



ONGC News, 25.04.2021 Print

2 abducted ONGC workers rescued	Times of India	1	Bureau	Positive
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2 abducted ONGC workers rescued

Four days after they were abducted by Ulfa-I, two of the three ONGC employees were rescued by security forces after an encounter from Mon district of Nagaland on Saturday. The search for the third is under way. **P 11**

Forces rescue 2 of 3 abducted ONGC officials

Guwahati: Four days after they were abducted by Ulfa-I, two of the three ONGC employees were rescued by security forces after an encounter in Mon district of Nagaland, near the India Myanmar border, on Saturday. Assam DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said, reports **Hokibur Zaman & Prabin Kalita.**

The rescued officials are Mohin/Mohan Gogoi and Alakash Saikia. The search for the third, Binul Saikia, is underway, authorities said.

However, Ulfa (I) said on Saturday that it had released the three ONGC employees and left them "in the safe custody of the villagers of Tokak Singha in good health."

Naga villages help Indian Army free 2 ONGC employees	Asian Age	4	Manoj Anand	Positive
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ONGC officials Alakesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi rescued by Indian Army along with Assam Rifles in an operation on Friday night.. One AK 47 has also been recovered. — PTI

Naga villagers help Indian Army free 2 ONGC employees

Efforts to trace third abductee

MANOJ ANAND
with agency inputs
GUWAHATI, APRIL 24

In a major breakthrough, the Indian Army and the Nagaland police, with the support of some local Naga villagers on Friday night, rescued two employees of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) who were kidnapped earlier this week from Sivasagar in Mon district of Nagaland. Operations are still on to trace the third abductee, Retul Saikia.

The rescued employees were identified as Alakesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi. The police also recovered one AK-47 from the location.

The operations are still in progress to trace the third abductee.

Informing that security forces had launched joint coordinated operations since April 21, the day suspected ULFA-I rebels had kidnapped the three employees of ONGC from a rig site at Lakwa oil field in Assam's Sivasagar district, sources said that security forces have also sealed the international border with Myanmar.

A news agency reported that three men were whisked away in an ambulance. And there is specific information that the kidnapping was carried out by ULFA(I) under

▶ **A TOTAL** of 14 linkmen, who aided the United Liberation Front of Assam-Independent (ULFA-I) in kidnapping the three ONGC employees, were apprehended by the Assam police.

▶ **THE RESCUED** employees were identified as Alakesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi. The police also recovered one AK-47 from the location.

the command of its self-styled major Ganesh Lahon @ Purna Lahon and his accomplices Aidyan Asom @ Moniram Borgohain and Pradip Gogoi @ Akon, an Assam police release said.

"Use of ambulance by ULFA for kidnapping the ONGC employees - especially during the pandemic, is reprehensible", Assam special director general of police G.P. Singh tweeted.

Meanwhile, a total of 14 linkmen, who aided the United Liberation Front of Assam-Independent (ULFA-I) in kidnapping the three ONGC employees, were apprehended by the Assam police.

The Assam police also said it has received specific information that the banned ULFA (Independent) was involved in the kidnapping of the three ONGC employees from Sivasagar.



ONGC के दो कर्मियों को छुड़ाया	Hindustan	9	Bureau	Positive
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ओएनजीसी के दो कर्मियों को छुड़ाया

दुबई: नवंबर में भारत-यूएंगीसी के पास सन्धि के मुद्दे के बाद ओएनजीसी के दो कर्मियों को छुड़ा गया, तीसरे व्यक्ति को तलाश जारी है। अखिल भारतीय प्रमुख अखिल भारतीय ने जानकारी दी।

अखिल-नवंबर में ओएनजीसी के पास सन्धि के मुद्दे के बाद ओएनजीसी के दो कर्मियों को छुड़ा गया, तीसरे व्यक्ति को तलाश जारी है। अखिल भारतीय प्रमुख अखिल भारतीय ने जानकारी दी।

Two of three abducted ONGC workers rescued by forces in Nagaland	Sunday Standard	8	Prasanta Mazumdar	Positive
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INSURGENCY

Two of three abducted ONGC workers rescued by forces in Nagaland

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

TWO of the three ONGC employees who were abducted by the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) from Assam, were rescued by the security forces after a gunfight in Nagaland's Mon district in the early hours of Saturday.

