Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

April, 2018

HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

Human Right Support Society is functioning to ensure all sorts of human rights for people through building consciousness as well as monitoring and publishing human rights situation in Bangladesh. It is regularly published monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly human rights observation report. As part of these activities, Human Right Support Society has published monthly human rights observation report in April 2018 based on data collected from the dailies and fact-finding reports from its regional representatives throughout the country and twelve prominent national newspapers of Bangladesh. It is highly observed that the violation of human rights continues almost with the same flow as last month. From this report, it is evident that extra-judicial killing, domestic violence, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrest. Moreover, the number of rape, gang-rape, and child-rape has also increased surprisingly.

According to the sources of HRSS, at least 34 persons were killed extra-judicially in April 2018. The deaths occurred during raids, arrests as well as during the operations conducted by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs). As usual, the government regretfully describes these deaths as "crossfire/gunfights/encounter killings" and so on and almost 06 people have been disappeared by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs).

Moreover, the HRSS report finds that in April 2018, a total of 63 females were raped. Among them, 31 were an adult, whereas alarmingly 32 were children under 16. It's a rising concern in the incidence of raping crime that among victims at least 12 of them have been gang-raped. Among the victims, one was brutally killed after being raped. About 25 women were killed in the family feud. Approximately, 33 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported, about 12 were killed and 08 women were physically abused over dowry demands. A total of 15 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in April 2018.

It has also been reported that a total of 12 people were abducted in different areas of the country, among of them approximately 08 were male, 04 children, and 11 were killed after the abduction. Moreover, at least 05 were killed in political violence whereas around 02 people were killed through lynching.

It is alarming that a total of 08 violent incidents were against children, 03 victims lost their life and 12 were critically injured. On the violent attacks on unarmed civilians, a total of 15 incidents have been happened, where 14 were killed. Human Rights Support Society, do think that state authority should be more responsive in protecting the life and property of the general people and thereby fulfill their constitutional commitment. It also requests to every conscious citizen to be more vocal against these sorts of dreadful human rights situations in the country. To fight against all kinds of repressive situation, HRSS is publishing their reports online or offline and trying to generate people's power for the restoration of democracy, bringing back voting rights of the people, establishing rule of law and human rights.

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Extra Judicial Killing

Extrajudicial killing is an illegal deprivation of life and simply murder. This is the killing of a person by governmental authorities without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.[1] Bangladesh has earned notoriety in carrying out extrajudicial killings. 'Crossfire' or 'encounter' and gunfight are very common terms used by the LEA to hide their crime and avoid the liabilities of extra-judicial killing. After killing in a pre-planned and cool head, the police and RAB[2] authorities have informed the media that the victim's died to engage in the crossfire. These extra-judicial killings are depriving the people of their rights to lives and right to get justice in neutral open court.[3] The government of Bangladesh has been violating the Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights day after day since 2002 especially when the operation clean heart started. Now the situation is becoming more complex day by day. In Bangladesh, the law says minimum force should be applied to arrests and every person has the right to seek a trial. In the cases of "crossfire or encounters, the rights to life and personal liberty are under threat in Bangladesh, despite the fact that they are guaranteed by the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh the constitutions. The existing legal framework does not allow encounter killing.

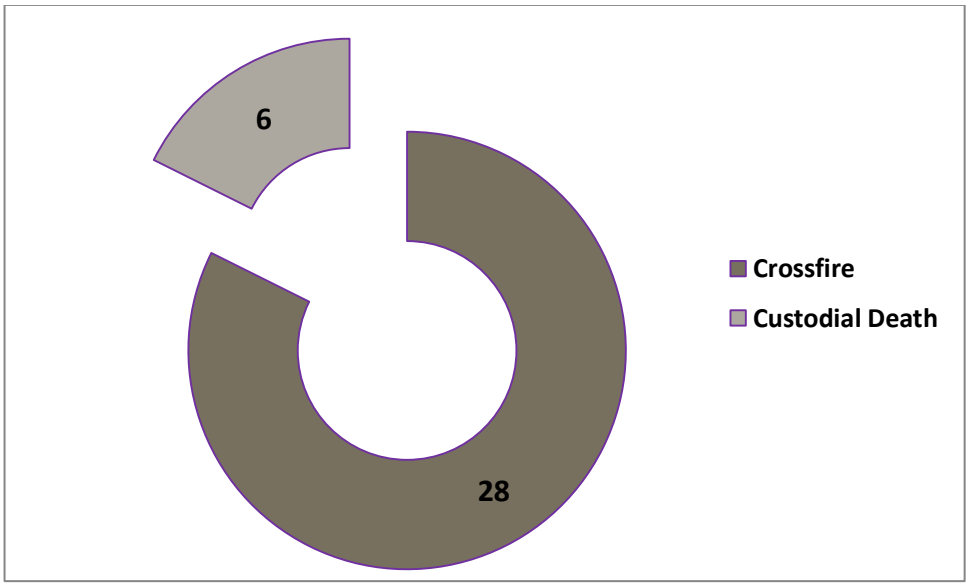

Figure 1: Scenario of Encounter killing in April 2018

The given pie chart provides information about the extrajudicial killing scenario in April 2018: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 34 persons were alleged killed in extra judicially. Out of them, 28 people were killed in the name of 'crossfire/ gunfights', and about 06 died in the custody. Some important cases are mentioned below:

[1] http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law.
[2] http://www.lawteacher.net
[3] http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law.

