



Bimonthly Human Rights Report on Bangladesh Situation

January - February, 2019

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMERY

Human Right Support Society has published this report based on incidents of human rights violation and atrocities based on information received through our district representatives and based on twelve prominent national dailies has published bimonthly Human Rights report. From Jan to Feb'19, the freedom of expression was denied and the constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of assembly and association witnessed a sharp decline especially during pre-election (Upozila) campaign. Restrictions on the political parties and civil societies, impunity to the abusive security forces, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, abduction, violence against women, indiscriminate arrest and assault on opposition political leaders and activists, coercion and extortion are exposed a very glooming scenario of the overall human rights situation in Bangladesh. The situation reached such an unpleasant state that even the common people feel insecure everywhere.

According to the sources of HRSS, between Jan to Feb'19, at least 54 people were extra-judicially killed; a total of 61 people have been forcefully disappeared by the members of law enforcement agencies. Moreover, the HRSS report finds that a total of 172 females have been raped. Of them, 58 were identified as an adult and alarmingly 114 were children under the age of 16. A total of 26 women were killed in the family feud, 06 females were killed due to dowry-related violence. It has also been reported that a total of 119 were abducted in different areas of the country, among them approximately 57 were male, 13 females, 49 children, and 32 were killed after the abduction. Unexpectedly at least 14 people were killed in political violence and around 13 people were killed through lynching.

HRSS noticed that from Jan to Feb'19, about 22 violent incidences were committed against the children, 10 lost their life and 20 were critically injured. As a result of violent attacks, a total of 49 unarmed civilians were victimized, of them, 42 were killed, 32 seriously injured, and roughly 02 were hit a bullet. On the other hand, Bangladeshi citizens have been the victims of suspected killings, subjected to torture, and other forms of inhumane and degrading treatments. A total of nearly 09 incidents have been reported resulting 06 loss of life of Bangladeshi citizens and 06 arrested by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). This shocking condition of human rights in Bangladesh motivates HRSS to work hard to raise awareness both at home and abroad.

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Acronyms

BNHRC	: National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh
BAL	: Bangladesh Awami League
BCL	: Bangladesh Chhatra League
BNP	: Bangladesh Nationalist Party
BJC	: Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal
BJI	: Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami
BICS	: Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir
CAT	: Convention against Torture & other cruel, inhuman or degradation treatment....
CAT	: Committee against Torture
CSW	: Committee on the Status of Women
CHR	: Committee on Human Rights
CERD	: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CRC	: Committee on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDAW	: Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFNHRI	: Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
CRC	: Convention on the Rights of the Child
DB	: Detective Branch
DMC	: Dhaka Medical College
DU	: Dhaka University
GA	: General Assembly
GOB	: Government of Bangladesh
HRSS	: Human Rights Support Society
HRC	: Human Rights committee
HRC	: Human Rights Council
ICCPR	: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ	: International Court Of Justice
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SR	: Special rapporteur
SP	: Special Procedures
RMG	: Ready Made Garments
RAB	: Rapid Action Battalion
UN	: United Nations
UDHR	: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNCHR	: United Nations Commission on Human Rights
UNHCHR	: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UPR	: Universal Periodic Review
UNO	: Upazilla Nirbahi Officer
UP	: Union Parishad
VAW	: Violence against Women
VAC	: Violence against Children

Extra Judicial Killing

Extrajudicial killing is the killing of a person by government agencies without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.¹ According to Section 3(a) of the United States Torture Victim Protection Act: extrajudicial killing is a deliberate killing not authorized by a previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples. Such term, however, does not include any such killing that, under international law, is lawfully carried out under the authority of a foreign nation.² In Bangladesh, human rights conditions started deteriorating since 2004 when the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), an elite force was added to the existing contingent of the law enforcing agencies. We observe the event of the killing of terror by the LEA (hereinafter referred to as ‘the LEA’) known as extra-judicial killing. The people of Bangladesh have 23 constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights. Such actions of the LEA deprived the citizens of their fundamental right to life and right to free, fair and impartial trial. This Report seeks to precisely understand the extent of human rights violations caused by extra-judicial killing from Jan to Feb ’19. Relevant cases of extrajudicial killing have been discussed and analyzed below:

