Reviewer's report

**Title:** Collective Exposure to Violence and Human Rights Violations in the Western Bangladesh (II): Torture History and Functional Assessment of Victims

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 20 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Neil J Mitchell

Reviewers report:

I have fewer comments on this second paper. It is more focussed on assessing physical well-being and outside my area.

**MINOR REVISION:** The term ‘torture’ is used for a range of activities. Are they all ‘torture’ or are some of the activities ‘cruel or degrading treatment’? Unless all the activities listed are torture it would be best if more pedantic to consistently refer to ‘torture and cruel… etc’ throughout the paper.

**DISCRETIONARY REVISION** There are spikes to the violence. Can these be linked to elections – and pre-election violence at these times of heightened general political activity – levels of political threat may be seen to rise at these times and were obviously extreme at the time of the war (see literature from other review).

Perpetrators – again the information is very rich. I was surprised not to see the armed militias attached to the governing party as mentioned as perpetrator.

The authors are aware of the limitations of the survey method – and possibility of over-reporting. Again, some of the contextual information provided in my other review about human rights conditions generally in Bangladesh may be helpful.

Overall, I think this article makes an empirical contribution beyond the other and merits publication.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.