On April 06, 2018A teenage boy was killed in a so-called "gunfight" with police in the capital's Wari. The deceased was identified as Rakib Halwader, son of Mohsin Halwader, a resident of Wari's Kaptan Bazar. He was only 15, according to his birth certificate. The family alleged that Rakib was picked up by Sub-Inspector Jyotish Chandra of Wari Police Station around 10:30pm on 04 April as he went out to buy daily essentials for his mother rita akter. "The next day, I went to the police station around 11:00am to meet my son. I saw him in the OC's room," Rita Akter told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Rakib's body was kept at the college morgue. She said she waited at the police station for hours but was barred from meeting him. "I heard a shout '*Ma…Ma…*" she said, adding that she then saw his son in handcuffs being taken to the OC's room. Rita said she bought a packet of biriyani from a shop for her son, but it was not allowed. She waited till 4:30pm but could not talk to her son. Sub-Inspector Jyotish Chandra could not be reached for comments despite several attempts.[4]

On Apr 17, 2018, a suspected mugger was killed in a reported gunfight between his cohorts and police in Bypass Rail Gate area of Akhaura upazila in Brahmanbaria. The deceased was identified as Khokon Sutradhar, 30. Khokon was arrested along with Tk 18.68 lakh looted from a private company representative on Monday afternoon, said Mosharraf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Akhaura police station.[5]

On Apr 20,2018A suspected robber was killed in a gunfight with members of Detective Branch of police at Saharpur of Phulpur in Mymensingh. SA Newazi, additional superintendent of police (Crime), said a DB team arrested suspected robber Shaon from Jashore in connection with the killing of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Zahirul Haque and snatching his auto-rickshaw on March 24 last. The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.[6]

On Apr 25, 2018, an accused drug dealer was killed in a reported gunfight between his cohorts and police at Katakhali Haidrabad in the municipality area in Munshiganj. The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam alias Baba Arif, 37, son of Julhash Bepari in Munshiganj Sadar, also an accused of 12 drug-related cases.[7]

On April 29, 2018An alleged criminal was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Abaderhat area under Agordari union of sadar upazila in Satkhira. The deceased was identified as Nabab Ali Mollah, 38, a son of Sujit Mollah of Bokchora village under the upazila. Satkhira Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Maruf Ahmed, said Patkelghata police arrested fugitive Nabab Ali from Patkelghata on 28 April.[8]

[4] http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/picked-boy-killed-shootout-1559248
[5] http://www.newagebd.net/article/39194/mugger-killed-in-bbaria-gunfight
[6] http://www.newagebd.net/article/39510/robber-killed-in-phulpur-gunfight
[7] http://www.newagebd.net/article/39897/drug-dealer-killed-in-munshiganj-gunfight
[8] http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=115428&cat=9/শা

Enforced Disappearance

Enforce disappearance have already triggered a gravest hurdle in our national life by polluting political and administrative culture of Bangladesh. Abduction, killing after the abduction, rescuing dead body becomes the common and daily phenomenon in Bangladesh. Petitions of habeas corpus or other legal mechanisms designated to safeguard the liberty and integrity of citizens remain ineffective. Enforced Disappearance constitutes a grave threat to the right to life and violates fundamental human rights. Freshly, the government of Bangladesh has ratified the convention against torture but has yet to accede to the International Convention for the protection of all people from enforced disappearance. According to HRSS report, many political activists have been forcefully disappeared in April 2018 by the law enforcement agencies.

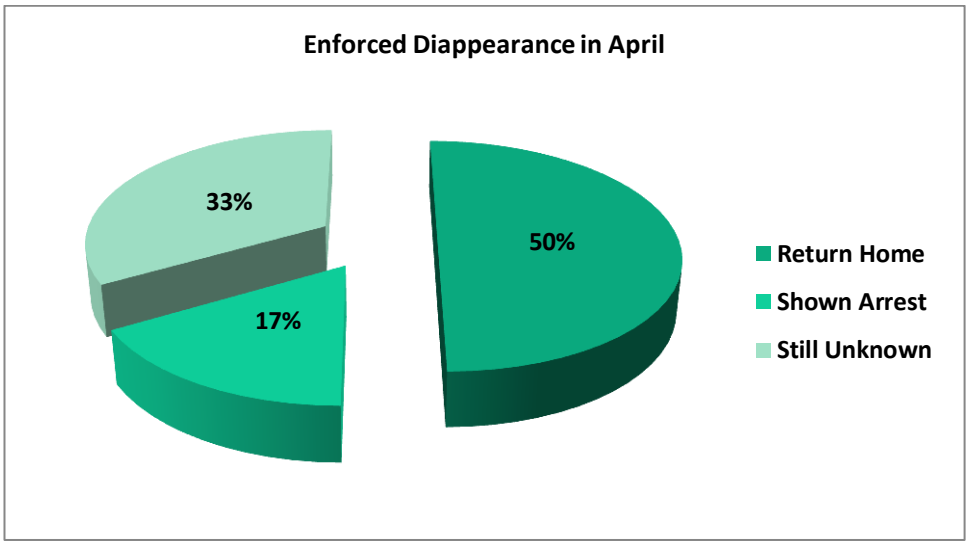

Figure 2: Violence against Women in Apr '18

'Human Rights Support Society' (HRSS) finds that in April 2018 a total 06 people have been disappeared by law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 03 returned home one shown arrest and nobody knows what happened to the rest, two persons. Selected cases are stated below:

On 17 April, 18 Family members of two missing persons Md Masud and Saiful Islam who were abducted on April 5 last from Begumganj Upazila of Noakhali District by persons identifying themselves as DB policemen, held a press conference on 16 April at Chandraganj Press Club demanding their unhurt return.[9]

[9] http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=133243

On April 16, 2018, several leaders from the student platform's central committee were going to restaurants in Chankharpool for lunch. But before that, they wanted to visit their fellow demonstrators who were injured and being treated at the DMCH. "As soon as we reached near the emergency gate of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, three to four motorbikes intercepted the rickshaw carrying the three students," said Bin Yamin, a student who was in another rickshaw nearby. "Two white microbuses with tinted glasses came and the three were dragged into one of the microbuses," he said, adding that he along with others present at the scene spread the news. At the briefing, Nurul said, "We saw hundreds of people in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. We screamed for help but none came to our rescue." Nurul claimed that as the blindfold was removed and he opened his eyes, he found himself and the other two in a room. Later, they found that they were at the DB office. The leaders, Nurul Haq Nur, Muhammad Rashed Khan and Faruk Hasan are joint conveners of Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, a platform of students who had been demonstrating for reforms in the country's quota system in civil service. Nurul is a master's student of Dhaka University English department while Rashed and Faruk are former students of the university's "Banking & Insurance department" and "Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies". All the fellow protesters were in the dark about their whereabouts until detectives admitted detaining and taking the three to the DB office on Minto Road for "questioning". They were released around 2:30 pm. When the three were being picked up in Dhaka, police in Jhenidah interrogated Rashed's father Nabai Biswas, a mason, to know whether the family had any political affiliation, claimed Nabai. He said he was not linked with any political party or its affiliated bodies. Talking to reports in front of DU Central Library, the trio narrated how they were picked up.[10]

[10] https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/3-quota-leaders-held-hour-1563520

Violence against Women

Violence against women and girls is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations. It is rooted in gendered social structures rather than individual and random acts; it cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries; affects all societies; which are the major obstacle to ending gender inequality and discrimination globally.[11] In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life".[12] Violence against women is a main social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. Inhuman attacks on women have become commonplace and widespread across the country. Daily news reports are filled with atrocities including physical and psychological torture, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, dowry-related violence, trafficking, coerced suicide, and murder. The rate of reported violent acts against women has risen steadily and at an alarming rate, especially in April 2018. HRSS provides the following data has been taken from 12 prominent daily newspapers in Bangladesh.

