

Nandigram March

Sameekshak Samannaya

Nandigram March 14

**An Interim report on
Mass Torture, Mass Rape and Mass Killing**

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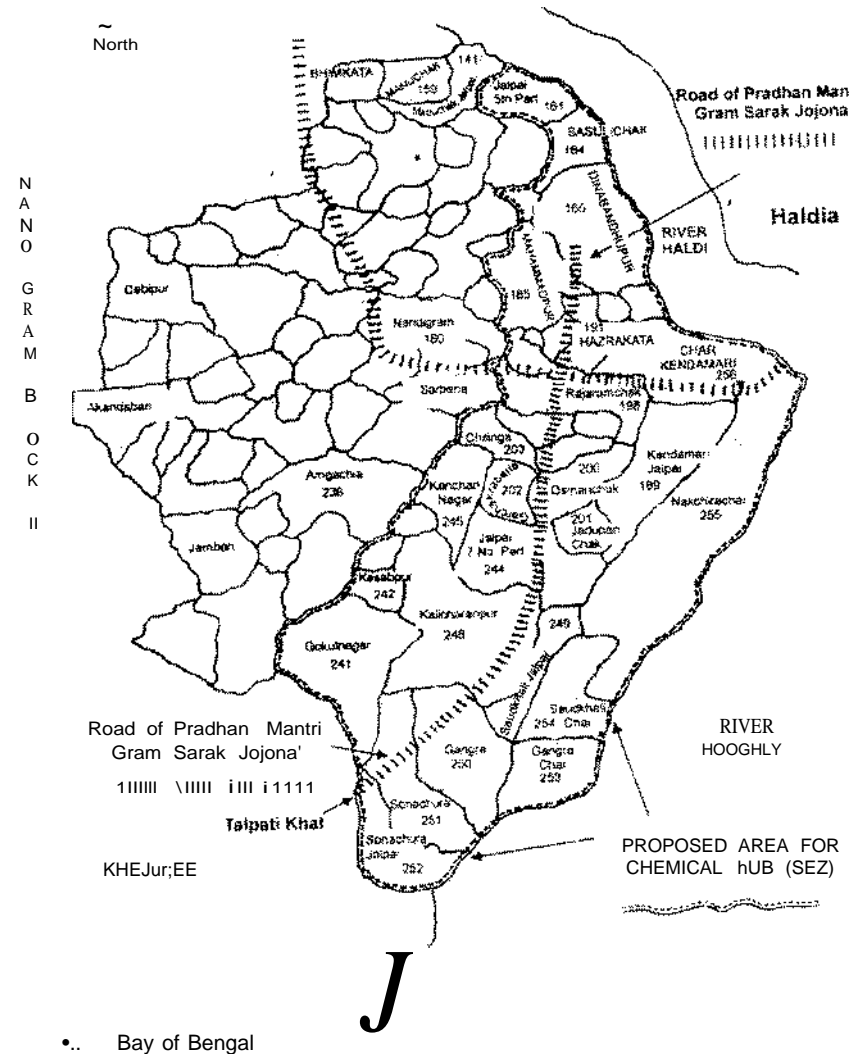
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MAP OF NANDIGRAM BLOCK I



List of Mouzas Covered For Mega Chemical Estated
P.S. : Nandigram

81. No.	Name of Mouza	J.L. No.	Area (in acres)
1.	Basulichak	164	57.00
2.	Dinabandhupur	165	240.00
3.	Mahammadour	185	160.00
4.	Madhabpur	186	130.36
5.	Parbatiour	187	133.50
6.	Navachak	188	124.99
7.	Kendiamari Jaloai	189	1973.67
8.	Bainchbari	190	2'53.05
9.	Hazrakata	191	179.86
10.	Nilpur	192	95.00
11.	Hossainpur	193	123.97
12.	Gopimohanour	194	194.58
13.	Bhasurkata	195	224.30
14.	Subhanichak	196	183.69
15.	Mirzachak	197	52.40
16.	Raiaramchak	198	144.70
17.	Shvamasundarichak	199	273.90
18.	Osmanchak	200	460.41
19.	Jadubarichak	201	303.78
20.	Garchakraberia	202	377.32
21.	Chillimra	203	199.80
22.	Gokulnagar	241	971.90
23.	Keshabour	242	138.60
24.	Baranagar	243	10.00
25.	7 No. Jaloai	244	62.00
26.	Kanchannagar	245	510.00
27.	Jalpai Part VII	246	1394.00
28.	Balibendabaour	247	27.01
29.	Kalicharanpur	248	1936.75
30.	Saudkhali Jalpai	249	407.23
31.	Gangra	250	1133.28
32.	Sonachura	251	1066.17
33.	Sonachura Jaloai	252	473.77
34.	Gangrachar	253	617.74
35.	Saudkhal ichar	254	636.97
36.	Nakchirachar	255	2545.24
37.	Charkendamari	198/259	617.74
	Total		18,546.94

