# KHELAIN BENGAL 2021

**SHOCKING GROUND STORIES** 

GIA

Group of Intellectuals & Academicians (GIA)

#### A Fact finding report on

## The Violated women of West Bengal Use of Gender Violence & Sexual Assault as a tool of Political Control

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The views expressed in this report are only those of the authors and do not represent the views of their respective institutions. Institutional affiliations are given purely for purposes of identification.

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#### 1 Preface

This report originated in the concern over the news of large scale gender violence in the run up to and aftermath of the results of the State Assembly elections in West Bengal.

While the Social media erupted with various reports on the violence, it was not possible to establish facts in the high decibel highway of Social Media(SM).

However what was clear was that systemic violence was being perpetrated against political opponents by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) cadre. It was primarily being used against Bharatiya Janta Party(BJP) workers and voters. What was also certain was that this large scale targeted violence was extremely devastating for women and marginal communities in West Bengal.

When conflicting media reports cast a smokescreen on any incident, it becomes impossible to make sense or believe any of the news that emerges therein.

Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA) decided to collect data from ground zero.

Visiting West Bengal was on cards.

However due to COVID and the fact that even Union Ministers were brutally attacked by TMC mobs, we decided to use online platforms to collect data.

India has a vibrant tradition of fact-finding exercises conducted by independent civil-rights groups.

This Fact finding report is an attempt to discharge our duty as responsible citizens of democratic India.

#### **Executive Summary**

We provide a summary of our findings below. We elaborate on these conclusions in the main text of the report.

#### **Our Key findings are as follows:**

## 1. <u>Victims primarily belong to very marginal sections of</u> <u>Hindu society that are BJP supporters or voters</u>

## 2. The TMC model of violence to win elections and retain power was at play in State Assembly elections 2021

In the past since 2011, the TMC has mirrored the Left formula of not allowing an alternate political voice to emerge in the State. This has been done through intimidation at local level elections as well as regular intimidation targeted at political rivals.

#### 3. Presence of an Extortion Racket by the TMC

The main modus operandi of the TMC is to debilitate political opponents by targeting their bodies, economic resources and their psychological wellbeing. This involves physical and sexual attacks, destruction of living spaces, property and means of production however small they are. Thus shops will be taken over and released back only after payment of a hefty amount to the local TMC cadre. This brings the political opponents to their knees. Almost all our respondents mentioned having to pay up large amounts of extortion money to TMC after the election results came out.

#### 4. Gendered violence

Women have been singled out for most horrific terror and intimidation. Our data reveals many incidents of grievous bodily harm, threat of rape, stripping and sexual violence. The streets were sites of dehumanization of women of all ages. The horror is compounded by most of the victims being from marginal SC-ST communities or from Below Poverty Line (BPL)and extremely fragile economic sections in West Bengal. While the TMC party high command and leaders belong to privileged backgrounds and did not face the violence overtly and covertly supported by them, the most marginal communities suffered.

#### 5. Violence against men also ultimately affects women

In many of the cases we studied the menfolk have been beaten and intimidated to run away. This has left the women extremely vulnerable and open to violence at all levels.

## 6. <u>Identity loot and starvation due to forfeiting ration</u> cards till they are forced into joining TMC

Most of the persons we spoke to said that their Ration and Aadhar cards have been stolen by the TMC rendering them identity- less. Not only is this a basic Human rights violation but also leads to starvation with families unable to procure food. The ultimate aim of this is also to bring the political opponents on knees.

## 7. <u>In many places children have witnessed extreme</u> horrific violence

Children of affected victims have been exposed to horrific violence. They are also left vulnerable by mothers getting injured and fathers having to run away leaving the children weak and vulnerable. With families unable to procure food due to snatching away of ration card by TMC cadre children and women are at a serious risk of starvation. Mothers have also been brutalized threatened and silenced by threatening them that their children would be murdered.

# 8. State machinery has been used for violence against the political opponent thus this bears the marks of a pogrom.

Though election rhetoric is an accepted fact in India however when an incumbent Chief Minister of West Bengal makes statement threatening post poll violence, it becomes a matter of severe concern. This indicates pre-planning and severe compromise of state institutions which have a constitutional obligation to protect all citizens, even political opponents.

One such statement was made by Mamata Banerjee on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Nandigram.

Almost all our respondents mentioned the presence of threat and violence during the whole process of the elections.

All of the above are a serious breach of basic human rights and the right to life of the affected victims. The terror and intimidation by TMC cadre of most vulnerable sections of women and children is a matter of serious concern.

#### **Recommendations:**

- 1. It should be ensured that there is proper registration of complaints under relevant sections of law.
- 2. Special care should be taken while registration of cases of sexual assault, rape, attempt to rape, offences against modesty of women and also regarding offences against persons belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, children etc. Women police officer should be present when such cases are dealt with.
- 3. The accused persons should be arrested without delay, so that they cannot threaten the witnesses or tamper the evidence or interfere with the investigation.
- 4. An SIT under a retired Supreme Court judge may be appointed for a free and fair investigation.
- 5. Fast track courts should be established for speedy justice in these cases.
- 6. NIA investigation is sought in these matters as the gruesome violence may have cross border terror angle.
- 7. The victims of this violence should be compensated and rehabilitated.
- 8. The damage to public property may be recovered from those who were responsible for the said violence.

- 9. Action should be taken against the officers in police as well as administration who failed to discharge their duty in accordance with the rules/law.
- 10. All steps should be ensured to see that government in the state is carried on in accordance with the Constitution of India and steps should be taken to protect the state against any internal disturbance.

#### **Recommendations regarding Commissions:**

- 1. The National Human Rights Commission should take cognizance of the violence in West Bengal and either Suo moto or on the complaints of the victims, initiate an enquiry; summon the DG Police and Chief Secretary of West Bengal and issue necessary directions for registration of cases, compensation and rehabilitation of the victims and their families.
- 2. The National Commission for Women in the cases relating to rape, sexual assault, outraging the modesty of women and other such cases in West Bengal either Suo moto or on the complaint of the victim or their representative initiate an enquiry; summon the DG Police and Chief Secretary and issue necessary directions for registration of cases, compensation and rehabilitation of the victims and their families
- 3. The Nation Commission for Scheduled Castes, in the cases relating to violence and atrocities against persons belonging to Scheduled Caste either Suo moto or on the complaints of the

victims, initiate an enquiry; summons the DG Police and Chief Secretary of West Bengal and issue necessary directions for registration of cases, compensation and rehabilitation of the victims and their families.

- 4. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribe, in cases relating to violence and atrocities against persons belonging to Scheduled Tribe either Suo moto or on the complaints of the victims, initiate an enquiry; summons the DG Police and Chief Secretary of West Bengal and issue necessary directions for registration of cases, compensation and rehabilitation of the victims and their families.
- 5. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, in cases relating to violence and atrocities against children, either Suo moto or on the complaints of the victims, initiate an enquiry: summon the DG Police and Chief Secretary of West Bengal and issue necessary directions for registration of cases, compensation and rehabilitation of the victims and their families.
- 6. A larger ground study of victims and data collection should be undertaken by the Commissions.

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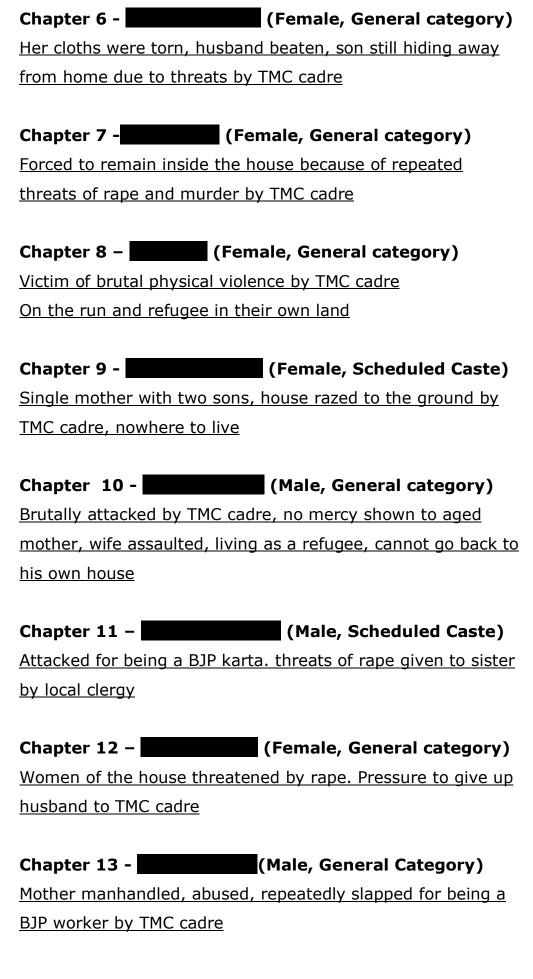
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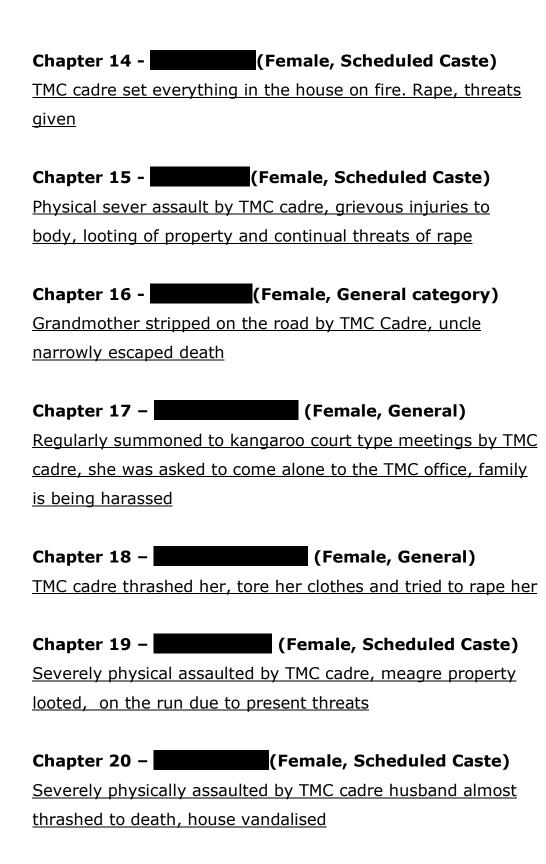
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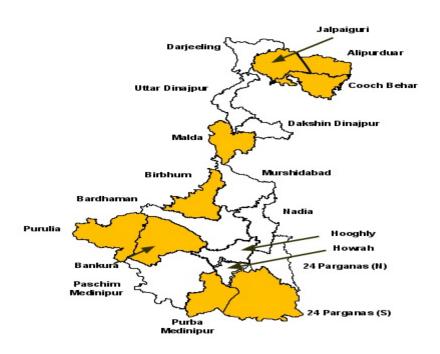
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#### A. Introduction

#### A Fact finding report on Elections in West Bengal 2021

The Violated women of West Bengal: Use of Gender Violence & Sexual Assault as a tool of Political Control.



