

A FLOWERING COUNTRY

BOOK 3 - ADILA'S JUSTICE



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Asia Justice and Rights

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A Flowering Country

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Adila has been with the truth
commission for more than a year



She joined a team compiling
victim statements

Who were working
in a jade mine

The October rain comes and
goes, it comes and goes

The road was muddy and
strewn with resident's
household waste

The asphalt street
appeared more clean, but
it was filled with holes

Those big holes
which sat agape

Like the government's debt to
global conglomerates

Adila continues her
walk through life

Treading nimbly between
residents houses on her way to
the community centre



A meeting place for community members from all walks of life



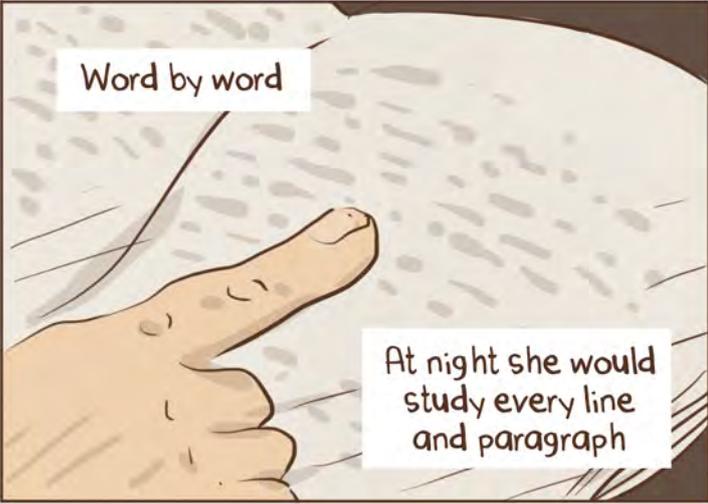
In preparation for statement-taking and investigation by the TRC



As she walked along, she mumbled to herself



She had already memorized all the legal articles



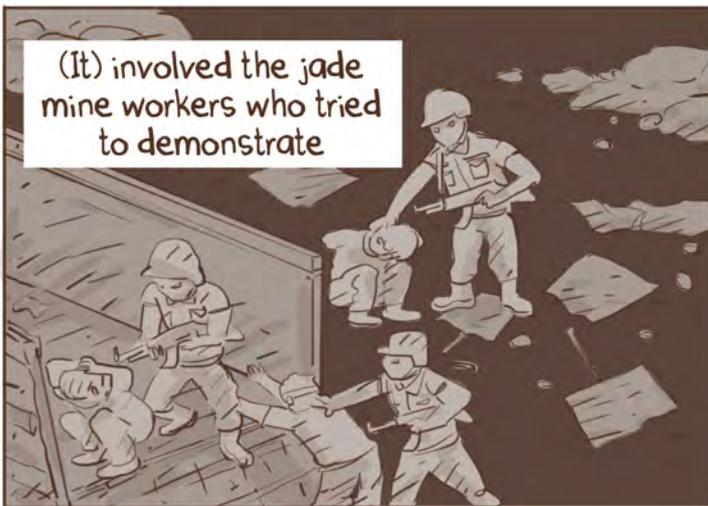
Word by word

At night she would study every line and paragraph



She was asked to take on these additional tasks so that she could present for community and legal activists from the conflict area





(It) involved the jade mine workers who tried to demonstrate



10 years ago, a series of big landslides hit the Hatan mine. 50 workers were killed

To this day

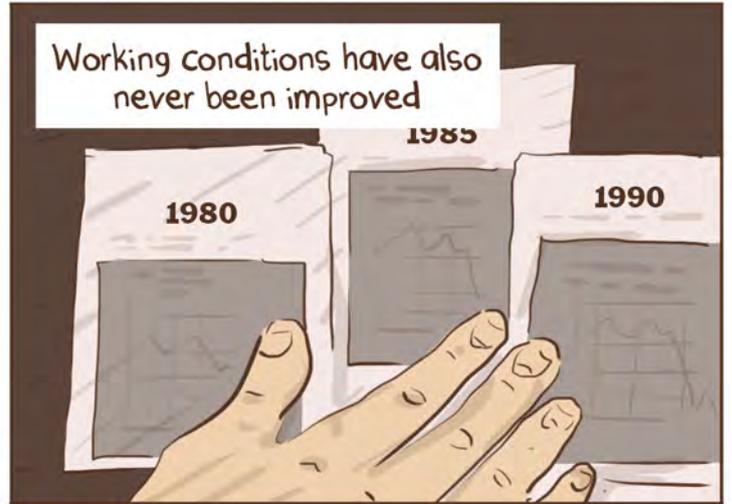


The bodies of seven workers have never been recovered

A group of workers demonstrated to demand safer conditions



Eventually they were arrested by police and thrown in jail. Their charge was that they were disturbing the peace. They were also fired from their jobs







Adila was joined in this research by another volunteer named Tutha



When his fellow students were detained



He became interested in supporting the work of the truth commission

Eh?

