife Farzana

Farzana was a guarantor and helped get him free on bail. Afterwards when Parvez disappeared and in spite of filing a General Diary- police came to their house and wanted to arrest her. That time they gave the police taka seven thousand as bribe and later gave them a further taka five thousand to stop the police harassment.



Md. Hossain Chanchal's mother  
Hazera Bibi

Bibi Hazera, the sixty five year old mother of Md. Hossain Chanchal said that Chanchal was the youngest of her four children. He used to work in a nearby supermarket and was an activist of BNP. He was very attached to her and supported her financially. She recalled that Chanchal paid for her eye operation some days before his disappearance. After his disappearance, she started staying with her daughter. She said that she feels sad seeing the mental and financial hurdles that Chanchal's wife and his seven year old son face. She pleaded "please do something - I want my son back"

- **Al Amin (25) and**
- **AM Adnan Chowdhury (27)**

On the night of December 4, 2013, six persons were picked up by uniformed and armed RAB members from Bashundhara under Bhatara Police Station of Dhaka Metropolitan area, as alleged by their family members. The disappeared persons were Mohammad Sajedul Islam

Shumon (37), the general secretary of the BNP, Tejgaon Thana unit; Mohammad Jahidul Karim Tanveer (32), Mohammad Majharul Islam alias Rasel (28), Mohammad Abdul Kader Bhuiyan alias Masum (22), Mohammad Asaduzzaman alias Rana (28) and Al-Amin (25). Furthermore, on the night of December 5, 2013 at around 2:00am, AM Adnan Chowdhury (27), of North Nakhal Para under Tejgaon Police Station was allegedly picked up from his home by few armed and uniformed RAB members, as alleged by Rasel's father Mohammad Ruhul Amin Chowdhury.<sup>14</sup>

Ruhul Amin, the brother of Al Amin said that Al Amin was their elder brother and that their parents had become mentally ill after Al Amin's disappearance. They are vigilant at all times waiting for Ruhul Amin- he added that the situation cannot be described in words. Al Amin also was the main breadwinner of the family and was involved with business in the stock market. So after his disappearance Ruhul has to run the family. They could not withdraw money from Al Amin's bank account as the bank wants his death certificate. But they cannot bear to think about a death certificate and so cannot withdraw money from his bank account.

Mohammad Ruhul Amin Chowdhury said that, of his two sons and two daughters, AM Adnan Chowdhury is the third eldest. He was supposed to go to Malaysia for higher studies and was even supposed to board a



Adnan's parents (Left his mother, right - his father)

flight on December 12, 2013. Ruhul Amin said that after the disappearance of Adnan, he and his wife had become sick. Adnan's mother said she cannot bear to cook anything that Adnan used to like and is becoming forgetful day by day.

- **Tariqul Islam Jhantu (28) and**
- **NizamUddin Munna (24)**

On December 06, 2013, between 10:00 p.m. and 10:30 pm Mohammad Tarikul Islam Jhantu (28) and Mohammad Nizam Uddin Munna (24) were detained and then disappeared by the members of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)-1 from Mollartek area of Dakkhinkhan police

<sup>14</sup> Odhikar's fact finding report; The daily New Age, November 28, 2014

station, Dhaka Metropolitan, alleged their family. Both of them were involved with BNP politics.<sup>15</sup>



Mohammad Tarikul Islam Jhantu's mother  
Mosammat Hasina Begum

The mother of Tarikul Islam Jhantu, Mosammat Hasina Begum said that she will always feel the absence of Jhantu. She said his son was the caring, loving and respectful son that every mother desires. Everyday she hopes that her son will come back to her. She did not allow her other children to attend any meetings and rallies in protest of disappearance. Only she participated in those protest programmes. She said that she does not

want to lose her other children.

