Fact-Finding Report -Police Firing on Adivasis in Adhaura, Kaimur, Bihar October, 2020

Facts from the ground - Series

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FACT-FINDING REPORT

Police Firing on Adivasis in Adhaura, Kaimur, Bihar

October, 2020

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All India Union of Forest Working People (AIUFWP) Delhi Solidarity Group (DSG) Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) After the police firing on Adivasis, which took place on the 11th of September 2020, in Adhaura Block, Kaimur District of Bihar, a four-member team; Amir Sherwani Khan (All India Union of Forest Working People), Matadayal from (All India Union of Forest Working People) Raja Rabbi Hussain (Delhi Solidarity Group) and Aman Khan an advocate from the Supreme Court, visited the communities and interacted with them in Kaimur District of Bihar from 23rd to 27th of September 2020.

BACKGROUND

Since March 2020, the forest department officials of Adhaura block, Bhabua subdivision, Kaimur District, Bihar have been employing means such as encroaching upon agricultural lands of the *Adivasi* people intending to evict them from their villages. These villages include: Gulu, Goiyan, Dighar, Bahabar, Pipra, Sodha, Bahera, Dumrava, Sarainar. In Sarainar, they allegedly destroyed 50 houses of the *Agariya Adivasi* villagers in a bid to evict them. In Gullu, the government officials including forest officials have been pressuring villagers by digging pits on their cultivable lands under the grab of carrying out afforestation.

This struggle between the forest officials and the *Adivasis* have been of the forest and land rights has been going on since decades. In response to the actions of the forest department and government officials Kaimur Mukti Morcha (KMM) was formed during 1980s under the leadership of Dr. Vinayan, a legendary thinker and organiser of landless and poor Adivasi-Dalit peasants.

On 1974, Dr Vinayan, an MBBS from Agra Medical College who made Jehanabad district of Bihar as his place of his work in 1974. Dr Vinayan was a compatriot of the dynamic leader Jayaprakash Narayan who was at the forefront of the struggle against the draconian Emergency invoked by then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi from 1975 to 1977. Dr Vinayan spent his next 32 years in Bihar, living among the poor, oppressed and became a part of their life. His work prompted Lal Bahadur Shastri Administrative Academy to invite him, time and again, to deliver lectures to Indian Administrative Service (IAS) probationers. His inputs were eagerly sought by the Planning Commission, who nominated him to an advisory committee and even the mandarins at the Prime Minister's Office sought his opinion. **Dr. Vinayan strictly advocated democratic and peaceful means to assert the rights of the oppressed communities**.



Figure 1: Dr. Vinayan

Kaimur Mukti Morcha (KMM) was associated with the Jan Mukti Andolan (JMA) initiated by Dr. Vinayan and Dr. B.D. Sharma. KMM and JMM fought against Zamindari system and advocated for the land rights of the oppressed communities. But on the question of forest rights a national level forum was formed in 1996 by Dr. Vinayan, Ashok Chaudhary, D. Thankappan, Roma Malik and Bharti Roy Chaudhary. The forum was named as National Forum of Forest People and Workers (NFFPW). Later in 2013, this forum culminated into All India Union of Forest Working People (AIUFWP). Through this platform addressing the implementation of the Forest Rights Act on the ground was the priority. With such ideological foundations and rich historical past, activists associated with KMM have been striving to protect the rights of the Adivasi people on ground.

In 2006, after a long struggle of the forest-dwelling communities of India, the 'Scheduled Tribes, Traditional, Pastoral and Other Forest Dweller Communities were recognised under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). FRA, 2006 was passed in the Parliament of India to 'undo the historical injustices' suffered by *Adivasi* and other forest dwelling communities. It put in

place a three-stage process by which the rights of traditional and other forest dwellers were to be recorded and recognized. It listed thirteen types of rights, including rights over land being cultivated, rights to non-timber forest produce, and most crucially, the right to protect and conserve forests which no Indian law had ever recognized as a right before. It also provided immense legal support to the forest-dwelling communities, allowing a proper process for rehabilitation in cases of their eviction and several other protective laws. The objective of this historic legislation was to eradicate the continuing 'Historic Injustice' carried on *Adivasis* and other forest dwelling communities. However, its ineffective implementation on the ground made the oppressed *Adivasi* and other forest dwelling communities communities more vulnerable to attacks from different sections. Thus, historic injustice still continues by obstructing effective implementation of the Act.

Though the Forest Rights Act, 2006, has been in existence for 14 years, the Bihar government has not shown any political will to implement this law on the ground. The Adivasis of Kaimur district are tired of the false promises made to them by the government of Bihar. To assert their birth and constitutional rights, they organised a 2-day sit-in dharna demonstration at the Adhaura block on the 10th and 11th of September 2020 in Adhaura Block, Kaimur District, Bihar. Activists of KMM had staged the sit-in demonstration to demand legal rights over water, forest and land.

SEQUENCE OF THE INCIDENT

On 10th September 2020, thousands of *Adivasis* including women, men, youth and children from 108 villages of Adhaura Block mobilised in front of the forest department office at Adhaura. The *dharna* began peacefully at *Birsa Munda Smarak Sthal*. More than ten thousand pamphlets of this dharna were distributed since August 2020, and government and forest department officials were intimated about the *dharna*.

The members of *Kaimur Mukti Morcha* made the following demands:

- Implement Forest Rights Act 2006.
- Declare Kaimur as a Scheduled area as per the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 to be implemented effectively.
- The administrative reorganisation of Kaimur Valley.
- Scrap the 1927 colonial Indian Forest Act.
- Implement the Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act.
- Abolish the proposed Kaimur Forest Wildlife Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve.

The administration did not pay heed to these demands. No one from the district authorities came forward to even have a dialogue with the community. In the evening at around 6 pm, as there was no response from the authorities, the *Adivasis*, in fear of losing their ancestral land, forest and water, locked the gates of the forest department office. This constituted a symbolic gesture of their protest to make their voices of oppression heard.

On 11th September 2020, the sit-in *dharna* continued. The forest department officials came, broke the locks and entered the department building. Post noon, the *Adivasis* decided reaching out to the forest department officials to initiate a dialogue. But when the delegated representatives went inside the office, they were abused and man-handled by officials who were present. Later on, and quite suddenly, more police poured in, along with CRPF personnel, and unleased a brutal assault on the *Adivasis*. The police opened fire and lathi-charged the protesters. During this period, an *Adivasi* named Prabhu from Chaphana village was shot by a police bullet, the bullet went through his ear and took a chunk of his ear's muscle tissue. Police lathi-charged Adivasi women, men, youths and children viciously and many were injured which went unreported.

Police brutality continued in the aftermath of this incident as well. *Kaimur Mukti Morcha's* office in Adhaura was ransacked by police and seven activists were arrested on false charges. The arrested activists were first kept in police custody and later presented in front of the judicial magistrate of Kaimur district. All the activists namely; Sipahi Singh, 65 years from Goiyan, Dharmender Singh, 25 years from Bardihya, Pappu Paswan, 23 years from Jharpa, Lallan Singh Kharwa, 45 years from Baraap, Kailash Singh, 62 from Bardiha, Ram Shakal Singh Kharwar, age 52 years from Goiyan and Haricharan Singh, age 65 from Sarainar. All of them were arrested and were sent to judicial custody.

All seven activists were charged under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections; 144/148/147/323/307/353/332/333/337/338/342 and 427.

The Police filed an FIR against seven Kaimur Mukti Morcha Activists on September 11, 2020 around 2:15 PM. The FIR has been lodged under sections 147 (Punishment for Rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 145 (Joining or continuing in unlawful assembly, knowing it has been commanded to disperse), 323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 307 (Attempt to murder), 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (Voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 333 (Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 333 (Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 338 (Causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) 338 (Causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 427 (Mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), 342 (Punishment for wrongful confinement) of the Indian Penal Code and section

427 (Punishment for possessing arms, etc, with intent to use them for unlawful purposes) of the Arms Act.