INTRODUCTION

In the morning of 14th March 2007, in Nandigram Block-I of East Medinipur district of West Bengal, 14 villagers (according to official account) died in an indiscriminate firing by the police and their non-police accomplice and the accompanying violence on thousands of peaceful, unarmed villagers including hundreds of women and children. The violence continued throughout the day and the following day. In the afternoon of 14th, first the Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and later the 'CPI (M)'s peasant wing *Krishak Sabha* called a wild cat *bandh* for 24 hours; thus virtually clamping an cordoning off the area. The entry points to Nandigram area were all sealed by the assailants denying access to the others and even to the media. Only one TV channel that happened to be present at the spot showed live footage of part of the massacre and mayhem. Two days later, on 16th March, the villagers again gathered in thousands in a peaceful protest rally moving across the villages of Nandigram. Then the print media and the other TV channels entered the villages and kept reporting the villagers' account of the incidents and subsequent developments day to day. A couple of documentary film makers also started recording the events. Later, many civil society organizations raised their voice, visited the villages, met the victims, gave them material and financial assistance and opened medical camps right inside the affected villages. Lots of information about the fateful incidents of 14-15 March came pouring in.

According to the common accounts of most of the above sources, on the 14th morning, thousands of villagers were caught unawares at the sudden and profuse tear gas shelling and heavy firing. They had assembled at three places - Bhangabera (near Talpati canal on the Nandigram-Khejuri border), Gokulnagar(nearTekhali bridge) and Saraswati Bazar (in Garchakraberia) to offer holy prayers. The Hindus assembled at a community worship of their tutelary deity Shri Gauranga while the muslims were reading *en masse* the Holy Quran. This was, of course, part of an ongoing series of popular nonviolent protests and resistance strategies

for the preceding two/three months to oppose and thwart the proclaimed government decision to acquire about 18,546.94 acres of productive farm land from Nandigram Block-I for an SEZ to develop a huge chemical hub.

The movement was organised by the villagers themselves spearheaded by the local leadership under the banner of the BUPC (*Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee, Nandigram* i.e., Land Eviction Resistance Committee). And it was already a couple of months old. The villagers had already heard rumours of imminent police aggression. They also saw a massive mobilization of additional police force, since early morning of the 14th., over and above almost a thousand strong force already posted. The villagers allege that the police were accompanied by a number of political goons and mercenaries dressed in police uniform but with *chappals* on their feet and red/black bands on their wrist/forehead.

As a strategy, in the protest gatherings at the two places, the BUPC placed hundreds of school children and teenagers from the neighbouring villages in the first row facing the police positioned across the Talpati canal and the Tekhali bridge; behind them were hundreds of women including many mothers with babies in their lap. In the rear were thousands of men from the villages. The villagers firmly believed that the police would not be so inhuman as to open fire on innocent unarmed children and women, and thus a violent confrontation could be avoided. But their simple belief and trust were bluntly belied.

The official figure of 14 deaths have been contested by a section of the print and electronic media. According to the villagers' estimates, there have been hundreds of deaths from firing and other types of accompanying violence by not only the police but their non-police accomplice. Hundreds of cases of injury of different kinds and degrees, treated in the Nandigram Block Primary Health Centre, Tarnluk District Hospital and in two Kolkata hospital and in the voluntary medical camps, far surpass the official accounts.

Above all, the cases of various kinds of atrocities on women have been the least exposed. The simple village-women of different ages were

subjected to all kinds of insult and injury from sexually abusive utterances and gestures, molestations, physical assaults, individual and gang rapes to near-rape tortures (like brutally hitting the vaginal area with batons or gun butts) is a tiny fragment of the actual atrocities. Most of the victims did not report to any medical centre in shame or fear of social stigma. There have been instances of a wife raped in front of her husband under stern intimidation or by brutal force: or even of daughters raped under the eyes of helpless mothers. Rape of minors have also been reported. Women had also been chased and beaten up by the police when out *bf* compassion, risking their own lives in the midst of the violent actions, the women tried to rescue their fellow villagers.

In respect of child victims, the reports are difficult to ascertain; but many villagers stand eye witness and have emphatically corroborated instances of children brutally murdered.

Many villagers of Nandigram keep saying that they had seen in-broad day light hundreds of injured persons and children being smuggled out of the villages in big vehicles and motorbikes. But accounts of missing persons vary widely, because many of the alleged missing ones actually had fled the villages in apprehension, and some of them kept coming back after the situation gradually became less violent.

Owing to the piecemeal view of the media, the voluntary organisations and the others, and in view of some contradictory accounts arising out of the piecemeal approach, it was imperative and important to conduct a comprehensive door-to-door survey of the affected areas of Nandigram. It was felt by many that only a scientifically sound and authentic study with the help of a properly trained survey team carrying out on-the-spot comprehensive survey could help one to arrive at the truth.

But the task was daunting. Because the affected Nandigram Block-I spread over 99 *mouzas* is a vast area with 30,432 households as per the Census of India 2001. And, on the fateful day, children, women and men, young and old-were mobilized in very large numbers from all the villages. But because of their strategic positioning according to the plan of the BUPC, not all the villages suffered uniformly. Besides, even more

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than two months after the incident, recurrent incidents of stray violence including bombing and firing have been continuing, causing scare for outsiders. So it called for an organized concerted effort with enough skilled manpower, money and other resources to take up the task. It took about a month's time for a few likeminded non-partisan concerned citizens to come forward and take the initiative to explore the ground reality and expose the truth. This culminated in a loose platform under the title 'Sameekshak Samannaya' (Surveyor's Solidarity). It was formed by bringing together organizations and people from various backgrounds like academics, health workers, members of voluntary organizations, little magazine organizers, non party trade unions, funding agencies of civil society initiatives and individual well wishers.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the study was to ascertain authentically the nature and extent of the victimization caused by the violence unleashed by the police and the other aggressors on the villagers of Nandigram Block-I on 14-15 March 2007.

