

# ...Killing of Bengali Intellectuals

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After a few minutes I asked him as to what were these vehicles for. He said, "That is what we are going to discuss with Niazi." While on our way to the Corps HQ he told me that he had received orders to arrest a large number of intellectuals and other prominent persons. I said, "Why, what for? This is not the time to do such a thing." Jamshed said, "Tell this to Niazi." When we got to Niazi's office, Jamshed raised the question. Niazi asked my views. I said, "Now is not the time. You will have to give an account of those you had arrested earlier. Please do not arrest any more." He agreed.

My fear, is that orders countermanding the earlier orders were perhaps not issued and some people were arrested. I do not till this day know where they were kept. Perhaps they were confined in an area which was guarded by Mujahids. The Corps or the Dacca Garrison Commander lost control over them after surrender and they ran away out by fear of Mukti Bahini who were mercilessly killing Mujahids. The detained persons might have been killed by Mukti (freedom fighters) or even by the Indian Army to give Pakistan Army a bad name. Dacca had already been taken over by the Indians.

While we were still in Dacca, I was called by Major General Nagra of the Indian Army and confronted with this accusation. I asked him, "How could I be involved. I could not have killed so many people single-handedly. I have no command. I have no civilian authority." He accepted. But the question was re-opened when we reached Jabbalpur. Brigadier Leslie DDMI Indian Army came to interrogate us. His first question was, 'You are accused of having got 200 intellectuals killed on 16/17 December. What have you to say about it?' I said, "Gen Niazi is sitting upstairs. Go and ask him: did I or did I not oppose the arrest of these people on 10 December. If I was opposed even to

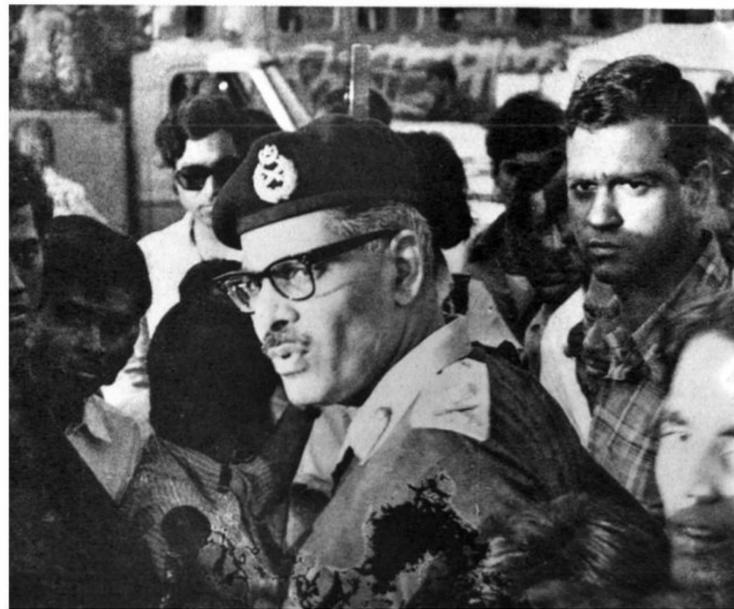
their arrest, how could I order their killing." He got up immediately and went away to see Niazi. After ten minutes or so he came back and extending his hand said that he had no more questions to ask: Niazi had confirmed what I had told Leslie.

The Indians themselves were very keen to find proof to implicate any responsible person of the Pakistan Army with the incident, Brigadier Bashir of East Pakistan Rifles and 50 other officers were kept in solitary confinement in. Delhi and grilled thoroughly. One of the officers told me that they had offered to expedite repatriation of anyone who would say that General Farman had given orders for the killings. Not one did for which I am

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indebted to them for life. Not one was tempted by the offer. And here in West Pakistan the allegations that the Pakistan Army killed the intellectuals of East Pakistan were given wide publicity. The purpose was political to malign the army.

After having been cleared by both the Special Committee of GHQ (called Aftab Committee) and the Hamoodur Rahman



Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report.

Commission I was posted as Director General Military Training in GHQ. This was a clear indication of the verdict but I got confirmation from outside Pakistan. 3. Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report

### ALLEGED KILLING OF INTELLECTUALS DURING DECEMBER 14, 1971

This again is a matter, which was specifically raised by Sk. Mujibur Rahman during his meeting with the Prime Minister at Dacca. According to Maj. Gen. Farman Ali it was on the 9th and 10th of December 1971 that he was rung up in the evening by Maj. Gen. Jamshed, who was the Deputy Martial Law Administrator for Dacca Division and asked to come to his headquarters in Peelkhana. On reaching the headquarters he saw a large number of vehicles parked there. Maj. Gen. Jamshed was getting into a car and he asked Maj. Gen. Farman Ali to come along. They both drove to Headquarters of Eastern Command to meet Lt. Gen. Niazi and on the way Maj. Geri. Jamshed informed Maj. Gen. Farman that they were thinking of arresting certain people.

Gen. Farman Ali advised against it. On reaching Lt. General Niazi's headquarters he repeated his advice, on which Lt. Gen. Niazi kept quiet and so did Maj. Gen. Jamshed. Maj. Gen. Farman Ali has stated that he cannot say anything as to what happened after he came away from the headquarters but he thinks that no further action was taken.

When questioned on this point, Lt. Gen. A. A. K. Niazi stated that the local Commanders had, on the 9th of December 1971, brought a list to him that included the names of miscreants, heads of Mukti Bahini etc., but not any intellectuals but he had stopped them from collecting and arresting these people. He denied the allegation that any intellectuals were in fact arrested and killed on the 9th December 1971 or thereafter.

Maj. Gen. Jamshed has, however, a slightly different version to offer. He says that it was on the 9th and 10th of December 1971 that General -Niazi expressed his apprehension of a general uprising in the Dacca city and ordered him to examine the possibility of arresting certain persons according to lists which were already with the various agencies, namely the Martial Law Authorities and the Intelligence Branch. A conference was held on the 9th and 10th of December 1971 in which these lists were produced by the agencies concerned and the total number of persons to be arrested came to about two or three thousand. According to him, arrangements for accommodation, security guards, missing and the safety of the arrested persons from bombing/strafing by the Indian Air Force presented insurmountable problems and therefore, he reported back to Lt. Gen. Niazi that the proposal be dropped. He states that thereafter no further action was taken in this matter.

### A DESK DIARY THAT EXPOSES THE BLATANT LIE

The Desk Diary of Rao Farman Ali had the name of intellectuals scribbled by his own hand writing. Moreover it also mentions the arrangement of vehicles for the Al-Badar which clearly shows he knew all about the transports mentioned in his memoir and in the Commission report.

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