Adila, are you okay?



Tutha, I still remember clearly



How come they broke up the meeting

You'll be seeing us another time soon!



Who actually are you?



The meeting's dispersal did not dampen Adila's commitment to finishing the investigation



Rather, it only increased Adila's desire to know who was behind the company



So they are able to send the military to disperse the meeting



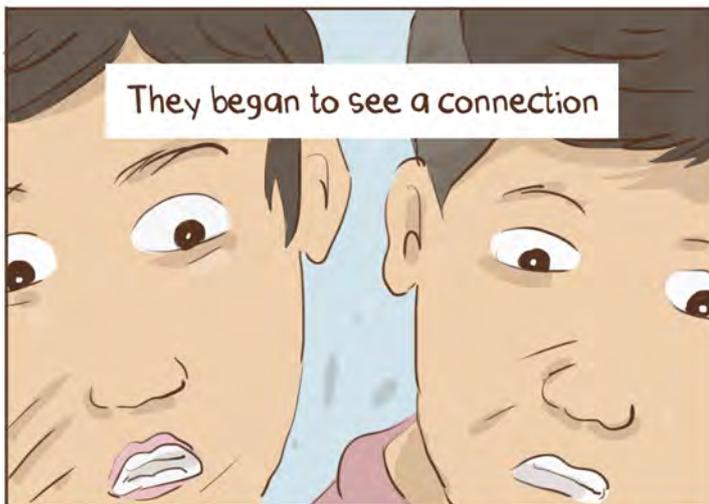
Adila and Tutha began to compile all of their data on the company



Who are the shareholders?
What is their annual profit?

What accusations are there about their environmental impacts?

And what about the workplace accident that happened?



They began to see a connection



With the general's powerful family members, who are able to ward off any regulation or complaint



The hill looked like it had been sliced and left with open wounds, while the miner's poverty washes down the river





They sought shelter in a small temporary shack owned by a woman named Noor



Noor's husband was one of the prisoners who was never seen again



Here, she lives in this shack

In the day it is boiling hot and by night it is freezing cold



They, and their young children have to work hard in order to survive

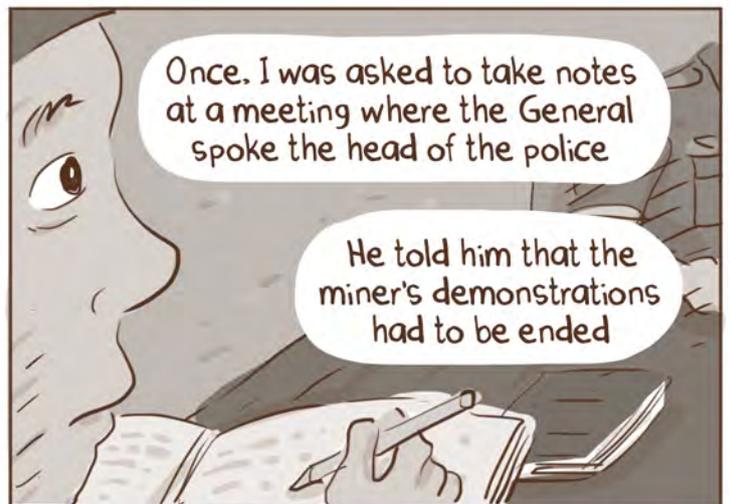


Before, our lives were sufficient

My husband was a senior miner, he became the head of his team

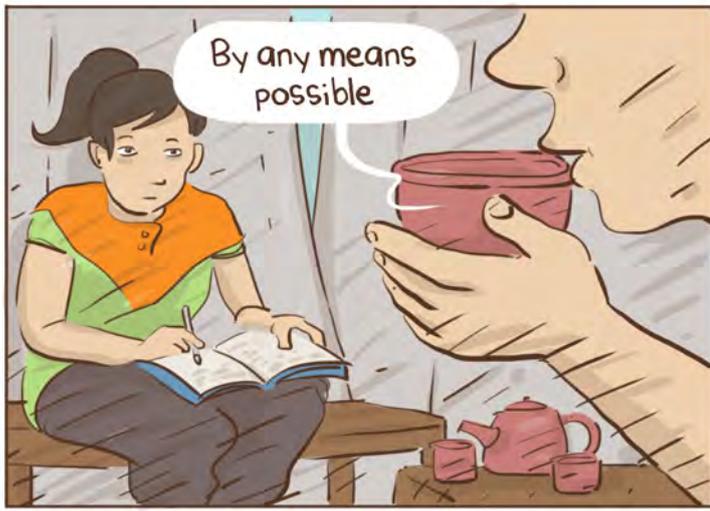


At that time, I was working as a secretary for the mining company



Once, I was asked to take notes at a meeting where the General spoke the head of the police