To this effect, the tasks undertaken by the study group were

- i) to find out the number of persons injured, dead and missing, and the nature of injuries and
- ii) to find out in particular the number of women who were victims of the violence, and the nature of violence on them.

METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATION

The methodology was worked out in consultation with senior academics from statistics and economics disciplines and other persons experienced in empirical field survey based research.

Utmost care was taken in regard to objectivity and authenticity of the study, right from the survey design to filling up the questionnaires (set in simple Bengali language), data processing and report writing. All the data

and information in the filled in questionnaires have been endorsed by the respective respondent -villagers by putting their signatures (most of them are literates) or thumb impressions.

After a couple of reconnaissance visits to the villages of Nandigram Block - I, 13 *mouzas* were identified and short listed as 'worst affected'. The identification was done on the basis of discussions with a cross-section of villagers, relevant hospital, PRC and medical camp reports and media exposures. These turned out to be the *mouzas* that are right within or in the neighbourhood of the hotspots of the massacre'. As people from the villages belonging to those 13 *mouzas* thronged in very large numbers in those spots in the morning of 14th, most of them obviously became the worst victims.

A complete enumeration (door-to-door survey) method with a structured questionnaire was followed to cover the households of the 13 *mouzas*.

The questionnaire sought information particularly on the following points:

- Cases of physical injury among male members of the family. [These include injury from tear gas shelling, rubber bullets, bullets, lathi charges, blows with fibre rod, stampede, etc]
- Cases of injury among female members [This includes violation of modesty, molestation, physical torture (by lathi charge, tear gas shelling, rubber bullets, bullets, stampede, etc.), sexual torture (particularly brutal) blows in the vaginal zone with batons or rifle butts), and rape.
- Cases of death, and
- Cases of missing person.

From the remaining *mouzas* of Nandi gram Block - 1, which are considered to be less affected, a 10 per cent random sample has been drawn from a list of total households, taken from the Census of India 2001, using Random Number Table for representative sample survey of the villagers. The same structured questionnaire was used. The actual sample size is 528 out of a total 4600 households.

The field study, was (and is still being) undertaken in different phases. In the first two phases of the field survey conducted during 9th April '07 and 13th April '07, and during 23rd May '07 and 27th May '07, the 13

worst affected *mouzas* were taken up, and the complete enumeration method was followed. However, at the time of writing this report, the survey of the *mouzas* is still to be completed.

In the third phase, to be taken up in September 2007, field survey of the worst affected *mouzas* will be completed and the sample survey of the less affected ones will be taken up.

Every time prior to the field survey, the surveyors were given the required training for field survey.

During the two phases of the survey already completed, a total of 47 field investigators (23 female and 24 male) were involved, most of whom are young men and women.

It is to be noted that this report is incomplete and should be treated as an interim report. But it gives significant indications of a massacre of serious proportions committed by the police together with a gang of non-police accomplices. In that sense, the report, albeit interim, claims attention. Also to be noted is the fact that the observations of the report give a conservative estimate of the violence. Because many of the women did not reveal the actual nature or extent of physical torture (especially sexual torture and rape) on them to the field investigators out of shame or fear. In the interim report, only the cases of "serious injury" have been included. Here "serious injury" means the injuries inflicted on the villagers by the police and their non-police accomplices by deliberate and targeted aggression, often singling out the victim(s). Incidental injuries from an incident of stray violence or chaos have not been considered.

The report also excludes the cases of tear gas after-effects other than direct injuries caused by tear gas shell blast on any part of the body. Because, about 90 per cent of the injured villagers, interviewed during the surveys reported ailment, from tear gas shell after-effects (like severe eye burns, blurred vision, irritation of the eyes in the sun, skin eruptions! irritations, digestive problems, etc.). The problems were reported to be continuing even after 1-2 months of the 14th March incident (when the survey was conducted), in spite of getting treatment from the medical camps! hospitals. The doctors emphatically opine that exposure to normal

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tear gas cases is not known to cause such eye ailments; they suspect that the tear gas used in Nandigram on 14th March may have contained some lethal toxics.

All these important cases will be covered in the final report.

OBSERVATIONS

The first two phases of the door-to-door field survey revealed striking facts and figures with regard to the 14th March massacre about

- i) various types of injuries suffered by the villagers (male and female);
- ii) different kinds of atrocities on women
- iii) deaths and
- iv) missing persons.

The detail picture of 'injuries' shows that bullet injury was suffered by 41 men and 18 women and rubber bullet injury was found in case of 22 men and 15 women. But the maximum number of injuries was recorded in case of injuries from assault by fibre rod / baton / rifle butt. As many as 108 men and 12 women were victims of such assault.

