

Date : 08-07-06

WITNESS No. : 31
NAME : REMTHANGLIEN
S/O : VAWMTHAWNLIEN
ADDRESS : SIELMAT, CHURACHANDPUR DISTRICT
AGE : 40
OCCUPATION : PRIVATE DRIVER

ON OATH

I started my profession as a driver since 1986. Since profession as a driver I've been driving different kind of vehicles. Since last June 2005, I've been driving truck belonging to Ngurlawmthang of Lungthulien village. I used to ply the truck in between Lungthulien and Churachandpur. I used to ply in between once a week. While plying in between Lungthulien and Churachandpur, any untoward incident except that we used to come across undergrounds groups occasionally. Before 16th January, 2006, I hardly faced any untoward incidents. On the morning of 16th January 2006, I drove a truck from Lungthulien to Churachandpur at around 8:00 AM. When we reached Parbung village, there I came across underground village two underground elements came there at the Parbung station. They enquired about who the owner of the truck and the driver were. When I told them my identity they started beating me with buds of guns.

After that they asked me to drive my truck towards their camp, a short distance from the station. Before ordering me to take the vehicle towards their camp they fired their guns at me at the side of left leg, but the bullet did not hit me. The UGs fired three gunshots in all one passed left side of my head and one passed by the side of the wife of the owner of the vehicle who was also coming with the vehicle. As ordered by the UGs. I drove the vehicle to their camp and parked there. After staying there for two hours they proceeded towards Damdiei village in my vehicle itself. Eight of the UGs accompanied me in the vehicle. And I drove the vehicle one of the UGs was sitting in drivers cabin by my side. Others UGs were in the back side. On reaching damdiei village, the UGs asked me to stop the vehicle and there resorted to blank fire. They asked the village authority chairman to come near the vehicle. Two three persons belonging to the village authority came to that place and UGs took them to a near by house. After about 3 hrs. they came back to Parbung village boarded at my vehicle.

On reaching Parbung they asked me to park my vehicle near their camp at Parbung. This time the UGs forced the handyman of my vehicle to stay with me. We stayed till dusk. During the time they served us food myself and my handyman prepared bed for ourself. After serving us food the UGs left the place in their own way. They prepared bed inside the vehicle for the night to sleep there after about 8 PM the night the said UGs came back and told us to get ready to go to a place. This time they were about 18 of them and boarded the truck. Their leader took the key of the vehicle from me and he drove the vehicle. The other UGs boarded in the back side. By the side of the UG who was driving the vehicle, myself and my handyman took our seat. Thereafter we proceeded towards Lungthulien village. We reached Lungthulien after about half an hour. At the skirt of Lungthulien village, the vehicle stopped. Some four, five UGs got down from the truck. There after the leader of the UGs asked me to drive the vehicle slowly towards the village.

Lungthulien village stretched a long distance. After going for about 2,3 furlongs some of the UGs got down from the truck. When we reached a place called Lungthulien Leilang, the leader of the UG asked me to stop, the rest of the UGs got down at that place. Immediately there after, the UGs stated knocking at the doors of the houses of the villagers and shouted at them to come out. Before doing that the leader of the UGs asked me and my handyman not to come out of the truck until further ordered from him. When

Abstract of the case

In the presence of

Remthanglien

Witness by

S. Pasikwar

the villagers came out of their respective houses the UGs asked them to assemble at the place where the truck was parked. There the UGs started beating the villagers malefolk. The UGs who dropped from the vehicle earlier they started to resort to blank fire. After beating the villagers the UGs took them towards the centre of the village. As asked by the UG myself and handyman stayed inside the truck during all through the time. After about 1 hr. the UG directed me to drive back the vehicle and before reaching the main place of the village they asked me to park the vehicle before the main place where the villagers gathered. We stayed there till dawn. There we /myself and handyman stayed there till dawn.

Throughout the night we heard the screaming of the villagers. At dawn the leader of the UG took the key of the truck from me and drove the vehicle himself towards Parbung. All the UGs who boarded the vehicle at first instant, the same group boarded the truck this time also. We reached Parbung at around 6:30 in the morning. We stopped at the place where from we proceeded. All the UGs got down at that place and the leader of the group who drove the vehicle asked myself, and the handyman to stay inside the drivers cabin of the truck not to move until otherwise order. After staying there for one hour, the leader of the UG ordered me to collect my civil passengers and after that to report back to him. As instructed I collected my passengers and reported back to him. It was around 9:30 - 10:00 AM that the leader of the group allowed me, my handyman and the passengers to proceed towards Churachandpur. After getting down from the vehicle, the rest of the UGs went to their respective camp.