(Note: On the 16th of October 2020, all seven activists were granted bail.)

INTERACTIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The fact-finding team visited 7 villages of Adhaura Block, Kaimur District, Bihar. Details of the block are given below:

Name of the Block:	Adhaura
Revenue Villages:	108
Total Geographical Area (ha):	80578.49
Total Population:	57100 (100%)
Male Population:	29646 (51.9%)
Female Population:	27454 (48.1%)
Sex Ratio:	926
Population (0-6 years):	11962 (20.9%)
Scheduled Castes:	7385 (12.93%)
Scheduled Tribes:	29680 (51.98%)
Total Literate Population:	25431 (56.34%)
Male Literate Population:	16232 (68.96%)
Female Literate Population:	9199 (42.59%)

(Source: Census 2011, Govt. of India)

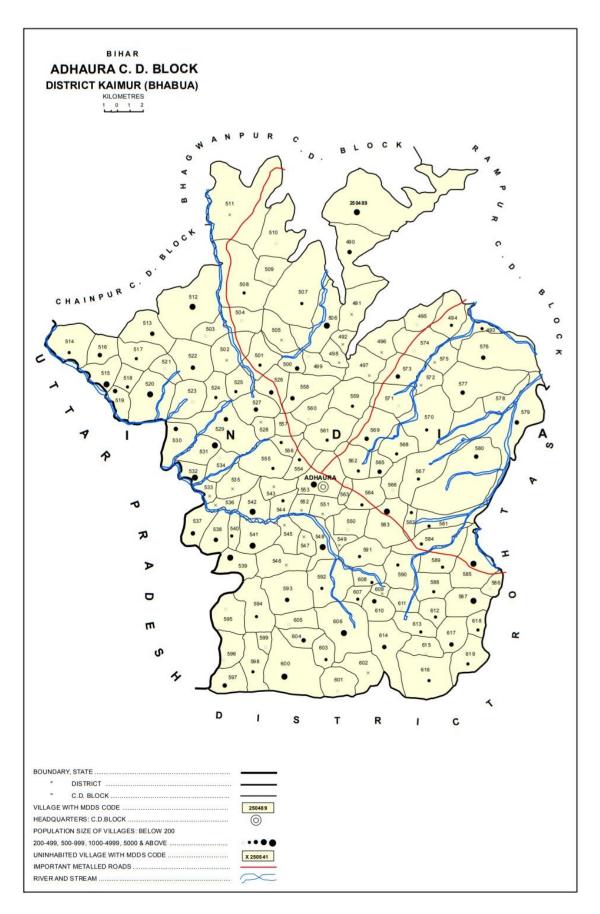


Figure 2: Map of Adhaura Block, Kaimur District, Bihar (Source: Kaimur District Census 2011 Handbook)



Figure 3: Map of the villages visited by the fact-finding team (Source: Google Maps)

The seven villages visited are listed below, with their population characteristics and land use figures:

Village Code	Village Name	Gram Panchayat Name	Total Geographical Area (ha)	Total Households	Total Population	Male Population	Female Population	sc	ST	Forest Area (ha)	Net Area Sown (ha)	Area Irrigated by Source (ha)
250582	Gulu	Athan	214	64	286	136	150	5	280	188.5	1.5	0
250564	Sarainar	Chanpura	601	54	376	193	183	0	318	480.4	116.5	116.6
250556	Biduri	Adhaura	333	93	493	257	236	7	157	241.5	81.5	81.5
250555	Bardiha	Adhaura	813	72	438	213	225	30	356	698.5	105.5	105.5
250568	Goiyan	Dumrawan	564	77	422	227	195	0	421	88.5	468.5	468.5
250593	Chaphana	Sadki	1056	117	822	419	403	11	803	890	161.9	161.4
250554	Jharpa	Adhaura	458	51	283	141	142	131	140	341	66.8	66.8
	Total		4039	528	3120	1586	1534	184	2475	2259.5	935.4	883.7
	%					50.8	49.2	5.9	79.3	55.9	23.2	94.5
L			1	1	1	1	1			Percenta total		Percentage of net sown area

Table 1: Population and land characteristics – 7 villages of Adhaura Block (Source: Census 2011, Govt. of India) area

Kaimur was carved out from the Rohtas district of Bihar in 1993. Kaimur district falls within the Kaimur Plateau which is part of the Kaimur Range. It consists of a series of descending plateaux. It is part of the Vindhya Range surrounded by Baghelkhand mountain range and Chota Nagpur Plateau. Kaimur district consist of two sub-district headquarters, namely: Bhabua subdivision and Mohaniya Sub-division. Adhaura is one of the eleven community development blocks of Kaimur district.

Adhaura Block is situated at a height of 2000 feet from the sea level on Kaimur Plateau and covers a total geographical area of 80578 hectares. According to the Indian Census Data of 2011, the total population of Adhaura Block is 57,100 with a sex ratio of 926 women per 1000 men. 51% of its population belongs to Schedule Tribe. Most of the Schedule Tribe populace belongs to the *Kharwar* community. Adhaura Block consist of 108 revenue villages. Only 72 villages have education facilities, 11 villages have medical facilities. 22 villages dispose of transports and communication infrastructures, 13 villages have access to banking services and only 2 were declared to have power supply in 2011. Post COVID-19 pandemic, none of these facilities were operational except one primary health facility at Adhaura Block.

The fact-finding team reached Kaimur district on the 23rd of September 2020. On meeting with the activists, it was realised that 7 Adivasi men were arrested by the police, 29 other Adivasi activists were charged and falsely implicated. After the meeting, the team headed towards Adhaura Block.

During the journey, while interacting with one of the activists of KMM, it was realised that the Adivasi community practices subsistence farming and grows rice, ground nut, *arhar* and various vegetables. The *Kharwar* and other tribal community is highly dependent on the forest. They have an in depth and detailed knowledge about various orchids, orchards and other trees, plants, shrubs and herbs from which they make medicines, food, colours and these are sources of livelihood. The Adivasis informed the team that the forest is their soul and without it their identity is incomplete. Therefore, they will fight with anyone who tries to take away their livelihood and identity.

On the 24th of September, the fact-finding team visited Biduri Village, Adhaura Panchayat, Adhaura Block, Kaimur District. The team met the family members of Subhash Singh Kharwar, one of the accused as per the (FIR No. 71/20). The team had a dialogue with his mother Ganga Jali Devi, age 59 years old younger sister Phulan Kumari, 17 years and younger brother, Vinay Singh 18 years. The family accuses police officials of misbehaving and barging into their house without any search warrant or any document.

The police officials were on a look out for Subhash and his younger brother Chanderashok Singh Kharwar, as they were accused under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections;

144/148/147/323/307/353/332/333/337/338/427 and 342.

The mother and sister of Subhash were not part of the sit-in dharna demonstration yet they were harassed. On 12th of September, the police officials (all men) barged into their home, and at that moment, there were no male members present in the household. Subhash is a lecturer of philosophy in a state-run college. His mother informed us that after the death of her husband, she struggled to raise her children and educate them. She also categorically stated how she was entirely dependent on forest when she was struggling to raise her children. She also mentioned how Subhash, despite his job as a lecturer, is still very much connected with the people of Adhaura and continuously raises his voice to defend their land, forest and water resources. She said that they would not able to survive without the forest. But the forest department continuously threatens and harasses locals whenever they encounter them in forest. She also mentioned that the forest department puts unreasonable fines when they meet them while they are collecting Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) and firewood, snatch their tools and sometimes take their livestock without their consent. Unfortunately, instead of listening to the people's grievances, the government is muzzling their voices.