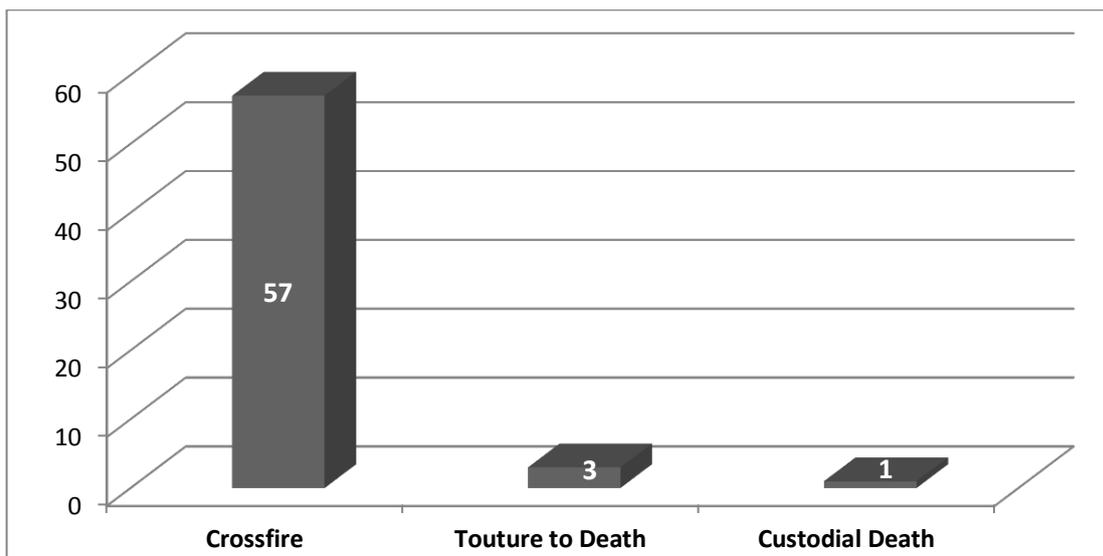


Figure 1: Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing

The given chart illustrates information on the number of people killing extra judicially from Jan to Feb 2019: a total of 61 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed by the law enforcing agencies in the name of so-called gunfight from in total 51 incidents. Of them, about 57 were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights and its steady rise’, also the period experienced 03 tortures to death, and one died in the custody. Some of the cases of extra-judicial killings are detailed below:

On Jan 02, 2019 two suspected drug peddlers were killed in a ‘gunfight’ with members of Rapid Action Battalion on Feni-Noakhali road at Silonia under Dagonbhuiya in Feni. This was the first

¹ <http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.

² Congressional Record, V. 147, Pt. 6, May 9, 2001 to May 21 2001, United States Government Printing Office, October 2005, p. 7897, GGKEY:2126SDPKSFJ

reported extrajudicial killing in 2019. The two killed are Mohammad Asad, 42, and Emamul Akond 24, both of Rajoir in Madaripur.³

On Jan 04, 2019 A suspected drug peddler was killed in a 'gunfight' with police at Muktapur Naldanga under Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga, raising the death toll in the ongoing anti-drug drives to 297 since May 15, 2018. The deceased, Abdul Berek, in his forties, of village Karpashdanga of the upazila, was wanted in at least 15 cases, police said.⁴

On Jan 06, 2019 A suspected drug peddler was allegedly beaten to death by police in Phultala area of Moulvibazar's Juri upazila, Moulvibazar. The dead is Zahid Miah, 40, of the upazila's Kunagaon village. Police picked up Zahid around 7:00 pm from a local market and took him to his nearby rented flat. The law enforcers beat him up there, alleged Jahangir Alam, Zahid's brother. After two hours of detention, police took him to Kulaura Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, Jahangir added.⁵

On Jan 09, 2019 A Class VIII student, who was the prime suspect in the abduction and killing of a Class III student, was killed in a reported gunfight at village Santal of Monirampur in Jashore. The deceased, Billal Hossain, 14, son of Golam Mostafa of village Khedaipur of Monirampur, was a student of Gopalpur Secondary School, said Monirampur police station officer-in-charge Shahidul Islam.⁶

