

## Annexure I: GLOSSARY

1. *Aronai*: Traditional muffler
2. *Ba*: Five
3. *Bakhri*: Granary
4. *Bathou*: Indigenous religion of the Bodos
5. *Bathoubwrai* or *Sibwrai*: Lord Shiva or father God of *Bathou*
6. *Bathouburwi* or *Siburwi*: Wife of Lord Shiva or mother God of *Bathou*
7. *Bathousali*: An altar for *Bathou*
8. *Bathoua Bandwba*: The *Bathou* altar has five ties made of bamboo
9. *Bar*: Air
10. *Barkhwnai*: Jumping and then sitting up
11. *Bodofa*: Father of the Bodos
12. *Dahal sibnai*: Sweeping of sword
13. *Dayna/Dayni*: Witch
14. *Dev-Devi*: Male God and Female God
15. *Deodhai*: Original script of the Bodos
16. *Doudini*: A woman possessed with spirit of God
17. *Douri*: A male helper of *Doudini*
18. *Dwi*: Water
19. *Dokhona*: Traditional dress of Bodo women, used for covering the whole body
20. *Emao*: Medicine that is used for preparing the traditional rice beer
21. *Gamcha*: Traditional dress of Bodo men, used for covering the lower part body
22. *Gamini affat*: Village union body (sometimes used as village meeting)
23. *Gisip*: Item used as hand-fan
24. *Goi*: Betel nut
25. *Ha* or *Bwisumuthi*: Earth
26. *Hadan-sifainai*: Shifting to forest reserves
27. *Haynamuli*: Medicine for attracting love
28. *Haba*: Marriage
29. *Ishing*: Kitchen
30. *Jaigo*: Doing prayers to the God of fire
31. *Jekhai-khobai*: Equipments used for fishing
32. *Jotha*: Small Cymbal

33. *Jumai or Jou*: Traditional rice beer
34. *Juli*: Holy Marriage
35. *Jwnwm janai*: Birth
36. *Khada*: Basket
37. *Kham*: Drum used by the Bodos during festivals and other community gatherings
38. *Khophri*: Item worn as hat while raining, usage quality of an umbrella
39. *Mainao*: A female God who is regarded as keeper of the house
40. *Mwsakhaori*: The one who crazily dance
41. *Na-gwran*: Dry fish
42. *Noma-no*: A room built for guardian of the house
43. *Obonglaori*: Almighty God
44. *Ojha*: A person who practices local traditional herbal medicines
45. *Oma-gwran*: Dry/smoked pork
46. *Or*: Sun/fire
47. *Okhrang*: Sky
48. *Pharle*: Traditional scarf worn alongwith *Dokhona*
49. *Phathwi*: Betel leaves
50. *Pujari*: Priest
51. *Sandrwi*: Equipment used for filtering grains
52. *Santhou*: Deep meaning
53. *Serja*: String instrument which looks like violin
54. *Sijou*: A plant, 'Euphorbia Splenden', which is planted in the altar and worshiped by the people following *Bathou* as their religion
55. *Sijoua Siriba*: The *sijou* plant has five spines
56. *Songrai*: Equipment use for cleaning grains
57. *Sifung*: A flute with five sound hole, used particularly by the Bodos
58. *Sigang*: First
59. *Thansali*: A platform for religious/community gathering
60. *Thika*: Property exchanged with money, for a given period of time
61. *Thou*: Deep
62. *Tharkha*: Bamboo split used as musical instrument for clapping
63. *Thwinai*: Death
64. *Thungri*: Sword
65. *Un*: Last

## Annexure II: PHOTOGRAPHS

**An area where one of the accused witches was found deceased and the news reporters and police personals are seen engaged in their role**



**An area where one of the accused witches was killed**





**This is one of the ill person's houses who believes that the witch has sent diseases to their family. This photograph shows the area where the spirit of a witch (in the form of four big black seeds) rolled down from the roof, as the priests, village leaders and family members prayed for the ill person so that the disease be cured.**



**The photograph shows one of the ill person's house where exorcism was done by a priest.**



**This photograph shows an area where the spirit of a witch was caught and burnt in the fire, led by the mother of the ill person.**



