

## ENDING IMPUNITY TO ACID VIOLENCE AND RAPE

A Project by

**Odhikar and Action Aid-Bangladesh**

### ***Introduction:***

Even though women in Bangladesh make up roughly 49% of the population, they bear a disproportionately greater share of the country's poverty and are discriminated against in both the public and private sphere. Patriarchal, class based, repressive mind-sets, certain social behaviours, economic dependence, financial insecurity and high illiteracy keep a majority of the women out of an equal position within the family, society, and the overall development process of the country.

### ***Violence against Women***

Gender violence is a major issue in Bangladesh and, unfortunately, one that is neglected by various government agencies. Women's emancipation in the market and economy has, unfortunately increased the violence against them both in the domestic and public sphere<sup>1</sup>. Despite specialised criminal laws for protecting women – the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act, the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Child Marriage Restraint Act, the Acid Crime Control Act, to name a few – instances of violence against women- especially domestic violence and rape – have not decreased in any significant manner. The major reasons why women do not get justice are: barriers to accessing the justice system itself, police corruption, mismanagement of vital evidence, ignorance of the law and a lack of proper medical reports.

The number of women who experience violence – including rape, beatings, torture and murder – is high in impoverished sections of society and particularly women who live in rural areas of Bangladesh, both in domestic situations and outside the home. Acid violence has also become a common form of violence against women in Bangladesh. The first documented case of acid violence was in 1967 when a young girl had acid poured on her by her 'admirer' when her proposal of marriage was refused by the girl's mother<sup>2</sup>.

Year	Reported Acid Attacks On Women	Reported Incidents of Rape
2003	181(out of 337)	1366
2004	191 (out of 307)	896
2005	104 (out of 196)	907
2006	105 (out of 161)	639
2007	96 (out of 161)	459

\* Source; Odhikar Documentation Unit.

### ***Consequences of Rape and Acid Violence:***

<sup>1</sup> Khan, S.R. The Socio Legal Status of Bangali Women in Bangladesh: Implications for Development. The University Press Ltd. 2001. p 122.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on acid violence, see [www.acidsurvivors.org](http://www.acidsurvivors.org), the website of the Acid Survivors Foundation.

Heinous crimes such as rape and acid violence leave deep-rooted scars on the psychological make up of the victims, who are, more often than not, below 25 years of age. A large majority of them are school-going 14 – 18 year olds<sup>3</sup>. Some of the consequences the crime has on them can be itemised as follows:

Their education often comes to an end.

They are house bound for fear of social repercussions, such as blame, which would shame the family as a whole.

The scars, especially in the case of acid violence are permanent and the disfigurement, if any is not something that a young woman can mentally or physically tolerate or come to terms with totally.

Even when the physical pain is gone, the mental anguish remains and Bangladesh is yet to be equipped with crisis centres for acid and rape victims with professional support staff and groups.

The social stigma against these forms of violence is still present, where many still believe the victim committed something to ‘encourage’ the attack upon her.

Due to the fact that in many cases the perpetrator bribes the police to evade arrest or make them refuse to file a case from the family, the victim and her family are again victimised with threats of dire consequences, isolating her even further.

**Taslina (4) is a daughter of Golam Mostafa of village Durgapur in Char Kaua Union of Barisal District. She received serious burn injuries when a group of miscreants threw acid on her at Sadar upazila on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007. Mostafa had a long-standing, land-related dispute with his neighbour Golam Lichu. On the morning of that day when Mostafa and his minor daughter reached Hawlader Bari area, Lichu and his associates threw acid on them, burning the neck and an armpit of the girl severely. Later she was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition. A case was lodge with Kotwali police Station in this connection.**

*\*Report: Barisal District Monitor*

Non-government organisations are playing their part to create awareness against acid violence and the social and legal repercussions it has. The government is now legally bound to do its share, under the 2002 Acid Laws and the Act of 2000. A lot of power has been given to the National Acid Control Council and district level committees and the Nari Shishu Nirjaton Domon Committees, and they must gear up their activities and not wait for NGOs to prompt them into action.