"In an operation, the Indian Army along with members of Assam Rifles rescued two abductees in the Mon district. An operations is underway to rescue the third person. Alakesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi are the two rescued employees. An AK-47 rifle has been recovered," an Army official said.

The three workers were abducted from an ONGC oil rig in the Lakwa field of Assam's Sivasagar district in the wee hours of Wednesday by five ULFA militants.

The Assam police had arrested 14 people, including ULFA sympathizers, in connection with the incident.

The gunfight broke out around 2am at a forested area near Totokchingnyu village in Mon, official sources in Nagaland said. It is not known how many militants were at the site. Sources, however, said it was a mixed group of militants from the ULFA and the Yung Aung faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland or NSCN (YA).

"The personnel had managed to rescue the two persons amid the gunfight. The third person is still in the custody of the militants. The operation to rescue him is on," the sources added.

The ULFA operates out of Myanmar and is a constituent of an umbrella organisation of militant groups from the Northeast, which is led by the NSCN (YA). The outfits work in close coordination with each other.

“
The personnel had managed to rescue the two persons amid the gunfight. The third person is still in the custody of the militants
”
An official

2 abducted ONGC workers rescued in Nagaland

We released all three hostages, claims ULFA-I

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Security forces rescued two of the three employees of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), abducted by members of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I), after a gunfight in Nagaland's Mon district early on Saturday.

Five armed men had abducted the three employees – junior technicians Mohini Mohan Gogoi and Ritul Saikia and junior engineering assistant Alakesh Saikia – from ONGC's Lakwa oilrig in eastern Assam's Charaideo district on Wednesday.

A team of the Army, Assam Rifles and Nagaland police personnel rescued two of the hostages from a jungle near Totokchingnyu village in Mon district near the border with Myanmar. Police of-



Alakesh Saikia and, right, Mohini Mohan Gogoi, who were rescued after an operation early on Saturday. •PTI/ INDIAN ARMY

ficials in Mon district said the duo was rescued after a gunfight around 2 a.m.

The officials could not specify the number of extremists but said they were a mixed group of members of the ULFA-I and the Yung Aung faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. This faction took over the NSCN (Khaplang) that operates from across the border in Myanmar and shelters other outfits of the northeast.

"Operations are still in progress to rescue the third abductee. Our team reco-

vered an AK-47 assault rifle from the area where the two were rescued," a Defence spokesperson said.

In a statement on Saturday evening, the ULFA-I claimed they had released all three hostages following the gunfight with the security forces. "We suspect the armed forces may have killed Ritul Saikia during the exchange of fire," it said.

On Friday, the Assam police arrested 14 people, including "overground workers" of the ULFA-I, in connection with the abduction.

2 abducted ONGC staffers rescued, ULFA claims 3 rd not in its custody	Indian Express	7	Tora Agarwal	Positive
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2 abducted ONGC staffers rescued, ULFA claims 3rd not in its custody

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, APRIL 24

FOUR DAYS after they were abducted by the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I), two of three Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) employees have been rescued by a joint team of security forces from Mon district of Nagaland near the India-Myanmar border.

"The rescue operation was jointly done by the Indian Army, Assam Rifles and Nagaland Police, with intelligence inputs from the Assam Police and central agencies," Assam DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta told *The Sunday Express*. One AK-47 rifle was recovered from the site.

The two rescued employees are Mohini Mohan Gogoi and Alakesh Saikia. "The search for the third, Retul Saikia, is underway. We suspect the ULFA-I still has him," added Mahanta.