**Photo of one of the accused witches who was killed by her own family members**





**Entrance gate of a jail where some of the accused witch-hunters are still jailed and convicted**



**Voice against witch-hunting by crusader, Birubala Rabha, as portrayed in a TV news channel**



A photo of awareness programmes on witch-hunting in Assam



A photo of workshop cum awareness meeting organized by Bodo political leaders





**Photographs of Motor Cycle Rally in protest against witch-hunting, organized by All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU)**





**Report of incidents of witch-hunting as portrayed in the media of Assam**

**TRAGIC TALES**



*A protest rally against witch-hunting at Goalpara. File picture*

*Incidents of witch-hunt in Assam in 2013*

**Aug. 21:** Three elderly persons killed at Auguri village in Kokrajhar district

**June 6:** A villager lynched in Lakhipur sub-division in Cachar district

**June 6:** A 70-year-old man killed in Salbari police station area in Baksa district

**Feb. 19:** A 58-year-old man killed at Samugaon village in Chirang district

**VICTIMS OF SORCERY TAG**



*The house of Biren Basumatary in Milanpur village where the elderly couple were killed*

*Family members at the house of Govinda Rabha in Auguri village. Pictures by Preetam B. Choudhury*



● **June 20, 2013:** Lepsri Narzary, 42, killed and her body dumped in a paddy field at Bhatipara near Kokrajhar

● **June 6:** Seventy-year-old man killed and buried at Korebari village under Salbari police station in Baksa district

● **Feb. 19:** Chekon Basumatary, 58, headman of Samugaon village in Chirang district, killed

● **Nov. 21, 2012:** Lakhiram Brahma, 55, and his wife Naleb, 50, killed at Tangshigami village in Chirang

**Photo of witchcraft trial where 35 people were accused as witch at once in Assam**



**A photograph of the protest against killing of innocent people in the name of Witch-Hunting, organized by All Bodo Women Welfare Forum (ABWWF)**





**Photo of audience of the meeting/gathering, busy in listening to the talks on the issue of witch-hunting**



**A photo of protest against witch-hunting, mainly demanding for restoration of peace in BTAD, organized by ABWWF, Kokrajhar.**

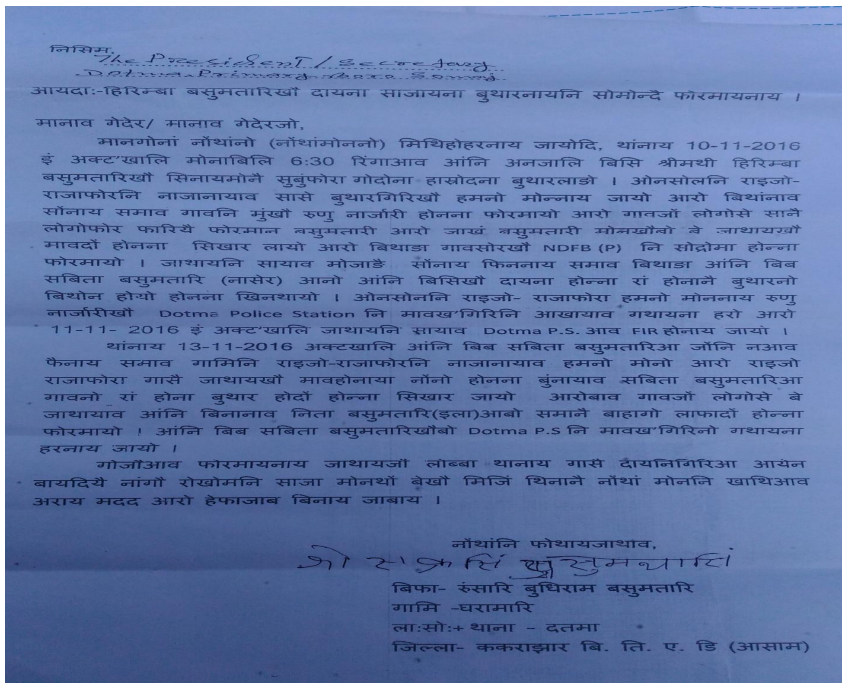


**Annexure III: DOCUMENTS OF SOME CASES OF WITCH-HUNTING**

**Document of Bodo newspaper report on a case of witch-hunting**



**The document of a letter sent by the husband of a killed accused witch to the president/secretary of his local/village Bodo society.**





A registered case of witch-hunting in 2008, in which two of the accused witches were killed and had been recorded in the police record as a 'murder case'. It shows that culprits/ witch-hunters were not arrested because they remain unknown.