**On 07 May 2007, Taslima Khatun (30), a widow and mother of two, of Baniagati Bhodhroghat village in Kamarkhond, Sirajgonj, was allegedly sexually harassed by one Selim on the false promise that he would marry her. Taslima worked as a maid and after she became pregnant, Selim refused to keep his promise and threatened her to keep silent. Taslima then filed a case against Selim, enraging him and as a result, he flung acid on her. Taslima’s case, filed under the Acid Crime Control Act of 2002, was heard on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007. On that day 4 people gave witness in the court of the District Judge. After taking witness statements the Court adjourned for that day. Later Court gave the next hearing date. The date is 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007.**

*\*Report: Sirajgonj District Monitor*

Despite such laws, why do annual figures on reported incidents of rape and acid violence remain high? There are several reasons for this and for why the law is not being implemented properly. The victims are largely from the poor and underprivileged sections of society, in many cases contrary to the perpetrators. Since the poor struggle for access to justice, acid and rape victims face the same barriers. There is yet to be a separate, modernised Investigation Department with trained investigators in the police force and overburdened police are unable to carry out their investigation duties properly. Furthermore, there is hardly any follow-up done as to whether businesses are procuring licenses for the sale and trade of acid. Many doctors are reluctant to come to court to give evidence. Lack of sufficient judges and judicial officers in the lower courts causes delay in hearings and cases are either not heard on time or remain pending.

**Shilpy, a housewife is in extreme pain and fighting with death in Sher E Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal. Her body has third degree acid burns. Her husband, Nurul Haque, threw acid on her when she failed to comply with his demands of more dowry. After throwing the acid on her, he kept her at home. Shilpy had been married to Nurul Haque of Banaripara Upazilla for two years. After the marriage, the couple moved to Chittagong and lived in Chotopole. Nurul Haque used to sell opium but due to the activity of RAB, his illegal drug trade stopped. Finding no source of income, he pressurised Shilpy into bringing 30,000 taka from her father. Shilpy and her father failed to obtain the money. On the 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, Nurul Haque threw acid on Shilpy and kept her in that horrendous state in the home. Their landlord contacted Shilpy's family by mobile phone and on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, her mother Ranu Begum went to Chittagong and took her daughter to Barisal and the Shere -E- Bangla Medical College Hospital. Nurul Haque is, at present, threatening her family not to file any case. Her mother said that it was difficult to afford the medical treatment due to poverty.**

*\* Report: Barisal District Monitor*

Many of the above findings are applicable to other sectors where lack of implementation of the law causes serious damage in matters pertaining to violence against women such as dowry-related violence.

### ***The Laws***

The Nari-O-Shishu Nirjaton Doman Ain of 2000<sup>4</sup>, the Acid Crime Control Act 2002 and the Acid Control Act 2002 are outcomes of the demand of women's rights organisations that something should be done about curbing the crime of violence against women, despite the fact that appropriate provisions already exist in the Penal Code. Is this proliferation of laws justified and have the special laws been able to curb crimes of violence against women? There has been growing concern that due to the fact that such laws contain harsher punishments, they are 'engendering a culture of violence and subverting the authority of laws in general'<sup>5</sup>. The Act of 2000, for example contains 12 offences that are punishable with death, among which, two are for simply attempting to

<sup>4</sup> Loosely translated: The Suppression of Repression on Women and Children Act 2000.

<sup>5</sup> Malik, S.: *Nari O Shishu Ain and Special Tribunals: Looking at Law and its Implementation*, Draft report for Naripakkha, May 2004, p1.

commit the crime. The Acid Law of 2002 has the death sentence for three offences. The Penal Code has provisions for voluntarily causing hurt and grievous hurt by means of any corrosive substance (S324 and 326) and imposes death penalty or life imprisonment for permanent damage of both eyes and permanent disfiguration of face or head by means of any corrosive substance (S326 A). The Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain 2000 provide for punishment for causing death, grievous hurt, even for trying to throw any burning, corrosive or poisonous substance on any woman or child (S4) and then there are the punishments found in the Acid Crime Control Act 2002, which defines acid as a 'corrosive substance'. The Acts of 2000 and 2002 get priority over the Penal Code, since they are special laws, but confusion arises as to the 'corrosive substance' that was used to perpetrate the crime. If the substance was acid, then the crime comes under the Act of 2002, if it was any other corrosive substance, and the victim was a woman or child, then it comes under the Act of 2000 and if the corrosive substance was not acid and the victim was not female, will it come under the Penal Code? Furthermore, a female victim of acid violence faced further humiliation on paper due to the fact that she compartmentalized in order to award the correct punishment to the offender. If the acid strikes her face, there is one punishment. Another if it strikes her arm and another if the injury is to her reproductive organs.

