Intensity of Physical & Mental Pain

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(summary presentation by Arif Rahman)
Introduction

- The war that was waged by the Pakistani army against the unarmed civilians of Bangladesh on 25th March 1971 was not a civil war. It was a preplanned program and genocide to wipe out freedom loving democratic people of East Pakistan.

- The very initiation of the war was through massive violation of civil and political rights as well as Geneva Convention.

- There may be debate regarding the definition of genocide. But, there is no doubt that nearly 1.8 million people were eliminated during the war of 1971. The official figure is 3 million. Nearly 10 million people were displaced and approx. 200,000 women were raped.
The Notorious dictator Ayub Khan considered the Bangalees as a lower class race, unfit to enjoy any kind of freedom—“Pakistanis had every right to rule over the defeated nation-Bangalees” he said (Massacre, Robert Payne, page 30).

To understand the criminal mindset of the generals, the statement of general Niazi was enough. “Bangalees were often compared with monkeys and chickens,” said Pak Gen. Niazi. “It was a low lying land of low lying people”. “The Hindus among the Bangalees were as Jews to the Nazis, scum and vermin that should best be exterminated”
Barbaric Act

- The genocide that took place at Boroitala of Kishoreganj in 1971 had hardly any parallel in the history in respect of barbarism.
- The Army killed 366 people by bayonet charge and left 134 people badly injured.
- It was difficult to kill so many people by using gun so they used heavy Iron shovels to kill all.
- Such barbaric act happened all over the country.
Sex slaves and rape of women

- Many Hindu women had their sidhur erased and broke their white bangles to become sex slaves of the Pakistani army. *(more detail in the book War and Women)*
- Pakistani capt. Yosuf and his associates created a mini prostitution center in a small village beside Dhaka Sylhet Highway
- Most of the women used as sex slaves and comfort girls were killed towards the end of the war to eliminate evidence.
Sex slaves and rape of women

Pakistani force and their agents used to adopt some pattern in their tortures to women. It has been revealed that

1. Most of the Hindu women were raped and killed in the month of March & April.
2. In the beginning of April, the muslim women were raped
3. 80% of rape victims were muslim
4. In some cases the Bangalee girls were kept as sex slaves and comfort girls.
5. Pakistani Army tortured women very brutally even amputated their private parts
Many of the victims of sexual assaults had either died or become infected with inflammatory diseases.

They got sexually transmitted diseases and suffered from various complications.

In most cases, the after effect of torture was sleeplessness and depression.
Suffering of the victims

- Raped women experienced shame and loneliness
- Many violated women became pregnant and had to go through abortion
- Many gave birth to war babies who were taken care by Mother Teresa Baby home
- Women who lost their husbands suffered mental agony and also had financial difficulty
Types of torture

- Research on the tortures has revealed various types, such as
  - line up and brushfire.
  - kill in presence of relatives by butchering.
  - gauze the eyes.
  - hang naked and keep the victims hanging till death.
  - smash heads with the help of blunt weapons.
  - put various limbs in bamboo traps to bruise and crush to death.
  - kill by physical tortures and bayonet to death.

Complete list is available in the detailed reading.
The preplanned killing brutality were so widespread that within a short time between the end of March and August 1971 about 8.2 million people were forced to take shelter in the neighboring country India.

The distressed, displaced and shelter less people were looking forward to survive in India.
Life in refugee camp

- Despite all the intent and generosity by Indian government to help the Refugee, it was not possible to meet the needs due to the sheer number of refugees.
- Food and water was scarce. The hygiene condition was horrifying.
- Women lacked even minimum privacy.
Our Study

- We tried to discover facts related to the torture and rape of women and the lives they had to lead after the deaths of the bread earners of their families.
- We documented the oral testimony of the devastated women who had waited for years for the return of their husbands and sons.
- We tried to record the unending pain, shame, grief, anguish, and deprivation and cruelty the women suffered.
Findings of our study

- In a very planned way the Pakistani soldiers raped women to satisfy their hatred, cruelty, and perversions.
- Sometimes they raped women to insult the Bengalis and sometimes they raped to break the morale of the nation.
- Sometimes they raped Hindu women in the name of Islam.
- They raped the women of this country so that Pakistani Islamic minded kids are born.
Findings of our study

- The study finds the society was suffering from terrible fear. No woman could consider herself or any other member of the family safe.
- To save the honour of the women of the family, the male members often sacrificed their lives.
- Maximum cruelty was used to intimidate people so that no one dare to help the freedom fighters.
Conclusion

- For more information of the presentation, please refer to the detailed reading

Thank you all