



বাংলাদেশ আদিবাসী ফোরাম

10 January 2017

Press Release

Petition for judicial inquiry into Kalpana Chakma's abduction

A petition seeking a judicial inquiry was submitted before the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Rangamati by the informant and brother of Kalpana Chakma against the final report that was submitted by the police in the case of her abduction. The lawyer for the plaintiff submitted names from the list of witnesses to the Court. The Court fixed 22nd March 2017 for further hearing.

Kalpana Chakma, a 23 year old indigenous and women's rights activist (the Organizing Secretary of the Hill Women's Federation) was abducted from her home in Lallyaghona village of Rangamati in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on the night of 11 June 1996. Her brother, Kalindi Kumar Chakma, filed a case in the Baghaichari Police Station on 12 June 1996.

The Investigation Officer submitted the first report of this case on 21 May 2010, after almost 14 and half years. The final investigation report stated that no information could be recovered in the case of Kalpana Chakma's investigation. Moreover, the report did not take any eye witness statement into consideration. Since then, the post of the Investigation Officer for this case has been changed 39 times.

On 7 September 2016, the 39th Investigation Officer of the case, the Superintendent of Police of Rangamati, Syed Tarikul Hasan submitted his final investigation report. Similar to the previous investigation reports, this report too stated that there was no evidence regarding the abduction of Kalpana Chakma. The report stated that "the location of the victim was not identified. Hence, it was not possible to rescue her.... therefore, to prevent the investigation procedure from being a lengthy process, I hereby submit my report (final report, sotto no. 03, date: 07.09.2016, Penal Code) to the learned Court. The investigation procedure shall resume should any information regarding Kalpana Chakma be recovered in future."

The naraji petition was filed to seek a judicial inquiry and reject the recent investigation report submitted by the Investigation Officer. Today's hearing was attended by lawyers and activists from various human rights organizations including Khushi Kabir, human rights activist; Chakma Rani Yan Yan; Advocate Protim Roy, President of the Rangamati Bar Association; Adv. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Coordinator, Chittagong Unit, BLAST; Advocate Md. Borkot Ali; Advocate Jewel Dewan, and representatives from ALRD, Nijera Kori, Nari Pokkho and the Bangladesh Adibashi Forum.

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