On Saturday evening, ULFA-I released a statement saying that Retul Saikia was not in their custody and that they suspect he had either been killed in gunfire by the state security forces or kept in hiding by them.

The statement, signed by the outfit's "publicity cell" member Rumei Asom, said that an encounter between ULFA-I cadres and the armed forces personnel took place between 10pm and 2.30am on Friday. "Following that, keeping in mind the safety of the three ONGC employees, our members released them in a healthy condition..." it said.



Abducted ONGC staffers rescued	Free Press Journal	5	Bureau	Positive
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Abducted ONGC staffers rescued

GUWAHATI Two employees of ONGC were rescued after an encounter near the Indo-Myanmar border in Nagaland on Saturday.

Assam DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said the 3 employees of the ONGC were abducted by suspected ULFA(I) militants from the Lakwa oilfield in Sivasagar district along the Assam-Nagaland border on Wednesday.

"An encounter took place in the forest of Mon district in Nagaland near the international border. Two ONGC employees have been rescued from there. A search operation for the third employee is on," Mahanta told PTI.

The operation was carried out by a joint team of Nagaland Police, the Indian Army, and other paramilitary forces, who were supported by intelligence inputs from Assam Police, he added. The rescued persons are Mohini Mohan Gogoi and Alakesh Saikia.

ULFA (I): Third abductee possibly killed by army

Two of three abducted ONGC staff rescued

HT Correspondent

SIVASAGAR, April 24: Mohini Mohan Gogoi and Alakesh Saikia, two of the three ONGC employees abducted by ULFA (I) on April 20 were rescued in an operation in Totokchingnyu, Mon district of Nagaland by Assam Rifles and Nagaland Police on late Friday night.

There has been no trace of the third employee Ritul Saikia yet. One AK-47 with a bullet mark on it was recovered indicating an exchange of fire between the abductors and pursuing army men along the route taken by the ULFA (I) insurgents.

Meanwhile, in a release sent to the media here, signed by self style Captain Rumel Axom of the ULFA (I), the outfit for the first time admitted abducting the three ONGC employees from Lakwa ONGC rig site with the help of NSCN cadres.

The release also said that the



three employees Alakesh Saikia, Mohini Mohan Gogoi and Ritul Saikia were handed over to the villagers of Totokchingnyu village in Mon district in good health in the wake of a fierce exchange of fire a number of times between their cadres and army from 10 pm to 2:30 am. The release said that to malign

the image of the ULFA (I), the army resorted to deliberate gun fire in the place even after they handed over the three to the villagers. Under the circumstance, the release added that the fate of the third employee Ritul Saikia has become uncertain. He might have fallen victim to army bullets

Mon DC refutes ULFA (I) claim on abductees

HT Correspondent

DIMAPUR, April 24: Mon deputy commissioner Thavaseelan K refuted ULFA (I) claim that it had left the three abducted ONGC employees among the people of Totokchingnyu village under Nagaland's Mon district.

Talking to this correspondent over phone on Saturday, Thavaseelan said that two of the three abducted ONGC employees were found on the "other side of the road" in Totokchingnyu village after a combing operation at around 2 am on Saturday and not in the village. He reasoned that if they were left in the village among the people, no firing would have taken place.

"If there was an exchange of gun fire in the village, so many people would have been injured or died," he stated while dubbing the ULFA (I) claim as 'not true'. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

or may be kept in army custody.

ULFA (I), through the release threatened the ONGC, terming it as an outsider, of dire consequences for the whole incident.

Addressing a press meet at Simaluguri, Sivasagar superintendent of police Amitabh Sinha revealed that it was a well-planned

operation by the ULFA (I) modus operandi of the ULFA (I) in the abduction.