It is important to note that the **police officials violated Article 19 (Right to Freedom) and Article 20(3) (Protection against Self Incrimination) of the Indian Constitution**. The police officials misused their power and section 165 under Code of Criminal Procedure (CPC).

The team interacted with the other members of the village Biduri. They reiterated the same point that police officials along with CRPF personnel ransacked their village. The villagers were threatened and verbally abused. When the team asked them why the police officials and CRPF personnel were misbehaving in such a manner, the villagers responded stating that it was due to the two-day sit-in dharna demonstration at Adhaura block. Many people of that village shared their ordeal that they went to express their grief and sorrow to their elected government and in return they received police batons and bullets.

The team visited Bardiha village Adhaura Panchayat and met Hira Singh Kharwar father of Dharmendra Singh. Dharmendra Singh, 25-year-old *Kharwar* Adivasi youth who was booked under similar charges along with Subhash and his younger brother. He is associated with KMM and was part of the democratically organised two-day sit-in dharna at Adhaura Block. The villagers reiterated the point that the activists associated with KMM were elders and village leaders who followed proper procedures of finalizing venue and took permission from the respective local administration. The intention of the Adivasi

community from 108 villages of Adhaura Block was to have a dialogue with the administration over gross violation and non-implementation of Forest Rights Act of 2006, Panchayats Extension of Schedule Areas Act of 1996 and Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. All these acts are constitutional rights of the Schedule Tribes of India. However, on the 11th of September, the police and local administration attacked villagers in a very planned manner at the protest site. The police officials mercilessly and indiscriminately showered batons, guns and bullets against the peaceful Adivasi protestors.

One of the women Ramraji Kharwar, showed us the injuries she sustained during police lathi-charge. She stated that the government, forest department and police officials were trying to terrorise the Adivasi people, so that they hand over their ancestral land to the government. The women also shared how the forest is an integral part in the life of the people of the community, and their interdependence with the forest. She was very vocal and assertive about the claims for land and forest rights.

"The government wants to sell our land to the big corporates but I shall inform the government that until my very death I will fight for my land, forest and water." Ramraji Devi, (Adivasi Woman from Bardiha village).

The team met Kavindra Singh a local journalist from Bardiha village. He was on his official duty to cover the two-day sit-in dharna for the local Hindi newspaper Dainik Jagran. He too highlighted that the two-day sit-in dharna for the local democratic exercise to peacefully demonstrate against oppressive anti-people laws. He equally stated that the activists of KMM took permission from the police department regarding the venue, maintenance of law and order during the two-day sit-in protest dharna.

Kavindra Singh shared his version of the incident to the team. He stated that during the protest, the villager realized that despite the fact that public servants are meant to serve the citizens of this country, they did not even bother to come and listen to the grievances of the people. The protesters unanimously decided to put a lock on the already locked forest ranger's office. The next day, as per the plan, they assembled at the same venue and some of the volunteers went to see the locked forest and police departments, and found out that it was broken. Nobody bothered to come to listen to the people who gathered from 108 villages and to their demands. When the people then entered the ranger's office, and tried to have a dialogue but suddenly without any warning, the police lathi charged on helpless villagers, and the violence from the police forces escalated to the point that women and children were also badly beaten. The people then heard the sound of 4 to 5 bullets being shot at the group. Within a couple of hours, the Divisional Forest Officers, Rangers and *Thana Prabhari* (Police Station In-charge) reached Adhaura.



Figure 4: Meeting at Bardhia Village (Photo Courtesy: Delhi Solidarity Group)

The team headed towards Goiyan Village, Dumrawan panchayat. The village members also belong to the *Kharwar Adivasi*. The villagers shared that approximately 100 people from Goiyan were part of the *dharna*. The team also met Phoolmatiya and Samudri, both who had faced police assaults. Phoolmatiya was injured on her chest. Sipahi (65-year-old) and Ramshakal Singh (65-year-old) were also arrested. They were called by Superintendent of Police and the Subdivisional Officer under the pretext of having a dialogue but were arrested around 5pm on the 12 of September in the police office and were sent to police custody in Adhaura.

The fact-finding team then met the working secretary of KMM, Rajalal Singh Kharwar. He mentioned that the ruling party has persistently tried to saffronise the history of *Kaimur* Adivasis in order to divide them and jeopardize their agenda. He equally discussed about the struggles of Santhal and about the rich history of the 4 million-year-old Kaimur hills. He told the team that the government was trying to evict the Adivasis from their ancestral land because of the presence of the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, which is on the verge of becoming the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR). On that matter, Mr. Rajalal Singh Kharwar stated:

"Despite spending most of the time in these dense forests every day for years, none of us have ever sighted or confronted a tiger here. The proposal to declare the sanctuary as a tiger reserve is nothing but an attempt to grab our land and evict us from here." Raja Lal Singh Kharwar, Working Secretary, KMM.



Figure 5: Community People of the Goiyan Village (Photo Courtesy: Delhi Solidarity Group)

Raja Lal Singh also shared about the Adivasis' symbiotic relationship with the forest and its ecosystem. He made the observation that the wildlife was migrating from the forests because of the loss of forest cover, caused by the activities of the government and the forest departments, encroaching on the land of *Adivasi* people and degrading the environment. He stated that the government had to take responsibility for the loss of forest cover instead of alienating the people from forest resources in the name of conservation.

"Even if there were traces of tiger presence in this forest, we are not afraid of it, as we have historically co-existed with wildlife. We won't allow anyone to displace us. It is a do-or-die situation for us" Raja Lal Singh Kharwar, Working Secretary, KMM.

Kharwar said that the vulnerable tribal communities were left with no option but to boycott the polls, as the authorities, instead of listening to them, used force when they staged a sit-in at Adhaura block this year to demand their legal rights over water, forest and land. In addition, the brutal police actions infuriated the protesters who also fought back. The peaceful protest escalated in violence, one activist suffered bullet injuries and several faced arrests. The police also broke the locks of the Kaimur Mukti Morcha's office and conducted raids there. It has now become a routine affair that the activists are arrested and branded as Maoists. Despite police violence and use of the state force, Kharwar added that that they will continue their fight using democratic means. He, along with six other people, have been booked in the past under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and under Section 27 of The Arms Act, 1959 for unlawful gathering, among others.

"This is a tribal dominated area. But the government has divided the entire area into eight blocks in two districts to ensure non-inclusion of the region in Schedule V. We demand an administrative reorganisation of the hills and creation of two blocks only for the tribal population so that our area can be included in Schedule V." Raja Lal Singh Kharwar, Working Secretary, KMM.

On 24th evening, the team went to meet the family of Haricharan Singh s/o Ganesh Singh, a 65-year-old Adivasi from Sarainar village, Chanpura Panchayat. Haricharan Singh was severely injured on his head during the protest, but he was still arrested despite his age and head injuries. The team were told by the villagers of Sarainar that he was taken to conduct a medical examination in the hospital in Bhabhua and then was sent to a quarantine judicial custody detention centre under judicial custody at Vikramganj which is 50 km away from Bhabhua. His family was worried and didn't know anything about his whereabouts. Sarainar village has also been constantly facing the brutality of the forest department, which is not allowing the building of mud houses, that are systematically destroyed. It was also reported by the villagers that the officials from the forest department also takes away the livestock of the *Adivasis* without their consent. Villagers have many grievances against the local administration and the state government in the village as a result of these violent actions.

The team members observed on their way back that the road infrastructures were really poor in the area, and that there equally a lack of ambulance services. Schools were shut due to corona and there was no facility of online or remedial classes. The team also saw mud houses of *Adivasis* which had been destroyed by the forest department arbitrarily. All the claims of the current government about good governance, inclusivity and development was felt on the ground like a big '*Jumla*' (lie).

