



Attackers on female NGO workers in Teknaf must be punished : CCNF

DHAKA : The Cox's Bazar CSO NGO Forum (CCNF), a network of 60 local and national NGOs operating in Cox's Bazar, on Saturday strongly condemned and protested the recent assault on six workers, including two women of an NGO in Teknaf, reports UNB.

The organization also demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in the incident and said that if proper action is not taken within the next seven days, no CCNF member in Teknaf's Hnila Union will implement any activities.

The demand came from a virtual press conference organized by the CCNF. It was moderated by Abu Murshed Chowdhury, Co-Chair of the CCNF and Executive Director of PHALS. The CCNF also urged all other local, national, and international non-

governmental organizations to support the demand. YPSA Executive Director Md. Arifur Rahman, two female victims, Joint Director of COAST Ferdous Ara Rumees and Tahrima Afroz Tumpa, Project Manager of the same organization also spoke at the occasion.

The COAST Foundation's Executive Director, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, gave the closing remarks.

Explaining the incident, CCNF Member Secretary Jahangir Alam said that miscreants allegedly led by a union council member in Hnila Jele para of Teknaf conducted the attacks on February 2. COAST has been implementing various programs for the disadvantaged people of this area for a long time. The terrorists, led by Rezaul Karim, a member of Ward 5 of Hnila Union, attacked the NGO workers while they were holding a courtyard meeting

with the beneficiaries of a project to gather their views, he said.

During the meeting, the NGO workers were verbally abused and asked to leave the area. NGO workers tried to persuade their work, but the Union Council member ignored the requests and attacked the NGO workers.

At one point, the attackers randomly punched and kicked everyone. At their screams, the people around them came and rescued them and took them to a house and sheltered them. The injured NGO workers filed a case at Teknaf police station.

Ferdous Ara Rumees said the incident poses a serious threat to hundreds of women workers in Cox's Bazar.

Tahrima Afroz Tumpa said, this kind of attack on women is unimaginably disgusting. "I want justice for it," she added.