XXX (Counsel for HRA Kh. Chonjon)

I've been residing at Sielmat village since the year 1992. The village Sielmat lies within Churachandpur town. I read upto Class-II. I cannot read & write English. the Registration No. of the vehicle which I was driving at a relevant time was MN-02-7882. I know the difference between a bus and a truck. On the day when my vehicle was stopped by the UGs in between Lungthulien and Churachandpur on 16th January 2006, there was all-together 6 passengers including the wife of the owner of the vehicle. I knew all the passengers by face from before. I myself never reported about the said occurrence either to the police or any other authority. I do not know whether there was taken up any case case taken up by the police in this connection with the incident. I have never been examined by the police in connection with the incident since after the incident, I stopped driving the vehicle. I do not know whether nor do I know anything about the seizure of the said vehicle by the police.

I never told to anybody or police about the location of the UG camps where I stayed my vehicle to stop on the occasion. There were about 30 passengers in my truck, including 3, four villagers, from Lungthulien and the rest from Parbung. I knew some of the passengers by face but not knew their names.

I was born in Senvon village near Parbung. The distance between Senvon and Parbung may be 22kms. The distance between Senvon and Lungthulien is about 12kms. Before 1992 I was at different villages since my father was a Pastor. I am the eldest issue of my parents. All my brothers and sisters are uneducated.

The name of my handyman is Mr. David of Lungthulien village. He is still alive and living in his village Lungthulien. Name of the wife of the owner of the vehicles is Romila of Lungthulien. I had chance of meeting with my handyman, wife of owner of the vehicle sometime in the month of March, April after the occurrence. I never furnished my name to this commission to enable me to give evidence as a witness to day nor to anybody nor do anybody to collect my name from me for the said purpose.

The said Hmar Inpui is an organisation of Hmar People I am also a Hmar. There was no other truck or bus in the village Lungthulien and Parbung except the said truck of which, I was the driver at the relevant time. I knew about the camps established by UGs at the said places from before the occurrence. There was no electric lights at Lungthulien village. As I was inside the truck I did not hear the conversation between the UG leader and the villagers at both at Damdiei and Lungthulien. I also did not know the dialogue between the villagers and the UG leader.

Hmar Inpui

*Winton
Volunteer*

S. Rajiv

Ren Khong Lin

I deny the suggestion that there was no occurrence either at Damdiei, Lungthulien or Parbung on 16th January 2006. I also deny the suggestion that there was no instant of beating, atrocities or harassing any villagers by any UG on the said day or on any other day. I also deny the suggestion that I did not hear any sound of screaming of the villagers and also of any gun firings by the UGs as stated by me in my in-chief. I deny the suggestion that I am giving false evidence on the request of Hmar Inpui.

I deny the suggestion that, I never drove any truck or bus for the said vehicle bearing registration number MN02-7882. I have got a driving licence which I have got in the year 1986. The validity of my driving licence is upto 2007. It is not true that no UG at ever stop my truck on 16th January 2006, and that they never took me and the vehicle to any place as stated by me in my examination in-chief. It is also not a fact that no UG had ever forced me and the second driver of the said vehicle to do anything at their command as stated by me at my examination in-chief.

I do not know the approximate population of the village Lungthulien. It is not a fact that I have given my evidence falsely, as tutored by some person having interest to cast persons to the UGs.

*Written by
Valmiki Singh*

XXX (Counsel for MAFYF, S. Lakhikanta Singh)

I was asked to appear before the commission for giving my statement today by the President "Hmar Inpui"

Re-examination.

Q. In what language the UGs did communicate to you?

A. They communicate me in Meitei Language.

XXX (Counsel of the HRA, MAFYF)

It is true that I have given my statement before the Hon'ble Commission today in Hmar Dialect as I do not know English and Meitei Lon.

*Albert Singh
Advocate*

Syngon

Read over and admitted to be correct.

S. Rajkumar

08.07.06