

UIVES

SAPRAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

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সকল প্রাণের নিরাপত্তা

Meeting with Omega Research Foundation and Odhikar on Documentation Standards and Collaboration



On 12 November, Sapran participated in an online meeting with the Omega Research Foundation and Odhikar to discuss collaboration opportunities, documentation standards, and future research on use-of-force practices in Bangladesh.

During the discussion, Sapran provided a detailed briefing on its findings related to pellet gun deployment, patterns of headshot injuries, and systematic kneecapping incidents. The team outlined deviations from lawful use of force and highlighted deliberate targeting practices involving weapons often classified as non-lethal. Sapran also presented its documentation framework, which includes forensic-style injury mapping, incident reconstruction, photographic sequencing, medical corroboration, and structured coding of weapon and injury types. The team emphasized its survivor-centred, trauma-informed methodology that prioritizes consent, dignity, and long-term impact assessments.

Odhikar commended Sapran's documentation quality, noting that its structured and injury-focused approach stands out among local human rights actors. They expressed willingness to support Sapran's visibility through their networks, while clarifying that they were not seeking formal collaborative arrangements at this stage but intended to offer recognition and support.

The groups also explored potential avenues for future cooperation, including joint documentation initiatives, alignment of datasets, and coordinated advocacy outputs. They discussed possibilities of engaging with global torture prevention consortiums, acknowledging the importance of harmonised evidence in addressing patterns of state violence.

Omega provided detailed feedback on Sapran's research, highlighting the organisation's strengths in documenting pellet injuries, kneecapping cases, and headshot patterns. They noted Sapran's ability to connect injury characteristics with specific tools and operational conduct, and encouraged continued development of technical, aligned evidence that could support international advocacy efforts.

Looking ahead, Omega expressed interest in a joint project focused on force-use tools and weapon-impact documentation, recommending a formal proposal outlining the scope, methodology, deliverables, and required resources. Expected outputs include structured datasets, analytical reports, visual injury mapping, and case studies. Sapran agreed to prepare the proposal and share sample methodologies. Odhikar will support visibility and potential introductions to relevant networks, while Omega will provide technical expectations and reference materials.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening ethical, evidence-based documentation practices and exploring opportunities for sustained collaboration.

Strengthening Human Rights Dialogue: Sapran in Conversation with Sweden's Human Rights Leadership



On 12 November, the Sapran team had the pleasure of meeting with Her Excellency Irina Schoulgin-Nyoni, Sweden's Human Rights Ambassador, along with Mr. Olle Lundin (Head of Trade, Political and Communication Affairs), Ms. Eva Smedberg (Head of Development Cooperation), and Ms. Paola Castro Neiderstam (First Secretary for Human Rights, Democracy, and Gender Equality).

The discussion focused on Sapran's approach to advancing truth and accountability through rigorous research, theorization, and documentation of human rights violations.

Together, we exchanged insights on Sapran's ongoing activities, findings, and its multidisciplinary efforts to bridge research and activism in the pursuit of justice.

Sapran shared its broader vision of a human rights landscape, both in Bangladesh and beyond: where evidence, context, and compassion guide the path toward healing, reconciliation, and systemic change.

Building Pathways for Justice and Healing: Sapran Meets with IRCT Representatives



Sapran's Team Meeting with Representatives from IRCT

On 27 November 2025, the Sapran team had the pleasure of hosting representatives from the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), including Ms. Lisa Henry (Secretary General), Ms. Elçin Türkdoğan Dilbirliği (Program Manager, Sub-Grants & Projects), and Ms. Lindiwe Dhlakama (Programme Manager – Care4Caregivers).

The meeting centered on Sapran's work in advancing human rights through rigorous research, documentation, and advocacy. We discussed Sapran's multidisciplinary approach to truth-seeking, survivor-centered evidence building, and efforts toward accountability.

Together, we exchanged insights on human rights challenges in Bangladesh and the Global South, reflecting on the interconnected nature of research, care, and community-based advocacy. IRCT also shared valuable perspectives from their global work supporting survivors and strengthening rehabilitation systems.

The conversation concluded with a shared commitment to exploring future collaboration and developing joint agendas that strengthen justice, healing, and systemic change.

Panel Discussion on Kneecapping Democracy



On 16 November 2025, Shokol Praner Nirapotta (Sapran) organized a Panel discussion titled "Panel Discussion at Kneecapping Democracy: Silencing Dissent by Crippling Bodies in Bangladesh" at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, Dhaka. The event focused on systematic use of 'kneecapping' (shooting at the knees) by law enforcement agencies over the 15 years of Awami league regime. The discussion featured insights from human rights defenders, kneecapping survivors, journalists and an academic.

Moshfiqur Rahman Johan (Human Rights Activist, Sapran) opened the event with a photographic exhibition on the experiences of victims and torture. A theoretical and legal analysis based on the research paper titled "Living Through the Wound: 'Kneecapping'—A Systematic Erasure of Political Dissent in Bangladesh.", Nusat Jahan Nisu Provided a legal analysis, detailing how politicization of law enforcement, medical negligence, media, administration, and the judiciary enabled these human rights violations.