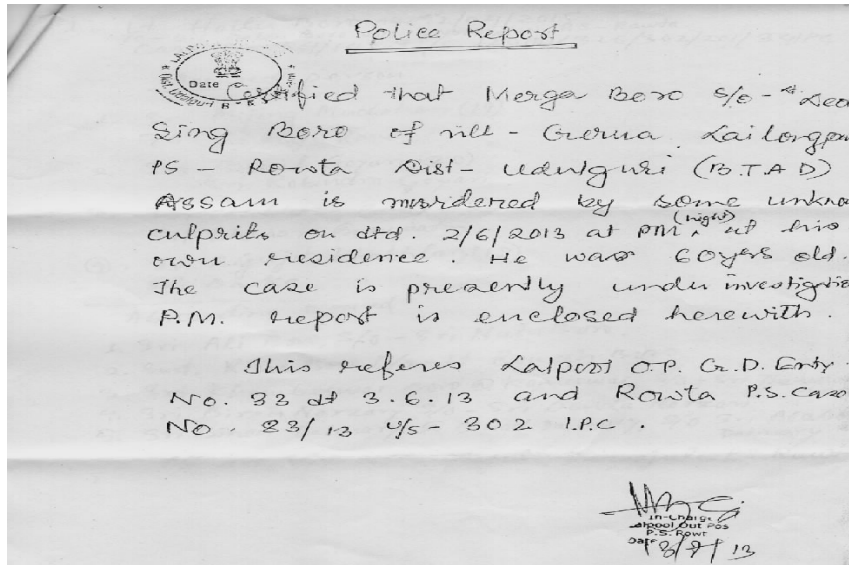
1  
 1. Lakhikanta Basumatary  
 2. Lalita Narzari Basumatary  
 Vill - No. 2 Joripukhuri (Kajabasti)  
 Date of Murder - 6 Sept 2008. (Some unknown culprit)

A document of basic information recorded by the police when any witch-hunting cases are registered in the police station. The cases are generally held under as murder case of Indian Panel Code.

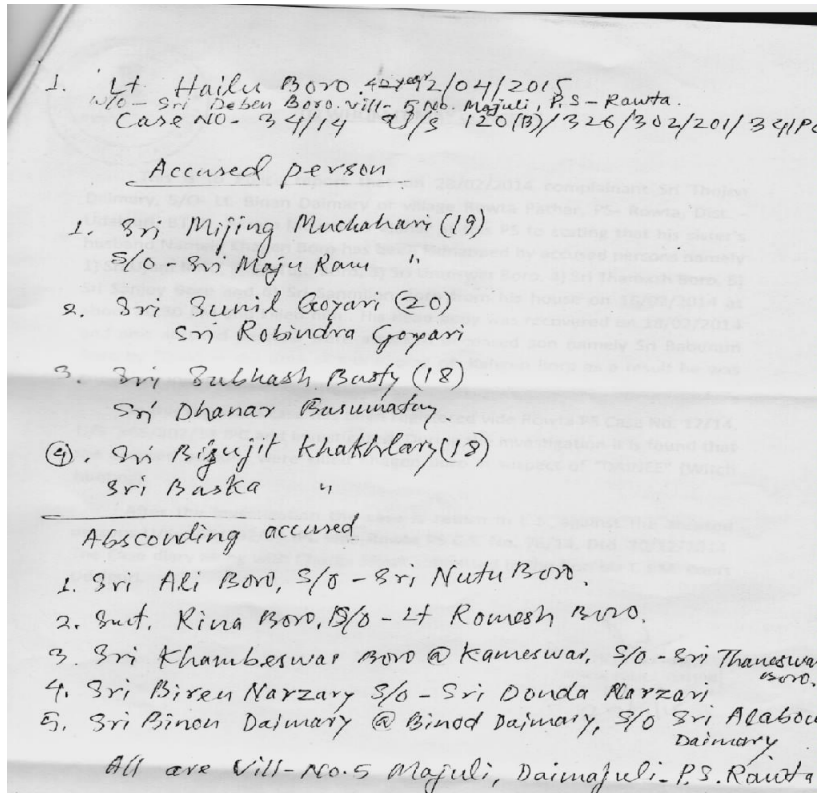
① Udalguri ps. case no- 40/12 u/s- 302/34 IPC  
 P.O:- Bagishal Chubwei  
 D.O - 28/03/2012 at 7 Pm.  
 D.R - 29/3/2012 at 5.30 Pm  
 Complt- Smti Sridevi Hembram  
 s/o late. Narang Hembram  
 vill - Bagishal Chubwei  
 PS & Dist - Udalguri  
 victims:- Complainant wife. - not known.

