

.....

A senior indigenous woman leader gang raped by land grabbers in Chapainawabganj district

.....



[A protest procession parading through the busy streets of the divisional headquarters of Rajshahi yesterday;] [Photo: Mithun Kumar Orano]

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports that a middle-aged indigenous woman was gang raped by a band of land grabbers belonging to the majority Bengali community in an area called Jinarpur of Gomsthapur upazila under Chapainawabganj district in the north-western part of the country on 4 August, Monday last. The victim holds the position of president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad [National Indigenous Council], Chapainawabganj district unit, and is also a local UP member.

On the day of the incident, at around noon, the victim along with some villagers was working in her crop field, measuring 6 bighas, when a group of 30-35 land grabbers led by Monirul Islam (48), Abul Kalam (45), and Akter (40) swooped on them with sticks and spears. The victim was separated and her companions were forced to leave the corn field. Later, Monirul Islam, Abul Kalam and Akter raped the victim repeatedly.

A case was filed in this connection with the local Gomsthapur Police Station.

Till writing of this report in the evening of 6 August, Wednesday, the local police could arrest two culprits, our local source confirms, further informing that earlier today the local indigenous peoples under the banner of 'Jatiya Adivasi Parishad' and 'Adivasi Chattra Parishad' [Indigenous Student Council] submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner of, and the superintendent of police of, Chapainawabganj district, demanding that the culprits be brought behind bars and handed down exemplary punishments soon.

Meanwhile, Adivasi Chattra Parishad and Jatiya Adivasi Parishad organized a procession and rally in the divisional headquarters of Rajshahi yesterday, 5 August, in protest of the heinous incident. The protest rally was addressed by many leaders from mainstream Bengali society besides the local indigenous leaders, including, to name some, Sohrab Hussain of Somajtantrik Chattra Front, Jewel Khan of Bangladesh Chattra Moitree, Sagar Mankin of Bangladesh Chattra Federation, Sumila Tudu of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad and Mithun Kumar Orano of Adivasi Chattra Parishad.



[The photo shows a partial view of the protesters from a cross section of the society, who took part in the protest rally organized in the Rajshahi divisional headquarters in protest of the heinous rape incident;] [Photo: Mithun Kumar Orano]

Related news links:

<http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2014/08/04/113537#303o0ax3tyz.20841.fa>

[To know more about human rights violations against the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh, you can visit our following website:

<http://cerdc.net/>