On 25th of September, the team headed towards Chaphana Village, Sadki Panchayat, to visit the residence of the injured person Prabhu who was shot at and sustained a bullet injury on his ear. When the team reached his village, the entire village seemed to be antagonised. The villagers were in fear and anxiety. It took some time to have a conversation with the villagers because they were suspecting that the team was from the forest department. The kind of fear that people have for forest department officials speaks

volumes about the situation on ground and the accountability of government officials. There was a huge sense of suspicion and insecurity. The villagers thought that the factfinding team was there to arrest the person who was shot in his ears. Out of fear, the individual who was shot by the police bullet disappeared and his family refused to speak openly to the team. The team tried to ease off the tension but were unable to speak in detail-length with anyone. Fortunately, after couple of hours, some villagers did confess about the sheer brutality which they had experienced in the hands of the police and forest officials on the 11th of September. They also informed the team that other players with vested interest such as some prominent organizations or institutions mediate between the forest officials and the villagers. They work in connivance with forest department and try to build pressure on villagers to allow forest officials to oppress the people and intimidate them. Villagers told us that the forest department abuses them, make derogatory comments such as "Jungle tere baap ka hai kya" (does the forest belong to your father?). The villagers stated that they would better die fighting for their rights than giving up the forest to the forest department, as it constitutes an integral part in their existence and dignity. They said that they submitted their claims for their rights on the forest land years ago but did not hear anything from the block and district administration.

After that meeting with the villagers, the team visited another village, Jharpa village, Adhaura Panchayat. The team visited the house of an individual who was Pappu Paswan one of the 7 Adivasi men arrested on false charges. The team spoke with the mother (Shradha Devi) who seemed to be in pain and grief about her son being in jail during the COVID-19 crisis. She stated that it is unjust to keep someone who was only asking for his rights in jail. She kept on weeping in-front of the team and begged the team to get her son out from jail.

On 26th of September morning, the team visited Gulu village, Athan Panchayat. Pramod Oraon a youth from the village reported about the police brutality and the atrocities the forest officials imposed on them on a regular basis. He highlighted the fact that how forest officials ask for bribes for the Adivasis to be able to cultivate their agricultural fields and threatened them if they refuse. It was also observed that the claims made by the villagers under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, were not drafted adequately and did not receive response from government officials. The villagers need support to make their individual and community claims properly.

By noon, the team headed back to Kaimur district head quarter and met the lawyer to discuss the bail applications.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LEGAL SYSTEM

On the 26th of September, 2020 by noon the team visited Bhabua and met with Adv. Chhatu Ram who was filling the anticipatory bail application of 22 accused out of 29 accused. In the past he was associated with Dr Vinayan and was also a part of many people's rights movement. He stated that all the accused persons are been framed on very frivolous and concocted charges.

Regarding the 7 arrested persons in this case three lawyers will be fighting their case and will be applying for their bail. It was decided that proper coordination will be required among all the three advocates so that the Adivasi persons get justice and the persons can present their case appropriately. It was decided that if the bail applications of the arrested and accused persons were denied in Bhabua district court than advocated will move to Patna High court.

It was planned that the legal team will facilitate for court monitored inquiry about police brutality and atrocities against the peaceful protesters. The team will be approaching State Human Rights Commission and National Human Rights Commission for an inquiry. It was decided by the team should file counter complaint cases against those officials who ordered police firing and lathi-charge on the peaceful protesters.

OBSERVATIONS

The president of the KMM, Balkeshwar Singh Kharwar, claimed that people in Goiyan village in Adhaura block had already been forcibly displaced by the forest department and police during the lockdown. In Sarainar, he alleged, the forest department officials destroyed all 50 houses. "Government officials have been pressuring the villagers in Gulu by digging pits on their farm lands under the garb of carrying out afforestation," he alleged.

Such practices of the forest department in cohort with the government officials of Adhaura Block is a gross violation of the Forest Rights Act 2006, which recognises and vests forest rights on Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other traditional forest dwellers. He also added that some government officials ask for bribes which impacts their livelihood and day to day survival. They said they were being harassed and arrested when they plucked *tendu* leaves (used in *bidi*-making) and other medicinal plants from the forest for selling them for survival.



Figure 6: A medicinal tree in Jharpa Village. (Photo Courtesy: Delhi Solidarity Group)

Section 4(1) of the Forest Rights Act categorically mentions that no member of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers shall be evicted or removed from forest land under his occupation. According to the Act, even a plantation drive in the forest requires approval from the Gram Sabha. In Bihar, according to the data from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Status report on implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, for the period ending 31.3.2020), **8022 individual forest rights claims have been registered until March 2020, out of which only 121 titles have been distributed.** No data is available on community forest rights claims, and it is clear from the situation on the ground that the Act is not effectively implemented in the State.

This is also a violation of the Supreme Court judgment in the case of Odisha Mining Corporation Vs Ministry of Forest and Environment and others (c) No. 180 of 2011, which clearly states that the Gram Sabha is the owner of the natural resources; therefore, the common land, sacred groves and forest and forest land of the villages cannot be acquired without the consent of the Gram Sabhas, the activists alleged.

"We have already lost a huge portion of land in the Durgawati and Haraiya dams. When these two dams were constructed, the forest department was given around 5,000 hectares in this forest. It severely impacted our dwellings," Bal Kishwar Singh Kharwar. A major source of livelihood is being denied, but no political leader is speaking on it. As a result, the people of Kaimur Rohtas mountain are going to be destroyed. But politicians do not want to discuss this issue even remotely. This means that do not find that the suffering of the people is worth fighting for. Today, the forest department is preparing to displace the people of the entire mountain in the name of the tiger reserve.

Thus, the discussion among the Adivasis in that area emerged about the boycott of the election 2020, instead of choosing a representative to make their point known to the government. What the people have realized is that elected leaders have not been accountable to them and that they were not willing to take up the issues faced by the Adivasis. In their views, it is very important to take this step, in order to make their voices heard and resist this autocratic government, which is implementing anti-people policies.

Recommendations made by the Fact-Finding team:

- Implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 should be implemented effectively and speedily in the proper spirit that the Act was envisioned.
- Scrapping 1927, colonial Indian Forest Right Act. Declare Kaimur a Scheduled area under Panchayat (Extension Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
- Unconditional release of all arrested activists and quashing the FIR against all the accused people charged under false cases.
- A judicial inquiry should be facilitated by the state government of Bihar regarding the police firing and lathi charge incident on the peaceful Adivasi protestors in Adhaura block.
- State government should compensate the persons who were charged on false cases and were injured by police firing and lathi-charged.
- All the perpetrated officials who had fired and lathi-charged on the peaceful Adivasi protestors should be arrested and sent to jail.