#### **West Bengal**

(representational image only, sourced from internet)

The entire process of State Assembly Elections took place in West Bengal from 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021 in a bitterly fought two corner contest between the ruling Trinamool Congress(TMC) and the Bharatiya Janta Party(BJP). On 2<sup>nd</sup>May,2021, results were announced with the TMC winning 213 and BJP getting 77 seats. Almost immediately West Bengal launched into brutal violence with BJP party workers and voters being the primary target (in some places Congress and Left cadre was also under attack).

Comrade Kakoli Khetrapal, a 52-year-old CPI(M) worker from Nabagram in East Burdwan's Jamalpur was hacked to death. TMC cadre, celebrating their election victory, allegedly entered her home while she was cooking and attacked her with a sharp weapon. The ongoing violence has shaken all the parties in opposition to TMC. CPI-M politburo member Subhashini Ali has condemned the ongoing West Bengal violence and said that "no justice can be expected" in the present dispensation. Seeing the gruesome violence on left cadre, Sitaram Yechury also tweeted about this violence.

News of this violence slowly started trickling in from social media. Logically speaking, the TMC had won the elections and was forming the government in West Bengal. This gut wrenching violence that was being reported seemed illogical and totally inexplicable.

A deeper study and fact finding was indicated.

Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA) interacted and spoke to many affected persons on ground. This is a report of the fact finding on election violence in West Bengal.

Table 1 :List of persons interviewed

S.No.	Name	Age(years), Gender F/M	Caste	Constituency/Village
1		50,F	SC	
2		16,F	SC	
1		29,F	ST	
2		30,F	Gen	
3		24,F		
4		43,F	Gen	
5		20,F	Gen	
6		20,F	Gen	
7		45,F	SC	
8		34,M		
9		22,M	SC	
10		36,F	Gen	
11		19,M	Gen	
12		41,F	SC	
13		23,F	SC	
14		20,F	Gen	
15		25,F	Gen	
16		30,F	Gen	
17		50,F	SC	
18		26,F	SC	

From our interactions with the affected persons, we realized that to call the events in West Bengal political violence was to give it a legitimacy that the brutality does not deserve. The violence in West Bengal is best described as a 'pogrom' and a 'political purge', which is targeted violence against the opponents.

The model of this violence is outlined herein.

#### The TMC Model of violence in West Bengal

Political violence in Bengal post the assembly election results 2021 has touched new heights and fundamentally strikes at the very roots of the process of electoral democracy. For the TMC, West Bengal is space or lebensraum that cannot be shared or ceded to any other political party. The main objective of this model is preserving the TMC space, eliminating any other political presence in the state of West Bengal. This is the model used by the TMC to wrest power from the Left Front and is ironically a classic Communist strategy to eliminate intra party political rivals. It was implemented with cold blooded precision in USSR and now in North Korea and China and mirrored in Nazi Germany. In USSR the killing and imprisonment started with members of the Bolshevik party, political officials and military members. Then the purge expanded to include peasants, ethnic minorities, artists, scientists, intellects, writers, foreigners and ordinary citizens. Essentially, anyone who towed a different political line was not safe from danger.

Similarly, inherent in the TMC violence, the core aim is long term manipulation and systematic elimination of electoral challenge through mob violence on any other political party.

In West Bengal this aim of elimination of political opponents is achieved through the use of several tools. There is an extortion economy intertwined with the political violence which targets the non TMC ground level workers.

The tools of intimidation are:

- crude bomb attacks
- mob lynching

- property damage
- murder
- sexual violence
- forcing rape victims into silence
- threatening other victims into silence
- forcing large number of villagers out of their homes
- Identity loot and Starvation due to forfeiting ration cards till they are forced into joining TMC

Thus, the model is of State sponsored systematic pogrom of political opposition. The ultimate aim of the entire model is to ensure that political opponents leave the other party and join the Trinamool Congress. In the past the 'Laal TMC' in West Bengal are the Left cadre who were forced to join the TMC as the left's political influence waned in the State.

The TMC model of political pogrom of opponents is not new but rather has been perfected over the years leading to the win of TMC over the Left in 2011 and was the strategy used to eliminate the Left Front completely in 2016.

In the present round of political violence in West Bengal the victims disproportionately belong to the Scheduled Castes and thus this is also in the nature of a political pogrom targeted against marginalized sections of Indian society.

Ground conditions in West Bengal are such that it is not possible for any law-abiding citizen to travel to the State. Most of the victims we spoke to have described the total control of the TMC over State agencies of law enforcement and the judiciary. Under such conditions we spoke to victims over online platforms and are also in places concealing their identities in the public domain.

The targeted political violence in West Bengal have been particularly brutal for women who have faced bodily and sexual violence in many forms. These have ranged from threats of gang-rape, assault, sexual assault, stripping. Murder of male members including husbands and fathers by the TMC cadre have rendered them socially and economically vulnerable. Extortion and destruction of economic assets of the family have rendered them unable to feed their children and families. Displacement has led to loss of home. This compounded tragedy has become worse due to the conditions of the Pandemic and the total militarization of State machinery by the TMC. They victims see no hope for justice or for rehabilitation.

#### **B.** Testimonies of victims

#### Chapter 1

This is the story of Bengals shameful Rape of a grandmother because she supported the BJP. She is a Scheduled Caste, was raped in front of her grandson and poisoned by TMC cadre.

Name of the Victim	
Brief of Victim	Belongs to Scheduled Caste
	Around 50 years of age
	She lives with Daughter,
	Son in law
	and 6 years old grandson
Location of incident	
	Medinapur
Date of Incident	5 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021

The victim belongs to Schedule Caste community

shares the gruesome and horrific story of his motherin-law who lives with him, his wife and 6 year old son were being harassed and threatened repeatedly as they were in support of BJP. Due to this was in constant fear for her family. She had this apprehension that TMC cadre might kill her son in law and outrage the modesty of her daughter or even rape her and destroy her life. For the very same reason she sent both of them to

FIR Lodged: 05/05/21; FIR No. U/S IPC 443/376/323/30

son's In-laws place. The poor lady who lost her husband few years back didn't know what she was fearing constantly was about to happen with herself. After sending her son in law and daughter away she was alone with her 6 yr old grandson in the house.

This is the sordid tale of the Rape of this grandmother in Bengal in own words:

In the night of 4<sup>th</sup> May around 12:30 AM

and many others came to my mother-in-laws house.

They started abusing her and asked to open the door.

When she didn't comply with their demands, they apparently detonated a few crude bombs outside the house and kicked down the door.

This was not an impulsive crime they had this planned with a calm mind.

Recce had been done to execute this since many days, just because we supported a different Party.

One day before the incident around 150 TMC workers had surrounded our house and threatened us with dire consequences. So violent was their attack that (6 years) hid under the cot trembling with fear.

Once inside the house TMC goons looted each and everything including gold and cash. Property title documents were also looted.

	and	others	brutally	raped		
They didn't stop there	and					
					th	ree of
them held her down a	after	rape an	d forcefu	lly shov	ed pois	son in
her mouth.						

They knew that the (6 years) was inside the house and witness to this unimaginable heinous crime.

They had made up their mind to kill him too but fortunately they were unable to find him.

As I came to know about the incident I reached the spot and sent the kid back home immediately.

I carried my mother-in-law to the nearest Block hospital where they washed her gave some treatment and referred her to the District hospital.

But after reaching the district hospital there was no beds available due to COVID-19.

Fearing for her life I immediately admitted her to a nursing home but it was not equipped enough to treat her.

As her condition worsened I could admit her to Apollo, Kolkata only after 8 days.

FIR was also lodged after the intervention of the victims daughter(my wife) as the police refused to entertain me.

The Police was not proactive and were in no mood to properly do the basic protocols which are required in a case of Rape and attempted Murder.

I vehemently asked them to do Rape test but they refused. The MLC report was filed by Apollo hospital and there also I pleaded to police to get rape test done.

The MLC clearly shows the sexual assault and oral poising. She is still in hospital.

The rapists Sheikh	
	and other TMC goons
are still trying to get their hands on	(6years) to eliminate
him.	

His life is in real danger. They might even try to kill my mother in law. Seven arrests including those named have been done so far in this case.

#### **Copy of FIR**

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#### Chapter 2

A seventeen year school girl who belongs to the Scheduled Caste was gang- raped by TMC cadre because her family is a BJP supporter. The family is not allowed to meet their daughter and faces compounded harassment by law enforcement

Name of the Victim	
Brief of Victim	17 years old
	She belongs to Scheduled Caste
	category
	lives with family
Location of incident	
Date of Incident	9 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021

FIR Lodged: 10/5/21; FIR No: U/S- 376-D/506 IPC 4/6/8 POCSO Act. The Victim belongs to Scheduled Caste community.

"Hindu ki bachchi...Chal humara Party aaya hai.. ab tujhe Dekh lete hain" These were the fanatic sentences of and one unidentified male after which all four of them committed heinous and gruesome crime of gang raping. They also attacked her friend when both were returning home from grandparent's home.

Mother who lives in village
shared the dreadful and horrible events of that unfortunate day when
her daughter got savagely gang raped by these TMC cadre:
and both the friends were studying together,
On 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 along with her friend went to her Nani's
home ( Grandparent) who lives in Village. This is the
story in words.
On 9 May, 2021 after visiting her grandmother (nani) around
4:00 PM , and and started for home by their bicycle
but didn't reach home till 8:30 PM.
Fearing for her whereabouts we went to home to
check whether she has returned or not.
We reached her home and found out that even has not
returned till then, It was around 9:00 PM reached
home in a very bad and horrific condition and intimated us that
there was a rape attempt on her.
She somehow broke free and ran for her safety. She further told
us that is held back by four TMC goons.
We hired a private van and went looking for our daughter
guided us to the area where this incident happened.
There is a jungle near Village when we reached there on
the instance of we found torn cloths of
Just slightly ahead was lying unconscious with only
ragged undergarments on her body.
It was a horrible to see your own daughter in that situation.
Police was already present on the scene.
I gathered some water and sprinkled on her face to bring her
back in consciousness but she didn't respond.

Then we along with police took to the hospital and after getting primary treatment Police brought us back to police station.

Next day on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 they took for Medical examination after which gave statement identified the rapists and told the description and spot where these TMC goons where sitting and how they attacked the two girls.

have been identified by as amongst the men who gangraped her on 9 May, 2020

On 11<sup>th</sup> May Police arrested the 3 of the rapists and one is still at large.

The Police took to court for the Statement before Magistrate under U/S 164 Cr.PC.

After that they shifted her to Shelter Home. Since then they are not letting us meet our daughter.

When we try to request police for meeting our daughter they deny and intimidate us by saying that you have one more daughter and if someone raped her tomorrow don't come running to us for help.

We are living in a nightmare and helpless without any hope. We want justice for our daughter and a safe life for us.

#### **Copy of FIR**

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(e) Passport No	Date of Issue Place	sheet, if necessary)
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#### Chapter 3

Aggravated sexual assault on me, murderous attempt on my husband, threat to kill my 5 year old son, repeated harassment by the police

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victim	Age 29 years, Female
	Belongs to Scheduled Tribe.
	Lives with her Husband who is
	32 years old and son who is 5
	years old.
Location of the incident	
Date of the incident	2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2021 – 17 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

This is a hair raising story of a Female named \_\_\_\_\_\_. She narrates her horrific experiences of being a voter wanting to use her constitutionally granted right to vote independently in West Bengal. Such was the brutal attack on her life, dignity and security that today she simply breaks down and asks "Didi when will my husband come back?"