This is significant because unlike in the cases of bullets, rubber bullets, tear gas shells and bombs, injuries inflicted by fibre rod! baton! rifle butt are deliberate and targeted. This implies that the police and their non-police accomplices unleashed the violence on unarmed villagers with vengeance. And they did it indiscriminately irrespective of age, gender and physical condition (handicap). This will be corroborated by some of the case studies appended with this report.

The survey found two cases of injury from bomb blast both male. These bombs were hurled, according to many eye witness-villagers, from the same direction as that of the tear gas shelling and gun firing. From the bombs that were thrown at the villagers but did not burst, it was evident those were crude bombs, distinct from grenades used by the police and / or paramilitary forces, and were thrown most likely by the non-police accomplices of the police. The injuries from tear gas shell burst' on any part of the body of the villagers were found in case of 14 male and]2

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female members of the village households.

It may be noted that persistent eye burns, moist eyes, loss of visibility and other ophthalmic complaints as well as skin problems and digestion problems as a consequence of exposure to tear gas and /or inhalation of the gas were noticed among about 90 per cent of all the villagers interviewed during the field survey 1-2 months after the incident. But those instances have not been considered in the interim report, though the complaints poured in large numbers.

It is also to be noted that in many instances, the same respondent villager was found to have suffered multiple types of injuries, which makes the picture more grim.

But the most grim and gory pictures of atrocities were recorded to those regarding violence on women. Physical torture in the form of brutal assault with batons, rifle butts and fibre rods and also other kinds of physical force on women was inflicted on 274 women. Worse still, in 17 cases, the women were sexually tortured. This includes brutal strikes in the vaginal zone by batons / rifle butts causing not only serious physical injury but also severe trauma. It is no less an injury and insult to the women than rape.

As many as 11 definite cases of rape had been recorded during the survey, and in 46 cases, modesty of the women were blatantly outraged in different ways. This includes violent molestation, grabbing by force different organs of the female body, pulling the clothings of women and even derobing the women partly or fully. All these are instances of violence that have caused the victims unbearable physical pain and mental trauma as mentioned above. Again, many of the women were subjected to multiple types of torture and assault.

Altogether 14 deaths were recorded during the survey, of which 12 are male. The surveyors came across households reporting 4 cases of missing persons including 1 female, untraced even after one/two months of the incident

It is evident that human rights and civil norms have been blatantly violated in multiple ways. The magnitude of violation will in reality be much more

keeping in view that the facts have been under reported, and unreported in many instances by the villagers. Besides, this interim report presents the record of 2754 households out of a total number of 6858 households (i.e., 40.16 %) of 13 mouzas short listed and identified as 'worst affected'.

SERIOUS ATROCITIES IN FIGURES

Serious Physicanniurv in Nandi2ram on 14th March

SL. No.	Nature of Injury	Male	Female	Total
1.		41	18	59
2.		22	15	37
3.		108	12	120
4.		14	12	26
5.	Bomb Injury	02	-	02

Severe Atrocities on Women on 14th & 15th March

Sl. No.	Nature of Torture	Number
1.	Ph sical Torture	274
2.	Modest Violation	46
3.,	Sexual Torture	17
4.	Ra e	'11

Death on 14th March

~ale	~male	Total
		14

Missin2 since 14th March

~ale	;;male	~tal	└
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SOME EXEMPLARY CASE STUDIES AT A GLANCE

The under mentioned 26 case studies would give one an idea about the ruthless nature and the wide variety of the torture, rape and killing that the people of Nandigram experienced on March 14-15,2007 in the hands of the police and their non-police accomplices.

These are some of the representative case studies at a glance.

Case -I : Missin~

MANAS I MANDAL, 35 years, wife of an agricultural worker Debabrata Mandal, of Sonachura (JL No. 251), has been missing since 14th March '07. At the time of the survey, one month after the fateful day, she could not be traced.

Mother of one daughter (14 years) and two sons (10 years and 8 years), Manasi went to Malpara of Gokulnagar mouza to attend the worship of Lord Gouranga in the morning of 14th March. She got trapped in the sudden violent attack on the huge gathering of unarmed villagers by the police and their non-police accomplices.

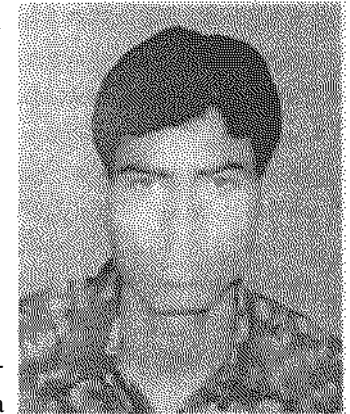
Her husband Debabrata (38 yrs), was also present at the massacre spot. He has still been suffering from irritation of the eyes caused by the heavy tear gas shelling by the police in the 14th morning. He fled in panic and went in hiding, away from home, for three days. On his return to home, he found his wife missing. Still in a state of panic, (at the time of the field survey), he has not filed any complaint nor lodged any missing diary in the police station in fear of further atrocities.

