FACT SHEET NO: 2013-BGD-001-RAHMAN

Name of victim: Adilur Rahman Khan
Date of incident: 10 August 2013
Place of incident: House No. 35, Road No.117 Gulshan Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Detective Branch of Police Arrests Human Rights Defender Adilur Rahman Khan

Circumstances of the incident:

1. On 10 August 2013, the Detective Branch of Police (DB) arrested Secretary of Odhikar Adilur Rahman Khan at 10:20 p.m.

2. An estimate of ten men in plain clothes identified themselves as members of the DB approached Khan as he was returning from a relative's home with his wife and children. As Khan alighted from his vehicle, the men surrounded him and ushered him toward the white microbus vehicle from United Commercial Bank and a blue and silver Mitsubishi Pajero used by the DB.

3. At the time that Khan was picked up, the DB did not produce an arrest warrant.

4. Fellow Odhikar human rights defenders proceeded to the Gulshan Police Station at 2:00 am on 11 August for information about Khan's arrest but the police denied a case filed against Khan. They further insisted they received information of his arrest from the media. The group then went to the DB office where they were denied entry.

5. DB Deputy Commissioner Masudur Rahman later confirmed that Khan is being held at the DB Headquarters in Mintu Road.

6. According to an interview conducted by the New Age news agency, Deputy Commissioner Rahman confirmed Khan's arrest, citing violations of the Information and Communication Technology Act of 2006 - Section 57 which prohibits the "publication of fake, obscene or defaming information in electronic form".

7. Rahman further commented that Khan distorted facts about about Hefazat-e-Islam and distorted photographs using Photoshop.

8. Odhikar released a fact-finding report on the Hefazat-e-Islam incident on 5-6 May wherein the organization reported the killings of 61 persons in the Shapla Chottor crackdown.

9. The Information Ministry on 10 July 2013 released a letter asking for information and identity of the family of the 61 victims including complete family names and addresses. Odhikar refused to provide the list to the ministry. In an official letter on 17 July 2013, Odhikar noted concern for the security and asserted the protection of the victims' families. The organization requested the creation of an independent impartial commission which can be led by a retired judge. Only in such venue is Odhikar willing to disclose information regarding the 61 victims killed.

Prepared by:

CANDY DIEZ
Research and Documentation Officer
Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances
Rooms 310-311, Philippine Social Science Center Bldg.
Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax: 00-63-2-4546759
Telephone: 00-63-2-4907862

Sources:

Bangladesh National Parliament. (8 October 2006). Information & Communication Technology Act of 2006. Accessed 11 August 2013 at
http://www.prp.org.bd/downloads/ICTAct2006English.pdf

Incident Report from Odhikar Director ASM Nassirudin Elan. Accessed 11 August 2013

Hammadi, Saad. (10 August 2013). DB arrests rights defender Adilur Rahman Khan. Charges pressed against him for fabricating information. *New Age The Outspoken Daily Online Edition.* Accessed 11 August 2013 at http://www.newagebd.com/detail.php?date=2013-08-10&nid=60514#.UgbY8X-Rthb

Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. (10 August 2013). Urgent appeal Arbitrary arrest of Mr. Adilur Rahman Khan, Secretary of Odhikar and a member of OMCT General Assembly. Accessed 11 August 2013 at http://www.omct.org/human-rights-defenders/urgent-interventions/bangladesh/2013/08/d22343/

English Translated Letter from the Ministry of Information regarding the fact finding report 'Assembly of Hefazate Islam Bangladesh and Human Rights Violations'. Accessed 11 August 2013 at http://odhikar.org/documents/2013/FF_Report_2013/Hefazat_e_islam/ Home%20Ministry/Letter%20from%20the%20Ministry%20of%20Information_English_Translated.pdf

Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)