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That ‘summer of 2012’ was also not very favourable for the state of Assam. Assam, during that point of time, was gripped by communal violence between the tribals and the migrant communities. The spread of hatred was so infectious that the people from different parts of the country sensed its consequences through different manifestations.

Working on a topic like Nellie violence threw a lot of challenges in terms of gathering reading materials and collecting archival clips of newspapers. The challenges multiplied when I saw that there was prolonged silence on the event, which was due to the lack of discussion by the state, regional media and the unwillingness of people to speak on the topic. Surprisingly, during the time I was planning to work on the thesis, Makiko Kimura, a Japanese research scholar from JNU, came up with a book on Nellie Massacre in 2013. Later on, when I started walking down the libraries and meeting various people, I got introduced to Diganta Sharma from Saadin and Bedabrata Lahkar from The Assam Tribune. My sincere thanks to both Sharma and Lahkar for their patient hearing and sharing of stories related to the Nellie violence.

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