As for the offence of rape, the Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain 2000 has awarded up to the death sentence for attempt to commit a crime, not clearly defining what amounts to an 'attempt to commit rape' or an 'attempt to cause hurt for dowry'. Incidentally 'Attempt' is defined in the Penal Code, but not in the Act of 2000. 'Very often crimes have been formulated in such a fashion that it creates additional burden on the prosecutor to prove the guilt which, in turn leads to failure of conviction.'<sup>6</sup> The Act of 2000 provides that if death is caused as a result of rape or post rape acts, the sentence is death or life imprisonment. Thus, the prosecution not only has to prove that rape and/or 'rape related' act caused the death of the victim. It is far simpler to prove rape and murder separately in comparison.

Such confusion in the special laws also affects the way trials turn out.

### ***The Project:***

In light of all the above, in March 2007, Odhikar and Action Aid Bangladesh decided to collaborate on an awareness-raising programme on the issues of rape and acid violence and the laws involved- the Acid Crime Control Act, 2002 and the Acid Control Act 2002 and the Nari-o-Shishu Nirjaton Domon Bishesh Bidhan Ain 2000. The project titled "*Ending Impunity to Acid Violence and Rape*" concluded in December 2007. The goal of the project was to 'create an effective and friendly environment of support mechanisms for the victims of acid violence and rape by the relevant state officials'<sup>7</sup>.

Odhikar and Action Aid Bangladesh (AAB) planned the programme with specific purposes in mind – ensuring legal support and justice to victims and monitoring the implementation of the Acid Laws, including encouraging the setting up of DACC where

---

<sup>6</sup> Tania, SJ : *Special Criminal Legislation for Violence*. Bangladesh Journal of Law, Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs. November 2007. p 218.

<sup>7</sup> Odhikar Project concept paper

there are none. In order to do this, Odhikar carried out advocacy work with police, judges, lawyers and local administration about the consequence of the acid and rape victims and explore their cooperation to ensure punishment of the perpetrators. The target groups aimed for were members of the district level acid control committees, local government representatives, police officers, lawyers, journalists, judges/magistrates, doctors, Department of Women Affairs, teachers and NGO leaders.

**A widow, Rasheda Khatun (40) and her daughter Salma Khatun (17) were attacked with acid on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in the middle night at upazila-Ullapara under district Sirajgonj. Being informed by the source on behalf of Odhikar the district monitor visited the spot. Rasheda Khatun (40) said that, on 4<sup>th</sup> December she and her daughter Salma Khatun (17) were sleeping in their house. At about midnight Akter Hossain (35) and Atiul (20) threw something at them through a window and she felt a burning pain. Different part of the bodies were burnt, including Rasheda's face. They were taken to the Sirajgonj Sadar hospital for the treatment but the doctor refused to treat them or give them medical certificates without hard cash. They sold their house and got one and half thousand takas. The doctor gave them a simple certificate and treated them for only a day. The acting OC of Ullapara thana Sayed Shahid Alam went to the place of incident and did not believe the victims' story. With the cooperation of Odhikar the newspaper like Daily Ittefaq, Daily Korotoa published the news. Rashida has resumed treatment From 6 January 2008. To prepare the Charge Sheet the investigation officer of Ullahpara Thana called the witness of the case and later the Officer in charge took their statement. The accused persons continuously threaten the witnesses and victims and have being trying to influence the police.**

*\* Report: Sirajgonj District Monitor*

Odhikar scans 11 newspapers every day, every year and as per newspapers reports of 2004, 2005 and 2006 the districts of Sirajgonj, Satkhira, Khulna and Barisal came up as the most rape and acid prone areas.

The nine-month pilot project covered the following activities:

- To collect information regarding acid and rape cases i.e. number and types of cases, dates and sections of cases, concerned courts and public prosecutors, detailed information on victims and perpetrators.
- To collect lists of acid users and sellers i.e. number and detailed information of those who have sales license and those who do not have any license but sell and use acid.
- Meet and talk with Deputy Commissioner to activate and/ or reorganize (where necessary) the District Acid Control Committee (DACC) and Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Committee (NSNDC) and monitor activities initiated on the basis of the decision made in the meetings organized by the DACC and Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Committee.
- Organise District-wise awareness raising workshops with the collaboration of the Deputy Commissioners.
- Conducting fact-findings into incidents of acid violence and rape.

