



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

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To -

Kolkata, 18 October 2019

The Hon'ble Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh,
9, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Sarani,
Kolkata-7000017.

Sub: Fishing Communities' Security of Livelihood on Border with Bangladesh.

Sir,

This is to bring to your kind notice that poor small scale fishing communities fish in the rivers bordering Bangladesh for their livelihood. On 17th October 2019 three (3) fishers of Jalangi were taken into custody by the Bangladesh border guards while they were fishing in an area under Kakmarichar BSF post allegedly for crossing into Bangladesh. Two of the fishers were sent back by the Bangladesh guards to inform the Indian BSF personnel posted in the area. While the BSF personnel approached the Bangladesh border guards to take back the Indian fisher held by them, the Bangladesh guards allegedly opened fire that killed one BSF personnel and injured another. As a result of the incident fishing has been stopped in the area.

Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF) expresses utmost concern regarding the stoppage of fishing in the area affecting livelihood of thousands of poor fishing community people. DMF also demands immediate release of Sri Pranab Mondal, the fisherman still in the custody of Bangladesh guards.

We urge upon you to intervene in the matter to ensure that -

1. Sri Pranab Mondal, the fisherman in the custody of Bangladesh Border Guard is released;
2. Indian fishers can continue with their livelihood practice of fishing in the waters bordering Bangladesh;
3. Since it is a livelihood practice and involves no illegal activities like smuggling, the fishers should not be arrested or harassed if they unknowingly cross into Bangladesh in future, they are to be only pushed back to India.

In anticipation of an early and effective intervention from your end,

Yours faithfully,

Pradip Chatterjee

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President,

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