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Press Release

BLAST and Naripokkho express profound condemnation on the incident of Banani rape case and delay in receiving complaints at police station despite court's order

On 28 March 2017, two private university students have reportedly been raped at Banani in Dhaka. Despite the court's order, police station made delay in receiving the complaint. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Naripokkho express their deep concern and condemns as regards the incident.

It has been reported in various newspapers and media that on March 28, 2017, a young businessman organizes birthday party with his two friends at Banani's 'The Rain Tree' Hotel. They raped two university students after being invited on that party. The victims were harassed and threatened continuously saying that the perpetrators will release the video footage on social media if they make any complain to police. facing such continuous threat after 39 days later on Friday, the victims filed a case at the police station but at first instance they were thrown out of the police station. But the next day on 6th May, 2017, on Saturday evening (after 40 days) the victims filed a case against the 5 accused, 3 rapist and their driver and bodyguard at Banani Police Station.

It is to be noted that according to law the concerned police station are accelerated to ensure the safety of the victim and to response quickly in regards of recording complaints but in this case the allegation has been made against the police for delay in receiving the complaint of the victims, which is contrary to the existing law.

Rape, sexual harassment, assault, discrimination, hampering or harming women's dignity and honor are violation of constitutional rights and punishable offenses under the existing law of the country. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure the safety of all citizens. BLAST expresses its deep concern and condemns and demanding to identify the culprits and take strong legal action against them.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the incident of Garo girl gang rape in a moving microbus in Dhaka was followed by a public interest litigation (writ petition no-5541/2015) filed by Human Rights Organizations, namely Naripokkho, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, National Adivasi Parishad, Ain o Salish Kendra and BLAST. A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Kazi Mohammad Ezarul Haque Akondo issued a Rule on 25 March 2015. On that Rule The Court asked the authorities to explain the delay by the police in recording an FIR by a 22 year old Garo woman worker regarding allegations of gang-rape on a moving microbus and why legal action will not be taken against the concerned police officers. Besides, the Court directed the authorities to issue a circular to all police stations to ensure that they respond to victims promptly and without any discrimination based on race, religion, gender, caste or place of birth. Later, on 10 June, 2015, in the context of the order passed by the Honorable High Court, Bangladesh Police issued a Circular No- 02-2015 and ordered that the cases relating to the rape should be taken as soon as possible. But the above instructions have been disobeyed in this Banani Gang Rape Case. BLAST and Naripokkho demands justice and proper trial of this incident as well as request the concerned authorities to follow the instructions of the court.