ANNEXURES

1. FIR copy (3 pages)

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यदि परिवादी/इत्तिला देने वाले/पीडित व्यक्ति द्वारा संदिग्ध व्यक्ति के संबंध में कोई एक या अधिक विशिष्टतायें दी जाएं तभी इन स्व प्रविष्टियाँ की जाएंगी। इसका उपयोग अनुसन्धानक के सहायतार्थ केवल प्रारोभक सुधार के प्रयोजन से ही किया जाएगा। इस प्रकार बनाए गए आंकड़े बाद में किसी संदिग्ध व्यक्ति को विभिन्न मामलों, यदि कोई हो, से जोड़ेगा।

जव कोई अभियुक्त गिरफ्तार किया जाए तब पूर्व-संदेष्ठ पर विचार के किए बिना सभी बातों से संबंधित व्यापक और पूर्ण आंकड़े पुनः किए जाएंगे।

अनुसूची 47, प्रपत्र सं०-118 (4) 13. की गयी कार्रवाई : चूँकि उपर्युक्त सूचना से मद सं० 2 में उल्लिखित घाराओं के अन्तर्गत अपराध किया जाना प्रकट होता है अत: कांड दर्ज 87990 S1874 44714 P. 37/7" अनुसंधान करने का निर्देश दिया/अनुसंधान करने से इन्कार किया/ अधिकारिता के प्रश्न पर स्टर्ट आना को अंतरित किया गया। प्राथमिकी परिवादी/सूचनादाता को पढ़कर सुनायी गयी। उसने उसे सही रूप में अभिलिखित किया गया, पाकर स्वीकार किया और उसकी एक प्रति परिवादी/सूचनादाता को निःशुल्क दी गयी। (Action taken : Since the above report reveals commission of offence (s) u/s as mentioned at Item No., 2 registered the case and took up the investigation / directed* Rank. to take up the investigation.) : 14. परिवादी/सूचना दाता का हस्ताक्षर/अंगूठा का निशान। 15. थाना से न्यायालय में ग्रेषण की तिथि एवं समय odkyoror 11/09/20 थाना प्रभारी का हस्त HIH (Name) किए जाएंगे।

2. Details of other persons named in the FIR

अध¹रा थाना काण्ड सं0-71/20, दि0-11.09.20, धारा-147,/148/149/323/307/353/332/333/ 337/338/100//// सं0-71/20, दि0-11.09.20, धारा-147,/148/149/323/307/353/332/333/ 337/338/188/427/342 भा०द०वि० एवं 27 आर्म्स एक्ट के शेष प्राथमिकी अभियुवतों का नामपता निम्न प्रकार 2.प्रमोद उरॉव पेशर लाखा उरॉव साकिन गुल्लू 3.विजय शंकर सिंह ऐशर रामाधार सिंह साकिन बड़िहा 4.बालकेश्वर सिंह पेशर रामकेवल सिंह साकिन बहाबार 5.कैलाश उरॉव पेशर बेलाज उरॉव साकिन गोइयॉ 6.शिवनाथ उरॉव पेशर क्रिशचन उरॉव साकिन गोइयॉ 7.महेन्द्र सिंह पेशर अगनु सिंह साकिन गोइयॉ 8.जवाहीर सिंह पेशर स्व0 जग्गु सिंह साकिन गोइयाँ 9 सिपाही सिंह पेशर लक्ष्मण सिंह साकिन गोइयाँ 10 जानालाल सिंह पे0 स्व0 कुँवर सिंह सा८ गोइयाँ 11.परीखा सिंह पे० शिवटहल सिंह सा० भूईफोर 12.रामलायक सिंह पे० सोजू सिंह सा० गोइयॉ 13.मोहन सिंह पे० देवन सिंह सा0 गोइयों 14.रूपनारायण राम पे0 कोमल राम सा0 भूईफोड़ 15.सुमाथ खरबार 6.चन्द्रशेखर खरबार दोनों पे० रामाधार खरबार सा० विदुरी 17.लाल बिहारी सिंह पे० स्व० रामाशीष सिंह सा० वरडीहा 18.प्रमु अगरियाँ पे० राजनाथ अगरियाँ सा० चफना 19.हरिचर्धा सिंह पे० स्व० गणेश सिंह सा० सरईनार 20.सुनील सिंह पे० सुकर सिंह सा0 गोइयाँ 21.दिनानाथ सिंह पे0 स्व0 घनश्याम सिंह सा0 खोंधर 22.मेहक्की देवी पति बालेश्वर सिंह सा0 डुमरकोण 23.फलमतियाँ देवी पति लालकेश्वर सिंह सा० गोइयाँ 24.सुरेन्द्र सिंह पे० कुलवन सिंह सा० वहादाग सभी थाना अधौरा जिला कैमूर 25.कैलाश सिंह पेo सनेही सिंह साo बरकेंद्रटा थाना नौहट्टा जिला रोहतास 26.धर्मेन्द्र सिंह खरबार पे० हिरा खरवार सा० बरडीहा थाना अधौरा जिला र्छमूर 27.पप्पु पासवान पे० विश्वनाथ पासवान साकिन झड़पा थाना अधौरा 28.रामसकल सिंह पे0 कन्हैया सिंह सा0 गोइयॉ 29.लल्लन सिंह खरदार पे0 रामवचन सिंह खरवार सा0 बराप सभी थाना अधौरा जिला कैमूर। थानाध्यक्ष Andlevona 11/27/20 अधौरा थाना (कैम्र)।

3. Letter for Judicial Custody of accused persons named in the FIR

g) - 09.20 सेवा में माननीय न्यायालय श्रीमति अमृता सिंह, न्यायिक दण्डाधिकारी प्रथम श्रेणी,भभुआ (कैमूर) प्रसंग अधौरा थाना काण्ड संख्या-71/20 दिनांक-11.09.2020 धारा-147/148/149/323/307/353 / 332 / 333 / 337 / 338 / 188 / 427 / 342 माठवठविठ एवं 27 आम्स एक्ट विषय अग्रसारण प्रतिवेदन के संबंध में। महाशय, निवेदन पूर्वक सुचित करना है कि कांड के प्राथमिकी अभियुक्त 1. सिपाही सिंह पे0- श्री लक्ष्मन सिंह 2. रामसकल सिंह खरवार पे0-कन्हैया सिंह दोनों सा0- गोईयां 3. लल्लन सिंह खरवार पे0- श्री रामबचन सिंह खरवार सा0- बड़ाप 4.धर्मेन्द्र सिंह खरवार मे0- श्री हिरा खरवार सा0- बरडिहां 5. पण्पु पासवान पे०- विसुनाथ पासवान सा०- झड़पा 6 स्ट्रीमच्या सिंह पे०- स्व० गणेश सिंह सा०- सरईनार सभी थाना- अधौरा जिला- कैमूर 7.कैलाश सिंह पे0- सनेही सिंह सा0- बरकट्टा थाना- नौहट्टा जिला- रोहतास को गिरफ्तार कर उचित मार्ग रक्षण दल के साथ माननीय न्यायायिक में उपस्थापन हेतु मेजा जा रहा है। अतः अनुरोध है कि गिरफ्तार अभियुक्त 1. सिपाही सिंह पे0- श्री लक्ष्मन सिंह 2. रामसकल सिंह खरवार पे0-कन्हैया सिंह दोनों सा0- गोईयां 3. लल्लन सिंह खरवार पे0- श्री रामवचन सिंह खरवार सा0– बडाप 4.धर्मेन्द्र सिंह खरवार पे0– श्री हिरा खरवार सा0– बरडिहां 5. पप्पु पासवान पे0– विसुनाथ सासवान सा0– इडपा 6. प्रिमिन्द्र सिंह पे0– स्व0 गणेश सिंह सा0– सरईनार सभी थाना– अधौरा जिला– कैमूर 7.कैलाश सिंह दे0– सनेही सिंह सा0– बरकट्टा थाना– नौहट्टा जिला– रोहतास को कम से कम एक पखवारे तक न्यायायिक अभिरक्षा में रखने की कृपा करें इनके विरुद्ध आरोप पत्र समर्पित किये जाने की पूर्ण संभावना है। अतः श्रीमान् को सादर सूचनार्थ प्रेषित। साक्ष्य ज्ञाप :--1. यह कि कांड के प्राथमिकी नामजद अभियुक्त है। 2. इनके विरुद्ध आरोप- पत्र का पर्याप्त साक्ष्य उपलब्ध है। विश्वासमाजन (अमोद कुमार) प्03ा0नि0-सह-धानाध्यक्ष आधौरा (कैमूर)