- To collect information regarding acid and rape cases i.e. number and types of cases, dates and sections of cases, concerned courts and public prosecutors, detailed information on victims and perpetrators.

Odhikar was assisted by its human rights defenders and Action Aid Bangladesh partner organisations in the target Districts of Sirajgonj, Sathkhira, Barisal and Khulna for successfully carrying out these activities. They were given the title of ‘District Monitor’.

***Outcomes of the project:***

Odhikar has been able to organise awareness-raising workshops regarding acid violence, rape and relevant laws in Sathkhira, Sirajgonj and Barisal. The District administrative bodies have been very cooperative, as have been the local law enforcement agencies and local government bodies, including the judiciary, who all sent representatives.

**On the night of 23 June 2007, 19-year-old Baki Begum of Mesaghona Gucchogram in Dumoria of Khulna District was asleep with her mother and siblings in their home. Mesaghona Gusshogram has few inhabitants and was quite isolated. At around 3 am Kabir Gazi entered their room leaving Nazmul Islam Nazu (23) and Karim Tekka (25) outside. He tied Baki’s hands and legs with her veil, all the while threatening her to keep quiet. In her fright she promised him that she would not tell anyone and became senseless as the three men raped her. On 23 June 2007, her mother, Jahanara Begum lodged a First Information Report (FIR) in the Dumuria Police Station, under the Nari-o-Shichu Nirjaton Domon Aid 2000, mentioning the three men by name. The FIR was recorded as case, No. 19, Date. 23 June 2007. Police also started to investigate.**

**The accused persons relatives claimed that they were innocent. They said that on Saturday morning, Baki Begum and her mother told them that one Saiful Islam Lascu raped her. They added that Saiful Islam Lascu has a shrimp farm and he was very influential in the area. The three accused people worked in his farm. They further added that they presumed, the victim and her family received threats from Saiful Islam Lascu and in fear they were blaming them.**

*\* Report: Khulna District Monitor*

**District Workshops organised during the project period.**

<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Name of the venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total Number of participants</b>
Sirajgonj	Shahid Shamsuddin Conference Hall	6 September 2007	70
Sathkhira	Officer’s Club, Sadar	3 November 2007	85
Barisal	Deputy Commissioner’s Conference Hall	22 January 2008	99

**The following recommendations emerged from the workshops:**

### **As preventive measures:**

Meetings with acid sellers must be done on a regular basis.

Observing the acid sales inventories by the relevant government agencies on a periodic basis.

Discussions on the issue of acid violence and its effects should be held in religious and educational institutions.

The source of acid must be strictly maintained and controlled.

Mass awareness regarding the crime of rape and its repercussions must be created by the Government, NGO's and the media. Regular workshops should be arranged involving religious leaders, local community and civil society.

### **After the violence has occurred:**

There must be no negotiation with the perpetrator of acid violence or rape. Judicial punishment must be ensured.

Ensuring quick medication and aid to the victims of rape and attack survivors.

Specialised acid burn units need to be opened in every hospital.

Ensuring the complete and effective implementation of the acid laws.

The rape victim's safety and security must be ensured to prevent further harassment and the press should be more sensitive while reporting rape crimes.

Communities can boycott/ostracise the families of acid-throwers and rapists.

Filing the case of rape as soon as possible.

The investigating officer has to work with dedication, giving free legal aid to the victim/survivor and ensuring quick investigation and sentencing.

Fourteen-year-old Laboni lived with her parents initially in Rajshahi. After their new home was completed in Barisal, they moved there. Her father, Sayed Faruque is a Police Constable of Gauronodhi police station. Apparently, her parents were not on good terms with their neighbours and, after an altercation, it is alleged that Sayed Kabul son of Dhalur Mir and Chandu Sardar son of Hakim Sardar got angry and decided to rape Laboni. On 8 October 2007 Laboni was raped by her cousin Sayed Kabul with whom she allegedly had a love interest. Her parents deny this, however. When the fact finders wanted to talk with Laboni, her mother did not agree. The alleged accused was found after extensive search. After the incident a case was filed in the Gauronodhi thana. The Officer in charge of Gauronodhi thana informed the fact finders that the investigation is continuing.