Nizam Uddin Munna's mother Muyuri Begum said that Munna was picked up along with Jhantu. After Munna's disappearance his father, Mohammad Shamsuddin went to many



Nizam Uddin Munna's mother Muyuri Begum (Right)

places and lost all his savings. So Munna's father along with his wife and son had to stay in their married daughter's home. On 13 November, 2016 Munna's father died. Muyuri Begum said that their financial condition has hit rock bottom. She has to depend on her daughter's family. Her youngest son is still studying. He is trying to find a job as well.

### ● Mahbub Hasan Sujon (32)

Mahabub Hasan Sujon and Kazi Farhad, both BNP activists at Sabujbagh, were picked up from a farmhouse in Narayanganj on 6 December 2013. Later Sujon was brought to the Fakirapul area. The witness who was present in the area at that time, said the men bringing Sujon to the flat Fakirapul in Dhaka wore civilian clothing, but that one man had the letters 'DB' written on the back of his jacket.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Odhikar collected information

<sup>16</sup> New Age, 28 November 2014

Tanzina Akter, wife of Mahbub Hasan Sujon, the president of BNP student wing of Shabujbagh Police Station said that she is still waiting for her husband's return. She is living in her in-law's house along with her two children. The son is 5 and the daughter is 10 years old. Her father in law Abdul Jalil Khan added that they face police harassment. Police from Sabujbagh Police Station, Dhaka sometimes comes with a search warrant, accuses them of hiding Sujon and threatens them. He also added that they were forced to write 'missing' while filing General Diary. Tanzina cannot operate Sujon's bank account or share market activity. When asked, Tanzina said that they did not report the incident to the National Human Rights Commission as they were frustrated seeing the non helping attitudes of the administration.

### ● **Selim Reza Pintu (33)**

On December 11, 2013 between 12.00 am and 1.00 am, Selim Reza Pintu was picked up by 7-8 plainclothed men claiming to be members of law enforcement agencies, from his elder brother's house situated at Pallabi, Mirpur. Selim Reza Pintu, President of Sutrapur Thana unit Chhatra Dal (a student wing of Bangladesh Nationalist Party – BNP), who had been named by the police in one case involving political violence, usually lived in Sutrapur in Old Dhaka with his wife, but since December 6, 2013 he was living in his brother Aslam Reza Mintu's house at Pallabi in Mirpur, Dhaka. On December 11, 2013, at around 1.00 am, three men entered the house and said that they were from the law enforcement agency and dragged him down the stairs. There were more men outside the building, and at least one had a gun. They pushed Pintu into a microbus. The family members of Pintu repeatedly asked the men where they were taking Pintu. One of them said, "Nothing will happen to him". The whereabouts of Selim Reza Pintu still remain unknown. The family of Selim Reza Pintu filed a General Diary (GD) on December 13, 2013 with the help of journalists as police did not cooperate with them.<sup>17</sup>



Selim Reza Pintu's father  
Mohammad Suleman Reza

When we were talking with the father of Seim Reza Pintu, Mohammad Suleman Reza he said that Pintu was the third of his five children. Pintu had an onion business. He expressed his grief that since Pintu's disappearance, his mother has become bedridden. Pintu was married too. But his wife divorced him in 2017.

<sup>17</sup> Odhikar and New Age 28 November,



- **Yasin Mohammad Abdus Samad Talukdar (34)**

British citizen of Bangladeshi origin, Yasin Mohammad Abdus Samad Talukdar was picked up on 14 July 2016, allegedly by a law enforcement agency. Yasin's family and the British High Commission said Yasin was in police custody, but both Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and police denied this and said Yasin was not in their custody. Haji Alam Khan, the person who took Tk 5 million from Yasin's family promising to bring him back, has been arrested. Yasin's mother, Suraiya Parvin Talukdar filed a general diary (GD) with the Banani Police Station in this connection that day. But the law enforcers are yet to find Yasin. Suraiya Parvin, however, believes her son is in police custody. Yasin ran two coaching centres at Banani and also gave private tuitions at his residence for O-level and A-level students.<sup>18</sup>

When we wanted to interview Yasin's mother, she did not want to talk. His uncle in an interview said that Yasin's physician mother is now very upset and does not want to talk or see people. She is trying everything to bring her son back. She stopped communicating with any rights organization in fear that her son will not be returned if she starts to campaign.