All she wants is for her husband to return back from hiding and for them to resume normal lives as human beings. The complaint of \_\_\_\_\_ is as follows:

I am aged 29 yrs., mother of a 5 yrs. old son, wife of residing at West Bengal-71324. I belong to **Scheduled tribe.**On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, a person named came in my house and sexually molested me. He tore my blouse and saree, groped my chest and tried rape me. When I resisted , He brutally thrashed me and slapped me.

This is a local TMC worker who had been repeatedly abusing me since 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021, we were about to have our lunch, the counting of polls was going on and TMC was gaining. Thereafter at 03:30 pm, 30-40 TMC goons started shouting and took down all the BJP flags from various houses and set the flags on fire in an open area near Ram Mandir. Then they destroyed the Ram Mandir, breaking the idols and seven feet tall picture of Bhagwan Ram which was there in the mandir, was also destroyed.

My husband had bought a shop by his hard earned money which is situated approximately 1.5 kilometers from my home. This was the only source of earning for us. TMC men forcibly entered the shop, illegally occupied it and converted it into a TMC office. This happened on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021, these unlawful elements returned again at around 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM. They were playing DJ and singing "**Khelahoga..khelahoga..dekhajayega"**. There have been instances that whenever this song starts playing in Bengal, it is followed by rampage, loot, molestation, lynching and destruction of property. This is exactly what happened on that day also. These

people came and threw a country made bomb in front of my house. After that, TMC goons forcefully barged into our house and destroyed our bathroom and toilet. They further went ahead and started destroying our household items but somebody asked them to stop so that day their assault was upto this much destruction only.

On 4<sup>th</sup>May, my husband received a call from TMC person who gave an ultimatum to him, "Sabhi TMC walonke Pair par giro aurmaafi mango, nahi to ration nahimilegaaur Ration card bhichheenlenge" ( kneel down on your knees in front of all TMC members in village and ask for forgiveness from them or else you won't be able to get Ration also Ration card will be snatched from you too). Since then, this harassment and humiliation and threatening became a routine. Anyone from TMC used to summon my husband and with no other option left my husband had to go and comply with their demand of kneeling down and asking for forgiveness for having worked for BJP. These TMC people used to beat him with lathis and dandas on his head, chest and brutally thrash him all over the body. He often came back bleeding.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 my husband was summoned again by TMC goons that he should go and meet them. I told my husband to complete his lunch and then he can go. But within a few minutes, a TMC worker came and ordered that he had to go immediately and he can have his lunch later on. It was around 1:30 pm.

My husband went along with him leaving his mobile back at home only. By 6:00 PM, when my husband didn't return, I became extremely worried for him.

I came outside the house and stood on the gate, looking and waiting for him. A few moments later, the same person who is a TMC worker came towards me. He was drunk and he started abusing me "Khanki..Maagi...Veshya..Maagi (Whore,slut) and started physically assaulting me. He pulled my Sari and forcefully tore my blouse and brutally molested me. He continuously assaulted me on my chest and my body. He was also beating me aggressively. I started shouting loudly. On hearing my shouts my neighbours came to my rescue.

Around 7:00 to 7:30 pm my husband came back and started crying while narrating his part of the horror. My husband was held captive by TMC goons. He was thrashed badly and pushed to the ground where he was pinned down by a leg on his chest and a liquor bottle was opened and shoved down his throat for 15 minutes.

The whole bottle was emptied forcefully into him and then he was beaten again mercilessly.

The nightmare didn't stop here. By late the same evening, 10-12 TMC goons forcibly entered our house and threatened us saying that "Agar tum police kepaasjaogi to tumaharilaash pad jayegi" (if you went to the police for complaint, you will be killed ) "Tumko koi bhinahi bacha payega...Yahaanrehnahai to yeh sab sahnapadega" (Nobody can save you.. If you wish to live here this you will have to face and accept as fate).

Fearing for his life, we decided that my husband needs to go away from the house as he was getting life threats again and again.

To my shock, later at night around 12:30 midnight, the police came looking for my husband and told me that he should immediately come to the police station. Police refused to take my complaint despite my repeated requests.

I am very afraid because if my husband visits police station, police will do nothing and on the other hand my husband will be killed by TMC goons as they are not afraid of the police.

I am living here alone with my son and every now and then TMC people intimidate and threaten us that "5 saal ka bachchahai... bachchekobhi maar do....badahoga to usikejaisahoga" (Kill the 5 year old son. because he will also follow his father's footprint when he will grow up).

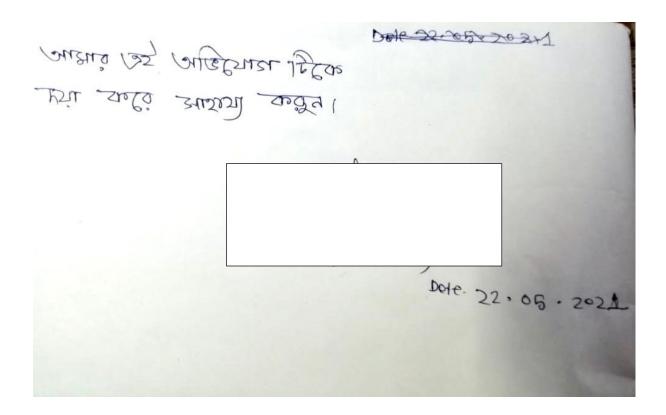
I am living alone in constant fear for my husband, my son and my life. Everyday is an unending wait without any protection and help from anyone, there is very limited ration on which I am surviving. My son often asks me, when he can go outside to play. I am very much frightened.

On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Some policemen came to my house. They told me to write few lines about what happened. I told them I cannot write much. They told me to write a few sentences. I wrote a few sentences quickly as I was very afraid at that time and gave it the police. I could not write everything which happened to me then perpetrator was picked up by the police from the village. But to my shock, he has not been charged and was released the very next day by the police even though I had given a written complaint to the police.

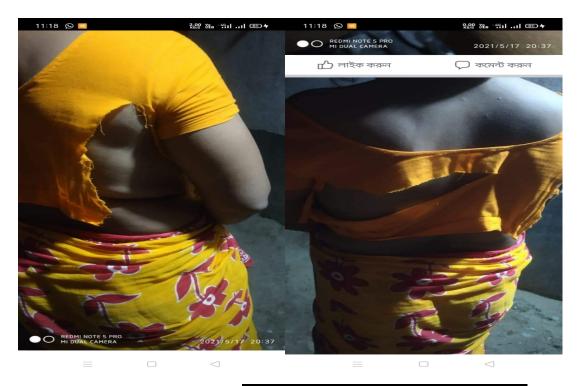
He lives just 10 to 15 houses away from my house. He is back in the village and roaming freely an often comes in front of my house and abuses from outside. I am scared for my life and live under the fear that he can sexually assault me along with his friends. I am alone with my 5 year old son.

Someone called me over my phone and intimated me that the police has registered cases against my family members, my

husband and the neighbours who came to save me from the molesters. That person also informed me that if my husband comes back, either he will be arrested by the police or he will be beaten to death by the TMC goons. He also told me that will come with his friends and gang rape me.

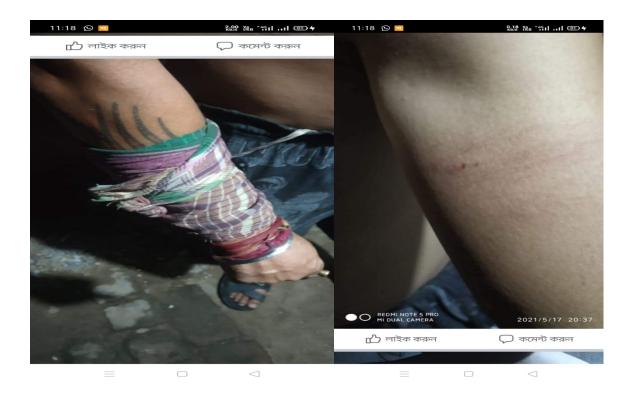


# Sexual assault on victim in which her clothes were torn





# **Assault on the husband of the victim**



# **Scheduled Caste certificate of the victim**

	Government of West Bengal	2012
	Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer	mg ~
		2
	Schedule TRIBE Certificate	বা
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	Certificate No. : Dated: 19/11/2007	16
	THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT	
	DAUGHTER of	
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	SANTAL which is recognised as a Schedule TRIBE	
	(a tabled castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution	
	under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) order (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950, as amended by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Lists (Modification) Order, 1956.	
	67 MESTO STANDAL	
	and his/ her family ordinarily reside(s) in Village / Town*	
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9 9	Burdwan, Kalna of the State of West Bengal.	
- 6		
	Place : Kalna	
	Dated: 19/11/2007	
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	Office Sealing	
	Sub-divisional Office Kalna, Burdwan	r
	West Bengal	
	Da (Burdwall)	
1	KALNA	
1	Note: The term 'Ordinarily resides' used here will have the same meaning as i section 20 of Indian Constitution.	
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#### Chapter 4

Victim of Brutal Violence by TMC, Her husband forced into hiding; 10 year old son is traumatised, left eye of victim is permanently damaged, victim under severe psychological trauma

Name of Victim	
	Age 30, Female
	Belongs to general category.
Details of Victim	Wife of Shri Shubhodit Ghosh.
	Mother of a 10 year old son who
	witnessed the violence.
Location of the Incident	Howrah, West Bengal
Date of the Incident	2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of incident**

is a 30-year-old Female living in West Bengal. Her husband is a party worker of BJP.

In the aftermath of the terror unleashed by TMC in West Bengal after the State Assembly election results, she was subjected to extreme sexual violence and barbaric stoning leading to grievous injuries.

She breaks down many times over phone while narrating the horrific experiences she went through.

This is her story as a victim of targeted violence:

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021, around 11:30 pm, 5-6 TMC cadre came to my house and started abusing using extremely foul language. They

were calling out my husband's name and abusing him. It was clear that they had come with the purpose to kill him.

Suddenly they started banging and breaking down the door of the house.

Terrified at this my mother and myself opened the window and requested them to stop attacking the house.

I also told them that my husband was not there, and this was my parents' house.

Suddenly two men and and grabbed my clothes from across the window and threatened that 'if your husband is not there, we will take you'.

A young boy named \_\_\_\_\_ picked up big pieces of bricks from the opposite vacant plot and gave them to

Both of them attacked us with these bricks.

I was terrified as they started tearing my clothes and pulling me outside forcibly through the window

My mother tried very hard to free me but she failed.

They held me very hard.

I cannot describe in words the terror and shame that I was feeling.

While this was going on I managed to close half the window, but they kept throwing the bricks and one of the bricks hit me hard on my left eye and forehead.

I was in a pool of blood.

In the meantime, my father called the Police.

Seeing the Police, they ran away.

As I was bleeding profusely from the head, forehead and the left eye the police took me to Howrah hospital. I had severe injuries and was stitched on forehead, eyebrow and eyelash.