Case-II : Missin~

SUBRATA SAMANTA, 24 years, son of Pranab Samanta, of No.7 Jalpai (JL No. 246), suffered bullet injury during the police shootout of 14th March'07 at Bhangabera, and died. His father Pranab Samanta, elder sister Tapati Samanta, brother-in-law Tapan Samanta and many of

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his friends stand eye-witness of his killing. In front of them, the police dragged his corpse away. As they asked for the body of Subrata, they were beaten up by the police, causing injury to Tapan Samanta. Subsequently, Pranab and the other relatives frantically looked for the corpse of Subrata in the nearby hospital and health centres but could not trace it. Himself a landless labour, Subrata is survived by his wife, Sreemati, and a 12-month old boy, Sasanka. His father is in a state of deep shock and anguish.



Case-III: Death

IMADUL KHAN, 17 years, son of Ashia Bibi and Abdul Daiyan Khan, of 7 No. Jalpai (JL. No. 246) was shot in the back by the police during the shoot out on 14th March 07 at Bhangabera. The bullet pierced through his body and came out through the chest.

He was taken to the Nandigram Block Primary Health Centre by the members of *Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee* and subsequently died. His mother has lost mental balance in shock and his father has become indifferent at the death of their teenaged son, known in the locality as a sharp and intelligent boy and a good sportsman.

Case-IV: Death

PANCHANAN DAS, 48 years, father of Uttam Das of South Keshabpur (JL NO. 242), succumbed to bullet injury on the spot at Malpara, Gokulnagar Mouza in the indiscriminate police firing on the villagers on 14th March'07.

Kamala Das, Panchanan's 65-year old mother, who was present at the gathering of the villagers on that day, collapsed on the body of her dying son and wanted to offer him a sip of water. But the police grabbed her by

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the hand, beat her with a baton and drove her away. Panchanan's wife Bindubala (38 years) was also present at the spot and suffered irritation in the eyes from tear gas shelling besides being beaten up.

The police and their non-police accomplices smuggled the body out of sight and escaped. Five days after his death, the corpse was removed from the morgue of the Tamluk hospital.

Case- V : Death

SHEIKH IMDADUL ISLAM, 17 years, son of Sheikh Manirul Islam and popularly known as Raja in his native village Jadubari Chak (JL No.



201), died with bullet wound on his upper right chest and deep, bleeding chopper wounds on his right thigh and in the middle of his chest.

A higher secondary examinee, Raja, went to Bhangabera in the morning of 14th March '07 with his mother and two elder sisters to join the peaceful gathering of villagers.

In the face of indiscriminate firing on villagers, Raja ran away with a bullet wound from the trouble spot and hid himself in a sunflower field behind the house of a 'CPI(M)' leader Sankar Samanta.

His family members including his brother-in-law Sheikh Abdul Farhad, who were present at the spot, think that Raja ran about 1 km. with the bullet wound to save his life and that he died not from the bullet shot, but from the chopper wounds inflicted by the non-police accomplices accompanying the police.

They suspect that after inflicting the chopper wounds Raja was shot again.

After two days of frantic search Raja's family members found his corpse in the morgue of Tamluk District Hospital at about 1.30 pm on 15th

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March 07. ' His body was first identified by his neighbour Mijanur Rahaman of No. 7 Jalpai. Raja's maternal uncle Shiekh MustakAli accompanied Mijanur.

Case VI: Rape

ROZINA KHATUN; 17 years and ROHIMA KHATUN (15 yrs) are the two daughters of Sheikh Rafikul Islam of No.7 Jalpai (JL No. 246). On 14th March '07, during the police-oon firing and massacre, these two minor girls fell down on the ground while trying to run away from the trouble spot in panic.

They were lifted away and both of them were raped by 5/6 unidentified men. The two girls lay unconscious in a nearby field until the villagers rescued them and brought them back home.

Initially they were being treated at home; later on 18th March they were taken to a medical camp within the village run by an NGO, and were treated for eye ailments caused by tear gas shelling. They are still to come round fully. Moreover, they have not been getting the required medicine regularly.

[Their eldest brother, 21- year old Sheikh Hassan, narrowly escaped bullet hit from rampant police firing on 14th March at Bhangabera, where he had been present in the villager's gathering. Sheikh Hossein (16years), their second eldest brother, was severely beaten up on the hand and leg by the police.]

Case- VII: Rape

NIKOSHI DAS, 24 years, wife of Samir Das, of Sonachura (JL No. 251) suffered mass rape at the time of the massacre by police and their non-police accomplices at Bhangabera in the morning of 14th March '07.

On that day, Nikoshi went to Bhangabera with his mother from her paternal home at Sonachura. She was raped by three policemen, one after the

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other. Later, her mother took her to her paternal home where she spent three days. Because of acute pain in her lower abdomen and her continuing trauma, she was taken to Nandigram Block Primary Health Centre, on 18th March. She was already 10 months pregnant. By the evening of 18th, her first baby to be born died in the hospital. Nikoshi's husband Samir Das, a brick kiln worker, told the surveyors that he had already spent Rs. 5,000/- for Nikoshi's treatment and held the CPI(M) singularly responsible for their terrible experience which has left them extremely panicky.