*\* Report: Barisal District Monitor.*

### **Observations**

In the project areas, it was learnt that in the past when rape victims/acid survivors went to file a case in the police station the Officers in Charge were sometimes reluctant to accept the case. However, at present they take all cases to file. This was probably due to the fact that the local government officials were aware of Odhikar's activities in the project areas and they too are taking a keen interest to combat acid violence and rape. False cases are sometimes filed as a means of harassment. The following observations were made during the project activities:

Society is more sympathetic to such victims/survivors, as awareness of the reasons behind the crime becomes more wide spread.

Previous local government bodies, according to the district monitors were reluctant to cooperate with non-government organisations regarding issues relating to violence against women. However, in the four project areas, the situation has changed.

District Authorities readily propose organising awareness meetings regarding these issues.

**On 11 April 2007 Nasima, a student of class four of Maharajpur Union of Koyra Upazila in Khulna district was raped by her cousin Mowlana Shahbaj Howladar, the superintendent of Kalna Women Madrasa. Nasima's father Abdus Sattar is a labourer of Mongla Sea Port and lived at Baniashanta Union in Dakop Upazila with 5 of his children, while Nasima lived with her aunt Shahida, a childless divorcee. Shahbaj Howladar was Nasim's tutor. Every evening Nasima went to his house for lessons and her aunt collected her at night. On that night Shahida went to collect Nasima from Shahbaj Howladar's house, but he told her that she needed to read some more. He also added that after her studies she would sleep with his mother. Shahbaj Howladar's wife was not at home on that night and he kept the girl with him and raped her. He also threatened Nasima not to disclose the matter. Nasima's private parts were severely injured by the incident. In the morning Nasima went to her aunt and told her the incident. Her aunt brought her to a doctor for treatment but she was not fully cured. Finding no other alternative, on 17 May 2007 her aunt admitted Nasima into Khulna Medical College Hospital. Then the emergency department transferred her to the One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC). She was released from the hospital on 03 June 2007.**

*\* Report: Khulna District Monitor*

### ***Difficulties/Problems Observed***

1. The Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Protirodh Committee is inactive in several places and claims have been made that it does not provide support to the victim.
2. Journalists do not follow up reported cases of acid violence and rape.
3. Witnesses sometimes give false statements.
4. Police officers have been found to be on good terms with perpetrators, which affect the outcome of cases ( e.g. Trishna Sarkar Vs Shohorab Hossain case, Satkhira)
5. Mobile courts regarding acid violence were not found active in Sirajgonj, Khulna and Barisal
6. There is a tendency to file false case to harass rivals.
7. In most cases the concerned authority was not present at the Court and the date of hearing was change several times.
8. Constant delays in trail dates frustrate the victim's family and they often loose interest, due to their inability to afford the costs of frequent travelling to the court.
9. Cases are filed but then the victim's family lose interest due to threats from the perpetrator and his family.
10. Journalists reported incidents of rape on the basis of information received through telephone calls, without actually investigating the matter on site.
11. In most case it was found that the investigation officer did not take the statement of the complainant, even though they claimed they did.
12. By law, a District Acid Control Committee should be formed in every District but of the ones that have been established, all are not activate.
13. It was found that active Committees did not provide health and/or legal support to the victim.

14. In rape cases journalists were in the habit of mentioning the actual name and age of the rape victim.
15. It was found that it is not easy for the rape victim to get health or legal support from the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Damon Committee.
16. It was found several times that the medical officer did not take his responsibilities towards acid and rape victims seriously. Incomplete medical reports were proof of this. This makes the case complicated and often the victim does not get justice.
17. During fact finding the teams were faced with some non-cooperation from investigation officers (i.e. some did not share the real facts of the incident, which were only found on on-spot fact finding).

### ***Conclusion***

It is sincerely hoped that the District Acid Control Committees and the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Committees begin to function as per the mandates of the laws under which they were formed and that necessary measures be taken to repeal or amend the prevalent loopholes and flaws in the Acts of 2000 and 2002 to ensure that ambiguity is kept to a minimum and justice is done. Journalists too must be sensitive in their reporting and follow up a case till its end. Only in that way will awareness be created as to whether justice is being done. False cases should also be made public.

