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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Platform for Youth Integration and Volunteerism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Illegal Acts and Brutal Killing of Innocent Bangladeshis by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Indo-BD Border

Bangladesh and India share a border of more than 2000 kms in the West Bengal State. Bangladeshi geographical Divisions of Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet and Chittagong, along with Indian states of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are situated along the border. India has constructed, a 3,406-kilometer (2,116 miles) fence of barbed wire and concrete just under 3 meters high, to prevent trespassing and smuggling of weapons and narcotics. However, this does not prevent the BSF from abusive methods, utterly disproportionate to the issues, ranging from verbal abuse and intimidation to torture, beatings, and killings. Members of the BSF also illegally enter Bangladesh territory and attack, shoot and kidnap Bangladeshi people residing along the border. My organization want your attention to the illegal and brutal act of killings, torture, and kidnapping of Bangladeshi people by Indian BSF in the Indo-Bangladesh border belt areas.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding and related treaties signed between India and Bangladesh, if citizens of the two countries illegally cross the border, it would be considered trespass and as per law those persons should be handed over to the civilian authority. However, the trigger happy Indian BSF do not hesitate to the excessive use of force including indiscriminate killing and torture in that shooting at anyone seen near the border or anyone trying to cross the border, which is a clear violation of international law and basic human rights. This fact is quoted by several survivors and eyewitnesses of attacks that BSF engaged in indiscriminate shooting without warning. According to information gathered by Odhikar, a Bangladesh-based human rights organization, in its report on human rights violation for the period 2009 to 2019, stated that a total of 455 Bangladeshi citizens were killed by the Indian BSF. Furthermore, 657 Bangladeshis were injured and 518 Bangladeshis were allegedly abducted by BSF during this period. In 2019 alone, 41 Bangladeshis were reportedly killed by the BSF.

We look forward to a positive response from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to take appropriate action against killing of innocent Bangladeshi people on Indo-Bangladesh border by Border Security Force (BSF) of India. We urged that UNO must intervene for keeping Indian Security Forces away from these barbaric actions against innocent people.