Survivors, Md. Lemon Hossen and Samsul Alam Bulbul shared their traumatic experiences of torture and state harassment.

Investigative Journalist, Sohel Rana described how law enforcement staged "gunfights" to cripple opponents and used false cases to isolate victims.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, law professor from University of Dhaka discussed how a culture of fear sustained kneecapping and called for impartial investigations and justice.

Faruk Wasif, Director general of Press institute of Bangladesh further focused on how these grave violations are made possible by the politics of vengeance and a servile media that dehumanized opponents.

Finally, Research Director of Sapran Md. Zarif Rahman concluded the discussion by stressing the need for ongoing research to preserve the collective memory and prevent future repetitions.

Sapran Participates in OHCHR Dissemination Event on Social Security Rights in Bangladesh



Sapran's Participation on OHCHR Dissemination Event on Social Security Rights in Bangladesh

On December 2, the United Nations OHCHR Mission in Bangladesh hosted a dissemination event on its study titled “Budget Tagging and the Realisation of the Right to Social Security in Bangladesh” at the Six Seasons Hotel in Gulshan, Dhaka.

The programme was graced by senior dignitaries, including Ms. Mamtaz Ahmed, NDC, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, who attended as the Chief Guest. Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), served as the Special Guest. The event was moderated by Mr. Md. Zahid Hossain, National Human Rights Officer at the OHCHR Mission in Bangladesh.

The dissemination brought together a diverse group of participants, including senior government officials, representatives from grassroots organisations and NGOs, research think tanks, civil society actors, and members of marginalized communities. Md. Salay Mostofa, Consultant at the ESCR Section of the OHCHR Mission in Bangladesh, presented the study’s key findings, which were widely appreciated for their relevance and depth.

During the panel discussion, several speakers shared insights on the study, including Sapran’s researcher, Zeba Sajida Saraf, who offered reflections on the implications of budget tagging for advancing social security rights and ensuring equitable resource allocation in Bangladesh.



Zeba Sajida Saraf in the event

The Lethality of Chhorra Guli and State Use of Force

An Urgent Call for Prohibition of Pellet Guns in Bangladesh



Seminar on "The Lethality of Chhorra Guli and State Use of Force"

On the occasion of Human Rights Day 2025, Sapran, with support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), organized a seminar on 13 December 2025 at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR). The seminar examined the lethal impact of Chhorra Guli (pellet guns) and their use as instruments of state violence against civilians. Dedicated to the memory of Abu Sayed, a BRUR student and the first martyr of the July



Glimpse of the Event

Uprising, the discussion highlighted how pellet guns—often misrepresented as “less-lethal”—have caused permanent disabilities, blindness, organ damage, and death. Drawing on Sapran’s investigative report “Deadly in Disguise”, the seminar emphasized the urgent need for a permanent ban on pellet guns in all civilian contexts and called for accountability for their use.

Panel Participation: Ending Campus Torture, Building Safe Campuses



Glimpses of the Event "Ending Campus Torture, Building Safe Campuses"

Sapran's Researcher Nusrat Jahan Nisu participated as a panelist in the discussion "Ending Campus Torture, Building Safe Campuses," held on 15 December 2025 in observance of Human Rights Day, organized by Socchar | Torture WatchDog Bangladesh with support from OHCHR Bangladesh. She highlighted the persistence of campus torture through political and



Glimpse of the Event

institutional nexuses and emphasized that torture extends beyond physical violence to include harassment, cyberbullying, and identity-based abuse, calling for collective action to uphold human dignity for all.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) Organizing Workshop for BFPIA and BFWAA



Glimpse of Community Health Workers (CHWs) Organizing Workshop for BFPIA and BFWAA

On 15 December 2025 in Dhaka, a workshop was held focusing on organizing Community Health Workers (CHWs) affiliated with BFPIA and BFWAA. The session emphasized strengthening collective organization, shared advocacy, and solidarity among community health workers, highlighting their critical role in delivering care and advancing labor rights, dignity, and recognition within Bangladesh's health and care systems.

Preparatory National Policy Dialogue on Community Care as a Common Priority Agenda in Bangladesh



Glimpse of Preparatory National Policy Dialogue on Community Care as a Common Priority Agenda in Bangladesh

On 18 December 2025 in Dhaka, a Preparatory National Policy Dialogue was held to advance community care as a shared national priority in Bangladesh. The dialogue brought together key stakeholders to reflect on care as a critical social, economic, and human rights issue, emphasizing collective responsibility, policy coherence, and inclusive frameworks that recognize care work as central to social protection, dignity, and sustainable development.



