

Abdullah Al Monju: Another Victim of Awami League Brutality

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Executive Summery

A Shibir activist was killed in Kumarkhali Upozila of Kushtia by Awami League miscreants. The murdered Abdullah Al Monju (17) is a student of 2nd year in Panti College and the president of local unit of Shibir. 10 others were injured and hospitalized. This assassination followed the killing of 2 Shibir workers in Chittagong last February. The repeated violence of the ruling party throughout the country has increased to an alarming level.

Background

Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (BICS), established in 1977, is one of the largest student organizations of the country. Since 2009 when the current Awami League led government has come into power, Shibir has been facing violent and fatal attacks from members of the ruling party and law enforcing agencies. On 7 February 2012, BCL killed two Shibir activists in Chittagong University in a violent attack. The deceased students are Masud bin Habib of Department of English and Mujahidul Islam of Department of Zoology. Masud bin Habib was a resident of Suhrawardi Hall and the President of Hall unit of Shibir. Mujahid was a Shibir activist and a resident of Shah Amanat Hall. This assassination caused an immediate closure of the University. On 13 March 2011, General Secretary of Rajshahi University Shibir Sharifuzzaman Nomani were killed by BCL men. Earlier in 2010, three activists of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir were killed namely Hafizur Rahman Shahin, Mohiuddin Masum and Harunur Rashid Kaiser.

The recent incident of deadly BCL attack on Shibir activists in Kushtia is the last of this series of political violence targeted at the opposition. A worker of the Islami Chhatra Shibir was killed and 10 other were injured in an attack by members of the ruling party at Panty Union under Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia district on April 13. The deceased Abdullah Al Manju, 16, son of Abdur Rashid. Manju was a student of class twelve in Panty College and president of the local unit of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Abdullah Al Monju

- **Address:** Kumarkhali, Kushtia.
- **Institution:** Panty College, HSC, 2nd Year.
- **Political Designation:** President of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, Panty unit, Kushtia.
- **Time and Place of Death:** 13th April 2012 at the yard of his own home in Kumarkhali, Kushtia.



On 12 April afternoon, Southern Kumarkhali unit of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir organised a quiz competition in a local high school. A group of leaders and workers of Chhatra League and Awami Juba League entered the high school in Panty Union and tried to force the leaders and workers of Islami Chhatra Shibir to stop the quiz competition. The leaders and workers of Chhatra Shibir declined to follow them. Chhatra League workers attacked on Shibir activist Nazmul and took away Shibli Noman with them. The situation turned volatile since then. The leaders and workers of Chhatra League and Awami Juba League left the place and got ready to attack them, according to local sources.¹

The next day at 9 am in the morning, a group of Chhatra League and Jubo League activists numbering about 25 under the leadership of Farque, Latif and Ruhul Amin, equipped with lethal weapons attacked the houses of Shibir activists at Gorostanpara village in Panty Union. They went to the house of Monju and made him come out of his room to the yard as he was brushing his teeth.

During the attack Abdullah Al Monju was stabbed repeatedly when he came out from his room. Then BCL attacker Faruq (Son of Awami League leader Badsha) threw a sharp weapon to Monju from behind and it went all the way through his chest. The attackers chopped him indiscriminately in the yard of his house. He died on the spot instantly.



Abdur Rashid, Father of Abdullah Al Monju, crying after losing his son.

Chhatra League and Jubo League members carried attacks on several other houses in the same area. Ten people, including Minarul,

Faruque Hossain, Yousuf and Rashedul, were injured seriously in the attack. They were rushed to the Kushtia 250-bed hospital in a critical condition.² A half day general strike in protest of the killing was observed in Kumarkhali upazila on 14 April.³

¹ <http://www.theindependentbd.com/national/105123-nine-killed-in-separate-incidents.html>

² http://www.daily-sun.com/index.php?view=details&archiev=yes&arch_date=17-04-2012&type=One-killed-in-BCL-attack-in-Kushtia&pub_no=117&cat_id=1&menu_id=8&news_type_id=1&index=12

³ http://www.dailysangram.com/news_details.php?news_id=82743

Role of Police

The police played a mysterious role by detaining Shibir activists though they were the ones who were attacked by BCL. Police also threatened Shibir workers by saying that they will have to be responsible for whatever worse that might happen. When the BCL and Juba League men attacked and threatened Shibir the previous day in the quiz competition, the law enforcing agency should have ensure the security of those who were subject to threat. Police have totally failed to prevent the commission of such heinous crimes and virtually encouraged it. So far police did not arrest any of the accused who were involved in this crime. The unacceptable role of police is a major obstacle in improving the law and order situation in Bangladesh.

Violation of Constitution



Mother of Shibir activist Monju.

The killing of activists of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir violated the constitutional right to life. Article 32 of the Constitution clearly states that, *no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty save in accordance with law* in any case.⁴ According to the Constitution of Bangladesh, it is the fundamental aim of the State is to realise a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights, equality and justice will be secured for all citizens.⁵

Under article 38 of the Constitution, every citizen shall have the right to form associations or unions, subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law.⁶ The series of unpunished attacks on the lives of students due to the membership of a particular organization is sheer violation of rights solemnly declared in the constitution of Bangladesh.

Violation of Human Rights

Bangladesh is a signatory of *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966*. Article 6 of the ICCPR provides “*that every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.*”⁷ The states consecutive failure to stop members of ruling party members from arbitrarily killing political opponents is a violation of Bangladesh’s obligation under this binding treaty.

Allowing and encouraging the ruling party members to kill members of a particular political student organization without any criminal trial violates the following provision of ICPPR–

⁴ Article 32, Constitution of Bangladesh

⁵ Preamble, Constitution of Bangladesh

⁶ Article 38, Constitution of Bangladesh: *Every citizen shall have the right to form associations or unions, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of morality or public order.*

⁷ Article 6.1, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.

each State Party undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of political or other status.⁸ The present government is violating its obligation under international law by failing to stop the killings of opposition political activists.

Recommendations

- The government should ensure the proper and immediate trial of the murders of Shibir activist Abdullah Al Monju in Kushtia. Criminal investigations must be impartial, regardless of the suspect's political affiliation or party membership.
- The illegal practice of using violence and assassination to suppress the members of opponent organizations must be discontinued by Awami League and its associated wings.
- The law enforcing agencies should not tolerate any such violent political activities. The student wing of the ruling party must be stopped from using violent methods to establish dominance in educational institutions.
- Ministers and Political leaders should not make any statement which may encourage the ruling party activists to engage in any criminal activity.
- The civil society should raise their voice against the heinous attacks on the opponent political parties by Awami League and closely monitor whether any party is involved in any illegal practice to establish dominance. The Civil society must make the people aware about the killing, violence and violation of human rights by any political party. Emphasis has to be put on building the culture of tolerance and the practice of peaceful co-existence in our national life.
- International community must consider the issues of human rights violation and the murders in political arena while making any decision about their relation with Bangladesh. The issue of political killing by the members of ruling party in Bangladesh must be addressed seriously. Donor agencies should ensure that no person is murdered or tortured due only to his political identity, and that all people get equal protection of law from the state.

⁸ Article 2.1, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.