International Peoples Tribunal writes to CM

‘ALLOW US TO PROBE’

MUDDASIR ALI

SHOPIAN CASE

Srinagar, Jan 4: The International Peoples’ Tribunal, which brought to fore the unmarked graves issue in Kashmir, has sought the chief minister Omar Abdullah’s permission to probe the death of Asiaa Jan and Neelofar of Shopian, whom the CBI had reported in its investigation to have died of drowning in May last year.

If allowed, the Tribunal is mulling to rope in “internationally reputed experts” in the fields of anthropology, forensic science, medicine and experts on gender and analysts to inquire into the findings by various institutions permitted by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

In a 1-page letter to CM, the Tribunal has cited that Majlis-e-Mushawarat, a local non-political organization seeking justice in the case approached them on December 30 last year seeking that the Tribunal should inquire into the incident.

“They have done so on the contentions that the state institutions, and investigations authorized by them, have been unable to deliver accurate understanding of the matter or define a mechanism for justice,” the letter reads.

Although the CBI concluded in its investigation, submitted to the state High Court which is monitoring the case, that the duo had “died due to drowning and had not been raped and murdered”, the victims’ family and Majlis have termed the report as “ploy to shield the real culprits” and vowed to fight till “justice” was delivered in the case. Even the High Court Bar Association, which had at the outset raised objection over the transfer of the case to the CBI, rejected its findings.

“We note that you (CM) have promised attentiveness and accountability to human right issue in Kashmir. We hope you will agree in order that an independent, transparent and peoples’ investigation may ensue,” the letter reads.

However, the state Law and Parliamentary Affairs minister, Ali Muhammad Saggar, told Greater Kashmir that “The state government has nothing to do with the application by the tribunal. It is the jurisdiction of the Centre. Let them approach the Centre.”

Omar to decide after consultation with HM, DM

Srinagar: The Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, said that he will take a decision on the letter received from Khurram Parvez and will send it to the Home department for analysing it. I will have to discuss it with the Home minister and Defence minister before taking any decision,” Omar told Greater Kashmir over phone.