**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

Date: 3rd November, 2026

Prepared by: Rohingya Monitor Investigative Team

Web: www.rohingyamonitor.com

Email: contact@rohingyamonitor.com

# RSO Commander Mujibur Rahman Kidnapped in Palongkhali, Body Found Near Myanmar Border Amid Yaba Trafficking Disputes



RSO commander Mujibur Rahman was reportedly kidnapped in Palongkhali on October 23 while travelling to an RSO-controlled island near the Bangladesh–Myanmar border. His body was found on November 2. Rohingya Monitor's investigation points to alleged Yaba trafficking disputes behind the killing.

A commander of the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) from Camp 8 East, Mujibur Rahman, was reportedly kidnapped in Palongkhali on October 23 while going to an RSO-controlled island near the Bangladesh–Myanmar border. His body was discovered in a forest in the same area on November 2. Rohingya Monitor's investigation points to tensions involving Yaba trafficking, disputes between armed groups and members of the local host community.

Mujibur Rahman, 33, son of Abu Shama, was the RSO commander of Camp 8 East in Block A-6. He was reportedly kidnapped at around 2:00 PM on October 23, 2026, while going to Bilashaw Dia, an island of Northern Maungdaw near Whykhong in Teknaf Upazila, Cox's Bazar.

The island is situated near the Bangladesh–Myanmar border, where RSO members have been active and operating.

According to information gathered by Rohingya Monitor, a group of members of the Bangladeshi host community in Palongkhali reportedly abducted Mujibur. The group was allegedly accompanied by a nephew of Nobi Hossain, the commander-in-chief of the Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA), also known as the Nobi Hossain group.

## Ransom Demand and Discovery of the Body

Mujibur Rahman's wife, Bibi Jan, 27, said she later received a call from an unknown number. According to her account, the caller was a nephew of Nobi Hossain and demanded Tk 50 lakh in exchange for her husband's release.

The caller then ended the conversation. The family received no further contact or information about Mujibur Rahman's whereabouts.

On November 2, 2026, a cowherd walking through a forest east of Palongkhali's main road, near the Myanmar border, discovered Mujibur Rahman's body. He informed local residents, who later recovered the body that afternoon.

Before the discovery, Bibi Jan filed a complaint with the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) of Camp 8E.

The circumstances surrounding Mujibur Rahman's death, including the exact cause and those responsible, require further independent investigation. However, information gathered by Rohingya Monitor indicates that the kidnapping was connected to tensions involving Yaba trafficking and disputes among armed groups and local actors operating around the border islands.

## False Claims Spread While Mujibur Was Missing

While Mujibur Rahman's whereabouts remained unknown, several social media fake accounts and pages, including accounts allegedly affiliated with RSO members, circulated claims about his death.

Among them were fake accounts associated with Amor Ali, including R-Poetry Media, as well as Halka Journalism and other pages.

On November 1, Amor Ali posted on Facebook that Mujibur had been killed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) inside Camp 8E. At that time, Mujibur was still missing. His body was discovered the following day in a forest in Palongkhali, near the border area where he had reportedly been kidnapped.



The claim circulated online was that "Mr Mujib was killed by ARSA in Camp 8E." The posts did not provide further details about the circumstances or evidence supporting the claim.

However, information gathered by Rohingya Monitor places the reported kidnapping in Palongkhali, not inside Camp 8E. The investigation also found accounts alleging that members of the ARA and some host community members were involved in his abduction according to Bibi Jan, wife of Mujibur Rahman and several other sources.

The timing and content of the online claims raise questions about how information was circulated while Mujibur was still missing. Rather than providing verified details about his whereabouts, the posts presented a specific account of his death before his body was found.

## A Similar Pattern in the Mohammed Ayas Case

A similar pattern of competing claims emerged following the death of Mohammed Ayas, 22, in Jamtoli Camp 15. Social media posts described Ayas as a martial arts trainer who had been killed by ARSA.

However, information gathered by Rohingya Monitor indicates that Ayas was an RSO member. Accounts familiar with the case also linked him to alleged human trafficking activities. According to information shared with Rohingya Monitor, one of his friends had previously been kidnapped, and the matter was later resolved through public intervention in the camp.

Several accounts with knowledge of Ayas's death said he had been severely beaten following personal disputes. They said he was taken to a nearby MSF hospital after his condition became critical, where his death was confirmed.

Separately, information provided by authorities to the media suggested that several individuals associated with ARSA in Camp 15 might have been involved in the case.

These accounts present different claims about Ayas's death and the people involved. They should be examined separately rather than reduced to a single unverified narrative.

The rapid circulation of short, emotionally charged claims in cases involving armed groups can influence public reactions before the facts are established. Such posts can encourage people to take sides, spread accusations and deepen existing tensions between communities and rival groups.

## Background: Mujibur Rahman and His Involvement With Armed Groups

Mujibur Rahman, 33, was the son of Abu Shama and a resident of Block A-6 in Camp 8 East. Around three years ago, he worked as a WASH volunteer with World Vision in Camp 8E.