ULFA(I) militant Abhijit Gogoi alias Aiseng Axom befriended one Biraj Chetia alias Biraj Axom Borchetia of Sivasagar through social media platform and paid ₹ 20 thousand (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Two of three abducted ONGC

on April 16 to buy a motorcycle which was recovered by the police in an abandoned state on the night of the abduction. Binaj Chetia bought the bicycle from Nisar AS at Rs 18 thousand the same day in the name of Abhijit Axom. About the condition of the third abducted person the SP was silent.

Kapriz, Assam Police in a press statement confirmed that the kidnapping was done by the ULFA (I) under command of SS Maj Ganesh Lahon alias Panta Lahon and his accomplice namely, Aishwarya Axom alias Monirun Borgehaz and Prady Gogoi alias Akon. The police also arrested 14 (fourteen) members of Inkam and sympathisers of ULFA (I) who were helping the banned outfit directly or indirectly. Meanwhile, DGP Assam Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta took to his official Twitter handle saying, "So far Security Forces have been able to rescue 2 of the total three victims from near the India-Myanmar border in Mon Dist., Nagaland. The rescued 2 are Alakesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi. Efforts are going on to rescue the third victim."

2 ONGC employees rescued, no trace of third abductee

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, April 24: Mohini Mohan Gogoi and Alokesh Saikia – two of the three ONGC employees abducted by ULFA(I) insurgents on Wednesday were rescued late last night in an operation at Tokok Singkhu village in Mon district of Nagaland by Assam Rifles and Nagaland Police.

There has been no trace of the third abductee Ritul Saikia yet. One AK-47 rifle with bullet mark on it was recovered from the spot indicating an exchange of fire between the abductors and security personnel.

Meanwhile, in a release to

the media here and signed by self-styled Captain Rumel Asom of the ULFA(I), the outfit admitted to abducting the three ONGC employees with the help of NSCN insurgents. It said the three employees – Alokesh Saikia, Mohini Mohan Gogoi and Ritul Saikia – were handed over to the villagers of Tokok Singkhu in good health in the wake of fierce exchange of fire a number of times between the insurgents and security personnel.

The release further said that to malign the image of the ULFA(I), the Indian Army resorted to deliberate gunfire in the place even after the hostages were being handed over to the villagers. Under the cir-

cumstance, the fate of the third ONGC employee Ritul Saikia has become uncertain, the release added.

Dimapur Correspondent adds: Mon DC Thavaseelan K refuted ULFA(I) claim that it had left the three abducted ONGC employees among the people of Tokok Singkhu village in the district. Thavaseelan said two of the three abducted ONGC employees were found on the "other side of the road" near the village after a combing operation at around 2 am on Saturday and not in the village. He reasoned that if they were left in the village among the people, no firing would have taken place.

Two ONGC officials rescued; 1 still missing



Mohini Mohan Gogoi



Alakesh Saikia

CORRESPONDENTS

DIGBOI/DEMOW April 24: A team of the Army, accompanied by Assam and Nagaland Police personnel, rescued two of the three ONGC officials from the clutch of the ULFA-I along the Indo-Myanmar border on Saturday. The search operation is still going on for the rescue of the third ONGC official.

Affirming the development, State DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta in his Twit-

ter handle said, "So far security forces have been able to rescue two of the three victims from near the Indo-Myanmar border in Mon district of Nagaland. The two rescued are Alakesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi. Efforts are going on to rescue the third official, Ritul Saikia."

Meanwhile, the ULFA-I claimed in a statement that the 73 Brigade of the Indian Army, 35th Battalion of Assam Rifles and Nagaland

■ Continued on page 2

Two ONGC officials...

armed police were involved in the operation.

The statement said the forces encircled the ULFA cadres at Totok in Nagaland's Mon district and a series of encounters took place in and around the Chinkgi village in the area on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. "Keeping in mind the security of the abducted ONGC employees, our cadres left them in the safe custody of the local Tangsha Naga villagers. Alakesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi were recovered safely by the security forces, but we have no idea what happened to Ritul Saikia," the statement said.