On Jan 12, 2019, Border Guard Bangladesh officers said they shot dead two young Rohingya men in Teknaf while they were smuggling in yaba pills. The Rohingya men carrying yaba stashes entered Bangladesh at Rongikhali in Hnila area around 3:00 am, said Teknaf BGB Battalion 2 Director Lt Col Md Asad-uz Zaman. As BGB personnel patrolling the area asked them to stop, they jumped into the Naf River and tried to flee. The BGB men then shot them, he said, adding that Teknaf police was informed about the incident immediately.⁷

On February 01, 2019 An alleged robber was killed and another sustained bullet wounds when two rival groups locked in a 'gunfight' in Chhagalnaiya upazila of the Feni district. The deceased, Mohiuddin Sabuj, 32, was a resident of Banspara area under Chhagalnaiya municipality. Police detained bullet-injured Mohammad Palash, 32, of Noakhali's Kabirhat upazila, and Faruque, 27, of Dagonbhuiyan upazila in Feni.⁸

³ <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/128598/ফেব্রুৱাৰী>

⁴ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1573122/বুধবাৰ>

⁵ <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/beaten-death-custody-1683991>

⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/61294/class-viii-student-killed-in-gunfight>

⁷ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/2-bullet-hit-bodies-of-drug-traders-found-coxs-bazar-bangladesh-1686502>

⁸ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/384858/ফেব্রুৱাৰী>

On February 11, 2019A drug peddler was killed in a “gunfight” between two feuding gangs of illegal traders in Charghat upazila's Raotha village, Rajshahi. The dead was identified as Fazlul Haq, 48, a leader of one of the gangs, said Abdur Razzak, additional superintendent of Rajshahi police.⁹

On February 13, 2019A suspected robber was killed in a “gunfight” between two groups of robbers in Rahmatpur Kanagate area of Jashore's Sadar upazila, Jashore. The dead is Babar Ali Moral, 40, of Beta village in the district's Dumuria upazila. The family of Babar said he had gone missing on Monday while going to his relative's house in Keshobpur upazila of the district. His body was found at a local hospital.¹⁰

On Feb 15, 2019, a suspected robber who was sentenced for a life term in absentia was reportedly killed in a ‘gunfight’ between two robber gangs at Charkadira of Kamalnagar in Lakshmipur, police said. Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kamalnagar police station, said deceased Moin Uddin Manu, a resident of Kamalnagar, had his name in the list of notorious robbers prepared by police.¹¹

On Feb 17,2019A suspected robber, who was arrested by the police on 16 Feb, was killed in a ‘gunfight’ in Taleshwar area of Munshiganj Sadar upazila, Munshiganj. The deceased, Humayun Byapari, 30, of village Kalirchar of the same upazila, was wanted in at least half a dozen cases, the police said. He was arrested in Charmuktarpur area of the upazila at about 11:30 pm on 16 Feb, Sadar police officer-in-charge Alamgir Hossain said.¹²

On Feb 24,2019A suspected drug peddler was killed in a reported gunfight with the members of Rapid Action Battalion at Taushara in Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat. The deceased was Tofazzal Hossain alias Wazed, 37, son of late Wadud Sarker, a resident of Uttar Maheshpur Sarkar Para village. He was accused in 12/13 drug cases, said a RAB press release.¹³

⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/drug-peddler-killed-gunfight-rivals-rajshahi-1700563>

¹⁰ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=159350&cat=9>

¹¹ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/388531/-কমলন>

¹² <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1579385/মু>

¹³ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/65776/drug-peddler-killed-in-joypurhat-gunfight>

Enforced Disappearance

Enforced disappearance comprises of abduction, carried out by agents of the State or organized groups of individuals who act with Government support or tolerance, in which the victim “disappears”. Authorities neither accept responsibility for the dead, nor account for the whereabouts of the victim.¹⁴ The events of disappearance have already triggered a gravest hurdle in our national life by polluting the 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 from Jan to Feb '19 by the law enforcement agencies and deny the arrest; but days later, their bullet-riddled dead body has been found in several places.