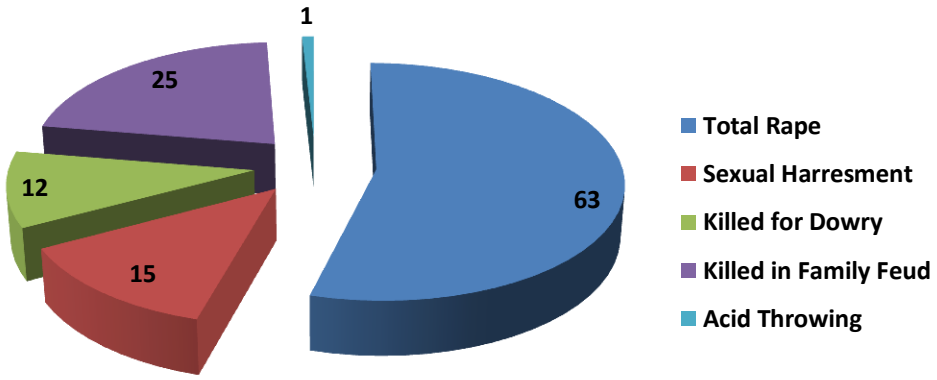

Figure 2: Violence against Women in Apr '18

HRSS identifies the whole situation of a female in Bangladesh and documented the issues relating to the violation of women rights. The major subjects of violation against women were dowry killings, rape, sexual harassment and stalking, physical and mental abuse. According to the HRSS, the supplied graph illustrates about information of violence against women in April 2018 are detailed:

[11] (UN General Assembly, 2006)
[12] (General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993)

Rape	*A Total Number Of 63 Females Were Raped. Among Of Them 51 Were Victims Of Single Rape And 12 Were Subjected To Gang Rape And 32 Were Children Below The Age Of 16 (Including Single & Gang Rape). On The Other Hand, one Female Was Killed After Being Raped And Almost 16 Incidents Have Been Attempted To Rape.*
Killed In Family Feud	*In April 2018, About 25 Women Were Killed In The Family Feud And 08 Females Have Been Injured. Out Of Them, 33 Were An Incidents Of Family Feud.*
Dowry Related Violence	*Approximately 19 Incidents Of Dowry-related Violence Were Reported In April 2018. About 12 Were Killed And 07 Women Were Physically Abused Over Dowry Demands.*
Sexual Harassment	*According To Information Collected By HRSS, A Total Of 15 Girls And Women Were Reportedly Victims Of Sexual Harassment In April 2018. Among Them, 09 Were Assaulted And 06 Were Stalked.*

Some important cases are cited: On April 17, 2018A housewife was killed allegedly by her dowry greedy husband at Kachua village in Jashore Sadar. The deceased, Rahela Begum, 25, was married to fish trader Hero Hossain of Kachua village 14 years ago, family sources said. After the marriage, Hero and his family members often tortured Rahela for dowry. Rahela recently went to her father's home and started a small business of clothes there. On 16 April, Hero brought Rahela to his house and strangled her following an altercation over the issue.[13]

[13] https://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-kills-wife-dowry-jashore-1563865

On 2 April, 2018 a housewife sustained serious burn injuries as a miscreant hurled acid on her at Jhauchar in Hazaribagh in the city. The victim was identified as Aklima Khatun, 25, wife of Zobayer Hossain. Zobayer said when Aklima along with her daughter was going to a local school in the morning a young man hurled acid on her.[14]

On April 02, 2018A woman was killed allegedly by her dowry-greedy husband in Jashore Sadar upazila. The deceased was Rabeya Khatun, 22, daughter of Delwar Hossain of Jhumjhumpur Uttarpara in the upazila. Family sources said Rabeya married easy-bike driver, Ikbal Hossain of Satiantola Ghop village, five years ago. After the marriage, Ikbal and his family members often tortured Rabeya for Tk one lakh as dowry. On 2 April, Iqbal strangled Rabeya following an altercation over the issue and fled the scene, said the victim's brother Habibur Rahman.[15]

Housewife tied to tree, tortured by her husband in Sadar Upazila, Satkhira

On 8 April 2018: A housewife was allegedly tortured by her husband and brother-in-law at Dahakula Village in Sadar Upazila, Satkhira. Quoting local people, Sadar Police Station Inspector (Investigation) SK Shariful Islam said Kabir used to torture his wife Anwara for various reasons including dowry since their marriage. On 6 April, Kabir and his elder brother Habib tied up Anwara to a tree on the homestead and beat her up, leaving her injured. Local people rescued the victim and took her to Satkhira Sadar Hospital. In the hospital, Anwara said she was tortured as she denied adultery proposal from Habib. Earlier, she left the house and stayed at her father's house in the face of torture. Later, her husband brought her back.[16]

On April 19, 2018A 19-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by two men in Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj. The alleged rapists are Md Handan Mia, 29, and Md Mozor Ali, 28, of Borokapon village under Chhatak upazila. Md Dulon Mia, assistant superintendent of police of Sunamganj circle, said the men intruded her home when her family was outside for work and she was alone. They first threatened to kill her with a knife if she resisted or made any noise and then raped her.[17]

[14] http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=130738
[15] http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-killed-husband-dowry-1557589
[16] http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=131752
[17] https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/teenage-girl-gang-raped-sunamganj-1565026

Attack on Journalist

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, and states that: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek to receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. [18] Regarding this fact, Journalists are facing an "unprecedented" wave of attacks in Bangladesh. Regrettably, individuals are not always able to disparage the government publicly without the fear of reprisal and the government often attempted to impede criticism by prohibiting or dispersing as well as shutting down many electronic and print media due to negligible reports against the government. The numbers of attacks on journalists, according to Human Rights Support Society report is increasing day by day. The chart below provides information about the total number of attack on a journalist.