- **Mokhlesur Rahman Jony (27)**

Homeopathic physician Sheikh Moklasur Rahman Jony's wife, Jesmin Nahar Reshma, said that on 4 August 2016 at around 9:30 pm, her husband was going to a pharmacy to buy medicine for his father Sheikh Abdur Rashed. At that time, Sub-Inspector (SI) of Satkhira Sadar Police Station, Himel Hossain arrested him from a place adjacent to the New Market area of Satkhira city. On that night the family searched for Sheikh Moklasur Rahaman but did not find any trace of him. In the morning of 5 August 2016 they went to Satkhira Sadar Police Station and met Moklasur Rahaman. When Jesmin Nahar Reshma asked police about the reason of her husband's arrest, police replied that an investigation was going on. If he was innocent then he will be released; and if not, legal action will be taken against him. On 6 August 2016 she, along with her father-in-law Sheikh Abdur Rashed went to the police station to provide food for Moklasur Rahaman. At that time, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Satkhira Sadar Police Station, Emdad Sheikh told her that her husband was an 'extremist' and asked her to tell him to confess. Later they returned home. On the same day they went to the police station again to provide lunch to Sheikh Moklasur Rahaman. At that time, OC Emdadul Haque Sheikh demanded 10 million Taka from the family for releasing Sheikh Moklasur Rahaman. That time SI Himel Hossain and a police Constable were present. As they could not pay such a big amount, the police forcefully ousted them from the police station. Jesmin Nahar provided food to her husband at the police station for three consecutive days from 5 – 7 August. On the fourth day (on 8 August 2016), she went to the police station

<sup>18</sup> Prothom Alo- 11 February 2017

but she did not find Sheikh Moklasur Rahaman there. When Jesmin Nahar asked SI Himel Hossain the whereabouts of her husband, SI Himel Hossain said he did not know anything about Moklasur Rahaman. The Superintendent of Police (SP) took him away. After hearing this from SI Himel she immediately informed the incident to journalists of Satkhira Press Club. His whereabouts are still unknown. On 2 March 2017 Jesmin Nahar Reshma filed a writ petition in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. Writ number 2833/17. On January 21, 2017 the PBI submitted the probe report to the High Court through the attorney general's office in line with its earlier order. In the report it is said that the incident was not unearthed as the police including the then Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge Emdadul Haque Sheikh, SI Himel and Emdaddul's successor Firoz Hossain Mollah did not carry out the duties vested on them.<sup>19</sup>



Jony's wife Jesmin Nahar said that without Jony they are having a very hard time both mentally and financially. When Jony was disappeared she was three months pregnant. Even in that situation she went to different places to find her husband. She said that her daughter has never seen her father's face. She appealed to the Prime Minister to get her husband back. She was now struggling with the writ petition to get

justice.

### • Abdul Quddus (54)

On 30 March 2017 at around 5:35 pm in the Goalkandi area of Alok nagar of Hamirkutsa Union of Bagmara in Rajshahi District, a farmer, named Abdul Quddus was picked up from a field by some plainclothed men claiming from a law enforcement agency. They took him away to an unknown destination by a motorbike. On 3 April 2017 Mohammad Zahid Hassan, son of Md. Abdul Kuddus Pramanik filed a General Diary (GD) with Baghmara Police Station. The G.D is numbered as 105. Still, his whereabouts are unknown. His family claimed that he was not involved with any politics.<sup>20</sup>

Abdul Quddus's son Zahid Hossain said that some people who worked as a RAB's source used to threaten Quddus that he will be implicated as a part of banned political group Jamaat-

<sup>19</sup> Odhikar collected information and The Daily Star, 23 January 2017, please visit the link <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/pbi-probe-finds-police-negligence-1523893>

<sup>20</sup> Information collected by Odhikar

ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) due to enmity. Zahid said that they are very poor. They don't own any land and his father worked as a sharecropper. When they could not find him after searching in different law enforcement offices, they filed a General Diary and contacted RAB-5 but still his whereabouts are unknown.