② Udalguri ps. case no- 41/12 u/s- 302/34/34 IPC  
 P.O:- Smti Sapkhaiti  
 D.O:- 5/4/12 at 7 Pm  
 D.R - 7/4/12 at 8 Am  
 Complt- Smti Lakhikanta Nardo  
 s/o H - Juguni Nardo  
 vill - No 2 Sapkhaiti  
 PS & Dist - Udalguri  
 victims:- Complainant wife Smti Sita Hembram

**Document of a police report on registering a witch-hunting case as a murder case**

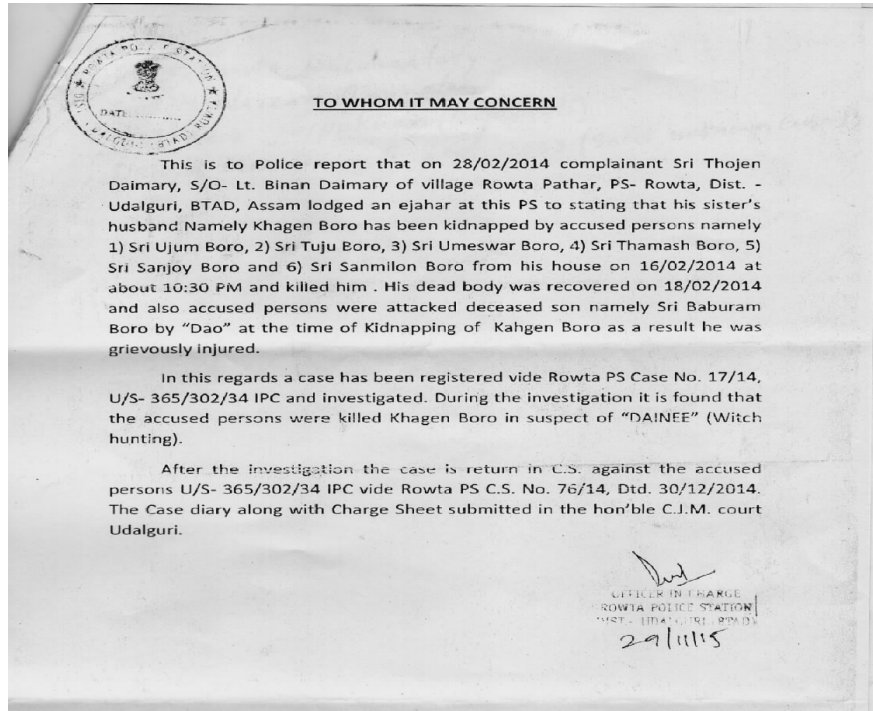


**Document of a registered case of witch-hunting/murder case, in which the names and basic detail of arrested and absconding witch-hunters/murderers are registered and recorded in a police station.**





**Police investigation report on a murder case which showed that the person was murdered because of practicing witchcraft.**



**Document of 'Court hearing' on a witch-hunting case that got registered as a murder case**



## Contd. document of 'Court hearing'

2

Date of Evidence of PWs: 27.08.13, 10.09.13, 24.09.13, 08.10.13, 04.11.13, 12.03.14, 28.03.14.  
Date of Evidence of DWs: 28.05.2015.  
Statement of the Accused  
Recorded on: 13.08.2013.  
Argument heard on: 16.06.2015 & 06.07.2015.  
Judgment delivered on: 10.07.2015.