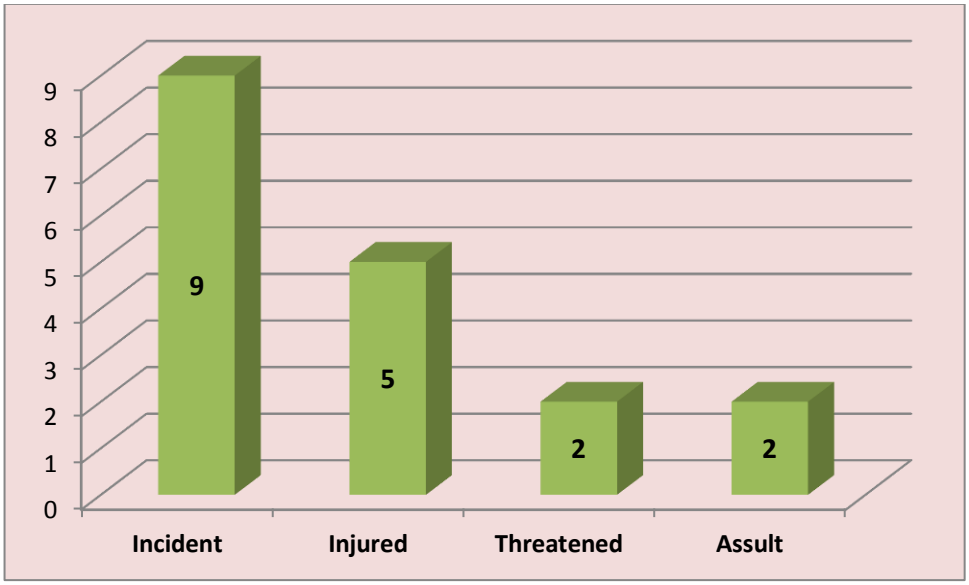

Figure 4; Attacks on Journalist

The journalists and the media constant were to be victims of attacks, physically assaulted, threaten and intimidated from different powerful quarters, especially from the government and the ruling party leaders and activists. In April, According to HRSS's documented statistics, around 02 were assaulted, 05 injured, and almost 02 threatened.

Selected cases are as described here*:* On April 18, 2018, a police official allegedly assaulted a senior journalist, forced him into the police van and kept him in custody at Rajpara Police Station while he was on duty. Saidur Rahman, the local correspondent of Bhorer Kagoj and general secretary of Rajshahi Press Club, was however released later in the afternoon after the intervention of local journalists and public representatives. [19]

[18] http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/
[19] https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/cop-assaults-journalist-rajshahi-1564492

On April 24, 2018Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Government Tolaram College unit in Narayanganj allegedly have assaulted a journalist for his involvement in the recently concluded quota-reform demonstrations. The victim Sourav Hossain Siam, 20, a second-year student of zoology department in the college and literature editor of Prothom-Alo Bondhushava in the district, was beaten on the college campus. He was later taken to a local hospital for treatment. Sourav, also a staff reporter of Local online newspaper "Press Narayanganj", said BCL men called him over a cell phone and asked him to meet them. When he went in front of Tolaram College Arts Building, five to six BCL men swooped on him and shouted, "You do news against us. You are involved with quota-reform movement", he alleged. Sourav alleged that he was beaten inside the students' union office in presence of Habibur Rahman Riad, president of the college BCL unit.[20]

[20] https://www.thedailystar.net/city/journalist-beaten-bcl-men-1567363

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Political Violence

Political violence in Bangladesh is a banal phenomenon. The role and way of democratic politics have been subjected to a great question due to the considerable number of political classes among the parties as well as intra parties. At present, it has been considered a sign of an immature or even immoral political class.[21]After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th April 2014 by controversial election, political violence is still continued. But due to limited space for opposition parties, now political violence are mostly intra-factional clashes of ruling party over the issues of supremacy, tender, and possession of power, collecting subscription, grabbing land etc. The activist of opposite political parties is being tortured, killed by the activist of ruling parties in every corner of the country.

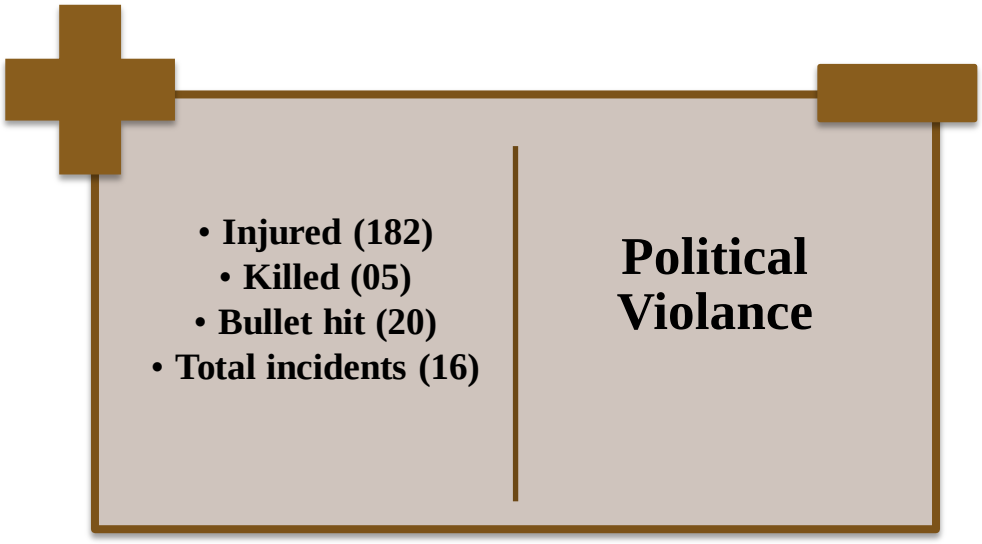

Figure 3: Statistics of Political Violence

The figure presents information about the political violence in April 2018. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 05 people have been killed, almost 182 injured and 20 bullets hit due to politically related issues. Most of the political violence occurred among the sub-organization of ruling party on the supremacy of power or tender.

