Discovery of numerous Mass Graves, Various types of torture on Women” and “People’s Attitude”

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(summary presentation by Arif Rahman)
Statistics of Mass Graves

- During the war the Pakistani troops and their collaborators killed 3 million Bangladeshi civilians as per statistics of Bangladesh Government.
- Many killing spots and mass graves were unearthed just after liberation,
- Till today, there are about 5000 alleged mass graves all over Bangladesh
Statistics of Mass Graves

- After 37 years of the incident, self-revelation of some mass graves allowed me to participate in excavation of some Genocide spots since July 1999.
- I examined about 196 fresh sites to make a scientific observation of mass grave and genocide remains.
- Less than 10% of mass graves contained arms, ammunitions, explosives and cartridges. Numerous number of weapons of torture were found in most of the graves.
Study of Mirpur massacres.

- Most of non-Bangalees were in favor of Pakistan. 90% of non-Bangalee refugee collaborated with Pakistani army.
- Forensic examination revealed that 70% victims had been thrown into different rivers, ponds, well and marshland.
- 33% dead bodies had bullet injuries.
- Blunt injuries to the skull were two times higher than bullet injuries.
- Among all bullet injuries, 20% were to the vault of calvarium, 33% were to pelvis and vertebrae.
More mass grave statistics

- Highest number of mass grave (74) were found in Dhaka district.
- Next highest were (52) mass graves were found in Mymensingh an adjacent district of the Dhaka.
- Highest killing took place in the month of April and May 1971.
- Gender based genocide statistic revealed male female ratio as 6:1.
Various types of torture on Women

- Different districts in Bangladesh witnessed widespread rape and torture.
- The shocking stories of rape in Barguna jail spread by word of mouth throughout the district.
- Army killed the innocent villagers who were not at all associated with the war.
Various types of torture

- In the year 1971, approximately 34 counts of major type war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity were conducted.
- Of them, 17 were war crimes, 13 were crimes against humanity. They got involved in four counts genocide, which were never addressed.
Comfort Girl and Sexual Slavery:

- The Pakistani army compelled young women living in the vicinity of their camps to become sexual slave and comfort girls.
- We have interviewed many victims of such comfort girls and sex slaves.
A Fact Sheet on the Research on rape of Women in 1971:

- Number of women raped: 450,000
- Number of Rape Victims Who Remained in the Country: 202,000 (approx.)
- Number of Rape Victims among Refugees: 131,000 (March-August 1971)
- Among the victims 56.50% were Muslim, 41.44% Hindu, 2.06% Christian and other religions
Research statistics

Marital Status of Victims:
- a. Married: 66.50%
- b. Unmarried: 33.50%
- c. Of rape victims among refugees in India 44% were unmarried.

The majority of sex slaves, comfort girls and mothers of war babies were Muslim.
Research statistics

Either the husband or other near relatives of 70% of the rape victims were tortured and murdered in front of their eyes.

Nature of Persecution:

- a. Spot rape and gang rape: 70%
- b. Rape and torture in prisons and camps: 18%
- c. Rape and torture in other locations: 12%
Post-traumatic health problems in women:

- Sexually transmitted diseases (refer reading for detail)
- Psychological Problems (Long-term):
  - Depression: 80%
  - Sense of shame: 90%
  - Nightmares: 80%
Conclusion

- Figures and statistics regarding torture, and suffering may never be complete and would remain immeasurable and unspeakable for many reasons. But the menace of impunity is always perceivable.

Thank you