Case-VIII: Atrocities on Women

ASHIA BIBI, 50 years, wife of Abdul Daiyan Khan, of No.7 Jalpai (JL No. 246), was brutally beaten up by the police and suffered severe spine injury in the 14th March massacre. Her eyes were badly affected in the heavy tear-gas shelling on the same day and her vision is still to be normal. She got herself treated in the outdoor department of Nandigram Block Primary Health Centre and in the health camp organised by the Medical Service Centre, Kolkata.

Case-IX: Atrocities on Women

SULEKHA DAS, 45 years, wife of Rakhai Das, a landless labourer of No. 7 Jalpai became the victim of mass rape on 14th March '07. Sulekha was caught in the chaos following the indiscriminate police-goon combined shoot out on that day.

As she tried to hide herself in a shop at Bhangabera, three policemen grabbed her by force, violently pressed her breasts and raped her. With a prior history of a surgery in her lower abdomen, Sulekha complained to the surveyors of persistent acute pain in her abdomen and breasts at the time of the field survey (after one month of the incident). After the rape, one of the policemen dragged her out of the shop. Completely nude, she rushed into the adjacent shallow pond in shame and fear.

As the police started beating her younger brother-in-law she fell at the feet of the police but they kicked her off into the pond again. Afterwards, she crossed the shallow pond, and ran away.

Sulekha did not tell any one other than the doctors at the voluntary medical camp held in the village a few days later the horrendous experience she had faced.

Case-X: Atrocities on Women

LAKSHMI ARI, 16 years, and her mother Kalpana Ari (40 yrs), of Saudkhali (JL No. 249) were both tortured — and their modesty outraged — by the police and their non-police accomplices on 14th March '07 in the wake of indiscriminate tear gas shelling and firing by them on the unarmed villagers who assembled in the morning and were performing religious rights. They went to the spot to join the villager's gathering.

Both of them had suffered multiple injuries. The police kicked the mother (Kalpana) on her vagina, beat her with fibre rod and outraged the modesty of the daughter (Lakshmi), pressing her breasts hard and hitting her neck violently. Lakshmi was also beaten up all over her body. Both of them have been suffering from acute irritation of the eyes caused by tear gas shelling. A tear gas shell also burst on Kalpana's hand causing injury and acute pain.

Both the mother and the daughter are victims of trauma even after a month had passed (at the time of the survey on 12th March).

Case-XI: Atrocities on Women

SNEHABALA MAITY, 50 years, wife of Manindra Maity of Bhumia para, Gangra Char (JL No. 253), suffered the strong after-effects of tear gas shelling. For 15 days, she had acute irritation in the eyes. She also fell down on the ground when she was running away from the trouble spot in the morning of 14th March 07, in the face of firing and bombing by the police and their non-police accomplices. She suffered grave injuries

an her left knee causing swelling and acute pain. Even after more than two months of the incident (when the surveyors met her on 25th May) the pain persisted and she could not walk at ease, though she got herself treated at the voluntary medical camp organised by an NGO after about 10 days of the incident.

In course of the interview by the surveyors, she gave a brief eye witness account of the 14th March incident. She had seen on that day some unidentified people, covering their face with black cloth / napkin, firing at the unarmed villagers from behind the bushes on the western side of Talpati canal. She also saw with her own eyes small children being killed by the gaons ruthlessly slitting their legs apart. She had also witnessed, she claimed, dead bodies being smuggled out towards Khejuri in Tata Sumo and Maruti cars.

Cases-XII: Atrocities on Women

SAHEBA BIBI, 30 years, wife of Sheikh Mahsin, of No. 7 Jalpai (JL No. 246) is a victim of police atrocity in the 14th March firing, bombing and assault by the police and their non-police accomplices on unarmed villagers.

The police chased Saheba Bibi and a few other women after the tear gas shelling and firing when they, together, were carrying away an unidentified young man with bullet injury on his leg. When the police could not get hold of them and pulled their sari and blouse, they somehow ran away in a near-nude state, putting off their clothing, and diving into a pond in desperation, to save their privacy. Saheba Bibi was also beaten by the police on her waist repeatedly.

Two of her sons, Sheikh Saddam (12 yrs) and Sheikh Samsuddin (9 yrs) were affected by tear gas shelling.

She had witnessed, she claimed, one Naba Samanta killing little children by slitting their throats with a *kukri* and splitting apart their legs.

Case-XIII: Atrocities on Women

MADHURI DHARA, 40 years, daughter-in-law of Subal Chandra Dhara, of No. 7 Jalpai (JL No. 246) suffered eye ailments from her exposure to heavy tear gas shelling by the police and the villagers during the massacre of 14th March '07. The police dragged the sari of Madhuri and tore it apart.

Madhuri claimed that she had seen in her own eyes one Naba Samanta snatch a baby from the lap of its mother (presumably hailing from Khejuri) and killing the child by splitting its legs apart with his two hands ..

Case - XIV. : Atrocities on Women

ANJALI MANDAL, 40 years, wife of Sahadeb Mandal, a landless farmer, from Gakulnagar Daspara (JL No. 241) was beaten by the police with batons on her shoulder and back during the police - gaon atrocity and massacre of unarmed villagers at Gokulnagar. Her 60 year old mother-in-law, Kanak Mandal, was also injured by brickbats thrown at her.