Selected cases are as follows: On April 01, 2018 Two Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders beat up a student in his room at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Jahangirnagar University. With leg and head injuries, Salauddin Khairullah Tuhin, a master's student of economics, was undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, said his friends. Tuhin alleged that Anik Kumar Nath and Abdullah Al Mamun Razu, vice presidents of the JU unit of BCL, stormed into his room at that night and at one stage, they beat him up with iron rods and pipes.[22]

[21] Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2018,
[22] http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-mens-attack-sends-ju-student-hospital-1556806

On April 02, 2018A Chhatra League leader was shot and hacked to death by his rivals at Pakshey in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila, pabna, said police. The victim, Sadrul Alam Pintu, 28, of Char Rooppur village, is the president of Pakshey union unit BCL, pro-ruling Awami League student body. Azim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said around 8:00 pm, some criminals first shot Pintu and then hacked him in front of a pharmacy at Rooppur crossing.[23]

On Apr 15,2018A man was killed in a clash between two factions of local Awami League in Krishnapur bazar of Sadarpur in Faridpur centering the lease of the local market. The deceased was identified as Mannan Sikder, son of Mohammad Ali, a resident of village Radhanagar of Krishnapur union. Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Sadarpur police station, said there was a dispute between union parishad chairman Billal Fakir and Akhteruzzaman Titash, a supporter of local MP, over establishing supremacy in the area.[24]

On April 05, 2018 the principal of Chattogram Biggan College filed a case against Nurul Azim Rony, general secretary of Chattogram City Unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for allegedly assaulting the principal on March 31. In the case, the principal Jahed Khan Rony and seven others of his fellows and some 25 unnamed people, police said. BCL leader Rony allegedly tortured Jahed on the college campus on March 31. The incident, however, surfaced as CCTV footage went viral on social media after a couple of days.[25]

[23] http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=111634&cat=9/□ □ □
[24] http://www.newagebd.net/article/39121/man-killed-in-al-factional-clash
[25] http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-leader-sued-over-assaulting-college-principal-1558885

Violence against Children

Bangladesh has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (September 2, 1990). In spite of this existing legal framework, the violation of child rights is a common problem in Bangladesh. It occurs within the family, At home, and at schools, children may face sexual abuse or harassment. Girls in particular face the threat of child or early marriage. In schools, children may get beaten if they fail to perform or face humiliating and degrading punishments for minor errors or infractions. The incidents of violence against children, including killing, trafficking, abduction, and rape, have increased across the country in recent times amid slack. The rights of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development".[26]

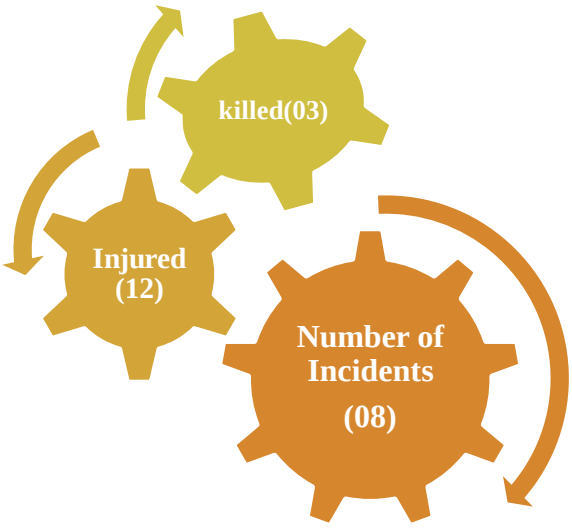

Figure 06: Violence against children

According to HRSS report, the graph presented below regarding the violence against children in Apr 2018, around 03 children's were killed and almost 12 children's have been critically injured in a total of nearly 08 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; on Apr 28, 2018, a three-and-half-year-old boy was killed allegedly by his stepfather at Ichhapura village of Sirajdikhan upazila. The deceased was identified as Anik Das, son of Krishna Das and Anita Mondal, 22. Anita has married off to Madhab Paul one and half years ago after her separation with Krishna. She used to keep her child Anik from her first marriage with her. Officer-in-charge of Sirajdikhan Police Station Abul Kalam said Anik's mother went outside their home in the evening to clean utensils. When she came back, she saw Madhab kept her son hanging upside down holding one of his hands with the boy bleeding profusely through and nose and mouth. They rushed the child to Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead. Anik's biological father filed a case with Sirajdikhan Police Station in this regard.[27]

[26] Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art,. 27.
[27] http://www.unb.com.bd/bangladesh-news/Child-killed-by-stepfather-in-Munshiganj/69504

Violent Attack

The attack against civilians is considered a serious violation of international humanitarian law," the human rights. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security. So the state is obliged to protect the citizens from all kinds' of criminal attack to them. 'The obligation of protection' requires the state to prevent violations of rights of citizens by third parties. This obligation also implies that State has to exercise due diligence to prevent, punish, investigate or redress the harm caused by acts of private persons or entities. "In spite of growing concern of criminal attack, the number of incidences is gradually increasing day by day. During the April 2018, Bangladesh has experienced a series of violent attacks by extremists. The victims have included besides atheists, secular bloggers, liberals and foreigners many Buddhists, Christians, and Hindus. HRSS try to detect and divulged all kinds of violent attack in April 2018

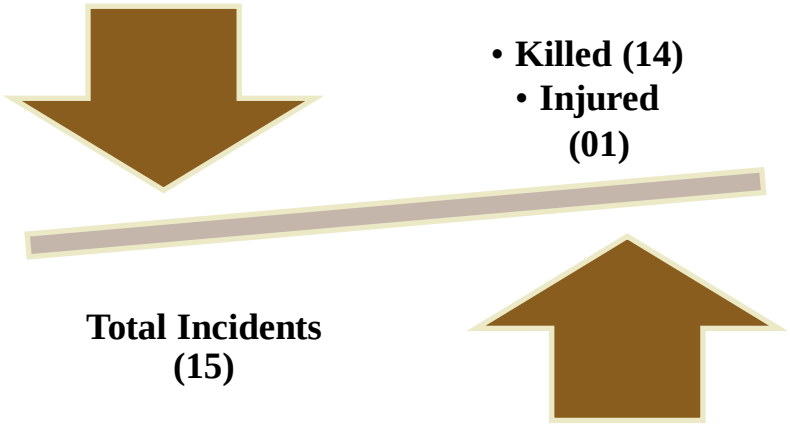

Figure 07: Statistics of Violent Attacks

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on an armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in April 2018, a total 15 incidents of violent attack have happened and 14 were killed in these attacks and one was seriously injured.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On Apr 01, 2018 a union level leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, ruling Awami League-backed student organization, died after he was shot and hacked at Ishwardi in Pabna on the 31st march. The deceased was identified as Sadrul Alam alias Pintu, 28, president of BCL Pakshey union unit and son of Abdul Azad, of village Char Rupur of Ishwardi. The family said that some miscreants shot at Sadrul Alam Pintu and hacked him indiscriminately at Pakshi Ruppur crossing of the upazila.[28]