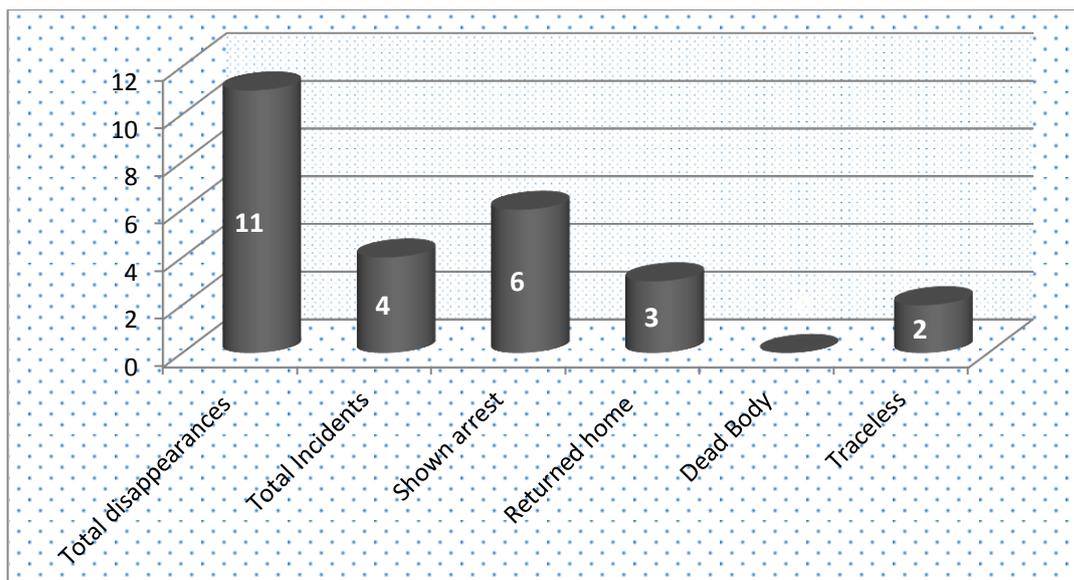


Figure 2 Statistics of Enforced disappearance

The chart provides data on the number of enforce disappearances between Jan to fed 2019 according to the information of ‘Human Rights Support Society’ (HRSS); a total of 11 people have been disappeared from in total of 04 incidents by law enforcement agency (LEA); out of them 03 were returned home, 06 brought before the court and rest of persons 02 persons are traceless. Selected cases are stated below:

¹⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx>

On 05 Jan 2019 in Capital's Kafrul Area, Badda East Thana's Jamaat Activist Rasheduzzaman Labu after has been arrested by Law Enforcing Agencies on 16 Dec, till now, he has not been presented to Court and as a protest and demand unconditional release of Jamaat-e-Islami Dhaka City's North Badda Thana's Emir Mohd Kutubuddin, in a statement, he told that, as a routine torture of the Govt. from Capital's Kafrul Thana, on last 16 Dec, Badda Than East's Jamaat Activist Rasheduzzaman Labu was arrested by Law Enforcing Agencies. It is a normal procedure to present after the arrest of someone to Court within 24 hours jurisdiction and this was being lapsed. Moreover, where he is now, how is he, no trace of him. As a result, his family members are in great distress. He wants the unconditional release of the activist.¹⁵

On February 01, 2019 Locals formed a human chain on Natore-Rajshahi highway demanding the release of a former Chhatra League leader who was allegedly picked up by law enforcers in the early hours of the same day. Around 1:00 am, some plainclothes men introducing themselves as law enforcers picked up Jamil Hossain Milon, 30, son of Emdadul Haque Miazi, of the district's Sadar upazila, alleged his family members at a press conference in Natore Press Club.¹⁶

On 07 Feb 2019 three young friends were kidnapped and ransoms demanded to Tk. 30 Lacs by Gazipur and Tangail District's two polices. In this incident, Kaliakair Thana's Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdullah Al Mamun and Mirzapur Thanas ASI Musfiqur Rahman were withdrawn. Kidnapped and ransom information was confirmed by the accused two police. They each other have blamed themselves. The kidnapped three friends are Gazipur Kaliakoir, Upazila's Boroibari Rayhan Sarkar, Labib Hossain, and Sreepur Upazillas Chonnapara's Nowshad Islam. Rayhan has told that last Wednesday at 3.30 pm while going to Capital's trade fair area, five friends have stated the journey. At 5 pm they went to a CNG Station on Dhaka-Tangail's high-ways Kaliakoir Upazillas Sutrapur Area Shila Brishti Filling Station. While taking gas, Toribullah and Rakibul Rahman two friends went for tea next to the CNG Station. The rest of the others stayed at the car. At this time, with two car's ASI Abdullah Al Mamun and Musfiqur Rahman came. They were in plain clothed. In Musfiqur's Microbus, there were some more people in Microbus. They dragged including Raihan to and five others to Microbus. Raihan has told that, in Tangail's Mirzapur Dewra Area while crossing the flyover. There they police officials demanded a ransom of Tk. 30 Lacs by two police officials. They were even threatened to 'cross-fire' if they do not pay the ransom.¹⁷

