

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
THIRD CYCLE- INDIA
STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSION

This submission is from **Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM)**; a human rights organization working on custodial torture, extra judicial execution, livelihood, citizenry rights at West Bengal, a province of India.

Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM) took shape in 1997, just before the 50th Anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. From the very beginning, organization pinpointed its initiatives in tortures committed by police or other armed state agencies. MASUM regularly getting intimations of torture and other human rights violation incidents from various sources and after doing Fact Findings on these intimations, prepare reports or complaints addressing various human rights institutions. More than thousand such complaints have been made to the national human rights institutions, international human rights bodies and UN special mandates. ^{1 2 3}

In most of these cases we have filed complaints to appropriate authorities with facts and related information, but sorry to say that no authorities paid any heed to our complaints till 2006, but our continuous efforts are paying now, thus we are now acknowledged often by them but proper redressal still a distant dream. MASUM made more than thousands complaints to HRIs and authorities, unheeded and unattended but in 18, though a miniscule number, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and line department awarded financial compensations to the victims of torture and in case of extra judicial killings, to next of the kin. Regarding all these incidents; MASUM is providing legal and medical supports to the victims of torture and families of deceased; extra judicially killed by state actors, supported by UNVFVT. Hence, the primary objective of the organization is to rehabilitate victims of torture and their family members by extending legal, medical, psychological and social support and challenge the prevalence of impunity by strengthening the voice of victims with civil society concern.

MASUM started its journey with addressing the custodial torture and its subsequent ramification, further extended its activities to address other forms of human rights violations and other sphere of democracy and deliverances meant for marginalized and in this process now addressing the perennial problem of river erosion and its affect on the populace of Murshidabad district, citizenry rights of the erstwhile enclave dwellers and violence in Indo-Bangladesh border resulting increase number of child marriage.

Apart from these activities, MASUM is vigorously campaigning for total abolishment of capital punishment, against continuance of impunity and establishment of rule of law, strengthening of democratic space/process/ institutions and over all equality.

(Kirty Roy)

Secretary

¹ <http://www.redress.org/downloads/masum-report-submission-to-srt-16-july-2015.pdf>

² <http://www.redress.org/downloads/annual-reports/masum-redress-submission-srt-24-october-2013.pdf>

³ <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/253175.pdf>