**JUDGMENT:**

1. Accused 1. Mahadev Munda, S/O- Mangdhu Munda, 2. Tira Munda S/O Dhanu Munda, 3. Ratul Munda, S/O Lalu Munda, 4. Sukra Orang, S/O- Lt Sarua Orang, 5. Makum Rajput, S/O-Lt Arjun rajput, 6. Mohan Orang, S/O-Lt Bunda Orang, 7. Chapal Munda, S/O-Mangalu Munda, 8. Arjun Munda, S/O- Pranab Munda, 9. Mahendra Proja, S/O- Lt Padu Proja, 10. Rahila Mahali, W/O- Lt Sanra Mahali, 11. Pane Munda, W/O- Lt. Lalu Munda, 12. Sanshura Mahali, S/O- Lt Member Mahali, 13. Puran Munda, S/O Lt Dila Munda, 14. Hatiram Mahali, S/O- Gopal Mahali and 15. Sanamoni Mahali, W/O Gopal Mahali, all are resident of village Bhitasang Tea Garden, L/No-13 under Panery Police Station (in short the P.S) in the District of Udaiguri (BTAD). Here in this case have been put to trial to answer the charges for the offence U/S 448/143/323/302 of the Indian Penal Code (in short the IPC).

2. The fact of the prosecution case as reflected in the First Information Report (in short the FIR) is that on 19.03.2013 at about 5 PM at evening time the accused persons entered into the house of the complainant and asked whereabouts his father and on being seen his father, the accused persons pulled out his

*10/7/15*  
Additional Sessions Judge  
Udaiguri, Assam

23

38. Regarding motive- Hon'ble Supreme Court -Vs- State of Hariyana reported in AIR 2002 SC 3462 observed that motive which is not always capable of precise proof, if proved, may only lend Additional Support to strengthen the probability of commission of offence by the accused person. But the absence of proof does not IPSO FACTO warrant of the acquittal.

39. Now, the most deserving question which arise at this stage is who caused the death of the deceased ? After careful appreciation of the evidence of the prosecution it appears that the accused persons inflicted fist blows, stones, bricks and lathi blows on the deceased. The deceased succumbed to the injuries. Eye witnesses clearly stated that the accused persons caused injuries on the deceased and caused death on the spot. Medical evidence corroborated the facts regarding injuries sustained by the deceased. Circumstantial evidence coupled with the evidence given by eye witnesses established that none others than the accused had caused death of the deceased. Sufficiently, lead to the conclusion that the accused persons had inflicted blows with intention to caused death of the deceased. This is a case of "witch hunting".

40. On considering evidence on record as discussed above I am bound to hold that the prosecution has come out with flying colours to bring home the guilty of the accused 1. Mahadev Munda, 2. Tira Munda, 3. Ratul Munda, 4. Sokra Orang, 5. Makum Munda, 6. Mohan Orang, 7. Chapal Munda, 8. Arjun Munda, 9. Mahendra Proja, 10. Sansuara Mohali, 11. Hatiram Mahali, 12. Rahila Mahali, 13. Pane Munda, 14. Sinamoni Mahali, 15. Puran Munda and proved charges against them u/S

*10/7/15*  
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24

448/149/302/323 of the IPC beyond all reasonable doubts. Accordingly the accused persons are convicted.

41. Heard the accused persons 1. Mahadev Munda, 2. Tira Munda, 3. Ratul Munda, 4. Sokra Orang, 5. Makum Munda, 6. Mohan Orang, 7. Chapal Munda, 8. Arjun Munda, 9. Mahendra Proja, 10. Sansuara Mohali, 11. Hatiram Mahali, 12. Rahila Mahali, 13. Pane Munda, 14. Sinamoni Mahali, 15. Puran Munda on the point of sentence. They have submitted that they are the only earning member of their families. As such, praying for leniency.

42. Heard the learned counsel for the accused as well as learned P.P. but , in this case of murder like heinous crime, I am of the view that no leniency should be allowed.