¹⁵ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/more-news/378106/বাবু>

¹⁶ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/ex-bcl-leader-picked-home-1696228>

¹⁷ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1578044/বি>

Political Violence



Political violence is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. The present government assumed power through a controversial election in 2014 and has been playing an oppressive role against oppositions. No democratic party is allowed to conduct constitutionally guaranteed political activities in any corner of the country. This is a clear sign of immature political culture.¹⁸ Since there is a little political space for oppositions, most of the reported violence's are intra-ruling party clashes over political dominance, tender, and possession of power, collecting subscription, grabbing land and what not. The leaders and activist of opposite political parties are being killed and tortured by the leaders and activists of the ruling party from Jan to Feb '19.

Political Violence			
Number of Incidents (65)	Injured (412)	Bullet hit (03)	Killed (14)

Figure 3: Statistics of Political Violence

The chart reveals the situation of political violence from Jan to Feb '19. According to HRSS, a total of 14 people were killed, 03 were bullet hit, and almost 412 people were injured due to clash over political interests. Most of the political violence occurred for the purpose of upcoming Upozila election.

Selected cases are as follows:

¹⁸ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2015,

On January 02, 2019A local BNP leader was stabbed allegedly by an activist of Awami League at Tilla village in Rangabali upazila, Patuakhali. Injured Motaleb Hawlader, 40, president of ward No 5 of Chotobaishdia union BNP, was admitted to Galachipa Upazila Health Complex. Locals said when Motaleb was going to nearby Naolbunia bazar AL local activist Shakil Mridha stabbed him, saying that no BNP men could live in the area. Villagers caught Shakil and gave him a good beating.¹⁹

On January 03, 2019A Jubo League activist was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals in Pirojpur Sadar upazila, Pirojpur. The victim is Shakil Ahmed Ashis, 40, of Daudpur village in the upazila. His family members said Ashis went to Pirojpur judges' court to appear in a murder case along with other accused. They alleged that around 12:30 pm, some 10 to 15 men, who are Shakil's opposition in the case, waylaid and stabbed him in Koibortokhali village when he was returning home alone by motorbike.²⁰

On Jan 06,2019A 60-year-old man was killed in a factional clash of local Awami League activists at Abdalpur of Kushtia sadar upazila. The deceased, Mayeen Uddin, 60, was a resident of Abdalpur. He was the father of Jewel Rana Halim, Islamic University unit general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League, ruling Awami League-backed student organization. Local people said that the local unit of the ruling party was divided into two factions since the last union parishad election one led by the incumbent Abdalpur UP chairman Ali Haidar Shawapan while the other led by former UP chairman Golam Mostafa, also the general secretary of Abdalpur union unit of the ruling party. Quoting local people, Kushtia superintendent of police SM Tanvir Arafat said that around 100 supporters of Golam Mostofa launched an attack on the residence of Ali Haidar on Saturday night. At one stage, the attackers stabbed Mayeen indiscriminately as he tried to resist them, leaving him critically injured.²¹

On January 07, 2019A man was killed and at least two others were injured in a clash between two groups of “Jubo League men” allegedly over controlling collection of extortion money from footpath vendors in the city's Mirpur area. The dead has been identified as Roman, 32.²²

On February 10, 2019A Jubo League activist was killed while another injured in an alleged attack by their rivals in Jamrultala Sheikhati area of Jashore town. The dead, Mamun Hossain, 30, was a member of Jubo League's Ghop Central Road ward unit. The injured is Arif Hossain, a member of the executive committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of the same ward.²³

On February 17, 2019, some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) reportedly beat up a student at Chittagong University (CU), suspecting him to be an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir. The victim, a fourth-year student of Islamic Studies department, was given primary treatment at