They got themselves treated at a voluntary medical camp where they had to take injections. On 15th March, two party cadres, identified by Anjali as Bablu Bar and Sukdeb Bar, drove her husband Sahadeb out of their residential house beating him up by lathis and throwing abuses and threats at him.

The miscreants also beat up Anjali, mother of three children, ruthlessly with lathis when, to save her life, she took shelter under a scaffolding meant to store paddy. The gaons dragged her out from there, opened the zip of their pants and attempted to rape her. As Anjali tried to resist desperately, the tyrants mauled her breast and hurled uncivilized abuses at her. Then they brutally struck her vagina repeatedly with a rifle butt. She got herself treated at a voluntary medical camp after the incident. Even at the time of the survey (on 10th April), she had a swelled vagina and acute pain, as she confided to a female surveyor.

Case - XV : Atrocities on Women

TAPASI DAS, 26 years, wife of late Hemanta Das, of Gokulnagar Daspara (JL No. 241), suffered bullet injury from indiscriminate rifle shooting and tear gas shelling on unarmed villagers by the police and their non-police accomplices on 14 March '07 at Gokulnagar.

As Tapasi tried to run away from the enveloping tear gas smoke, she was shot at from behind perforating both her urinary passage and anal passage. At the time of the field survey (on 10th April) she was undergoing treatment at the SSKM Hospital in Kolkata where she had already undergone three surgical interventions.

Her family members have been reduced to beggars as they do not have any landed property or any other means to survive.

Case - XVI: Atrocities on Women (at the time of rescue)

KANCHAN MAL, 40 years, wife of Sreepati Mal of Gokulnagar, (JL No. 241), suffered seven bullet shots- four on her chest, three on her left hand - during the massacre and atrocities by the police and their non-police accomplices on 14 March '07 in a gathering of unarmed villagers at Gokulriagar.

She was shot at when she was about to serve drinking water to another Villager, Manmdra Rana, who fell down on the ground having been shot by a bullet. The police fired seven bullets aiming at Kanchan.

At the time of the field survey (on 10th April), one month after the incident Kanchan was still undergoing treatment at the SSKM Hospital in Kolkata after being treated in and transferred from the Tamluk District Hospital.

Case -XVII: Atrocities on Women

MEHEROON BIBI, 40 years, of 7 No. Jalpai (JL No. 246), was beaten brutally by unidentified men in police uniform, wearing *chappals* and sporting red wrist band, when she tried to run away from the spot of

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firing and atrocities on 14th March by the police and their non-police accomplices on the unarmed villagers at Bhangabera.

She was beaten by them severely on her right forearm and waist by rifle butt, and the pain persisted even at the time of survey (on 25th May).

Meheroon Bibi is also an eye witness of the incident when Naba Samanta snatched away a baby, about 2 years old, from the lap of its mother, who was at that time boiling rice in her kitchen. Naba killed the baby splitting apart the legs and threw away the corpse in a nearby pond. The child victim's family belongs to Bhangabera, said Meheroon Bibi.

Case -XVIII: Atrocities on Women

KANAKLATA DAS, 42 years, wife of Rabindranath Das of Saudkhali Char (JL. No.254), was severely beaten up during the massacre by the police and their non-police accomplices on 14th March'07.

Unable to bear the beating for long, she fell unconscious, and remained in that state for two days. The last thing she could remember preceding before going totally unconscious is that she was being carried by what she called the 'cadres' in a car of a political party. Along with her there were 14 others who also went unconscious from beating and torture. The 'cadres' in the car thought they were all dead. Kanaklata complained that those 'dead bodies' were being smuggled out of Nandigram. But thanks to the benevolence of a police woman accompanying them in the car, they could survive and escape.

On return of consciousness, she found herself in the Tamluk District Hospital.

Case- XIX: Atrocities on Women

ARATI BARDI, 25 years, and her husband Bhanu Barui (35 years) of Gokulnagar (JL.No. 241), were both beaten severely by the police on 14th March '07 during the massacre of unarmed villagers by the police and their non-police accomplices.

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The police also hurled obscene words at Arati and opened the zip of their pant with indecent gestures. They tore off her sari, grabbed her by the hair, drowned her in a pond adjacent to the trouble spot and seriously outraged her modesty.

She has also been suffering from the after effects of tear gas exposure as water oozes out of her eyes most of the time and her visibility has fallen.

Case - XX : Atrocities on Men

LAKSHMI KANTA GAYEN, 30 years, son of Ramhari Gayen, of Sonachura (JL. No. 251), suffered bullet injury on the right jaw during the police-goon combined violence on the unarmed peaceful villagers on 14th March at Sonachura.

The bullet injury has damaged all the teeth of Lakshmi kanta and his right eye has also been affected. He can't see properly even after about a month of the incident when the survey was being carried out. On 14th March he was admitted to Nandigram Block primary health centre in the afternoon but on 15th he was transferred to Tamluk District Hospital. He was released on 6th April'07 but has to report regularly to the hospital because of persistent complaints.

Case - XXI: Atrocities on Women

BIJALI DHAPAR, 33 years, wife of Sudam Dhapar of Saudhkhali (JL. No. 248), suffered police-goon torture in the morning of 14th March during the massacre of the unarmed villagers ..