Place where Abdul Quddus was picked up



Interviewing the family members of Abdul Quddus

- **Mohammad Ahsan Habib Khan (40)**
- **Mohammad Ruhul Amin Khan (42)**

Two expatriate cousins, Mohammad Ahsan Habib Khan and Mohammad Ruhul Amin Khan, who came to Bangladesh two months before the incident, were picked up from their houses on 30 March, 2017 by some plainclothed men claiming to be from a law enforcement agency and administration, from the village named Alaipur of number 3 Koyla Union of Kaloroa Upazila of Satkhira. The men did not show any arrest warrant and took them away to an undisclosed destination in a microbus. When their family members tried to contact the victims through their cell phones, some unidentified men received calls and wanted ransom upto taka 6000000, threatening to kill them otherwise. In this regard they filed an abduction case (case no: 45, date: 30/03/2017) with Kaloroa Police Station. After four days of their disappearance they were shown as arrested in a human trafficking case (case no: 24, date: 02/04/2017, Jajira Police Station, Shariatpur) and produced before the Shariatpur District and Sessions Judge Court by RAB. Approximately two months later, they got bail from the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.<sup>21</sup> Both of them are free on bail now.

Mother of Ruhul Amin Khan, Jobeda Khanom said that she was sleeping in her house with her family members on 30 March, 2017. Around 1.30 am, they woke to some men banging and shoving at their door and shouting 'where is Ruhul Amin? Give him to us.' Then she asked, from inside the house what Ruhul Amin had done. They said there was a case against him. They did not open the door. But from outside they broke the lock of the gate and got

<sup>21</sup> Odhikar collected information

inside and slapped her two daughters Tanzila Khatun (18) and Maksura Khatun (16) several times. They were boxed on the ears, which began bleeding. Then they got Ruhul Amin – beat him several times and took him away by a microbus. When we contacted her recently she said she does not want to talk about this topic and was very happy that her son is alive.



Jabeda Khanom, Mother of Ruhul Amin Khan



Rashida Khanom, Mother of Ahsan Habib Khan

Md. Ahsan Habib Khan's mother, Rashida Khanam said that on 30 March, 2017, midnight when everybody in their home was asleep, 5/6 people were trying to open their windows and doors and calling for her son Ahsan Habib, loudly. The family members were very afraid to open the door but were finally compelled to, when the men misbehaved badly with all of them and then picked up Ahsan Habib Khan in a white microbus. Rashida also added that the people were carrying sticks and were armed. When we contacted her recently she said she did not want to

talk about this topic.

The brother of Ruhul Amin Khan opined that as they were living abroad and brought a huge amount of money home with them, a gang of criminals wanted to take their money and so they used RAB to pick them up. However, when they could not fulfill their interest, they filed a trafficking case against them.

- **Maulana Shahidullah Sarkar (45)**

On April 26, 2017 at around 2:00 am a group of 16/17 people, claiming to be members of a law enforcement agency, allegedly picked up Madrassa teacher and Joint General Secretary of Ittefaqul Ulama Maulana Shahidullah Sarkar from his home at Khagdohor, Mymensingh district. Before picking him up they kicked and shoved at the door. When Shahidulla's mother Johura Khatun and Shahidullah opened the door they entered the house and roamed around. Later they took him away. While taking him, they told the family to contact the local Detective Branch (DB) office later. However after going to DB office they said they had no information of Shahidullah. Next day, the family members went to Mymensingh Kotwali Model Police Station to file a general diary (GD). Police recorded the GD as general registered case (G.R case no: 82/431, 26/04/2017). On June 14, 2017 he was left blindfolded beside a road of Khilgaon, Dhaka after 49 days of his disappearance. He also claimed he was picked up by some men who said they were members of Detective Branch of Police (DB). They kept him in a room and gave him food.<sup>22</sup>