DG of Department of Family Planning

Photography Exhibition on Human Rights and Memory



Glimpses of exhibition on Resistance of Memory

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, Sapran, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Bangladesh, co-organized a solo photography exhibition titled Resistance of Memory by Moshfiqur Rahman Johan. The exhibition was held at Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka, from 21 to 31 December 2025, and was open to the public. The exhibition presented experiences of enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killings, knee-capping, and death row imprisonment as interconnected forms of structural state violence.

Through visual storytelling, it highlighted memory as a form of resistance—challenging erasure, impunity, and state produced narratives, while centering the enduring suffering of victims and their families. The exhibition reinforced Sapran’s commitment to human rights, collective memory, and dignity as essential foundations for justice and accountability.



Glimpses of exhibition on Resistance of Memory

Roundtable Discussion on Constitutional Reforms and Civic Space: Implications for Women’s Rights in Bangladesh and Beyond



Glimpse of Roundtable Discussion on Constitutional Reforms and Civic Space

Sapran’s Researcher Nusrat Jahan Nisu participated in a roundtable organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid & Services Trust (BLAST), focusing on the shrinking of civic space and its impact on women’s rights. She highlighted the post-July uprising regression marked by mob violence, online harassment, rising fundamentalism, legal pluralism, and the exclusion of the Women’s Reform Commission Report from reform processes. Moderated by Barrister Sara Hossain, the discussion emphasized constitutional protections, legal gaps, and the need for collective action to advance women’s rights, reflecting Sapran’s commitment to grounding advocacy in Bangladesh’s socio-political realities and linking women’s rights with labor justice.

Collaboration Between Sapran and The Blast Shonghoti Team



Collaboration Between Sapran and The Blast Shonghoti Team

Bangladesh continues to experience recurring patterns of violence linked to political instability and targeted attacks on vulnerable communities, particularly in the aftermath of the 2024 Monsoon Uprising, which exposed the scale of state violence and the fragility of institutions weakened by long term politicisation. Drawing on Sapran’s research on pellet-gun injuries, headshot killings, and the evolving transitional human rights landscape, alongside BLAST’s extensive field-based legal work with affected and minority communities, the discussion underscored shared concerns about institutional breakdown, denial, and impunity during post-uprising recovery. Recognizing their complementary strengths—BLAST’s legal expertise, field documentation, and community engagement, and Sapran’s multidisciplinary analysis and human rights investigations—the two organizations agreed to pursue a joint initiative to examine post-uprising violence, minority victimization, and institutional vulnerabilities. This collaboration aims to develop shared documentation frameworks, conduct joint research, produce a co-authored analytical report, and disseminate findings through coordinated advocacy and dialogue to strengthen public understanding, accountability, and institutional resilience in fragile post-uprising contexts.

Sapran's Recent Publications



DEADLY IN DISGUISE

The Use of Pellet Guns Against Civilians During the July August 2024 Mass Uprising in Bangladesh

Research Lead:
Md. Zarif Rahman

Research Team:
Zeba Sanjida Saraf, Nusrat Jahan Nisu

Published: December 2025

ISBN: 978-984-37-0521-1

Sapran's Current Projects

Kneecapping Democracy

Silencing Dissent by Crippling Bodies in Bangladesh

Beyond the Barbed Wire

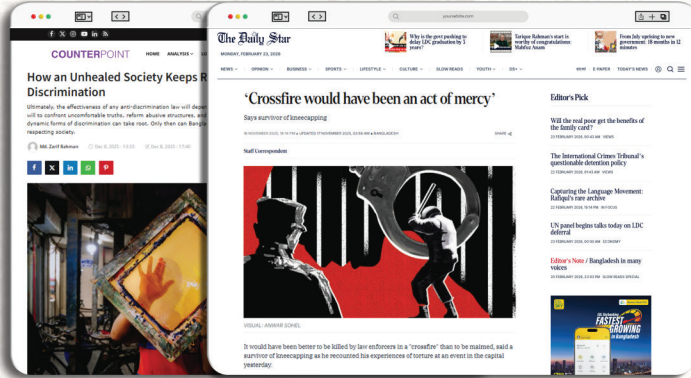
Understanding Violence, Push-ins, and Accountability at the Bangladesh- India Border

Memory of Resistance- An Exhibition collaboration with OHCHR

Landscape Before and After the Vote

Mapping Election-Related Violence in Bangladesh

Sapran's Opinion pieces and Media Coverage



COUNTERPOINT

How an Unhealed Society Keeps Reproducing Discrimination

Publication Date: December 8, 2025
 Author: MD. Zarif Rahman,

The Daily Star

Crossfire would have been an act of mercy

Publication Date: November 16, 2025

প্রথম আলো

ভয়ের সংস্কৃতি তৈরি করতে হাঁটুতে গুলির কৌশল ছিলো

প্রকাশের তারিখঃ নভেম্বর ১৬, ২০২৫

সমকাল

ছুররা গুলি আমাকে প্রতিদিন নিঃশেষ করে দিচ্ছে

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E-mail: contact@sapran.org

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সকল প্রাণের নিরাপত্তা