



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

(As long as poverty, injustice & inequality exist in this world, none of us can truly rest')

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<http://www.peoplesparticipation.org>

Ref No.....

Dated.....

To

The Chairperson

National Human Rights Commission

ManavAdhikar Bhawan Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi- 110023

cr.nhrc@nic.in

Subject: Filing Complaint on alleged harassment of women in Sandeshkhali of North 24 Parganas District, West Bengal

Sir/Madam,

I take this opportunity to introduce **People's Participation** – a small, smart and well experienced development organization that works for the deprived communities in different parts of West Bengal, India for the last nineteen years. We also work in partnership with local stakeholders.

Now, we wish to file a complaint against violation of human rights of rural deprived people, especially women in Sandeshkhali, North 24 Pgs District, West Bengal in recent time. All three being accused of such crimes – Shahjahan, Uttam Sardar and Sibul Hazra – are members of the TMC-run Zilla Parishad.

We have been grossly disappointed after going through several newspapers and electronic media reporting where it has been reported that a good number of ladies in Sandeshkhali, North 24 Parganas have been sexually assaulted at gun points. It has been also alleged in the newspaper namely, Anandabazar, Indian Express, and many other newspapers including different electronic media on 9th February, 2024 as well as 10th February, 2024 that the tribal lands were taken away forcibly in violation of all legal formalities and laws.

Local women said that local girls and women are terrified of attention from them. "Any woman found attractive by a TMC leader would be brought to the party office and leaders would take turns to rape her. Your caste or religion won't matter". Many have left the area, they said. And some other survivors have indeed been abandoned by their families.

Local women in her mid-fifties said that in 2021, the women of the area sent a mass petition detailing all the cases of rape and torture of local women to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee by post. "Things did not improve. Police started threatening us for acting smart," they added.

"For the past few years, we're robbed of our dignity. When the men in our families protested, TMC cadres and police mercilessly beat them up. Farmland was captured without farmers' consent and turned into fisheries. No one got any compensation. Even allowances and money for working for government projects were forcibly taken away from us," they said.

Another local said that rising awareness of how the state government is “looting” people’s money is why internet has been shut down. “Youth are able to look up how Shahjahan Sheikh has claimed to have done work worth crores which have come to naught,” they said.

“Young boys of 15-16 years were lured with alcohol. The biker gang of the party picked up our children from school, gave them guns, and asked them to take part in violence. The situation has worsened since 2018. They looted money, land and our women’s honour,” the villagers claimed. But the protests that have taken place since February 8th, 2024 are not directly linked to the tussle between state and Union government. Instead, they concern hundreds women who have alleged that top TMC leaders in the area have unleashed a ‘reign of terror’ including consistent sexual harassment and sexual assault against local women.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We wish to follow up with you in this regard and answer any questions you might have, to discuss the merits of our prayer. Should you have any questions in the interim, please feel free to contact Dipankar Mitra, Secretary, 91+9339126219; peoplesparticipation@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Dipankar Mitra
People’s Participation

N.B: Please acknowledge this official complain

[Acknowledge Letter Received from NHRC on 29.02.2024](#)

**Case no. 390/25/15/2024-WC has been registered on Complaint regarding
WOMEN OF SANDESHKHALI**

Inbox



nhrc.india@nic.in [via](#) nic.in

to PEOPLESPARTICIPATION

5:43 PM
(3 hours ago)

NHRC has registered a case no. 390/25/15/2024-WC on the complaint regarding WOMEN OF SANDESHKHALI. You may use this registration number for future reference. - NHRC, New Delhi Please do not reply or send any email at nhrc.india@nic.in