Statement by Rishikesh Kumar, Forester, Forest Department

Orded by SI Amod Kumar age 32 years, S/O Birbahadur Ram, Vill- Sishirit, P.S-Nokha (Dist) Rohtas Recorded by Si Amod Kumar, SHO Adhaura At Adhaura Forest Office, Dtd-11-09-2020 at 15:00 PM :-में त्राधिकेश कुमार पेo बिरबहादुर राम साo-सिसीशैत थाना नोखा जिला रोहतास हाल मोकाम अधौरा वन दिमाग में फॉरेस्टर के पद पर पट आधिर में ने कार्यालय के पास आप थाना के पुलिस पदाधिकारी पद: आधित हूँ। आज दिनांक-11.09.2020 को समय 15:00 बजे दिन में वन विमाग के कार्यालय के पास आप थाना के पुलिस पदाधिकारी के समध आपन के समक्ष अपना बयान देता हूँ कि बीते दिनांक-10.09.2020 को कंमूर मुक्ति मोर्चा संघ के लोगों के द्वारा दो दिवसीय धरना अधौरा प्रखण्ड मुख्यालय के सभीप बिना किसी अनुमति के आयोजित की गई थी। जिसमें कैंगूर मुक्ति मोर्चा संघ के लोगों के द्वारा प्रखण्ड कार्यालय अधौरा एवं वन विभाग के कई निकास द्वार पर अवैध रूप से ताला लगा दिया गया। जिसे बल के सहयोग से खुलवाया गया। तत्पश्चात आज पुनः कैमूर मुक्ति मोर्चा संघ के लोगों के द्वारा अवैध रूप से बिना अनुमति के मुख्य सड़क एवं सहायक सड़क को अवरूद कर घरना पर बैठकर लाउडस्पीकर से भड़काऊ भाषण दिया जाने लगा। इस धरना एवं प्रदर्शन में लगभग 400-500 महिला एवं पुरुष शामिल थे। धरना एवं प्रदर्शन का कार्यक्रम लगभग 14:00-15:00 बजे तक सामान्य रूप से चलता रहा। धरना स्थल एवं आसपास पुलिस वल व प्रतिनियुवित थी। समय लगभग 14-20 बजे अचानक भीड़ द्वारा भड़काऊ नारेयाजी करते हुए प्रखप्ड कार्यालय में अचानक घुसकर तोड-फोट किया जाने लगा जिसे बल के सहयोग से छटाया गया। उनलोगों के द्वारा प्रखण्ड कार्यालय के मुख्य द्वार पर ताला लगा दिया गया जिसे पुलिस के द्वारा अविलंब तोड़ दिया गया। उग्न भीड़ वहाँ से नारेवाजी करते हुए अधौरा थाना के तरफ वड़ी तथा थाना कैंपत्त के मुख्य द्वार पर ही उसे पुलिस बल द्वारा रोक दिया गया लेकिन भीड़ द्वारा थाना के मुख्य द्वार पर ताला लगा दिया गया जिसे पुलिस वल के द्वारा तोड़ दिया गया। उग्र भोड़ यहाँ से दौड़ते हुए हमारे वन विभाग के कार्यालय एवं महिला/पुरूव वैरक में घुस गई तथा काफी तोड़-फोह की। जिसमे वन विभाग के कम्पयूटर सेट, फोटो कॉपी मशीन, टेवल, कुर्सी तथा आलमीरा के अन्दर रखे सभी सरकारी कागजात एवं कैमार में लगी पेट्रोलिंग गाड़ी एवं रेंज कार्यालय का दरवाजा को पुरी तरह क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया गया। तथ तक पुलिस पदाधिकारी एवं बल दौछत हुए वन कार्यालय के समीप पहुँचे तथा भीड़ को उनलोगों द्वारा समझाने का काफी प्रयास किया गया लेकिन भीड़ पुलिस वल को देखक है और अधिक उग्र होकर नारेबाजी करते हुए तोड़-फोड़ करती रही। साथ ही कैम्पस में खड़ी मोटरसाईकिल से पेट्रोल निकालकर कार्यालर को जलाने का प्रयास किया गया। पुलिस द्वारा पुनः उग्र भीड़ को समझाने का प्रयास किया गया किन्तु उग्र भीड़ नहीं समझ पाई और चल को जलाने का प्रयास किया गया।:पुलिस द्वारा पुनः उग्र भीड़ को समझाने का प्रयास किया गया किन्तु उग्र भीड़ नहीं समझ पाई और चार के तरफ से घेरकर ईट–पत्थर पुलिस बल एवं प्रशासनकर्मियों पर चलाने लगी। पुलिस द्वारा भीड़ को ज़ितर–बितर करने हेतु हल्का वल क प्रयोग किया गया। इसके बाद भीड़ं द्वारा उग्र होकर ईट–पत्थर के साथ–साथ पॉच राउंड अवैध आग्नेयास्त्र से पुलिस बल पर जान मार के वियह से फार्यीय किया गया। इसके बाद भीड़ं द्वारा उग्र होकर ईट–पत्थर के साथ–साथ पॉच राउंड अवैध आग्नेयास्त्र से पुलिस बल पर जान मार ेके नियत से फायरिंग किया गया। इसके बाद भीड़ को तितर-वितर करने हेतु तथा आत्मरक्षार्थ पुलिस बल के द्वारा कुल तीन राज्य े सुरक्षित दिशा में फायरिंग किया गया लेकिन इस फायरिंग से भीड़ में से किसी भी व्यक्ति को किसी प्रकार का कोई झति नहीं हुई। भी डारा डुलिस बल पर जलाये था रहे ईट-पत्थर से भीड़ में से ही दो-चार लोगों को भी चोट आई है। उम्र भीड़ द्वारा पुलिस विमाग एव व à विनाग के उपर लगात र जान मारने के नियत से पत्थरवाजी किया जाने लगा। पत्थरवाजी में जख्मी हुए पुलिसकर्मी का नाम इस प्रक ्री हॅ- 1.सि० 616 विकास कुमार, 2.सि० 622/अमित कुमार, <u>3.हव०/वरूण</u> कुमार 4.गृह0सि० 150755/ महेश सिंह 5.गृह0सि० 150167 वज 38 ि प्रसाद, 6.गृह0सि० 150108/राम पुकार साह एवं वन विभाग के (स्वय) वनपाल ऋषिकेश कुमार एवं वनरेक्षी संतोष कुमार, जो गंभीर रूप 🖓 ि जख्मी हुए है। वन टाईगर ट्रैकर एवं अन्य स्त्रोत से इस घटना की मोबाईल से फोटोग्राफी वीडियोग्राफी कराई गई। वन टाईगर ट्रैकर ए १९ क्रि अन्य स्त्रोत से भीड़ में से एक 1.शजलाल सिंह पेशर शिवलखन सिंह साकिन खोन्धर 2.प्रमोद उसँव पेशर लाखा उसँव साकिन गुल्लू 4-1 उराँव साकिन गोइयाँ 6.शिवनाथ उराँव पेशर क्रिशचन उराँव साकिन गोइयाँ 7.महेन्द्र सिंह पेशर अगनु सिंह साकिन गोइयाँ &जवाहीर रि ् उरोव साकिन गाइया 6.1रावनाय उराव परार प्रत्यान उराव सायन तरन तावन गोइयाँ 10.रामालाल सिंह दे० स्व० कुँवर सिंह सा० गोइ प पेशर स्व० जग्गु सिंह साकिन गोइयाँ 9.सिपाही सिंह पेशर लक्ष्मण सिंह साकिन गोइयाँ 10.रामालाल सिंह दे० स्व० कुँवर सिंह सा० गोइ 2 11. परीखा सिंह थे० शिवटहल सिंह सा0 भूईफोर 12. रामलायक सिंह थे० सोजू सिंह सा0 गोइयाँ 13. मोहन सिंह पे० देवन सिंह सा0 गोइ 14.रूपनारायण राम 40 कोमल राम सा0 भूईफोड़ 15.सुमाष खरवार 6.चन्द्रशेखर खरवार दोनों पे0 रामाधार खरझुर सा0 विदुरी 17.ल ार्ट विहारी सिंह पेo स्वo रामाशीय सिंह साo बरडीहा 18.प्रमु अगरियों पेo राजनाथ अगरियों साo चफना 19.हरिचर्झा सिंह पेo स्वo गणेश हि Pa 🗥 🚊 साठ सरईनार 20.सुनील सिंह पेठ सुकर सिंह साठ गोइयाँ 21.दिनानाथ सिंह पेठ खठ घनश्यात्र सिंह साठ खोंघर 22.सेहक्की देवी प ु यालेश्वर सिंह सा0 डुमरकोण 23.फलमतियाँ देवी पति लालकेश्वर सिंह सा0 गोइयाँ 24.सुरेन्द्र सिंह ये० कुलवन सिंह सा0 बहादाग सभी थ Aa अधौरा जिला कैमूर 25.कैलाश सिंह पे0 सनेही सिंह सां0 वरकद्टा थाना नौहट्टा जिला रोहतास 26.धर्मेन्द्र सिंह खरवार पे0 हिरा खरर 3 🖁 साठ बरडीहा थाना अधीरा जिला कैमूर 27.पप्पु पासवान पेठ विश्वनाथ पासवान साकिन झडपा थाना अधीरा 28.रागसकल सिंह पेठ कर्फ -sact सिंह सा० गोइयाँ 29 लल्लन सिंह खरवार पे० रागवचन सिंह खरवार सा० वराप सभी थाना अधौरा जिला कॅमूर की पहचान की गई है. तोड-फोड़ में शामिल थे। फोटोग्राफ/वीडियो फुटेज के आधार पर अन्य अज्ञात को भी चिन्हित किया जा रहा है। मेरा दावा है कि उपरोक्त नामजद एवं अज्ञात 400-500 सभी लोग एकराय होकर साजिश के तहत नजायज मजमा बनाकर