When the police started teargas shelling, Bijali's vision got blurred and she went to the nearby pond to wash her eyes. The police suddenly kicked her into the pond and grabbing her lock of hair drowned her repeatedly into the water. They kept throwing all indecent and provocative abuses at her and pulled her sari to unrobe her.

Desperate to escape, she put off the sari in the water and dived deep and long to rise from water at the other end of the pond. She hid herself in a

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brinjal field where a neighbour noticed her from a distance and threw a napkin at her with which she somehow covered herself and returned home in the evening.

She is an eye-witness to the ruthless killing of little children by the police and their accomplice stamping the kids under their feet. She also saw them to kill the kids brutally splitting apart their tender legs.

Even after two months of the incident (at the time of the survey on 26th May) Bijali has traumatic nightmares as those ghastly scenes of child murder come back to her in the nights.

Case No. XXII: Atrocities on women (at the time of rescue)

JAYASHREE MANDAL, 35 years, wife of Sunil Mandal of Keshabpur (JL No. 242), suffered persistent irritation of the eyes and the skin from heavy teargas shelling by the police and their non-police accomplices on 14th March'07 on an unarmed gathering of the villagers at Gokulnagar. The police also beat her ruthlessly as she tried to carry away on her shoulder, an injured villager Uttam Pal, who was shot at by the police on his knee. She also saw the police spit on the face of Uttam in vengeance. But she was compelled to run away leaving Uttam in the lurch in the face of police attack.

Later, Uttam died. But Jayashree strongly believes that him, after being shot at, was still alive and was subsequently beaten to death by the police.

Case XXIII: Atrocity on Women

BANASREE ACHARYA, 32 years, wife of Chandan Acharya of Keshabpur South (JL No. 142), was hit by two bullets in the lower part of her breasts during the massacre of innocent unarmed villagers by the police and her non-police accomplices on 14th March. She was present at the gathering of the villagers. After the injury she fell unconscious. On regaining consciousness, she found herself in the Nandigram Hospital undergoing treatment. She was subsequently transferred to Tamluk District

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Hospital and SSKM Hospital in Kolkata.

Even after this prolonged treatment, she complained of persistent pain around the spots of bullet injury and associated illness to the surveyors at the time of the survey on 10th April, about one month after the incident.

Case XXIV: Atrocity on Women

PRANATI MAITY, 35 years, wife of Baneshwar Maity of Keshabpur South (JL No.242) suffered bullet injury on the elbow of her right hand during the massacre of innocent unarmed villagers by the police and their non-police accomplices on 14th March at Gokulnagar. That left the three fingers without any sense. She was abused by the aggressors in obscene language.

She was taken to Maheshwarpur Primary Health Centre, and was later transferred to Nadigram Block Primary Health Centre and subsequently taken to Tamluk District Hospital.

Pranati said to the surveyors that she had seen 4 villagers dying on the spot after being hit by bullets and their corpses being carried away by the 'cadres'.

Case - XXV: Atrocities on Men

SUKESH PATRA, 26 years, son of Amrita Patra, of Sonachura Mandal Para (JL No. 251), himself suffered eye ailments from heavy tear gas shelling during the massacre of innocent unarmed villagers by the police and their non-police accomplices on 14th March at Bhangabera. His mother Alpana Patra (60 years) was also similarly affected. They got herself treated at a medical camp in Nandigram organised by a voluntary organization.

They were present at the trouble spot on 14th and saw everything in their own eyes - indiscriminate tear gas shelling, firing, bombing and deaths. Sukesh also spoke of brutal atrocities on women by the police and their non-police accomplices. He is an eye witness of a known villager of the

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locality, Rasbehari Khanra, being shot at in front of him; he carried the injured Rasbehari from the spot to Sonachura Bazar and then arranged his admission to Nandigram Block Primary Hospital, despite himself being badly affected by tear gas.

Case - XXVI: Atrocities on Men (physically handicapped)

PRAJAPATI HAZRA, 62 years, father of Sankar Hazra of Saudkhali, Kalicharanpur (JL No. 248), was beaten mercilessly during the 14th March massacre of innocent unarmed villagers by the police and their non-police accomplices at Sonachura.

Prajapati is old and infirm. He is lame of one leg and, therefore, could not escape from the trouble spot. He went there along with other villagers to join in the community worship of Lord Gouranga and to peacefully protest against the governmental move to forcibly acquire productive land for creating an SEZ.

As he fell down on the ground while trying to run away, he was so heavily beaten by the "cadres" (as emphasized by him) with fibre rods despite being deterred by the police. Four fingers of his right hand were also fractured when he tried to save his head in the face of the assault. He was then dragged to the other side of the Talpati canal and was beaten again indiscriminately until he fell unconscious. For two days, his whereabouts could not be known.

On regaining consciousness, he found himself in the Tamluk District Hospital. But neither the hospital authorities nor the local police station did care to inform his family members about him. He was released from the Hospital on 22nd March after a nine-day stay.

Besides, over and above his own personal suffering, he had witnessed Naba Samanta killing a little girl of the local Sonachura K. S. School by splitting her two legs apart. Seeing this, his head was reeling and he collapsed on the ground.

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