The Doctor told us that we needed to go to Medical College for operation.

We went to Medical College hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup>May, 2021

The surgery was done. After the surgery, I was told that my eye was completely damaged. It cannot be replaced also. I will never be able to see again from my left eye. I was discharged on 5<sup>th</sup>May, 2021.

Even when I was in the hospital these cadre kept on their intimidation and repeatedly went to my house looking for my husband. He is unable to come back home as we fear they will kill him.

My 10-year-old son was a witness to this incident. Till date he cannot speak properly and lives in terror.

awaits the return of her husband who is unable to come back to his house due to constant criminal intimidation by TMC cadre.

Even as we write this report, says that BJP karykartas are being identified, marked hounded and killed.

'How will I live Didi' she asks us while she breaks down into uncontrollable tears.

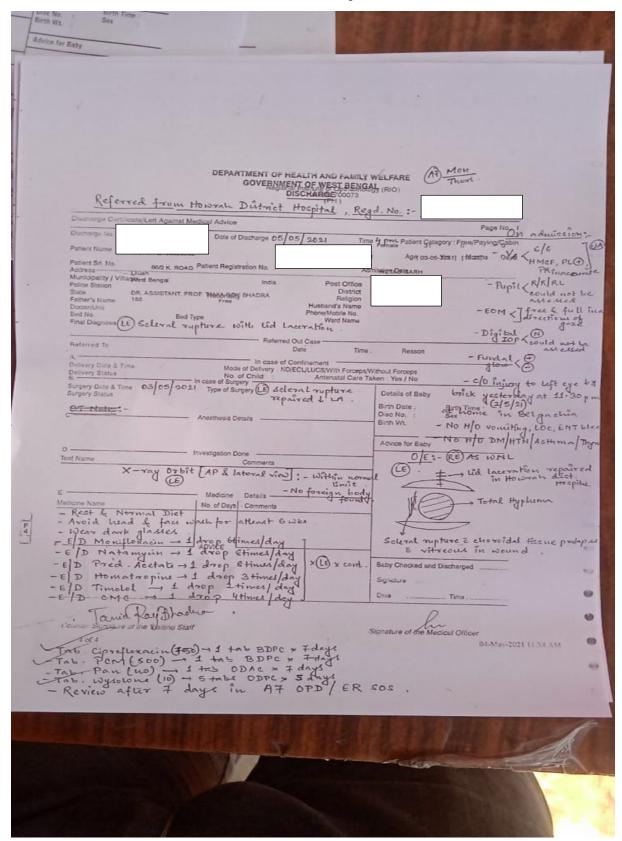
Her future remains uncertain.

Her husband is still on the run, son traumatised, repeated threats continue which do not allow her bodily and psychological trauma to fade away.

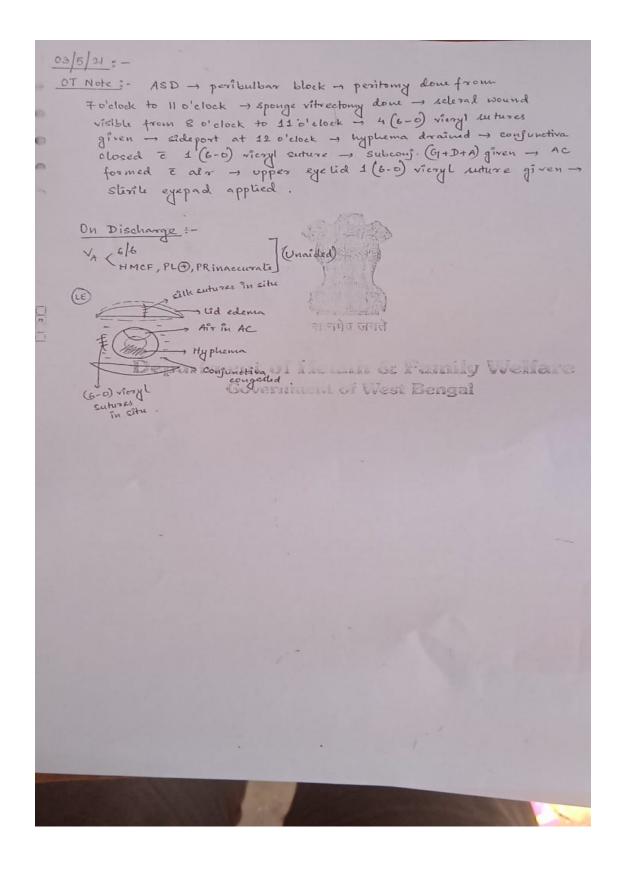
# FIR Copy

	FIRST INFORMATION REPORT (Under Section 154 Cr. P. C.)
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#### **Medical Paper**



#### **Operation related document**



Victim: Prior to the violent attack on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021



Victim: Left eye damaged After the violent attack



# Victim: Left eye permanently damaged



# Now after loosing vision of my left eye



#### Chapter 5

# Victim of threat of rape by TMC cadre, forced to go into hiding

Name of the Victim	
	Age 24, Female
Details of the Victim	Lives with mother and two
	younger sisters aged 18 and 13
	years
Location of the Incident	Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal
Date of the Incident	3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

Rape as an instrument of terror and threat is being used by TMC against women who have worked as BJP or ABVP members or are perceived to have voted for BJP.

On 2<sup>nd</sup>May, 2021, after the declaration of the State Assembly elections, this is the horror that went through:

My house was attacked after the counting of votes i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup>May, 2021.

I have two houses in the same area which are 500 meters away from each other.

I live with my mother and sisters in one house and my uncle lives in the other house.

I was not at home when these TMC men came to attack my house.

Around 20-30 people mainly Muslims, with rods, knives, swords, stones etc. in their hands first attacked my uncle's house.

He was badly threatened, his house was looted and vandalised.

Thereafter they came to my house and threatened my mother.

They told my mother to bring her elder daughter i.e. me in front of them and then they will rape me.

They further threatened that if I was not given to them then they will rape other females in the family.

I work for Vidhyarthi Parishad(ABVP), hence my house was attacked.

My house was vandalised, my two cycles were broken, my scooty was broken, my house was looted, and all the money, jewellery and other items were taken away.

#### Chapter 6

Her cloths were torn, husband beaten, son still hiding away from home due to threats by TMC cadre.

Name of the Victim	
	Age 43, Female.
Details of the Victim	Belongs to general category.
	She lives with her husband and
	son
Location of the Incident	Birbhum, West Bengal
Date of the Incident	3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

is 42 years old and lives in \_\_\_\_\_, West Bengal. The men of her family being BJP karykartas, the family has been living in fear since 2<sup>nd</sup>May, 2021 after the result of State Assembly elections were announced.

This fear became a reality on 10<sup>th</sup>May, 2021 when her house was attacked by TMC cadre. Her husband was attacked, she was forcibly stripped and abused.

The whole house was ransacked/vandalised.

This is the story of the horror she underwent:

On 3<sup>rd</sup>May,2021 TMC people, in a group 10-15, attacked my house.

They broke the lock of my house.

Finding no one at home, they left.

On 10<sup>th</sup>May, 2021 at around 10pm TMC people came again and this time they again attacked my house.

They attacked my husband with iron rods and slapped me, abused me and pushed me very badly.

They tore my clothes and I was stripped naked. (निर्वस्त्रकरदिया).

The Whole house was ransacked.

We called the police.

Police came with ambulance and took my husband to the hospital.

FIR was lodged. One person was arrested next day at 8am on 11<sup>th</sup>May, 2021.

On 11<sup>th</sup>May, 2021, while we were out for CT Scan, TMC cadre called and threatened us to withdraw the FIR from the police station.

Someone had informed them that the FIR had been launched against them by us.

When we reached back home, these TMC cadre were there and they again threatened us to withdraw the FIR by me.

We told them that the FIR cannot be withdrawn, but then we were forcibly taken to thana by these people.

At the thana, police told these TMC people that it was not possible to withdraw the FIR.

However one TMC broker namely came outside the thana and asked us to compromise the matter.

He said that he will manage the police by changing the sections in the FIR and having FIR in lighter sections.

He said that he would come in the evening to my house.

In the evening, on the same day, he came to my house with an already written request letter for changing the FIR which had three main points missing, i.e.:

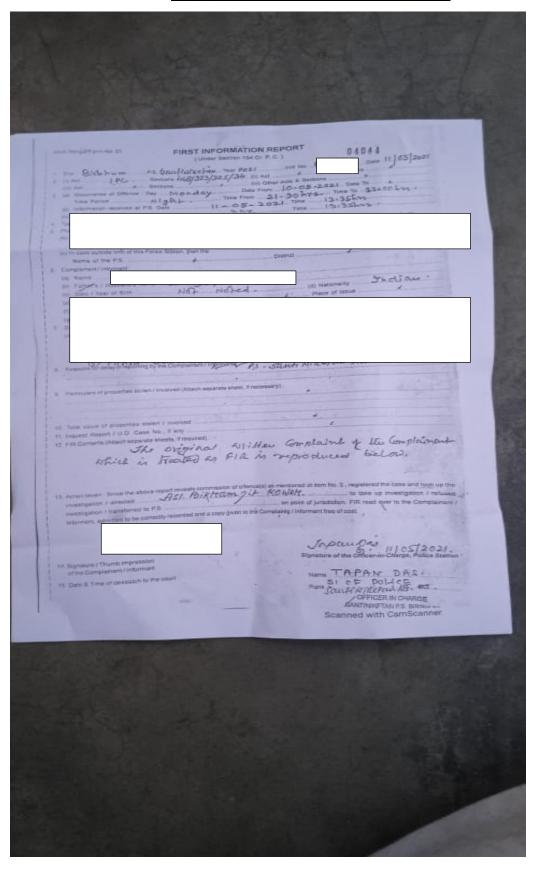
- 1) I was stripped.
- 2) I and my husband were threatened with murder.
- 3) that this was a political rivalry issue.

I was threatened and made to sign this letter forcibly and this letter was then submitted in the thana.

Our ration card has been taken away. We cannot get ration, they threatened us and stated that in Bengal this is Didi's ration, they will not get ration because they did not vote for Didi. They told us to go to Modi and get the ration.

Everybody has been told not to talk to us. We are not allowed to talk to anybody or take any help from anybody. The police or district administration does not help us. We don't know whom to go to and where to complain.

#### **Copy of the FIR of the victim**



# Photo of the victim and her husband after the attack The blouse of the victim was totally torn and was put back on her after the attack.

#### Victims husband brutally attacked



#### Chapter 7

Forced to remain inside the house because of repeated threats of rape

and murder by TMC cadre.

Name of the Victim	
	Age 20 years, Female.
	Belongs to general category.
Details of the Victim	Student of BA (Hons).
	Lives with her parents and two
	elder brothers.
Location of the Incident	Paschimi Medinipur, West
Location of the incluent	Bengal
Date of the Incident	3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

West Bengal descended into violence after the declaration of the State assembly election results on 2<sup>nd</sup>May, 2021. There had been simmering tensions which were unleashed with full vengeance after the results were announced.

is a young student who worked as a BJP karta.