¹⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/al-man-stabs-bnp-leader-1682131>

²⁰ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/jubo-league-man-killed-pirojpur-1682737>

²¹ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/khulna/378439/কুষ্>

²² <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/1-killed-al-infighting-1684480>

²³ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/jubo-league-man-hacked-dead-1700242>

the university medical center, said sources. He alleged that some activists of shuttle-train compartment based BCL group “Sixty-nine” swooped on him when he was at Arts Faculty tea stall for breakfast at around 11 am. “They beat me up indiscriminately for sharing an Islamic post on my personal Facebook account in 2013,” he said. He and his friends said that he was never involved in any kind of politics.²⁴



Activists of a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League take position wearing helmets near the Shaheed Minar at Jagannath University during a pitched battle between two factions on Monday.²⁵

On Feb 19, 2019 At least 30 people, including two journalists, were injured as two groups of the ruling Awami League-backed student body Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed at Jagannath University. Among the injured, Mehedi Hasan, Kawser Alam, Ashraful Islam, Siam Hossain, and Jewel Hasan were identified as Chhatra League activists and supporters of suspended committee’s president and Tariqul Islam and Sheikh Jaynul Abedin Rasel. The victims were rushed to nearby Dhaka National Medical College Hospital, Sumona Hospital, and Asgar Ali Hospital.²⁶

²⁴ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/cu-bcl-men-beat-student-over-shibir-suspicion-1703653>

²⁵ New Age photo

²⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/65218/bcl-factional-clash-leaves-30-injured-at-jnu>

Attack on Journalists

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.²⁷ Regarding this fact, Journalists are facing an “unprecedented” wave of attacks in Bangladesh. Freedom of expression was restricted in every aspect. Freedom of expression is a precondition for a functional democracy, peace, and participatory decision-making procedures. 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. Abduction is a common incidences in present-day Bangladesh. The numbers of attacks on the journalist, according to human rights support society report is increasing day by day. The graph below provides information about the total number of attack on a journalist.

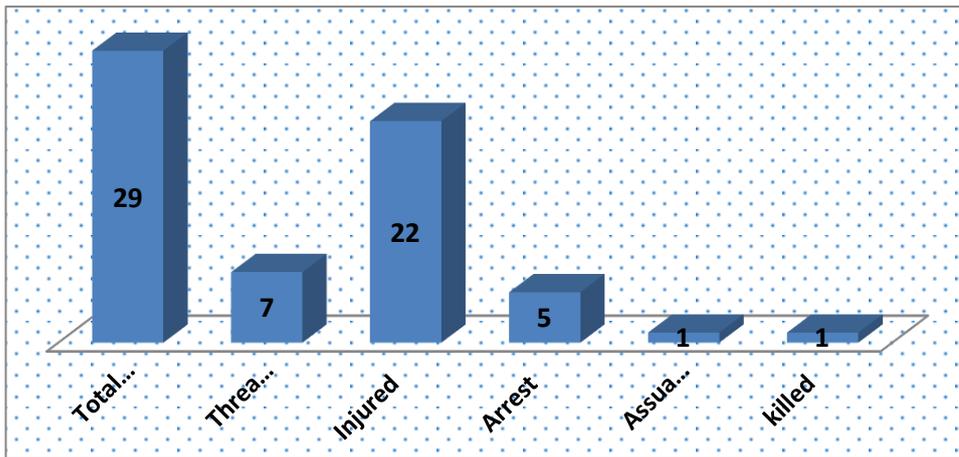


Figure 4 Attacks on Journalist

The provided graph gives data on the attack on journalists. According to HRSS’s documented statistics, around 22 were injured, nearly 07 were threatened, 05 arrested one assaulted and one killed nearly 29 incidents between Jan and Feb’19.