On April 03, 2018 a youth was stabbed to death by unknown miscreants in Miakhannagar area of Chattogram. The deceased is Saidul Islam Rakib, 23, of Kumilla. He was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. There was an altercation among Saidul and some others

[28] http://www.newagebd.net/article/38136/bcl-leader-killed-in-ishwardi

while working at a community center. Saidul might have been stabbed following that, said Kabir Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Bakalia Police Station.[29]

On April 16, 2018A 10-year-old madrasa student was killed in a gun attack by unidentified miscreants at Khabir Miar Bazar in Hatiya upazila of Noakhali. The victim, Miskatur Rahman Nirob, was a student of class-VI at Rahmania Madrasa in the area. His father Miraj Uddin sustained gun injuries in the incident. Both are residents of Bejugalia in the municipal area. Nirob's mother Shefali Begum, 28, and two other men Rashedul Haque Nantu and Shahadat Hossain were also injured in the attack.[30]

[29] https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2018/04/03/tailor-stabbed-to-death-in-chittagong
[30] https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/10-year-old-killed-gun-attack-1563508

Abduction

Abduction means the crime of taking away of a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.[31] Originally the word abduction is applied only to such taking away of women and children, but nowadays in Bangladesh, the term is also applied for an adult male. It is explicitly distinguished from kidnapping, which requires an element of force or threat of force that is a grave violation of human rights. Abduction is common incidences in present-day Bangladesh. The number of victims, according to HRSS report is increasing day by day. In April, the occurrences of abduction increased alarmingly all over the country. The graph below provides information about the total number of abduction.

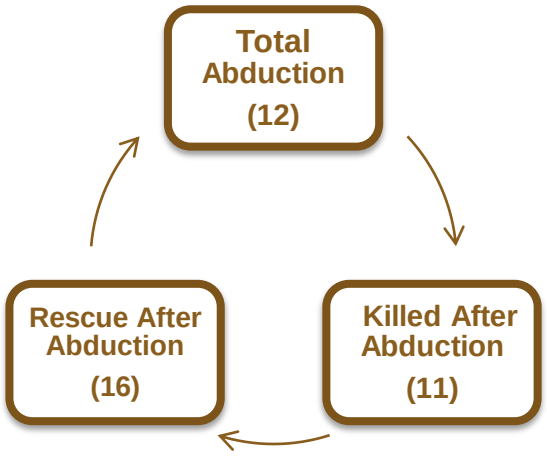

Figure 4; Statistics of Abduction in April '17

According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 12 people, have been abducted, among of them, 11 killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 16 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

Figure 5; Categorization of Abduction

[31] https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/abduction/

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in April 2018 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 12 people were abducted, among of them, 08 were male, and nearly 04 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On April 01, 2018 a driver of a Chittagong University (CU) shuttle train was released, nearly four hours after his abduction allegedly by the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). The abduction took place at a time when the BCL men had been allegedly demonstrating to realise their eight-point demand since 28 March. The demands include eliminating session jam, increasing compartments in the shuttle train and suspending BNP-Jamaat activists from the university. Following the abduction, the train service remained halted since 10:40am, causing immense sufferings to students. BCL men abducted Md Kawser, loco master of the shuttle train, from Sholoshahar Railway Station in the morning, alleged local station master Md Shahabuddin. The abductors released him around 2:30pm at Muradpur, he added.[32]

On April 03, 2018 the body of Rangpur special public prosecutor Rathish Chandra Bhowmik was found from the Rangpur district town following the statement of his wife Dipa Bhowmik who was picked up by the law enforcers. According to Rapid Action Battalion, they said, the body of Rathish Chandra, 55, has been recovered from Tajhat Mollapara in the town around 2:30am, five days after went missing, A lawyer by profession, Rathish was also involved in other activities. He was the general secretary of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote of Rangpur district unit, vice president of Rangpur District Lawyers' Association, law affairs secretary of district Awami League (AL), and a trustee of Hindu, Buddhist, Christian Oikya Parishad in the district.[33]

On April 01, 2018 Detectives rescued a seventh grader from a bus in Chittagong city's Maijjartek, six days after he went missing. Shreekanto Nath, 13, son of Torun Kanti Nath, was traveling alone in the Dhaka-bound bus of Green Line that started from Cox's Bazar, said Assistant Commissioner Moinul Islam of the Detective Branch of police, West Zone. Shreekantho went missing from Halishahar while he was going to take tuition on March 25, said

[32] http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-abduct-cu-shuttle-train-driver-1556794
[33] http://www.thedailystar.net/country/body-missing-rangpur-pp-rathish-chandra-bhowmik-found-1557898

police. Later, the father, a teacher at Halishahar Housing Estate Primary School, got a phone call asking for Tk 2 lakh as ransom. The boy was handed over to his family.[34]

On Apr 6: Police recovered a schoolboy's body from Charfalkan Village in Kamalnagar Upazila here, five days after his missing. The deceased was identified as Md Sharif Hossen, son of Omar Faruk Palowan of the village and a student of class five at Mawlana Para Government Primary School. Family members said Sharif went to Ayubnagar area to guard a fish enclosure on March 31 evening and went missing since then. On next day, family members lodged a general diary with Kamalnagar Police Station (PS). On April, 05, local people saw the body on a soya bean field and informed police.[35]

[34] http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=111302&cat=9/□ □ □ □ □
[35] http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=131480

Recovery of Dead Body

The right to life is a moral principle based on the belief that a human being has the right to live and, in particular, should not be killed by another human being and Security of life is the most important right of all human beings. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.[36] In Bangladesh, due to different reasons including worsening of law and order situation, the unidentified dead body is found at different places of the country.