She narrates the story of hair-raising violence faced by her and the continuing threats to her life:

After counting on 2<sup>nd</sup>May, 2021, next day TMC cadre took out a Vijay Rally.

Rally was essentially an armed rowdy crowd of TMC kartas.

The rampaging crowd consisted of men and women carrying different types of arms like swords, stick, stones and knives.

They came to my house in the morning at around10 am.

They surrounded my house.

They were throwing stones and abusing me and my family.

They forced their entry into my house and started to abuse me and my family.

They broke our water connection.

Damaged my scooty, vandalised my house, looted all the valuables.

We called the police. Thankfully the Police station is 10 minutes away from our house.

Police came after some time and we were saved, else none of us would be alive.

At 1:30 pm TMC cadre again came.

This time villagers saw them, so they had to leave.

This is happening every day.

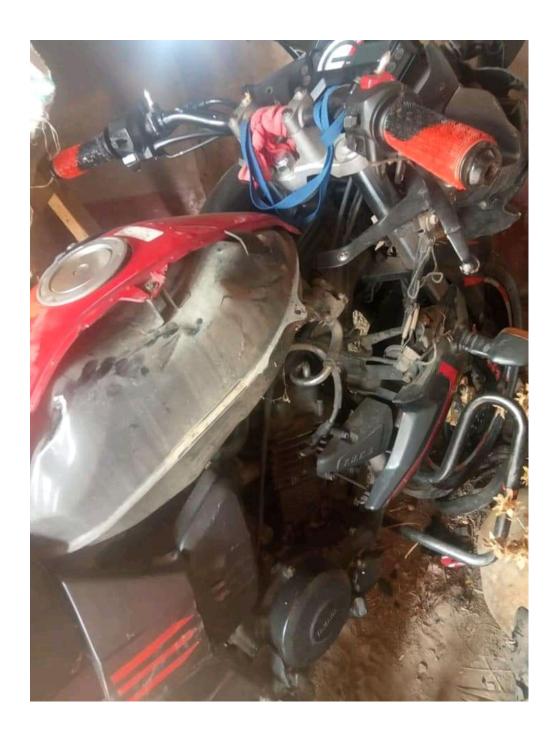
There are many other incidents in my area like this.

I am getting calls from unknown numbers anytime, day and night threatening me that one day they will get hold of me, rape me and murder me.

I gave complaint to police on phone and police came for enquiry also. But then they went to TMC office in our area had tea in that office and took no action in my case. Police is not taking any written complaints from us.

My entire family is trapped inside the house. We cannot go out or else we will be raped and murdered. We all our very scared. I do not want to say this but Muslims in our area are looting the houses of Hindus, killing them, torturing Hindu females and police does not take our complaints.

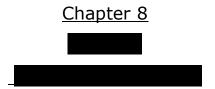
# **Vehicle of the victim damaged by TMC Cadre**



# Victim's house looted and vandalised







### <u>Victim of brutal physical violence by TMC cadre</u> <u>On the run and refugee in their own land.</u>

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victim	Age 20 years, Female.
	Belongs to General category.
	Lives along with (30
	yrs)and kid.
Location of the incident	
Date of the incident	11 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

Fear stalks the women of West Bengal. They are safe nowhere and have faced terrible risk to life, honour and property. The violence faced by those who were perceived to be BJP voters or supporters has been devastating and has destroyed livelihoods.

narrates the ordeal his family went through:

Myself and my wife were at my in-laws house.

The Local TMC leader was drinking liquor along with TMC supporters at his local office.

They thrashed one BJP supporter who somehow escaped from the scuffle and reached my in-laws house for safety.

My father in-law tried to mediate but he was attacked too.

30 -40 TMC cadre charged at our place.

They thrashed my in-laws and my wife.

They took away 3 bikes standing outside along with vegetable carriage.

Anyone who campaigned and put the BJP poster in village, they chased him or her down, each and everyone of them and thrashed them mercilessly.

TMC cadre were carrying axe, iron rods and SABAD (weapon) etc. in their hands.

My wife was attacked with a BOTI (Hasiya, Darati)

Her hand got severely injured.

When they were attacking my wife, I asked them why were they doing this. They said "BJP को वोट दिया इसलिए मार रहें हैं".

We have filed FIR against the attack. Police did not do anything. With no option left to save our lives, we ran away from our home.

We came back after two days when things cooled down.

But again on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021, fearing that in case TMC wins, those cadre can again attack the house and us, we abandoned our house and are living like refugees.

We are living as refugees since then.

We have absolutely no idea what has happened to our house or our belongings. We have no hope left. We have no one who can protect us. Please help us. Photo of the victim along with her small child who witnessed the violence.

Photo of darati with which the victim was attacked on her hand.



# FIR filled by the Victim

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- 10	B.P. From No. 27
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3.	(a) Occurrence of Offence : Day Date From 1/1.0.1.2/ Date To
	Time Period Time From 2.0.00 Time to (a) Information Received at P.S. Date 12.04.24 Time 2.40 Key,
	(c) General Diary Reference : Entry No.(s) 5.7.5 Time 21.9.0 Land
5.	Type of Information : Writion / Oral  Place of Occurrence : (
	(b) Address
	(c) In case outside limit of this Police Station, then the
	Name of P.S
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	transferred to P.S. on point of jurisdiction, FIR read over to the Complaint / Informant, admitted
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#### Chapter 9

Single mother with two sons, house razed to the ground by TMC cadre, nowhere to live.

Name of the Victim	
	Age 45 years, Female.
	Belongs to Scheduled Caste
Details of the Victim	category.
Details of the victim	She lives with her two sons.
	She is working with BJP Mahila
	Morcha.
Location of the Incident	Shanling, West Bengal
Date of the Incident	2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

is a BJP Mahila Morcha worker. She is a single mother of two sons and economically a very marginal person. She owned a small house and a few animals. She has lost everything in the attack on BJP workers after the election results of the State Assembly were announced. She has been reduced to total penury and has no way to earn two meals.

The violence has left her without a future, this is how she narrates what she went through:

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 5 PM, TMC cadre came to my house.

We were not at home at that time.

Later on, they again came back when we were at home.

We had to ran away when they attacked our home.

Crude bombs were thrown at my house.

My house has been totally demolished and levelled to ground.

My cows and goats have been looted and taken away.

I have no space to live, no roof on my head.

I am a single parent of two sons.

I lost my husband one year back.

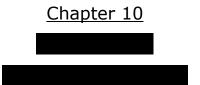
Where to go and what to do, I don't know.

We are hiding till date and very scared to go back home. Nothing is left at our home. They have either looted everything or destroyed.

# Victim: House Looted and damaged







Brutally attacked by TMC cadre, no mercy shown to aged mother, wife assaulted, living as a refugee, cannot go back to his own house.

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victim	Age 34 years, Male.
	Name of wife
	Has 7 month old baby.
	Name of mother is Smt.
Location of the incident	
Date of the incident	11 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021

#### **Brief of the Incident:**

Amongst the victims of the carnage unleashed by TMC cadre during voting and after the counting of votes in West Bengal, there are people like who belongs to the poorest Below Poverty Line category of the Indian population.

Barely scraping a living with odds and ends their entire sparse economic base was destroyed by a rampaging TMC mob after voting. The core reason for this gruesome attack was that was a BJP booth agent. Currently is on the run from his house.

Prasad shared his ordeal:

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 after casting vote, in the night we had dinner and we were about to sleep.

Suddenly I received a call from TMC cadre to come outside the house.

I very well knew that they had come to attack me.

My mind was in tremendous fear for my child is just 7 months old.

I thought if I did not go outside, they all might break the door of my house, enter and kill my child too.

Having this in mind, I decided to rush outside and face the brutal attack.

There were 30 -40 TMC cadre who were waiting for me outside.

As soon as I was out, I was brutally thrashed and I was bleeding badly.

Seeing this, my wife ran towards me to rescue me.

These cadre threw her on the floor.

They didn't show any mercy to my aged mother and brutally attacked her also.

They attacked her so badly that currently she is hospitalized and is undergoing treatment.

I am from very low income group (BPL).

My bread and butter is earned by stitching cloths as a tailor.

I earn very low having just one machine.

My home, stitching machine all have been destroyed.

I am left with nothing.

I have been threatened not to come back to house and hence I am living as a refugee with no home and livelihood.

# Photo of brutal attack on the victim



# **Medical Papers**

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#### Chapter 11

Attacked for being a BJP karta. threats of rape given to sister by local clergy.

Name of the Victim		
Details of the Victim	Aged 22 years, Male	
	Belongs to Scheduled Caste	
	category.	
	Lives with sister and mother	
Location of the incident		
Date of the Incident	6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021	

#### **Brief of the Incident:**

A number of persons attacked and brutally beat him in the days following the election results in West Bengal. He belongs to the most marginalized Scheduled Caste category.

After the attack, he was forced to leave his house.

The female family members were also left behind, who face repeated and frequent threats of sexual violence and exploitation from the TMC cadre.

narrates his harrowing experience of brutal violence:

On 6<sup>th</sup> May my home was attacked by 8 TMC cadre in the morning.

They had country made bombs in their hands.

They were threatening us for life.

Just because I had a Hindu flag (bhagwa) at my home and because I was an ABVP karta, they suspected me of being a BJP supporter and hence attacked my house.

They have this pre notion in their mind that anyone who worships God Ram or says Jai Shree Ram or has any thing associated with this in their home, they are BJP/RSS supporters and thus need to be crushed.

My whole family has been subjected to this brutal attack.

My house has been destroyed and everything ransacked.

Females in the house i.e. my sister who is 27 years old and also my aged mother were brutally beaten with sticks and iron rods. They were aggressively threatened with rape.

All this has instilled fear in our hearts and we have left our home.

At present we are staying away from our home and living as refugees with shattered hopes of any future.

I had even gone to the police for complain, but they said that since it was COVID time, they cannot give me any help. They told us to go away.

Our mind never stops thinking about our home. There is deep sense of anguish in our hearts that who will help us or stand for us.

#### **Complaint by**

To.

The SHO.

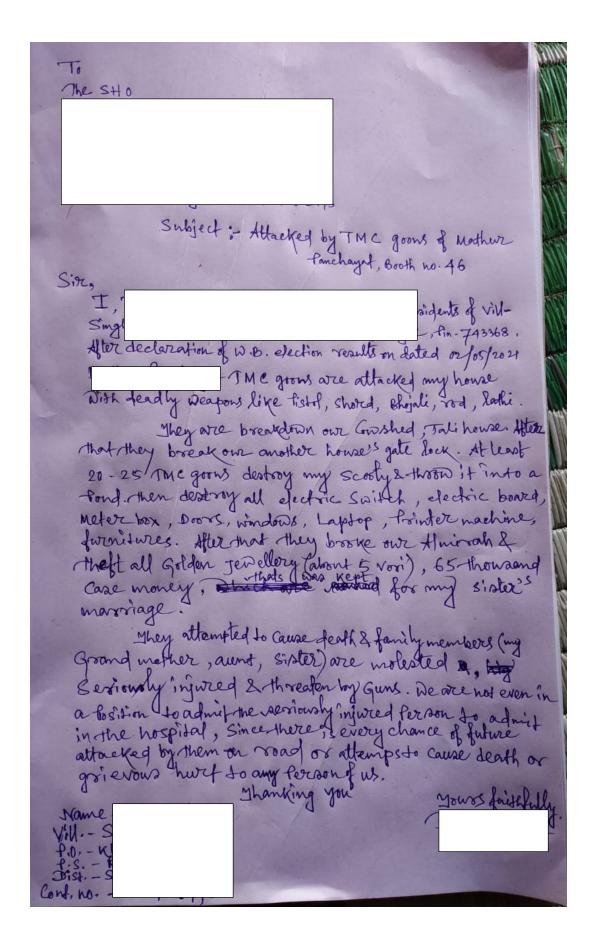
On the 6th at ten o'clock in the morning the mischief of the TMC came and attacked my house. At first our cowshed was broken. Then he broke down the door and entered our house. Then my Scooty Printer laptop broke. And the gold jewelry was looted from the house and taken away. And beat all the women in the house. The imam threatened to rape the women. He told me not to go to college and said he will kill if he goes to college. Our house is being forcibly occupied by TMC thugs.

