

January 10, 2007

The S.H.O., Bawana PS,
Bawana, Delhi-110039

Subject: Request for registration of an FIR for investigation into the death of my son:
Satyajit Bhattacharya aged 22 years for suspected murder

Dear Sir,

It is with grave concern and deep sense of loss I, on behalf of a grief stricken and anguished family, would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

1. My son Satyajit [Satya], a final year student of Electrical Engineering at the Delhi College of Engineering [DCE] left home [Sushant Lok-I, Gurgaon] for college at about 11:00 on 05/04/06. For us, he was missing since then till 16/04/06 when his dead body was recovered by the Police.
2. He was reportedly drowned in the Western Jamuna Canal behind DCE at about 16:30 on 05/04/06 while in the company of two of his college mates Akshat and Tapan. The whole story was spread by these two. That the two were lying became evident to us from the following. When we went to the site of the reported incident in the evening of that fateful day Akshat told us that Satya suddenly slipped into water and drowned while three of them were seated on the same stone near the edge of the Canal. Tapan said that Satya suddenly slipped into water and drowned while they were splashing water near the shore of the canal. Their accounts of how Satya drowned in the canal were not only unconvincing but also discrepant with the fact that all of Satya's clothings except the underwear were in Akshat's car. They gave conflicting accounts about how they reached the canal and whether they consumed alcohol/marijuana. Later, on the same night, after being interrogated separately at the PP they gave written statements in which they gave the same conflicting accounts except that both said Satya drowned in the canal while trying to swim.
3. The reported incident of drowning is prima facie ruled out in view of the following.
 - (a) Satya did not know swimming, Akshat and Tapan knew that, and all of them knew that the canal is dangerous. Satya had taken a bath with sampoo just before leaving for college and could not have been eager to take bath in the dirty water of the canal. He was very very shy about removing his trousers. He lived near the canal for four years but never went into water. He has been at home in Gurgaon for nearly a year and on that day went to college for some specific purpose and was to return home early to attend a gathering of friends in Gurgaon same evening.
 - (b) The two banks of the canal are used as roads by the local people with frequent movement of pedestrians, cyclists and automobiles particularly near the place and time of the reported incident. Yet, no one else other than the duo had seen him drowning although the commotion made by Akshat running along the shore of the canal [as stated by the duo] should have been noticed by some from a distance.
 - (c) According to the Police, intensive search was made in the canal using private divers, Fire Brigade and Indian Navy divers. Yet, they could not trace him until his dead body was found floating close to the site of the reported incident after eleven days.
4. As per the statements of Akshat and Tapan in the Police file, shown to us on 08/04/06, both aged under 25 admitted consuming beer and marijuana along with Satya on the day of the reported incident, knowing very well that these were punishable by law, but were not tested by the Police. It appears that they wanted to get away from questions involving rationality or inhibition in their behaviour and suggest that the incident took place under the influence of drugs. But as per what they had told us they consumed only two bottles of beer and 2-3 joints of marijuana among themselves. That could not have been enough to take all of them out of their senses.
5. As per call details for Satya's mobile phone, there was an outgoing call to Mohini [college mate] at 16:02 only 28 minutes before the reported incident. According to Mohini, Satya called her from inside the college and his voice was normal. Akshat was not with him at that time as there was an outgoing call to Akshat only two minutes later. There was not enough time for the trio to unite, do whatever they said they did, and the tragedy to take place.
6. There was no sign of sadness in the face or behaviour of Akshat and Tapan. They seemed to be concerned only about themselves and not at all for the loss of their friend.
7. It is pertinent to mention that based on our suspicions right from the beginning a Missing Persons Report for my son was filed by us in the morning of 06/04/06 at the Sahabad Dairy PP. This was not converted to an FIR even when my missing son could not be traced within 24 hours, contrary to normal practice. It was not forwarded to the Missing Squad either until we approached them directly and got it registered as DD No. 9 M/S dt 15-4-06. An explicit request for an FIR at Sahabad Dairy PP on 08/04/06 was also turned down saying that DD No. 15 [which recorded the information of the PCR call that a person has drowned in the canal near DCE] was sufficient. I suspect that my son was murdered. I believe that the canal was used to dispose off his dead body. I also believe that Akshat and Tapan in whose company my son reportedly died are involved in these. I therefore request you to kindly register an FIR for my complaint and investigate the case thoroughly.

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