अनुमति के कोरोना काल (कोविड-19) में भीड़ इकद्ठा करके अधौरा प्रखण्ड के सामने मुख्य सड़क एवं सहायक सड़क को अयरूख क अनुमात के प्रशासन के विरूद्ध भड़काऊ नारेवाजी करना. प्रखण्ड कार्यालय में घुसकर तोड़-फोड़ करना, मुख्य दरवाजा में ताला लग े वन विमाग एव प्रशासन से ताला लगाना एवं वन विभाग कायालय में घुसकर तोड़-फोड़ करना एव पुलस्तर है के अधौरा थाना के मुख्य द्वार में ताला लगाना एवं वन विभाग कायालय में घुसकर तोड़-फोड़ करना एव पुलस्तर है। उपर जान भारने के नियत से ईट-पत्थर चलाते हुए तथा अवैध आग्नेयास्त्र से फायरिंग करना एक संडोध अपराध है। उपर जान भारने के नियत से ईट-पत्थर चलाते हुए तथा अवैध आग्नेयास्त्र से फायरिंग करना एक संडोध अपराध है। उपर जान भारने के नियत से ईट-पत्थर चलाते हुए तथा अवैध आग्नेयास्त्र से फायरिंग करना एक संडोध अपराध है। उपर जान भारने के नियत से ईट-पत्थर चलाते हुए तथा अवैध आग्नेयास्त्र से फायरिंग करना एक संडोध अपराध है। येगे विभाग रेच त्रियेग होर में ताला लगाना एवं वन विभाग कार्यालय में घुसकर तोड़-फोड़ करना एवं पुलिसकर्भी / वनकर्भी / प्रशासनकर्भ

यही हमारा बयान है। हम अपने बयान को पढ़-पढ़वाकर, सुन और समझ लिये है। सही लिखा पाकर अपने दनों के पदाधिकारी के समक्ष हस्ताक्षर बना दिये।

11/09/2020 From Si Pathir

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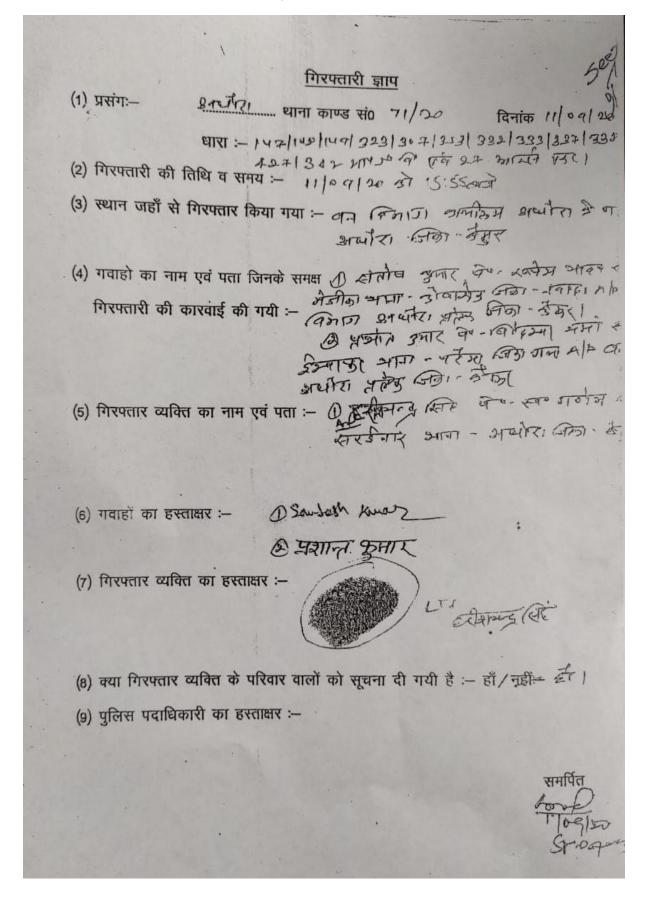
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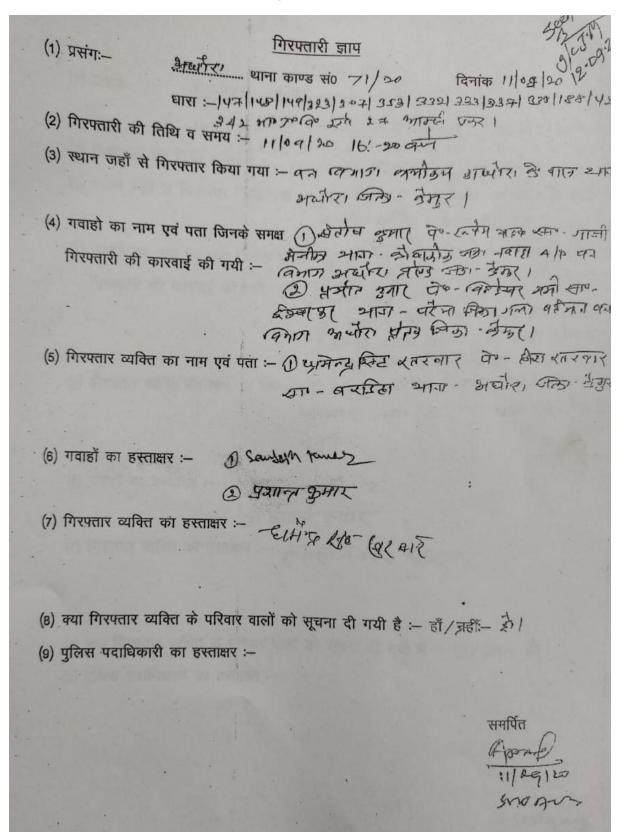
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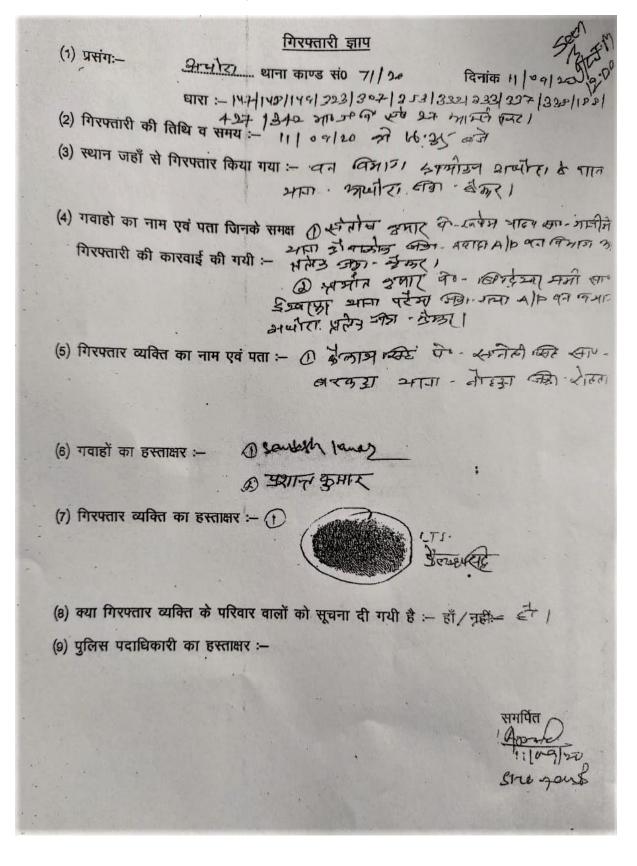
5. Arrest Memo of Haricharan Singh