Name-

Vill-

pin- 743368, west bengal south 24 p.g.s

#### **Hand written complaint**

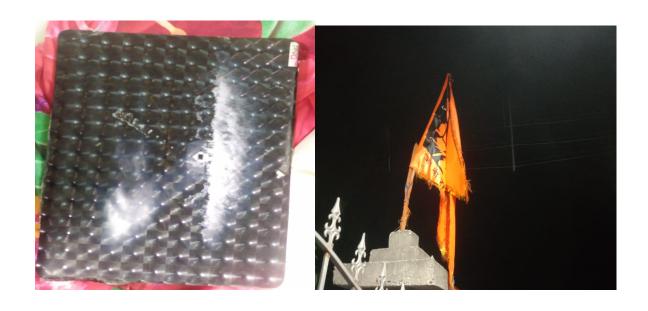


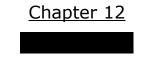
# Victim: House vandalised, laptop broken, scooter damaged











Women of the house threatened by rape. Pressure to give up husband to TMC cadre.

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victim	Age 36 years, Female
	Belongs to General category.
	Husband Sh. 40
	years and Mother-in-law Smt.
	70 yrs
Location of the incident	
Date of the incident	11 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021

#### **Brief of the Incident:**

The process of elections and the declaration of the results of the State Assembly elections on 2<sup>nd</sup>May, 2021 led to large scale violence in West Bengal. Rape, threat of rape, extreme physical violence against women is a pattern in this State supported POGROM against political opponents.

recounts that horrific experience before the counting and declaration of results:

After casting the vote next day on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 in the night around 10:30 pm, 50- 60 TMC kartas were drinking liquor at local office from where the son of a BJP supporter was coming back home.

They charged and attacked him.

He somehow ran through the scuffle and reached our home and pleaded my husband to save him.

My husband who was having dinner assured the boy that he would speak with the mob.

As he tried to mediate, they all charged on him too and started thrashing him.

He got injured in his leg but somehow managed to break free from the attackers.

I told my husband to escape from the back side of our home and run away for his life.

But that time more men had come, entered our home and started destroying it.

They attacked my married daughter with a Boti (weapon) and injured her badly. Our married daughter was in our house at that time.

These TMC kartas forcefully took away 3 Bikes.

They barged into our home and looted our TV, Fridge, Gas, Cylinder and everything else along with it.

They tore down the door of our house with the help of Sabad(Weapon) and iron rod.

Around 40 people forcibly entered our home and had destroyed the home completely.

They brutally assaulted my mother in law and broke her hand.

Then they started abusing me and said "randibhatr(pati) konikal, nikalnahi to tujhebhipeldenge" (call you husband out else we will rape you)

"batarkebaharniklonahi to muslim logo se rape karadenge tera, saas ka bhiaurbeti ka bhi" (call your husband out or else we will make the Muslims rape you, your mother in law and your daughter).

Central Forces had arrived there after. This is the only reason why we are alive today.

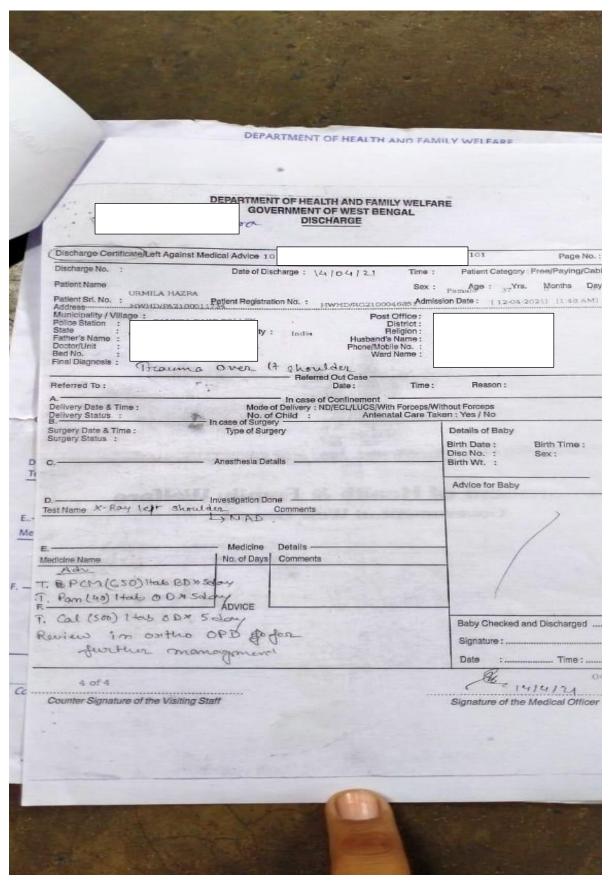
Since then we are living are living away from our homes as refugees.

We had gone to the police who had bluntly refused to take our complaint. But when we repeatedly insisted then our complaint was taken.

### Brutally beaten victims lying in the hospital



## Medical papers of the mother-In-law of the victim



## Chapter 13

<u>Mother manhandled, abused, repeatedly slapped</u> for being a BJP worker <u>by TMC cadre.</u>

Name of the Victim	
	Age 19 years, Male
	Belongs to General category
	A student.
	Associated with ABVP.
Details of the Victim	Mother is also associated with BJP
	Mahila Morcha.
	Family consists of him, his 4 year
	old sister, mother and father.
Location of the Incident	
Date of the Incident	2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

Threat of rape, sexual assault are the most common tactics used by TMC to frighten and intimidate men and women who have worked with the BJP in the State Assembly elections. Victory marches through the streets have turned into targeted violence. Young, old, men and women none have been spared by the cadre of TMC. The main aim of this violence is to coerce the BJP cadre to join the TMC and thereby eliminate political opposition in the State.

shares his experience of this violence:

On 2<sup>nd</sup>May,2021 when counting was going on around afternoon, TMC cadre took out a Victory march.

They came in front of my house and started abusing, throwing stones and bombs in my lawn.

We were frightened, did not say anything and thought it was better to keep quiet.

Next day onwards, the local TMC leader started coming to my house every day and started abusing us.

He threatened me and said that my father was working outside and that he will get my father murdered.

This TMC leader also badly abused my mother and threatened that she will be gang raped and that would teach her a lesson for working with the BJP.

This has been happening repeatedly every day.

On 14<sup>th</sup>May, 2021, in the evening, when we were having dinner, two TMC leaders came outside our house and started abusing us from outside.

They blamed my father for allowing his son and wife to work for BJP.

They further threatened that this was not acceptable. My father went outside but by that time they had already left.

My father had just turned towards the door of the home, when these TMC cadre again came back in their car and held my father's collar.

They clearly blamed him for his son and wife becoming BJP workers and not being able to stop them from doing so.

One of them held my mother's nighty, pulled it, manhandled her and repeatedly slapped her.

Seeing this cruelty on my father and mother, I ran outside to stop this.

The TMC leader took a big stone in his hand and hit me on my chest.

After lot of tussle, they left for that day. But they came back the next day, all prepared and threw big stones in our lawn.

We had already called the Inspector-in-Charge(IC) of and informed him about the incidents happening.

The police enquired from the TMC leader. He told them that if he is arrested, he will not leave any of us and will also burn down our house.

I am being repeatedly threatened on the phone and TMC men say that I will be murdered.

I have repeatedly complained to the police but no action has been taken till now. No one has been arrested till date.

Their slogan is "Badlav nahi badla chahiye".

# Stone pelting on victims house by TMC cadre



#### Chapter 14

TMC cadre set everything in the house on fire. Rape, threats given.

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victims	Age 41, Female.
	Age 45, Male
	Belongs to Scheduled Caste
	category
	The couple are BJP workers
Location of the incident	
Date of the incident	5 <sup>th</sup> May,2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

belong to the marginalized Scheduled

Caste community in India.

They shared the horror of incident that happened on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, after the declaration of result on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021:

At around 1:00 pm during the day, 7 to 8 TMC cadre attacked my home. They were carrying gun and iron rods.

We got scared for our lives.

They started ransacking our home and breaking all our household items.

They set my bike on fire.

They collected items from my home and gleefully made a bonfire of these items.

They looted ornaments and tore down the beddings.

They were so violent, that they did not even spare few furniture items that were there and set then on fire using petrol.

We have lost property worth Rs. 3 lac which has been either completely destroyed or burnt into ashes. This property was a result of years of hard work and savings.

They did not stop at this. They started abusing my wife in filthy language and threatened her " *Tumahara Jeevan naashkardenge, Jab tak TMC hai,yahan se bhaagjao".* They further said" "*Tujhebhiaese hi petrol daalkaraaglagadenge, tera rape karke gala kaatkarmaarenge".* 

They further threatened 'agar BJP karoge to tumaharepatikobhi maar denge , tumhebhi maar denge, tumahara murder kardenge" "Yahan se bhaagjaao.'

Fearing for our lives, we ran off and since then we are living as refugees away from our home.

I have got information that a number of houses have been burnt in our village.

# Photos of the attack on our house



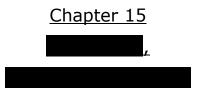
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# **Home vandalised**







<u>Physical sever assault by TMC cadre, grievous injuries to body, looting of property and continual threats of rape.</u>

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victim	Age 23 years, Female.
	Belongs to Scheduled Caste
	category.
	Lives with her parents and
	brothers.
Location of the incident	
Date of the incident	11 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021

#### **Brief of the Incident:**

Fear and intimidation ruled the elections to the State Assembly that were held in West- Bengal recently. The central electoral strategy of the TMC since 2011 has been to intimidate voters into casting a vote for the party. This is done by open intimidation, threats, violence and by instilling fear of life in the voters. The same script has played out in the recent State Assembly elections in West Bengal.

belongs to the Scheduled Caste category, the most marginalized section of society.

She narrates her horror:

On 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, the polling was held in our constituency.

While standing in queue for voting, TMC cadre were repeatedly intimidating everyone "Patahaina TMC ko Vote denahai, Didi ko vote denahai".

The next day i.e. 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, after casting our vote, between 10:30 to 11:00 pm we were about to sleep after dinner.

Suddenly we could feel that there are a lot of men outside our home.