Women make up almost half of our population and their participation in both public and domestic life plays an integral part in the country's development. The issue of violence against women should never take a back seat and must be seen not as a social issue but as a serious legal problem, that affects not only women but also a family and a nation.

*\* For more information regarding this project and its findings, please contact Odhikar or Action Aid-Bangladesh.*

#### **Odhikar**

House No. 65 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Block-E, Road No. 17/A  
Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh  
Tel: 880 2 9888587  
Fax: 880 2 9886208  
Email: [odhikar@citech-bd.com](mailto:odhikar@citech-bd.com)

#### **Action Aid-Bangladesh**

House No. 8, Road No. 136  
Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212,  
Bangladesh  
Tel: 880 2 9894331, 9894216  
Fax: 880 2 8815087  
Email: [samia.ahmed@actionaid.org](mailto:samia.ahmed@actionaid.org)

*ANNEXTURE 1*

**District Acid Control Committee Meetings held during the project period**

<b>SL No</b>	<b>District Name</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total number of meeting</b>
01	Sirajgonj	April	26/4/07	<b>4</b>
		June	19/6/2007	
		September	23/9/2007	
		November	25/11/07	
02	Satkhira	April	18/4/07	<b>8</b>
		May	16/5/07	
		June	19/6/07	
		August	20/8/07	
		September	20/9/07	
		October	24/10/07	
		November	14/11/07	
December	18/12/07			
03	Barisal	May	27/5/07	<b>4</b>
		July	18/7/07	
		September	20/09/07	
		November	11/11/07	
04	Khulna	<b>No information</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Total number of DACC meeting</b>				<b>16</b>

**ANNEXTURE 2**

**Number of Acid Throwing Cases monitored during the 9-month project period**

<b>District</b>	<b>Cases Monitored</b>	<b>Under Trail</b>	<b>Accused sentenced</b>	<b>Accused acquitted</b>	<b>Kind of punishment</b>	<b>Status</b>
Barisal	3	2	None	None	None	
Sirajgonj	2		1	1	In one case perpetrator got 7 years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk. 5000, in default, he will suffer another year more in jail.	In one case investigation is going on.
Satkhira	2	1	None	None		In one case investigation is going on

**Number of Rape Cases monitored during the 9-month project period**

<b>District</b>	<b>Cases Monitored</b>	<b>Under Trail</b>	<b>Accused sentenced</b>	<b>Accused acquitted</b>	<b>Kind of punishment</b>	<b>Status</b>
Barisal	3	2				In one case victim's family withdrew the case and the accused was released
Satkhira	5	3				Two cases were found to be false
Khulna	5	3				In two cases investigation is going on