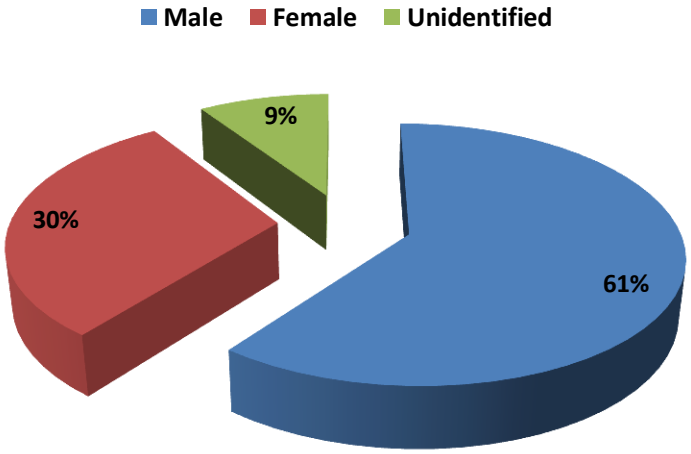

Figure 6; Recovery of Dead Body in April '18

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in April 2018, a total of 86 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of the 52 bodies were male and 26 bodies were female and 08 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On April 01, 2018 a mother and her son were found dead at a house in Kharpara residential area of Mirabazar in Sylhet city. Her five-year-old daughter was rescued alive from the house. The deceased were identified as Rokeya Begum, 40 and her son Rabiul Islam Rupon, 16. Police suspect that they were murdered. Several knife wounds were found in the woman's throat, hands and thigh; the boy appeared to have died from suffocation by a pillow.[37]

On Apr 04, 2018 the police recovered the throat-slit body of a young man from Madhyam Shialdi under Ichhapur union of Shirjdikhan in Munshiganj. The deceased was identified as Johny shiek, 18, an easy-bike driver and son of Manju shiek of village Chhoto Pauldia of Shirajdikhan. The Shirajdikhan police officer-in-charge (acting) Abul Kalam said that they recovered the body from the spot being informed by local people.[38]

[36] http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/
[37] http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/mother-son-found-dead-home-1556758
[38] http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1464121/পরিত্য

On April 05, 2018The body of a schoolboy was found at Ayubnagar in Patarihat union of Kamalnagar upazila under Laxmipur, five days after he went missing. The deceased, Sharif Hossain, 12, son of Faruk Pahloan of Char Falkon area, was a student of Class V. "Locals found the boy's body at a soybean field near the fish farm, and informed the police. [39]

On Apr 24,2018A human hauler driver was found dead at East Kondaha of Sathia upazila in Pabna. The deceased was identified as Firoz Hossain, 25, son of Abdul Hannan of village Rangamati of the upazila. Local people spotted the body of Firoz near a canal in the area and informed police around 8:00 am, said Hasan Inam, officer-in-charge of Sathia Police Station.[40]

[39] http://www.thedailystar.net/country/schoolboys-body-found-1558636
[40] http://www.newagebd.net/article/39828/human-hauler-driver-found-dead-in-pabna

Inhuman Torture by Law Enforcement Agencies

According to Article 5 of the UDHR, no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 14 (2) of the ICCPR provides that everyone charged with a criminal offense shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law. International Convention against Torture (CAT) has also been declared torture as the punishable offense. As a signatory to this convention, Bangladesh is supposed to comply with its provisions. Bangladesh constitution prohibits torture at any level in custody or interrogation cell. Local and international human rights organizations and the media always report that security forces, especially RAB and police, inflict severe torture, physical and psychological abuses after arrests and during interrogations. Violating all rules and regulations, security forces used the cruel method, indiscriminate beatings, pouring boil water, removing the nail and electric shock and more severe tools. The new and barbaric method is to make someone cripple forever by shooting from the blank point. The scenarios of inhuman torture in Bangladesh over the period of 2018 are detailed below:

According to the source of Human Rights Support Society, in April 2018, a total of 120 people was reportedly injured, almost two shot and about 50 victims of torture by the law enforcement agency. Some cases are as follows:

More than 100 protesters injured by LEA in quota reform clashes in DU on April 08

On Apr 11, 2018, Job-seekers and students demanding reform of the existing quota system in public service clashed with police in Shahbagh and Dhaka University areas throughout the night on April 08, leaving at least 80 people injured. Police dispersed the agitating job-seekers and students from Shahbagh intersection around 8:00 pm on Apr 8, charging baton, and lobbing teargas shells and rubber bullets after they blocked the intersection as part of the programme announced earlier by Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad (Bangladesh general students' right protection council).

Amid the police action, the demonstrators retreated towards the DU campus. However, they took a position on different roads and continued their protest. Female students of the university also came out of their dormitories and joined the protesters. Amid the police action, the demonstrators retreated towards the DU campus. Female students of the university also came out of their dormitories and joined the protesters.

On the other hand, police and Bangladesh Chhatra League men rushed in and chased them. Later, they went back to the Raju Sculpture. Around 2:00 am, police surrounded them in the area and lobbed teargas shells to disperse them. Being chased, the female students took shelter in the Teacher-Student Centre. Police detained at least 25 students from the protest. The injured students were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Dhaka University Medical Centre.

Figure 7Police use rubber bullets to disperse quota protesters

On 17 February, students and job-seekers started the movement to press for their five-point demand that includes introduction of unified age limit in government jobs, review of quota

system in government recruitment process, also it includes Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination, stopping taking benefit by job seekers under the same quota, filling vacant posts from merit list if the candidates from quota are not found and fixation of 10 per cent quota instead of existing 56 per cent.[41]

At least 60 students were injured as the police charge baton against quota protesters to disperse them on Dhaka-Aricha highway near the Jahangirnagar University campus, On Apr 11, 2018, Witnesses said some 2,000 students under the banner of Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, (Bangladesh General Students' Right Protection Council), brought out a procession around 9 am from the central library of the university. At one stage, police charged baton, teargas shells, and rubber bullets to disperse them that triggered a chase and counter-chase. Sixty students were injured during the police action and they were taken to Enam Medical College Hospital.[42]

[41] http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/173887/At-least-80-protesters-injured-in-quota-reform
[42] http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/173914/At-least-60-hurt-at-JU-as-quota-protesters-clash

At a glance Human Right Situation of Bangladesh (April'18)