I thought some kind of violence was about to happen and I was worried about our e-Rickshaw which was parked outside.

I asked my brother to park it somewhere safe as it might be vandalized by the TMC cadre.

The moment my brother stepped outside the door, all hell broke loose.

He was grabbed by 40 -50 TMC men. They had iron rods in their hands.

The moment they got their hands on my brother, they started thrashing him brutally.

To save my brother, I ran outside. I was also caught by them and brutally beaten.

I saw my brother's head was injured and he was bleeding profusely.

Even I was subjected to same brutal attack as 2 of my fingers were broken and my ribs got fractured.

While I was trying to save my brother, my mother and my father also came outside to save us.

They were brutally assaulted and beaten.

My mother received serious injuries and my father got blood clot in his head, as they were attacked with bricks and iron rods by TMC cadre. My father was thrown into an open ground. When we went to help our father, they violently threw bricks on all of us.

Apart from these violent physical attacks, they were abusing continuously saying in the dirtiest language - (Khan kimei) "Randi kibeti, Tu Randi, Teri maabhirandi".

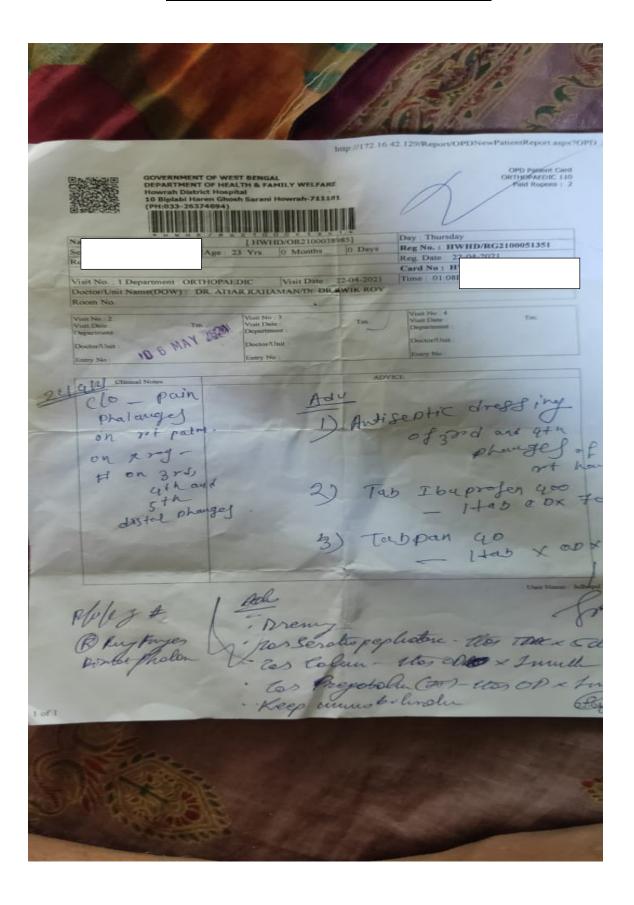
When we were running away from them trying to save our lives they were shouting "Dekho Randi bhagrahihai,abhimusalmanokobulayengeaurtujhesabkesaamne kapdeutaarkenangakarkemarenge".

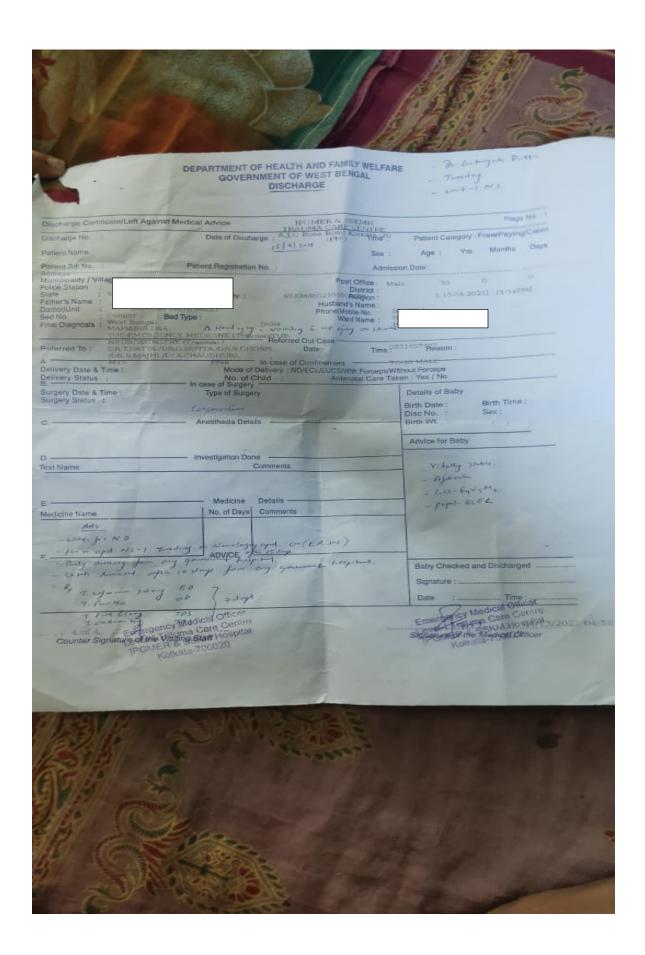
We reached the hospital, where my brother got 23 stitches in his head. He is still unable to talk properly.

My father was on the verge of having brain haemorrhage.

My mother and myself are seriously injured and living in away from our home as refugees since then.

### **Medical documents of the victims**

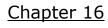




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# Photograph of the victims injured in the attack





# <u>Grandmother stripped on the road by TMC Cadre, uncle narrowly escaped</u> death.

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victim	Age 20 years, Female.
	Belongs to General Category.
	College student.
	Lives with her maternal
	uncle(Mama) for studies.
	Associated with ABVP.
Location of the Incident	
Date of the Incident	3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

The violence indulged in by TMC cadre in the aftermath of the State Assembly elections in West Bengal has been largely directed at traumatising women. All boundaries of age and decency have been crossed. Women were dragged on the streets.

tells her story of horror:

On 3<sup>rd</sup>May 2021 my house was attacked by TMC cadre.

They came to my house and started abusing us using very foul language.

They threatened us that they will rape all the women in the home and murder all the men in the home.

My uncle is not even BJP a karykarta. He just supports BJP.

We including my old grandmother (Nani) were dragged out of the home.

TMC cadre ruthlessly pulled her saree away and threw my nani on the road.

Further these cadre attempted to kill my mama, but he escaped and was saved.

We were almost killed that day.

We have not stepped out of the house since that day.

We have no safety at all.

50-60 people had attacked us. They keep coming back to our home in groups with lathis, stones, bombs, knives etc. in their hands.

On 17<sup>th</sup>May, 2021, these TMC cadre also attacked the house of my uncles' friend who lives nearby.

We all are extremely scared and can be murdered any day.

All females were abused in very bad language and were beaten.

We tried calling police also many times, but no one picked up the phone. No one came to help us.

The Police does not support us and they have left us to be murdered one day.

We are not able to sleep in the night. Please help us.

# **Home of victim ransacked**







## Chapter 17

Regularly summoned to kangaroo court type meetings by TMC cadre, she was asked to come alone to the TMC office, family is being harassed.

Name of the Victim	
	Completed D.Litt. From Bengal
	College.
Details of the Victim	Working with BJP since 2013.
	She lives with mother, father
	and brother.
Location of the Incident	
Date of the Incident	2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

In a total contravention of rule of Law and basic human dignity, has been regularly summoned and intimidated in kangaroo court like arrangements by the TMC cadre after the election results were announced.

Attempts have been made to block the access of the home to the road outside. Drunken TMC workers harass them continuously.

The rain water drainage has been blocked.

Abuses and foul language have become a routine.

On 2<sup>nd</sup>May, 2021 around 2 pm, TMC cadre, two from my locality and others from outside, came to my house and started banging the door and abusing us.

This group included females who were throwing chappals on and abusing us.

Men were drunk, they were using very foul language and were shouting and asking us to come out and then they will tell us "how to do BJP".

They threw a crude bomb on the shed where we keep our cows.

Then again on 9<sup>th</sup>May, 2021 TMC people came to my house and told my mother to send me alone to the TMC local office. They threatened my mother that if she will not send her daughter alone to the local TMC office then they will block the locality gate at the backside of our house.

On the backside of our house, there is a road which we have been using for past 18 years.

In the evening the same day, I, my mother and my brother went to the TMC office, but they were not interested in listening to us and now they have blocked the road, that is the road which we mainly used.

the TMC leader is the main person.

We are being harassed regularly on something or the other. Earlier also we have been harassed on many occasions.

Our neighbour who is TMC supporter is constructing his house, he had blocked the passage of rainwater last year. We had complained to the police. The police had come and he had to unblock the passage.

But after 2<sup>nd</sup> May,2021, the TMC people wanted me to come to their office alone. Because I did not go they have been harassing us on some issue or the other.

## Chapter 18

TMC cadre thrashed her, tore her clothes and tried to rape her.

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victim	Age 30 years, Female Belongs to General category.
Location of the Incident	
Date of the Incident	3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

TMC cadre have picked on women who are either BJP voters or workers and a pattern of molestation, threat of rape and intimidation have been used against these women.

They have been forced to flee. Their dignity lies in tatters.

TMC people came to my house after the election result on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2021.

They threw bombs at my house.

They thrashed me, tore my clothes and tried to rape me.

I managed to escape and hid myself to save my life.

Once they left, I ran away from my house.

Only after 7 days, I could return to my house.

All people in our village have come together against these attackers.

All the villagers are very scared.

I don't know what will happen to me and many other women of my village and nearby villages.

we are running to take shelter from one place to other.

#### Chapter 19

Severely physical assaulted by TMC cadre, meagre property looted, on the run due to present threats.

Name of the Victim	
Dataila of the Wistins	Age 50 years, Female.
	Belongs to Scheduled Caste
	category.
Details of the Victim	Lives with a son, daughter in
	law and a grand child
	Daughter in law is a BJP karta
Location of the Incident	
Date of the Incident	5 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the Incident:**

I live with my daughter in law, son and a grandchild.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, lots of people from TMC, came to my house and all hell broke loose.

I belong to Scheduled caste category and we are very poor.

We live in a mud house.

TMC people broke everything in the house.

My kitchen was damaged.

Everything was either looted or thrown away.

I had one cow and goat. TMC men took them away.

My daughter-in-law had some jewellery which was kept in the almirah. They took away that also.

We all had to run away from our home. We want to go back to our home, but the TMC men are not allowing us to enter our village.

TMC men have looted and damaged many houses in the entire village.

This is the punishment we are getting for being BJP supporter and because my daughter-in-law is a BJP karta.

My family and myself managed to escape but many people especially women could not escape and the TMC men had beaten them, abused them and sexually assaulted them very badly.

Situation in our village and surrounding villages is very bad. we cannot go back to our houses.

## Chapter 20

# Severely physically assaulted by TMC cadre husband almost thrashed to death, house vandalised,

Name of the Victim	
Details of the Victim	Age 26 years, Female
	Belongs to Scheduled Caste
	category.
	She was BJP polling agent.
Location of the Incident	
Date of the Incident	3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2021

#### **Brief of the incident:**

The TMC pattern of attacking the weakest of the weak and destroying them economically, emotionally is evident in this case. The family has been beaten and brutalised and are now running for their life.