**ANNEXTURE 3**

**Incidents of Acid throwing from June to December 2007:**

<b>SL No</b>	<b>Victim's Name</b>	<b>Perpetrator's name</b>	<b>Date of the incident, Case number, Court name, Section</b>	<b>Source of the incident</b>	<b>Present Status</b>
01	Taslina Khatun <sup>8</sup> (30) Sharmin (7) Selina (6 months) (children of Taslima Khatun)	Name: 1. Selim (30) 2. Sohel Rana Father's Name: Moidhan Ali Mondol @ Gopal Mastar and Wahed Ali Village: Baniagati Vodhroghat Thana: Kamarkhondh District: Sirajgonj	Date of Incident: 07/05/07 Place of Incident: Village: Baniagati Vodhroghat, Thana: Kamarkhondh Case no: Acid Aporad Domon Ain 2002 Seccession: 5 (kha) /7	Prothom Alo	On 11 <sup>th</sup> December 07 Sirajgonj District Court sentenced accused Selim Reza (35) to 7 years' rigorous imprisonment and also fined him TK 5000, in default, to suffer another year more in jail..
02	Name: Trishna Sarkar Age: 35 Husband's Name: Nimai Sarkar Village: Farhadabad Thana: Ashasuni District: Satkhira	Name: 1. Shorab Hossain and his brother Mosaraf Hossain, 2. Motiar Rahman Moti, 4. Sapan Debnath, 5. Nuru Gain, 6. Abdul Gaffar and 6. Shamol Pal Village: Farhadabad, Thana: Ashasuni District: Satkhira	Date of Incident: 22 July 2007 Place of Incident: Village: Farhadabad, Thana: Ashasuni Case no: Acid Aporad Domon Ain 2002 Seccession: 5 (kha) /7		Police submitted the final report. Swadesh, a local organization appointed Advocate Nazmunnahar Jumur for the victim to put an injunction on the court against the final report. However, Police did not take any steps to arrest the accused as yet. District monitor reported that the next hearing date is 4 January 2008.
03	Taslina (4) Father: Golam Mostafa village: Durgapur Union: Char Kaua District: Barisal	Golam Lichu	Place of incident: Sadar upazila Date Of incident: 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2007	Network partner	A case was lodged with Kotwali police station
04	Abul Hossain (50) Village: Chamta Upazila: Bakergonj, District: Barisal.	Pintu Hawlader, Lalchan Shikdar and others	Place of incident: Chamta Date of incident: 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2007 Bakergonj Thana Case number:02/183, Date: 2/9/07	Local Daily	None have been arrested to date.
05	Shilpy,	Nurul Haque	Date of incident: 27 <sup>th</sup> September, 2007 Place of incident: Chotopol, Chittagong	Local daily Ajker Barta, October 6, 07	Family too poor to file a case against perpetrator
06	Sheikh Faridul Islam Foyez(35),South Shafipur Upazila-Devhata, District – Satkhira	Sheikh Abdur Rajjak (50), Tauhidul Islam (52) and Sheikh Maruf Hossain (50).	Date of incident: 5 October 2007.	Thana	Victim's wife filed a case on 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2007 in Devhata thana. Investigation is going on. No one has been arrested yet.
07	Rasheda Khatun (40), Salma Khatun	Akter Hossain (35) and Atiul (20)	Date of incident: 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2007 Place	Daily Shmokal	To prepare the Charge Sheet the investigation officer of

(17)		of incident: upazila-Ullapara District: Sirajgong		Ullahpara Thana summoned the plaintiff and witness of the case and later Officer in charge took their statement. Police tell Odhikar that, the Charge Sheet will be submitted very soon.
------	--	---	--	--

### **Incidents of Rape from June to December 2007:**

SL No	Victim's Name and Address	Perpetrator's name and Address	Date of the incident, Case number, Court name, Section	Source of the incident	Present Status
01	Nasima (7) Upazila: Koira District: Khulna	Mowlana Shahbaj Howladar	Date of incident: 11 April 2007 Place of incident: Maharajpur Union On 15 May 2007 Nasima's father Abdus Sattar filed a complaint in the Women and Children Oppression Court situated in Khulna. The case is 229/07. The date of first hearing of the case was on 17 July 2007.	The Daily Jugantor	On 20 <sup>th</sup> August the perpetrator tried to kidnap Nasima from her house. She is now in safe custody in Khulna Central Jail. Nasima's father has taken measures to file a case against the perpetrators. The accused Shahabaj Mollah fled from the locality.
02	Name: Baki Begum Age: 19 Mother's Name: Jahanara Village: Mesaghona Gushhogram Union: Khonia Thana: Dumoria District: Khulna	1. Kabir Gaji (24), 2. Najmul Islam Naju (23) 3. Abdul Karim Tekka (25) Union: Khonia Thana: Dumoria District: Khulna	Date of Incident: 23/06/07 Place of Incident: Village: Mesaghona Guchogram, Union: Khonia Relevant Section: 19 of the Nari O Sishu Nirjaton Domon Ain 2000 (Amended on 2003)		In this regard, on 23 June 2007, Jahanara Begum lodged a First Information Report (FIR) in the Dumuria Police Station. In the FIR she mentioned the names of the three men. The FIR was recorded as case, No. 19, Date. 23 June 2007. Police also started to investigate.
03	Name: Nilufar Yasmin (18) Father's Name: Ashkar Ali Gaji (47). Mother's Name: Taslima Begum (40). Village: Harotdhaha Union: Vhomra Upazila: Sodor	Abdur Rahim Mintu (26).	Date of incident: 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2007 Case no-19/07. Date: 8/07/07 Section-7(1) Nari O Sishu Nirjaton Domon Ain 2000 (Amendment-2003).  Investigation Officer (IO): Kumkum Begum		The charge sheet against the rapist was given on 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2007

