

## **Rs 5 lakh compensation to BSF firing victim**

Correspondent

IMPHAL, Jan 22 – A division bench of High Court of Manipur comprising Chief Justice Laxmi Kanta Mohapatra and Justice Kh Nobin today directed payment of Rs 5 lakh as compensation to the wife of one Ningthoujam Thopchao alias Ranbir Singh who was killed in a firing by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Thoubal district about eight years ago.

The court order came after the deceased's wife Ningthoujam Ongbi Sunibala Devi filed a petition with the support of Human Rights Law Network (HRLN-Manipur) to the high court.

According to a press release issued by HRLN-Manipur, Thopchao sustained injury when the BSF personnel fired at them on February 1, 2007. At around 11.30 pm the BSF personnel took Thopchao to RIMS hospital. However, he succumbed to the injuries at the hospital on that very night.

The BSF personnel claimed that Thopchao sustained bullet injuries on his person during exchange of firing between armed militants and BSF personnel.

However, the judicial inquiry conducted in pursuance to the High Court's order negated the plea taken by the BSF personnel.

Additional District and Sessions Judge, Manipur West M Ibohal Singh has stated in his judicial inquiry report that the bullets fired by the BSF personnel from their bunker caused bodily injury to Thopchao and the BSF personnel are responsible for the killing, according to the release.

Accepting the findings of the judicial inquiry, High Court of Manipur awarded Rs 5 lakh as compensation for the violation of the inalienable human right of Thopchao by the personnel of 172 Bn BSF. The compensation is to be paid within three months, the release added.

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