On 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, after voting, me and my husband were attacked by TMC people.

I was polling agent for BJP.

When we were going back home after voting, we were badly thrashed.

I was threatened that I will be raped.

My husband was beaten so badly that he was half dead.

We were told to leave the village immediately.

Our house has been looted and damaged. Only walls are standing there and nothing else is left. I also had two goats which were taken away by TMC members.

We had a small piece of land.

All the produce which is our livelihood for months to come, has been looted.

I have two children. How do I feed them?

I have no future now.

I am living somewhere and my husband is living elsewhere.

We are made to live like nomads.

This is the story of all the villagers in my village.

#### C. Media

# Analysis of Media reports on election violence in West Bengal in 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021, as soon as the results of states assembly election were out, Bengal descended into wide spread political violence. The TMC cadre took to rape, murder and looting to establish their rule over the defeated BJP and their supporters and voters. Ironically even the left and congress cadre were not spared. Below is the analysis of the Media reportage of electoral violence in West Bengal in 2021

#### **Creation of Narrative**

In this violent aftermath of the 2021 Bengal elections, our fourth pillar, the media is playing its own strategic role completely divided. The liberal and secular publications have taken an aggressive stand, trying to gloss over the post-election violence that is taking place. NDTV, Scroll.in, The Wire etc. have attempted to downplay the heinous violence in Bengal; labelling it as merely "party politics".



Wednesday, May 5th 2021

Video Latest The Reel The Field Trending ✔ Sections ✔



#### WEST BENGAL POLITICS

# Why BJP's labelling of Bengal post election violence as communal is misleading

In Bengal's 'party society', violence is based on party affiliation, not religion.

Article in Scroll



The Bengal Violence May Not Be One-Sided or 'New' But Mamata Has a Duty to Stop It

Predictably, attempts are being made by BJP leaders and their celebrity supporters to paint the post poll violence as "communal", the aim being to scare – and communalise – Hindus in the rest of India.

Article in The Wire

#### Watch | Post-Poll Violence in West Bengal and Fake News Ecosystem

In conversation with Himadri Ghosh, a journalist based in West Bengal.





ANALYSIS COMMUNALISM

Bengal: How BJP Leaders Used Fake News to Build a Communal Narrative on Post-Poll Violence

According to latest reports, at least 14 people have died. However, aided by fake news, BJP has led a misleading campaign on this violence.



Home COVID-19 Updates Assembly Elections 2021 WebQoof My Report Good News

# Calling Out Fake News Around Bengal Violence Matters, Here's Why

Last week, we saw an exponential rise in communally sensitive fake news coming in from West Bengal.

HIMANSHI DAHIYA

Published: 11 May 2021, 8:55 PM IST

WEBQOOF 6 min read





## fact-checks Tamaghna Banerjee/TNN/Updated: May 6, 2021, 09:41 IST



NEWS / CITY NEWS / KOLKATA NEWS / BENGAL: POLICE CRACKDOWN ON FAKE VIDEOS, TMC DARES BJP WITH FACT-CHEC

#### VIDEO

### Watch | Fake News and Communal Incitement Add Fuel to Post-Poll Fire in West Bengal

Many BJP supporters, leaders and pro-BJP journalists have been sharing misleading posts, unverifiable pictures and inflammatory rumours with a communal angle.



The articles do not dispute the violence that took place, they only join issue with the BJP allegedly characterizing the violence as "communal". Think about that for a second. The article from Wire reads, "This is why the BJP's labelling of the violence as communal is incorrect. People across communities have got attacked – not only Hindus, as the BJP claims. The only pattern is that by and large, the people getting attacked are from the opposition and the attackers from the Trinamool. The violence is political, not communal."

What exactly does this serve to achieve? Should we not be concerned about the lawlessness and violence plaguing Bengal

because it is not "communal"? Should the families of BJP and RSS, workers who were either injured or killed during this violence feel better that at least they weren't victims of "communal" violence? This is an absurdist idea of morality, which has nothing to do with religious principles or natural law.

#### Clean chit to Mamata Banerjee

The liberal and secular media has belied the lowest possible expectation of at least nominally criticizing Mamata Banerjee; placing the blame for the violence and lawlessness at her feet. On the contrary, they have been singing overt praise to the three-time CM, calling her a "formidable fighter", who has just "defeated the politics of hate"; and this, at the time when TMC cadres are attacking and murdering BJP and RSS workers. Law and order is obviously the concern and responsibility of the dominant party which also won the assembly elections.

This white-washing of political violence in Bengal by the liberal press doesn't stop here. The much-championed liberal network, NDTV, platformed Professor Ananya Chakraborty, as a "Political Analyst" presumably as someone supposed to be objective and non-biased. That was unfortunately not the case, as the Professor bizarrely claimed that political violence in Bengal has "never happened before", a claim which is obviously untrue.

#### **Invisibilising the horror**

If we try to delve in the motives behind these narratives; the agenda becomes clear. Ignoring the events completely and refusing to acknowledge it on social media, the leftist journalists are not reporting about these in mainstream media. By doing this, they are

ensuring that any references to the violence do not remain, at least not in writing. A couple of years down the line, neither historians nor the general public will be able to find evidence that such a thing ever happened. At least not in any "reputable" source. And since the liberal elite gets to decide which sources are reputable and which are not, history will again be written with the left narrative.

So this violence in a few years' time will not be remembered as a pogrom targeted at the weakest sections of Hindu society of Bengal but a post poll violence between parties. Liberals decide which sources are reputable, so this will successfully discredit most of the evidence floating around.

Then, the fact-checkers can always accuse people of using fake or morphed pictures. If 100 videos are floating around, there is a chance that at least one of them is misleading. You pick on that one and publish an article with a screaming headline of "No, this did not happen." That way people will think that all 100 videos are discredited. In any case, if you cannot find a misleading picture or a video, you can open an anonymous social media account and post a fake claim yourself. You can then debunk that and blame the other side. The false flag operation takes about five minutes to set up.

#### **Diversionary Tactics**

Currently the main stream media is more worried about Palestine than the Bengal violence which is happening in their backyard. The leftist social media is completely tight lipped on the Bengal violence. The recent Palestine-Israel issue is given more traction by them each day.



Ш







Kanahiya Kumar no tweet on Bengal violence Rohini Singh No Tweet

BarkhaDutt No Tweet





#### **D.**Conclusion

"Thanks to the deliberate inaction of the State Government, miscreants have turned the State into a complete lawless zone, which demonstrates this was an organized and premeditated crime against a targeted group of people who exercised their political choice against the ruling party...The State administration and the police authorities in the State have failed and/or neglected to clamp down on the unruly elements, thereby leading to institutionalized violence and destruction of the democratic fabric of the State". *Indic Collective Trust* 

Bengal, where the violence has a pattern, with political ideology almost always pits neighbour against neighbour. This was more visible than ever this time in the post poll violence. It emerged as state-supported killings and the destruction of property of a targeted group which mainly comprised the most marginalised section of Hindu society.

There have been multiple narratives vying for primacy in controlling the explanation of violence. The predominant left media inserted an explanatory narrative into the prevailing disorder, they tried to establish a new consensual hegemony and accepted the violence as spontaneous, mass-based, unpredictable, and impossible to prevent or control. Frequently using the term Bengal has history of Political violence for justification.

In this fact finding we interviewed the victims all across gender, social hierarchy, caste hierarchy etc. and in all this puzzle of crosssectionality some distinct patterns have emerged.

#### **Pogrom**

In these incidences of state sponsored violence where the political party workers have perpetuated violence and those most responsible for the production of violence have been sheltered by the state. The state has also taken action which has diffused blame widely, blurring responsibility, and thereby contributing to the perpetuation of violence. This inaction will lead to violence in future, as well as strengthening the order that sustains them. All the victims who were interviewed said that the police did not give protection. This creates an environment where the victim is left totally despondent and without hope and hence have only one option open to them of toeing political line of the state.

#### Extortion racket- pay money, join TMC, come back home

People in West Bengal are accustomed to TMC members taking cut money to get any service. People do not have any option but to shell out money to avail services. In course of time, the TMC has formed a syndicate of organised extortion racket. Extortion and taking cut money for availing government services have become a regular practice in Bengal. Sometimes, the TMC cadres are so violent that they extort money from people at gunpoint. In this poll violence it has reached newer abyss. It has emerged that workers of TMC took to loot and arson and such extreme degree of violence that the victims were forced to flee West Bengal for neighbouring states. TMC workers then asked for extortion money from the victims if they wanted to come back home. Instead of rooting out this racket the government machinery is abetting the crime. Police do not want to register FIRs and so people are forced to pay the hefty amounts charged by TMC cadres to return home..

#### **Sexual violence**

The women were violently targeted in this violence. Political violence has escalated to unprecedented levels as a direct outcome of lumpenisation of public life under TMC rule. Men are the predominant users of violence against women to establish their control. Seeds of violence are ingrained in the patriarchal ideas and norms, and socialisation about manhood. Following this hegemony, the political parties such as TMC use hyper-masculine aggression. TMC used rape, molestation and sexual violence as means of subjugation. Very often victims of such violence are forced to keep quite out of social embarrassment, insensitive police and dilatory/expensive legal practices and the families need to submit to the will of the aggressor or leave the area or at the very least opt out of whatever invited the ire of the aggressor in the first place.

# Killing men, making them run away destroys women's security

Attacks on women during the post-poll violence have been rampant in the State of Bengal. The post poll violence in West Bengal, wherein, the houses were pulled down and men of the Families were brutally assaulted to the extent that they fled this had devastating impact on women. The women who we interviewed were scared, feeling vulnerable and were having bouts of depression. The repeated pattern which was found was that of deep insecurity arising from these incidents. Post such incidents with their men forced to flee the place, women see themselves as totally defenceless against the tyrannical hordes.

# <u>Target group, political opponents</u>(Primarily marginalised sections of Hindu society who are BJP voters and supports)

Mamata Banerjee was issuing veiled threats of "looking after" her opponents after the elections and her lumpen cadres are following up on that now. Instances of heinous crimes including bombing of localities, murders, violations against the modesty of women, riotous looting, kidnapping, arson and destruction of public property, were constantly reported by the victims during interviews. The physical assault against women who support the opposing parties in the state was a recurring theme. The violence hence is a tool for political subjugation in this battle. The violence rampant in all its forms, physical, sexual, economic and social is leaving the victims without and sense of safety or succour and hence no freedom to have an independent political opinion so essential in a democracy.

This fact finding established beyond doubt that beneath the benign neutrality of "Political violence" lies a complex intersectionality of gender, caste and religion. The supporters and voters of the BJP are primarily Hindu and in the case of West Bengal also belong to the most marginalised section of Hindu society. This preliminary investigation is the ground for urgent deliverance of justice to these victims by national bodies like NHRC, NCW, NCPCR etc. It is also a call for systematic data collection and recording of the trauma of the victims.

#### F. Wailing democracy in Bengal (Through Images)