He was a member of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) from 2017 until 2021. He left ARSA in 2022 and joined the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) that year. He later became a commander of RSO in Camp 8E.

The period between 2021 and 2022 saw an alliance emerge between the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) and the Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA), led by Mr. Ayub and Nobi Hossain. The alliance initially sought to dismantle ARSA and eventually gained control over large parts of the refugee camps by 2023.

After the alliance consolidated its dominance, the camps experienced a brutal wave of violence involving the two armed groups competing for power and control. Disputes over Yaba trafficking became a major part of the tensions between the two groups.

Following his departure from ARSA and his move to RSO, Mujibur Rahman was reportedly involved in Yaba trafficking, according to information from several individuals, including people associated with RSO and local residents.

## RSO–ARA Alliance and the Disputes Over Border Islands

Before 2021, ARA members were mainly active on islands situated between Bangladesh and Myanmar. In 2022, many of its members became more active across the refugee camps through their alliance with RSO.

The relationship between the two groups later deteriorated.

In February 2024, RSO members reportedly attacked ARA positions in Deboinna village in Naymay 3, northern Maungdaw, while ARA had taken control of a Myanmar military camp and its weapons. The attack led to fighting between the former allies and the breakdown of their alliance.

The groups later entered into another alliance. However, the relationship broke down again following attacks on October 3 and October 5, 2025.

During those attacks, RSO members, together with the militant Arakan Army (AA), reportedly targeted an ARA base in Tutar Dia, also known as Tutar Island, in Myanmar near Whykhong in Teknaf Upazila.

Following the fighting, the island came under the control of the Arakan Army, while RSO maintained its presence on some smaller nearby islands connected to Tutar Island. Both groups have remained active in the area.




FIGURE 1: RSO AND AA JOINT ATTACKS ARA IN TUTAR DIA (TUTAR ISLAND)

Information gathered by Rohingya Monitor indicates that disputes over Yaba trafficking were a major factor behind the attacks on ARA by RSO.

Mujibur Rahman was reportedly present during one of the clashes and was said to have targeted Nobi Hossain, the commander-in-chief of ARA. His reported involvement in the fighting and the disputes between the groups is relevant to understanding the tensions that preceded his kidnapping.

## Growing Tensions With Host Community Members

The control of the border islands by RSO and the Arakan Army also affected Bangladeshi host community members who operated nearby fishing projects or worked in the border waters.

According to information gathered by Rohingya Monitor, fishing projects run by local host communities were repeatedly disrupted by members of RSO and the Arakan Army. The reported interference created anger among fishermen and others who depended on those areas for their livelihoods.

Continued pressure on host community members, alongside the conflict between RSO and ARA, further complicated relations among the groups and local residents.

Mujibur Rahman was reportedly active in transporting and operating Yaba trafficking between islands controlled by RSO and the refugee camps. He frequently travelled between the islands and the camps.

Several accounts familiar with the area and his activities said he had been involved in disputes over Yaba trafficking with ARA members and some local host community members around the islands.

According to information gathered by Rohingya Monitor, these disputes may have contributed to the circumstances surrounding his kidnapping. The initial account of the abduction identified a group of host community members in Palongkhali, reportedly accompanied by a nephew of ARA commander-in-chief Nobi Hossain.

The family was subsequently contacted and allegedly asked to pay Tk 50 lakh for Mujibur Rahman's release. After the call ended, no further contact was made. His body was found in the Palongkhali forest on November 2.

The reported ransom demand, the identities of those allegedly involved in the kidnapping and the disputes preceding the incident are important lines of investigation. They require further examination by the relevant authorities.

## Propaganda Accounts and Calls for Violence

The Mujibur Rahman case has also drawn attention to the growing use of social media accounts and pages by supporters and members of rival armed groups to circulate accusations and competing narratives.

Rohingya Monitor has identified several accounts that appear to promote the interests of different groups and circulate unverified claims about incidents in the refugee camps. In some cases, claims are presented in short, emotionally charged posts without evidence or sufficient details.

One prominent account involved in this pattern is that of Amor Ali, who also operates pages including R-Poetry Media. Rohingya Monitor has reviewed several videos posted on his Facebook account and related pages. The videos contain serious personal abuses, hate speech and calls for violence against groups, their supporters and prominent individuals.

Among those targeted in his posts are Dr Qutub Shah Madani, Osama Ibrahim, a student in Saudi Arabia, and Mv. Sayed Ullah, a former president of the United Council of Rohingya (UCR), among others.

The circulation of unverified accusations, abusive content and calls for violence can deepen divisions within the camps and increase the risk of physical confrontations.

Local government authorities should pay attention to the growing use of social media for propaganda, threats and incitement. The spread of such content can create tensions between individuals and communities, potentially leading to further violence.

The case also highlights the need to examine the armed-group rivalries, alleged trafficking networks and local disputes operating around the Bangladesh–Myanmar border, rather than allowing unverified social media claims to shape public understanding of the incident.