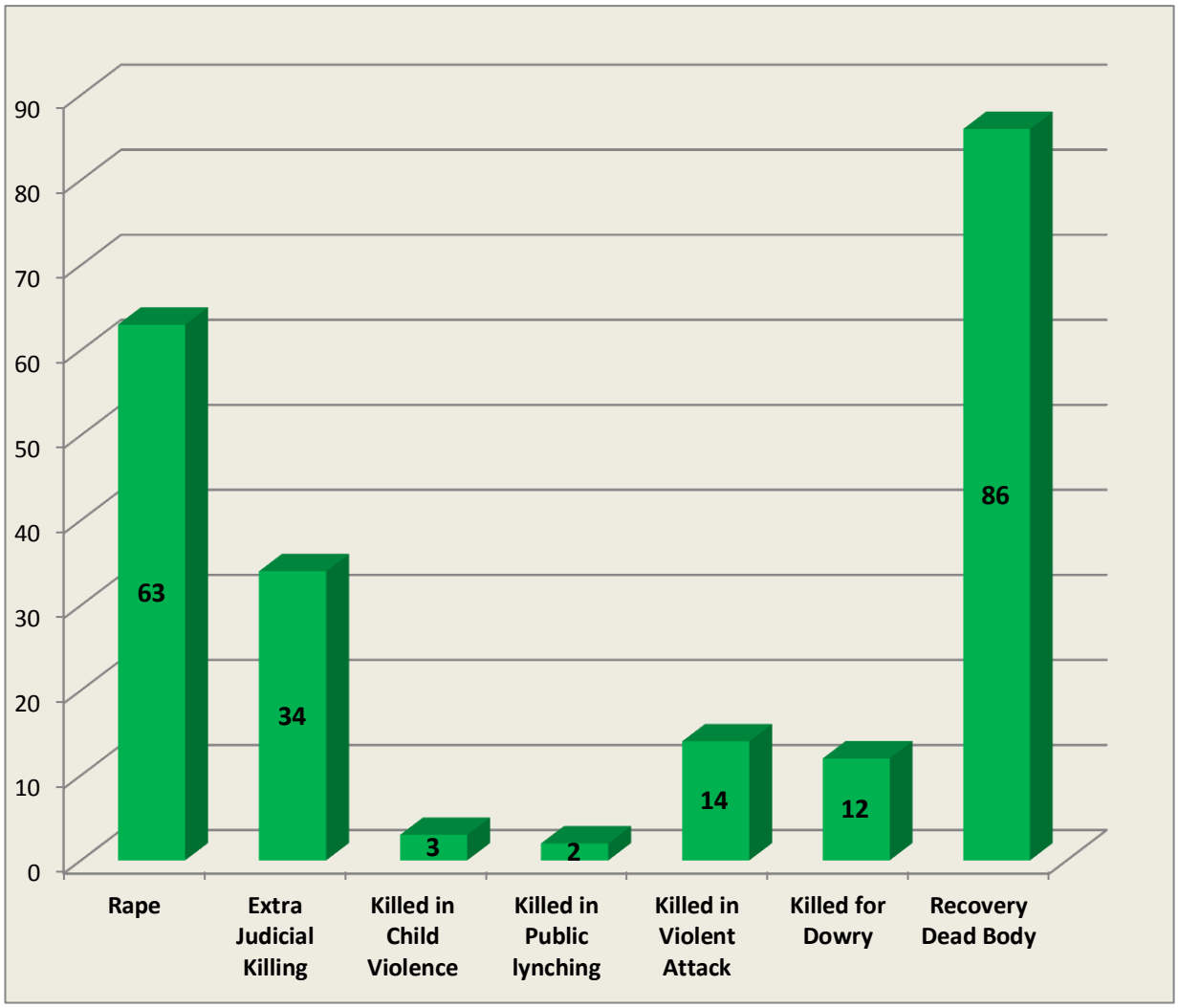

Figure 10: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in April 2018

Conclusion

Finally, it's detected that the political turmoil in Bangladesh threatens the existence of freedom of expression, assembly, and association. Moreover, huge numbers of human rights violations are regularly taking places, such as enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, targeted killings, and arbitrary arrests. Domestic violence, rape, and child abuse have been frequent in April '18. Although UDHR obliges all signatory states and the Constitution of Bangladesh specifically guaranteed the fundamental rights of the citizens, it's a matter of deep concern that they have been denied by the incumbent governments. The government, in order to continue its regime, undertook repressive measures against the oppositions. The rule of law has been compromised. These situation leads to a political vacuum and created enabling an environment for extremism. Surprisingly, the government has been trying to cast responsibility on the leaders and activists of oppositions and undertook unprecedented repressive measures against them and also termed them as 'extremists'. Consequently, the government initiated drastic unlawful actions against the leaders and activists of the oppositions.

HRSS spots that the state authority should be more responsive in protecting the life and property of the citizen and thereby fulfill their constitutional obligation. It further appeals to every conscious citizen to raise their voice against flagrant human rights violations. In order to fight against all sorts of repressive measures, HRSS is committed to gather all relevant information and publish reports in various forms (i.e. monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, and annually). HRSS further expresses its commitment to bring back democracy, right to vote, freedom of assembly, establishing rule of law and accountability in all sphere of life. Certainly, this mission is challenging but achievable. We believe relentless effort would ensure the improvement of overall human rights situation in Bangladesh.

Recommendation

- The government must ensure the accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies and needs to form a special independent agency or judiciary investigation team to inquiry every incident of extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance and abduction.

- Ensure fair and neutral justice to the Minorities from the Judiciary and Administrative Authority. Reconstruct all damaged temples and places of worship that were the subject matter of violence and loathing, and bring to an end any prospect attacks on places of worships irrespective of trust and religion.

- Violence against women is both structural and cultural. So, actions should be taken to create a culture of violence at all spheres, and appropriate measures need to be taken to ensure the security of women, children, and minority group members. Equity must be ensured in every sphere of social, economic and political life.

- The government should be flexible in the matter of freedom of expression. All types of print and electronic media should enjoy fearless opportunity to broadcast their news even though it goes against the government. The government has to be more tolerant of the opposition and their ideas.

- The Bangladesh government should establish an independent and impartial commission of inquiry into serious violations of international human rights law by the BSF. The government should invite both Indian and Bangladeshi nationals to submit evidence and bring complaints to such a commission. The inquiry should be time-bound and transparent and should have the ability to provide protection to witnesses.

- Meetings and Assemblies should not be obstructed. The government should allow oppositions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to observe their processions, seminars and public meetings.