Selected cases are as described below: On Jan 11, 2019, a journalist of Wazirpur Upazila in Barishal was beaten by a local Awami League leader and his companions near upazila land office. The victim journalist, Sarder Sohel, is Joint Secretary of Wazirpur Press Club and local correspondent of Barishal-based daily "Barishaler Protidin". The victim alleged that he visited Gutia Changuria Primary School for collecting news on the formation of the school management committee recently. But local AL leader Atahar Ali Khan, who joined AL recently from BNP, beat Sohel mercilessly.²⁸

²⁷ <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

²⁸ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=177672>



Two journalists of a private television channel Rtv came under attack by miscreants while they were collecting information at Mughda Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka on January 29, 2019. ²⁹

On January 30, 2019, two journalists of private television channel, Rtv found themselves on the receiving end of hostility when they went to report irregularities at Mugda Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka. A staff of the hospital, led by one Asif, swooped on Rtv reporter Sohel Rana and cameraman Nazmul Hossain Saimon when they were interviewing some patients outside the hospital gate, the victims stated in a general diary (GD) lodged with Mugda Police Station. The attackers also damaged the camera and other equipment, and attempted to snatch those away from their possession, they said.³⁰

On February 02, 2019 An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Detective Branch (DB) of police in Barguna has been closed to the Patuakhali district Police Lines on a charge of beating a TV journalist. The victim is Maleq Mithu, Barguna district correspondent of DBC TV. Mithu said when he tried to enter Barguna Zila School in the town around 9:00 am to cover the news of SSC examinations that started, ASI Ripon obstructed him. At one stage, the ASI beat the journalist following an altercation over entering the school.³¹

On February 21, 2019 A reporter of the Bangla daily Jugantor was arrested in Keraniganj, hours after a case was filed against him and four other reporters of the newspaper under the controversial Digital Security Act. Abu Zafar is the Keraniganj correspondent of the newspaper. The other accused are Nawabganj correspondent Azharul Islam, Ashulia correspondent Mehedi Hasan Mithu, Dhamrai correspondent Shamim Khan and Gopalganj correspondent SM Humayun Kabir. Palash Mia, organizing secretary of the Nawabganj Upazila unit Swechchhasebak League, filed the case with Dohar Police Station following a report in the newspaper on “the luxurious house of Nawabganj Police Station OC Mostafa Kamal” on 19 Feb.³²

²⁹ Rtv Online

³⁰ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/two-rtv-journalists-assaulted-in-dhaka-1694503>

³¹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/journo-beaten-cop-closed-1696588>

³² <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-journo-arrested-four-more-sued-1705192>

Violence against Women



Violence against Women is a common and insidious phenomenon in Bangladesh. The major atrocities against women are torture for dowry, rape, killed after rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid throwing, physical and mental abuse and killed in family feud the most common manifestations of violence against women in Bangladesh. It remains a main social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. Inhuman attacks on women have become common and widespread across the country. The majority of women were victimized domestically by their husbands, in-laws and other family members. The reasons mentioned for abuse were trivial and includes questioning of the husband, failure to perform household work and care of children, economic problems, refusal to manage dowry, etc. HRSS team tried to find out different categories and reasons, of domestic violence against women in Bangladesh. The rate of reported violent acts against women has risen steadily and at an alarming rate, especially from Jan to Feb 2019.