Maulana Shahidullah Sarkar's mother  
Johura Khatun

Maulana Shahidullah Sarkar and his wife Shahnaz Parvin have four daughters. Shahidullah's old mother Johura Khatun used to live with them. While Shahidullah was not there, the wife had to take a loan for running the education of their daughters and other expenses of the family. While Odhikar communicated with family members for follow-up information, it came to know that he was arrested from his house at around 11:30 pm on August 23, 2017 under an explosives case filed with Ashulia Police Station. He is now in Kashimpur Jail. The family could not provide the case number and they do not want to talk further

about the incident out of fear.

- **Mehdi Hasan Babul (26)**

On May 3, 2017 at around 4:30 am Mehdi Hasan Babul, a cell phone flexi-load businessman, was picked up by four plainclothed men claiming themselves as law enforcement agency from his home in Modhupur, Tarakanda at Mymensingh district. He was taken away in a microbus. His family searched for him at different law enforcement offices, but could not

<sup>22</sup> Odhikar's collected information and The daily Naya Diganta 15 June, 2017, please visit the link <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/228661>

find him anywhere. In this regard they filed a General Diary (GD) with Tarakanda Police Station. GD number- 105, date- 03/05/2017. The GD was later considered as a case. Case no: 2, date- 11/05/2017. After his disappearance a person called from a number 019841256661 and introduced himself as being from a law enforcement agency and asked for taka one lac and said if they give the money they will free him. After bargaining, his family sent taka 15000 through a Bkash cell phone transaction. On 25 June, 2017 a lawyer from Adalotpara called the family again and said that Babul was in Keraniganj Jail. After that they went to the jail and found him on July 1, 2017.<sup>23</sup> Later he was transferred to Kashimpur Jail.



Mehdi Hasan Babul's brother  
Billal Hossain

When talking with Billal Hossain, the brother of Mehdi Hasan Babul, he said that Babul was shown arrested in a case filed under the Anti Terrorism Act, 2009 (amended in 2012) by RAB. He was produced before the Court on June 22, 2017. The family did not know his whereabouts till July 1, 2017. His family informed that he was kept in an unknown place before producing him in the Court by the members of RAB. Now, he is in the Kashimpur Jail.

### ● Farhad Mazhar (70)

Prominent poet, writer and columnist who wrote a number of articles regarding Indian aggression in Bangladesh and a critic of controversial government policies and actions, Farhad Mazhar was allegedly picked up by some unidentified men near his house in the Capital's Shyamoli area around 5:00 am on 03, July, 2017. Farhad later made a phone call to his wife Farida Akhter, executive director of agricultural research group Ubinig and organiser of Nayakrishi Andolan at about 5:30am and told her 'they are taking me away. They will kill me'. Later on, in another call, he told Farida to arrange Tk 30 to Tk 35 lakh for his release. More than 18 hours of the disappearance, he was found in Noapara, Jessore by law enforcement agencies. Jessore superintendent of police Anisur Rahman said that Mazhar was traced by tracking down the position of his cell phone. Farhad Mazhar's wife Farida Akter filed a General Diary and on the same night the GD was transformed to an 'abduction' case.

<sup>23</sup> Odhikar's collected information and The daily Manabzamin, 1 July, 2017, please visit the link <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=72003&cat=3/>

On 03 December his wife Farida Akter in a press conference stated that they are being harassed by media and police.<sup>24</sup>

When we met Farhad Mazhar, he said that the abductors dropped him at a place which he did not recognise. They told him to get onto a Hanif Paribahan Company bus. He was exhausted and suddenly woke up to a commotion and realised that RAB and some plainclothes men were arguing over him and those men had pointed a gun at the RAB personnel. He understood that those men were more powerful than RAB. Then RAB took him and put him in their car while the other men were trying to get him out of the car. The car finally took off with him in it, but he was forced to get down in Avoy Nagar Police Station and there he was pressured to confess that he went out for ‘entertainment’ and then he was taken to Adabor Police Station and then to the DB Office where police wanted to take his statement. He told the police to write whatever they wanted, as he was feeling extremely unwell.

