

LETTER

DISAPPEARANCE OF PARTHA MAJUMDAR

The police picked up Partha Majumdar (30), in broad daylight from Banerjee Bagan of Akrapur under Habra PS, North 24-Parganas, West Bengal on 05.09.97.

This was because Partha was a strong eyewitness to the cold-blooded killing of one Suresh Barui who the Police shot, and killed from point blank range even after he surrendered in presence of the villagers. The police fired on Partha too at the scene of action and he received a bullet injury in his left leg.

Actually, from that point of time, the police started fabricating a tale of a fake encounter.

Police had claimed that Suresh was an antisocial. However according to the West Bengal Police, Partha Majumdar had no criminal past whatsoever.

Partha Majumdar was taken from the scene of action with bullet injury to the Habra PS lockup where he was kept for about half an hour.

Next, the police took Partha to the Habra State General Hospital where he was provided medical treatment under the fake name of Ranjit Mandal (who was allegedly a Constable attached to the Habra PS). Partha was again brought to the Habra PS where by then the senior officers were present.

Later, on 05.09.97 itself, Partha was taken to the Barasat District Hospital and admitted there under the fake name of Lakshman Giri.

The next day, on 06.09.97 one Biman Chatterjee, Constable, from the Barasat PS signed the personal bond before releasing Partha from the District Hospital. Reconstruction of these incidents is based on the Hospital records.

Since then, Partha Majumdar has remained untraced.

On 15.09.97 a Habeas Corpus petition was moved as a specific complaint by Dipankar Majumdar (Partha's eldest brother) at the High Court, Calcutta.

On 21.01.98 the West Bengal Human Rights Commission (WBH-RC) was directed to enquire into the matter.

On 31.03.2000 the West Bengal Human Rights Commission (WBH-RC) made a recommendation to West Bengal Government wherein it was stated that Partha Majumdar was arrested by police and kept detained and on and from 6/09/97 evening he has been missing from police custody.

On 15/09/2000 the accused persons submitted their joint anticipatory bail petitions at the learned Barasat District & Sessions Judge Court.

On 12/12/2000 The Sessions Judge of Barasat granted anticipatory bail to all the accused persons.

On 12/01/2004 the Investigation Officer of CID submitted chargesheet against 11 police personnel (1 Additional SP, 2 Inspectors, 3 Sub Inspectors, 4 Constables and a Border Wing Home Guard).

Since 16/12/2004 till date only 6 witnesses (out of 85 witnesses) were examined. No delinquent police officer was suspended nor was arrested. Victim family, witnesses are under continuous threat.

With the support of MASUM, one Revisional Application u/s 319 Cr. P. C. being no CRR 1880/2007 was moved before Calcutta High Court by the victim's family in the month of June, 2007. The matter came up for hearing on 6 August 2007 and it was found the file was missing from the court.

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