**ORDER**

43. I convict the accused persons 1. Mahadev Munda, 2. Tira Munda, 3. Ratul Munda, 4. Sokra Orang, 5. Makum Munda, 6. Mohan Orang, 7. Chapal Munda, 8. Arjun Munda, 9. Mahendra Proja, 10. Sansuara Mohali, 11. Hatiram Mahali, 12. Rahila Mahali, 13. Pane Munda, 14. Sinamoni Mahali, 15. Puran Munda, u/S 302/448/149/323 of the Indian Penal Code (in short IPC) and sentence them u/S 302 of the IPC to rigorous imprisonment for life and also to pay fine of Rs.5,000/- each (Rupees Five Thousand). In default of payment of fine amount the accused persons shall further undergo rigorous imprisonment for 6 (Six) months, under Section 448 of the IPC sentence them to rigorous imprisonment for 1 (one) year and under Section 323 IPC sentence them to rigorous imprisonment for 1 (one) year.

*10/7/15*  
Additional Sessions Judge  
Udaiguri, Assam



## Annexure IV: QUESTIONNAIRE

Two different set of questionnaires, namely, Set A and Set B, have been prepared and distributed to two different target groups from ‘Outsider’ in order to analyze the outsiders ideas and works done on subject/issue related to witch-hunting. For each and every question that is included in the two set of questionnaires, a required space was kept for the respondents to write their answers/viewpoints/opinions.

- Set A Questionnaire have been prepared for and responded by members of civil society and social activists of Assam that includes Police officials, NGO Project Coordinators, Students’ Union Leaders, Women’s Association leaders and Women Organization leaders.
- Set B Questionnaire have been prepared for and responded by academicians and students that includes MA students and Research Scholars pursuing in different Universities of Assam and Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors teaching in Assam.

List of questions included in **Set A Questionnaire** as distributed/ circulated to members of different police stations, non-government organizations and other organizations who are aware of witch-hunting:

- 1) Are you working or did you work with any issues related to witch-hunting?  
If yes, how many years or months of work?
- 2) How many cases of witch-hunting have you dealt with till date?
- 3) Did you provide any help to the victims of witch-hunting?
- 4) What kind of help (legal, investigative or social support) did you provide them?
- 5) Did you organize any awareness programme in areas where witch-hunting occurred?
- 6) What strategies have you hold in assembling and making aware the people or the witch-hunters?
- 7) About how many incidents of witch-hunting do you think occurs in Assam every year? Please mention in number.

- 8) Do you think there are incidents that don't get reported to the police?
- 9) What do you think is the percentage of reported cases and what percentage do not get reported?
- 10) Why do you think some cases of witch-hunting are not reported?
- 11) What are the major causes of witch hunts among them? Please give your viewpoint
- 12) What impact does an incident of witch-hunting create on the victim's family?
- 13) What is your say on Impact of witch-hunting on society?
- 14) Why do you think are woman mostly targeted as 'witch'?
- 15) What role do you think media play on portrayal of witch-hunting cases?
- 16) What do you feel is the reaction of the state and central government towards witch hunting?
- 17) Are you aware of the "Witch-hunting protection and prevention bill drafted in 2013?
- 18) Do you think that this bill will help in eradicating witch-hunts in Assam?  
If no, how do you think witch hunting can be eradicated from the society? Kindly give your suggestion.
- 19) What are the remedial measures taken by Assam government for prevention of witch-hunting?
- 20) What are the organizations in Assam working on subjects related to witch-hunting?
- 21) What difficulties and challenges are being faced by the organizations working on matter of witch-hunting?
- 22) What are the objectives of your organization regarding witch-hunting?
- 23) What kind of strategies do you promote for preventing witch hunts?
- 24) What are the achievements your organizations have achieved till date?

List of questions included in **Set B Questionnaire** as distributed to academicians and students:

- 1) About how many cases of witch-hunting have you heard/seen till date?
- 2) Did you provide any help to the victims of witch-hunting?

- 3) What kind of help (legal, investigative, mental or social support) did you provide them?
- 4) About how many incidents of witch-hunting do you think occurs in Assam every year? Please mention in number.
- 5) Do you think there are incidents that don't get reported to the police?
- 6) What do you think is the percentage of reported cases and what percentage do not get reported?
- 7) Why do you think some cases of witch-hunting are not reported?
- 8) What are the major causes of witch hunts among them? Please give your viewpoint
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