Farida Akter said that on November 14, Detective Branch inspector Mahbubul Islam, also investigation officer of the case, submitted the final report to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate’s Court mentioning that they did not find any proof of abduction. On 7 December the same court allowed Farida time to file a petition against the



Farhad Mazhar and Farida Akter

Detective Branch’s report that found no proof of abduction of Farhad. In the afternoon, the same court rejected the time petition and allowed police to prosecute Farhad and Farida. Farhad Mazhar and Farida Akter said that for investigation of the case and on security grounds, they are remaining quiet. Farhad Mazhar stopped going outside. Farhad Mazhar believed that there were initiatives to take him out of Bangladesh to India. He added that there are patriot members from law enforcement agency, who helped rescue him.

<sup>24</sup> Odhikar’s collected Information, New Age, 04 July, 2017

- **Md. Sohel Khan (27)**

On 17 July, 2017 Sohel Khan, General Secretary of youth wing of Awami League of Ward 6 of Chingrakhali Union of Morolganj Upazila came to the Bagerhat District and Sessions Judge Court to surrender under a case filed against him in 2008 where he was convicted. He went to have a cup of tea with his friends Sourav, Rabbi Khan, Nayan Bux and Riat Talukdar behind the Bar Association building of the Bagerhat District and Sessions Judge Court. There at around 10:40 am few people claiming to be from the administration, came and tried to pick Sohel up in a black microbus. When his friends resisted, they kicked Rabbi Khan and picked up Leon Sikdar and Sourov along with Sohel. They had handcuffs and pistols with them. They were blindfolded and later Leon and Sourov were dropped at Doshani intersection. Sohel was returned home at around 10:30 pm on 22 January 2018 and the family is not interested to talk.<sup>25</sup>

When we talked with Sohel's brother Rubel Khan, he said that though Sohel was involved with Awami League politics, there was some internal feud among the party people. Two months before his abduction, he received a threat on his mobile phone where it was written 'like your grandfather you will be killed too'. Out of fear he did not file a General Diary (GD). After his return, Sohel even did not stay at home at night.



Sohel Khan was picked up from this tea shop



Sohel Khan's brother Rubel Khan and Sohel Khan's daughter

- **Abdullah Al Faruq Rahid (22)**

On 18 July 2017 at around 7:30 pm 5/6 plainclothed men claiming to be from RAB-5 picked up Abdullah Al Faruq Rahid in a white microbus from the house of one Tariqul of Haripur Union under Poba Police Station of Rajshahi district. The men also carried handcuffs. Since

<sup>25</sup> Odhikar collected information



then Rahid's whereabouts are unknown. It is to be noted that he had a dispute with a RAB personnel. He was a student and also worked as an electrician. He also was an activist of student wing of Awami League of Haripur Union unit. The family filed a General Diary (G.D) with the Poba Police Station, Rajshahi on July 20, 2017. The GD is numbered 935.

Father of Rahid, Jahiruddin said that Rahid went to Tariqul's house to work on some electrical issue as it was his profession. During that time 5/6 men with handcuffs got down from a white microbus and took him away. After learning of the incident Jahiruddin went to the police station but the Officer in Charge misbehaved with him. On 20 July he could file a General Diary but was not allowed to mention RAB. On August 1, 2017 he filed a case in Rajshahi District and Sessions Judge Court. The court sent the case to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) for investigation. He said that after Rahid's disappearance his mother become very sick.

**-END OF REPORT-**