	District: Satkhira.				
04	A young girl (17) Village: Chandanimahar Upazila: Digholia District: Khulna	Nawser, Mohiuddin and 4 others	Date of incident: 10 July 07 Police recorded the FIR as a case, Case no: 07, Date: 17 July 2007.	Local daily Purbanchol	
05	Sharifa Khatun (30) Husband: Abbas Ali	Shawkot Ali Khan (48), Azizur Rahman (35) and Abdus Sattar Morol	Place of incident: Satkhira, Date of incident: 25 July 2007 Case number: 16/04 under Nari o Shisu Nirjatan Domon Ain 2000 (Amended in 2003).		It was a staged incident.
06	Ayesha Begum (18) Village: Shovnali under Ashashuni Police Station in Satkhira district	Sheikh Monirul Islam (20) son of Md. Golam Mustofa, village: Teligati Rajapur (beside the house of Sabina Member), Police Station: Khanjahan Ali. Rajib (18) son of Dulal Howladar and Liton (20) son of Mustofa both from the village Arothgata Kaowrapara, Police Station: Doulotpur, District: Khulna	Place of incident: Teligati area in Khan Jahan Ali Police Station, Date of incident: 09 August 2007 Thana: Khan Jahan Ali Police Station Section 9 (3), (4) (kha) of Women and Children Repression Act 2000 (Amendment 2003).		
07	Jannatul Ferdous	Mukul (35) and his two cohorts	Place of incident: Boikali Yusuf School area Thana: Khalispur Police Station Section 9 (3) 4 (kha) of Women and Children Oppression Act 2000 (Amended 2003).		The incident was published in the local newspapers. Samaj Progati Sangstha requested the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights to forward the case. Preliminary investigation was made on behalf of the organization. Samaj Progati Sangstha was also helping the victim and the victim's family.
08	Name: Mira Akhter Age: 4 Father's Name: Farukh Hossain (28) Mother's Name: Ferdousi Begum (24) Village: Dhandia Krisnanagar Tala Upazaila Police station: Patkhelgata District: Satkhira	Name: Rakhil Saha (13) Father's Name: Uttam Saha Village: Dhandia Krisnanagar Tala Upazaila Police station: Patkhelgata District: Satkhira.	Date of Incident: 21 September 2007 Place of Incident: Village: Dhandia Krisnanagar at Tala Upazaila under Patkhelgata Police Station Case no: 06 Date: 21/09/07 Section 9(1) of Women and Children Oppression Act 2000	Local daily Loksomaj and Thana	Investigation Officer Humayun Kabir submitted the charge sheet against the rapist on 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2007. The number is CS-139/07. The investigation officer said that since the accused is a minor the court may be flexible.
09	Khaleda (6)	Rakib (20)	Date of incident: 18	Onghikar,	Khaleda's mother withdrew

	Village: Alekandha District: Barisal		November 2007 A case filed on 22 November 2007. The case number was numbered 35.	member organization	the case she filed and the accused, Rakib was released.
10	Laboni (14) Father: Sayed Faruque Village: Sawra, Union- Chadshi, under Gauronodhi thana in Barisal district.	Sayed Kabul	Date of incident: 8 October 2007	Daily Jugantor, 8 October, 07	After the incident a case was filed in the Gauronodhi thana. The Officer in charge of Gauronodhi thana said the investigation is going on. The written complaint against the perpetrators will be sent to the court for their arrest.
11	A minor girl (11) Village: Rumatoli District: Barisal	Alamin Mollah (22)	Place of incident: Rumatoli Date of incident: 18 November 2007.	Local daily Motobad, 29 December 2007	Giash Uddin, a police Sub- Inspector said that after receiving the medical report from On Stop Crisis Centre, Barisal all necessary steps will be taken
12	Selina Khatun (22) Upazila: Tala District: Satkhira	Mohammad Ali (25) son of Sobhan Ali Ansary	Place of incident: Nogorgata Chukarkanda Date of incident: 9 November, 07 The case number is 02/07, Date: 11/11/07, Section 9(1) of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain 2000		Police have submitted the Charge Sheet of the case on 30 November 2007. The Charge Sheet number is 152/07, Section 9(1) under Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Domon Ain 2000 and have arrested Mohammed Ali
13	House wife (22)		Date of incident: 16 June Place: Satkhira (Kolaroa)	Shomokal 18 June 2007	After fact finding it was found to be a false report by journalist