

Attack on brick kiln workers condemned

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The Ashanghatit Khetra Shramik Sangrami Manch (AKSSM) has strongly condemned recent attack on workers of brick-fields in Hasnabad of Basirhat Sub-Division in District 24 Parganas (N) and subsequent police inaction.

"On Monday morning, a peaceful rally of the workers was attacked by the hired goons of the owners of many brick-fields with firearms and countrymade bombs, leading to injuries to several of the agitating workers. Across the state, brick-field owners are systematically violating all existing labour laws, including that of minimum wage. Workers are being forced to live in sub-human conditions. To protest against this, workers of eleven brick-fields under the banner of Shramajibi Samanwaya Committee (SSC), a federation of workers in different micro and small scale industries of Basirhat sub-division, and an active member of AKSSM, unitedly intensified their movement recently to achieve their demand of minimum wage, as per the law of the land," said convener Swapan Ganguly.

Backing the assault was Shahanur Mondal, a brick-field owner, he said. "The attack, where bombs and guns were used to intimidate and injure the workers, was fought off by the workers. They also managed to grab once of the attackers and hand him over to the police. Despite an FIR, the administration has been inactive. It has once again been exposed that the police and the administration are in unholy alliance with the defaulting industry owners. In response to the inaction on part of police and administration, the workers held protest marches in the morning and evening," Ganguly said.