According to the statement, the ULFA is checking whether Saikia, an assistant junior engineer with ONGC, was hit during the encounters. It, however, disowned the responsibility for such an eventuality.

The DGP thanked 57 Mountain Division of the Army and the Nagaland Police for their help and coordination in the rescue operation.

According to Assam Police sources, the operation was backed by intelligence input served by the Assam Police.

An AK series weapon was also recovered from the encounter site, claimed an official of the Assam Police team associated with the operation.

As part of the rescue operation, as many as 14 persons were arrested till Friday evening for their alleged involvement and aiding the kidnapers in perpetrating the crime.



2 ONGC Staff Safe, Bur one missing after encounters;
ULFA-I

Sikkim Express

2

Bureau

Positive

2 ONGC staff safe, but one missing after encounters: ULFA-I

KOLKATA, April 24 (IANS): After the Indian Army along with Assam Rifles personnel rescued two abducted ONGC employees from the clutches of the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) late on Friday night, the separatist group said on Saturday that two of the three ONGC employees were safe, but the third one had gone missing.

ULFA-I spokesperson Rumel Asom said in a statement that since the three ONGC employees, all ethnic Assamese, were 'picked up' by their fighters from a rig site at Lakwa in Assam's Sivasagar

district on Wednesday, 500 soldiers and armed policemen mounted a massive operation to rescue the abducted staff.

Asom claimed that the 73 Brigade of the Indian Army, 35th Battalion of Assam Rifles and Nagaland armed police were involved in the operation.

He said the forces encircled the ULFA fighters at Totok in Nagaland's Mon district and a series of encounters took place in and around the Chinkgu village in the area on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

"Keeping in mind the security of the abducted

ONGC employees, our fighters left them in the safe custody of the local Tangsha Naga villagers. Alokesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi were recovered safely by the security forces but we have no idea what happened to Ritul Saikia," the spokesperson said.

He said the ULFA is checking whether Saikia, an assistant junior engineer with ONGC, had been hit during the encounters, while disowning responsibility for such an eventuality.

In a series of tweets on Wednesday morning, ONGC had said the employees were

driven away by "unknown armed miscreants" in a vehicle belonging to ONGC at gunpoint.

The vehicle was later found abandoned near the Nimonagarh jungles, close to the Assam-Nagaland border.

"All the three abducted persons are local residents of Assam," Sivasagar SP, Amitava Sinha, told IANS.

While Mohini Mohan Gogoi (junior technician, production) hails from Sivasagar district, Alokesh Saikia (assistant junior engineer, production) is from Jorhat district and Ritul Saikia is from Golaghat district.

In December last year, ULFA-I and the Myanmar-faction of NSCN (K) had abducted two employees of Quippo Oil and Gas Infrastructure Limited from the Kumchaikha drilling site near Innao in Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh.

They were released in April after long negotiations conducted not so secretly. The ULFA-I had insisted that Quippo should only employ locals.

Public sector behemoth ONGC is India's biggest oil and gas exploration and production company.

पेट्रोल व डीजल के दाम लगातार 9वें दिन स्थिर

एजेंसी। नई दिल्ली

पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम शनिवार को लगातार नवें दिन स्थिर रहे। देश की सबसे बड़ी तेल विपणन कंपनी इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन के अनुसार राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्ली में पेट्रोल आज 90.40 रुपये और डीजल 80.73 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर स्थिर रहा। पंद्रह दिन स्थिर रहने के बाद तेल विपणन कंपनियों ने गत

15 अप्रैल को इनमें कटौती की थी। इसके बाद से फिर दोनों ईंधनों के दाम में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है। मुंबई, चेन्नई और कोलकाता में भी पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम स्थिर रहे। पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम की रोजाना समीक्षा होती है और उसके आधार पर हर दिन सुबह छह बजे से नई कीमतें लागू की जाती हैं।

