

Supreme Court hears Assam 'select killings' case



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A Division Bench of Supreme Court of India comprising JJ Dalbir Bhandari and H.S. Bedi after hearing Prof. Bhim Singh, Advocate for the petitioner ALOK, a human right group in Assam and Mr. Amarender, Senior Advocate for the Union of India regarding the case of Select Killings in Assam between 1998 and 2001 known as **Select Killings**, the Supreme Court allowed Prof. Bhim Singh to file Additional Affidavit in connection with extending the jurisdiction and scope of Justice K.N. Saikia Commission and enhancement of compensation to the victims upto 50 lacs. from 3.5 lacs. This was stated in a press release from the Prof. Singh's office in New Delhi

ALOK, a human right activist has filed a petition in the Supreme Court for inquiry and appropriate action into the secret killing of about 300 innocent civilians who were well-wishers of ULFA in Assam during the period of 1998 to 2001. Notice was issued by Supreme Court to the Government of Assam and Union of India. The Government of Assam appointed retired Justice K.N. Saikia who has submitted an investigation report of 40 persons only. The Government of Assam had referred case of only 40 persons to the Commission.

Prof. Bhim Singh urged the court to direct the Government of Assam to refer the cases of all the victims and provide a compensation of Rs.50 lacs. at least. Justice K.N. Saikia in his report has agreed that all the victims were taken from their homes secretly and later killed by the police.

Prof. Bhim Singh in his submissions wanted to submit further details about the remaining victims. The court allowed Prof. Bhim Singh. In the meantime the Supreme Court has given six months to the Assam Government to identify the heirs to verify the next of the kins of the victims.



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