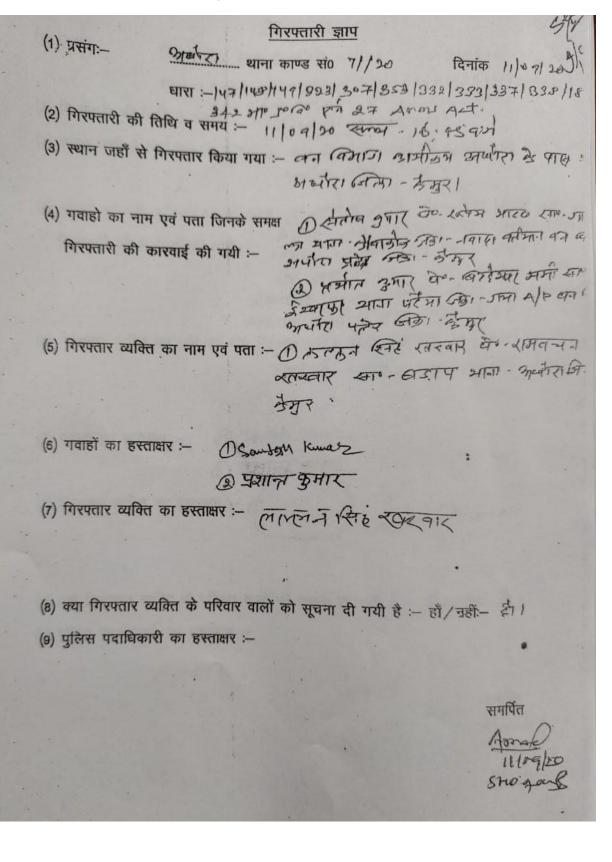
6. Arrest Memo of Dharmendra Singh Kharwar



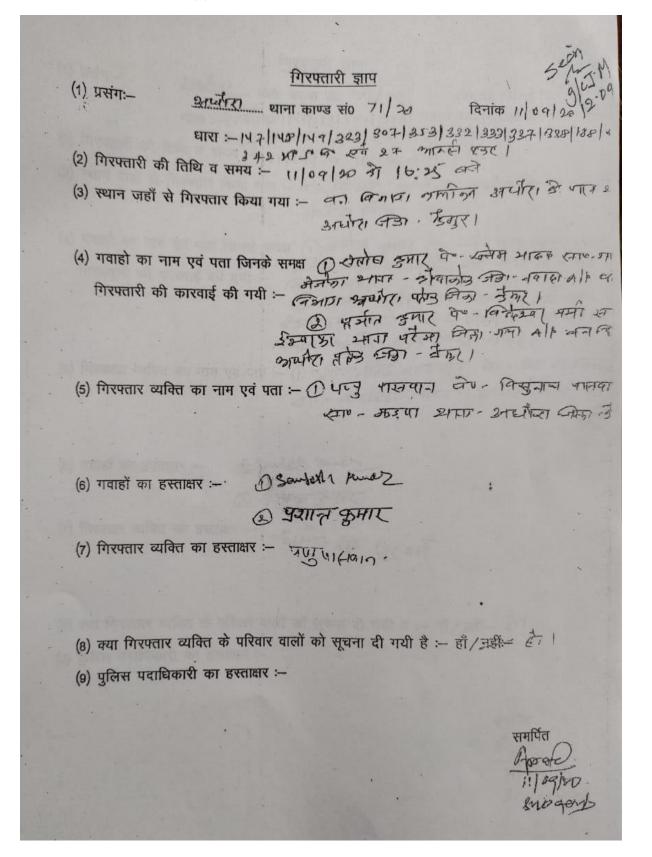
7. Arrest Memo of Kailash Singh



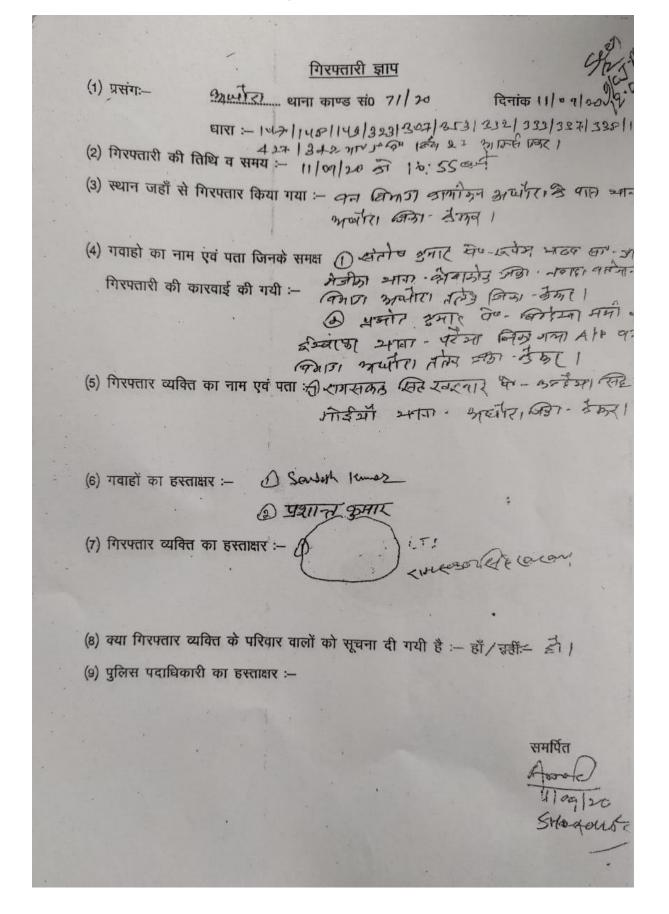
8. Arrest Memo of Lallan Singh Kharwar



9. Arrest Memo of Pappu Paswan



10. Arrest Memo of Ramshakal Singh Kharwar



11. Arrest Memo of Sipahi Singh