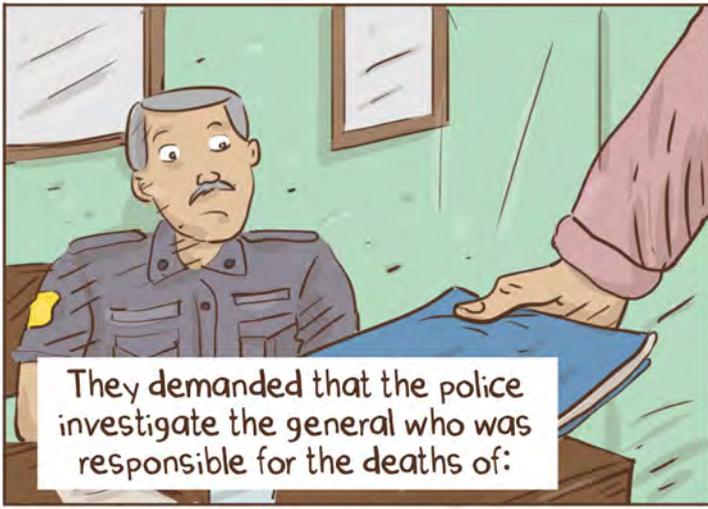
He told him that the miner's demonstrations had to be ended



And they would chat about justice







They demanded that the police investigate the general who was responsible for the deaths of:



The miners who were victims of the landslide



The environmental destruction



And the enforced disappearance of three mine workers who led the action



Noor's testimonies formed an important part of the evidence they gathered



Tutha and Adila invited journalists to cover their action

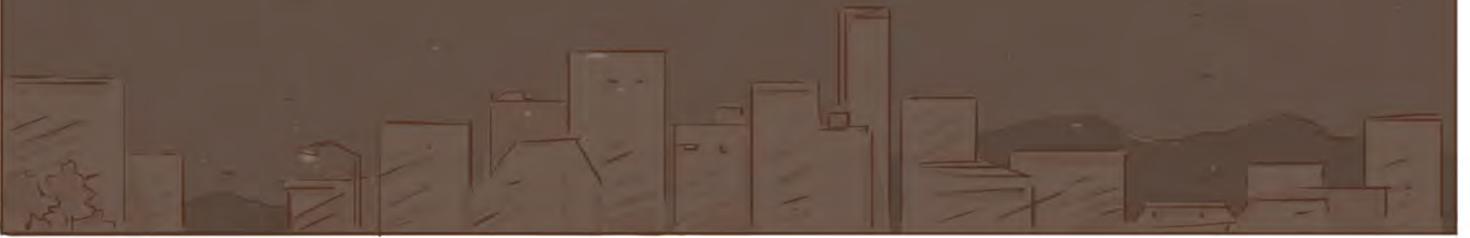


They made a press release in front of the police station

While describing the evidence they have collected



Darkness enveloped the city

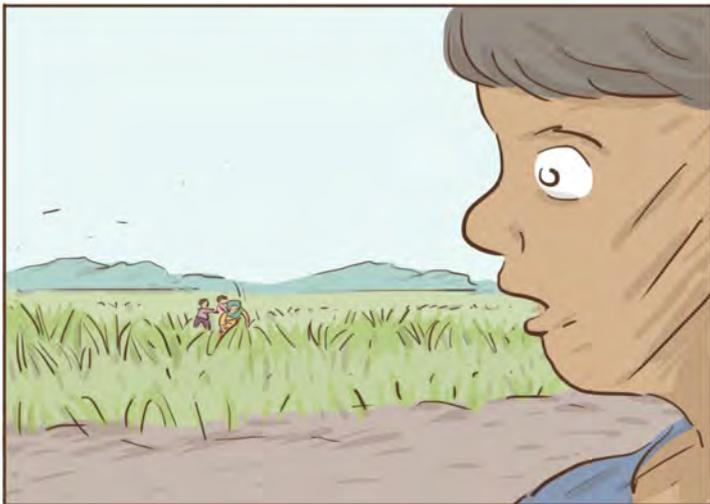


The military were carrying out operations everywhere



In search of the people who had given evidence to the TRC





Noor and her children fled across the border.
She now lives in a refugee camp

After a few months, she
got a job as a translator

She went on to become a facilitator for an
international NGO, gathering evidence from
victims so that they can attain justice