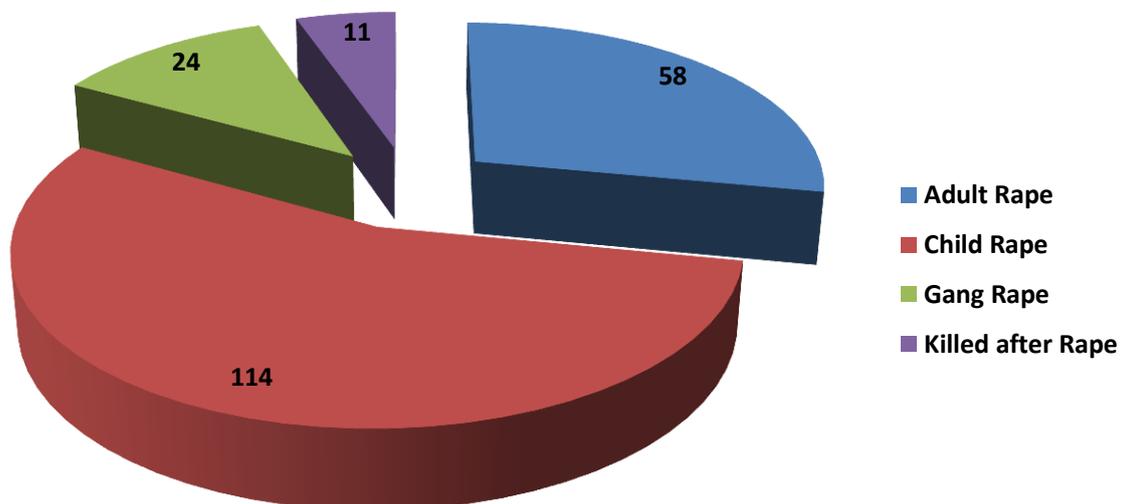


Figure 5: Violence against Women

HRSS report provides information on violence against women from Jan to Feb 2019 in Bangladesh. A total of 172 females have been raped. Of them, 58 were identified as an adult, and alarmingly 114 were children under the age of 16, about 148 were victims of single rape and nearly 24 were subjected to gang rape, Approximately 11 were killed after being raped and around 20 incidents have been attempted to rape.

Almost 38 incidents of family feud related violence were reported between Jan and Feb'19 out of them, around 26 women were killed in the family feud and almost 12 females have been injured. Approximately 11 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported. Out of them, about 05 females were killed due to dowry-related violence and 06 injured. Around 06 incident of acid violence was reported, among them of 06 female were injured. A total of 21 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment between Jan and Feb. Among them, 14 were assaulted and 07 were stalked.

Some of the cases are detailed below: On January 03, 2019A fourth grader was allegedly raped by a man on Sunday in Kamalganj upazila, Moulvibazar. The father of the 10-year-old victim filed a case against the accused with Kamalganj Police Station due to a delay in the promised village arbitration by elders. He said his daughter was studying alone at home on Sunday evening, when Ruson Mia, 32, a local hen trader in the area, went inside and raped her.³³

On January 04, 2019 a 22-year-old mentally challenged woman was allegedly gang-raped in Moluvibazar by three men. The woman was picked up by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver and taken to an abandoned house when she was returning home from a nearby market Wednesday afternoon, the victim's father said quoting her. The auto-rickshaw driver called his two cohorts and raped the woman throughout the night, he added.³⁴

On Jan 05,2019A 16-year-old girl was reportedly raped by her father's employer at village Krishnapur in Lakhsham upazila of Cumilla. Police arrested Tajul Islam Majumdar, 42, a resident of the village, soon after the victim's father filed a case against him. The girl's father used to work as a watchman at Tajul's fish enclosure in the village and stayed at a tinshed house near it with his family, said officer-in-charge of Laksham police station Nazrul Islam.³⁵

On Jan 06, 2019A class three girls were killed after being violated allegedly by a college student at village Gabtola of Ashashuni in Satkhira. The deceased was identified as Sushmita, daughter of Proshanto Das and class a class III student of Gabtola Government Primary School. Police arrested alleged rapist Joydeb Sarker, son of Nirmal Sarker and a student of Budhhata BBM Collegiate College.³⁶

³³ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/4th-grader-raped-moulvibazar-1682764>

³⁴ <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/rape-in-bangladesh-in-2019-mentally-challenged-girl-raped-in-moluvibazar-1683238>

³⁵ <http://www.dailyayadiganta.com/more-news/378104/ঋ>

³⁶ <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2019/01/07/schoolgirl-raped-and-killed-in-satkhira>

On Jan 28, 2019 A woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her ex-husband in Chattogram city. The deceased was identified as Nazma Akter, 37, of Kumarkhali area of Mongla in Bagerhat. Local people said that Nazma's ex-husband, Robiul Hossain, stabbed her near her residence at Akmal Ali road in the city's EPZ area. Nazma's neighbors rescued her and took her to Chattogram Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared her dead.³⁷

On January 29, 2019 The hope for justice for a college girl, who was sexually assaulted during an Awami League rally last year, has turned bleak as police have appealed to close the case claiming they could not identify the culprits. On March 7, the 18-year-old girl on a Facebook post wrote that she was sexually assaulted on her way home from her college, allegedly by a group of men at the ruling party's rally marching towards Suhrawardy Udyan. The incident took place in the capital's Bangla Motor area. The post created a stir on social media, prompting police to investigate the incident after the victim's father filed a case with Ramna Police Station the next day. Bahauddin Farooqi, investigation officer (IO) of the case, in the final report submitted to a Dhaka court on September 9 last year, said, "The incident was found to be true... But there is hardly any possibility to identify or arrest the culprits in the near future." The IO, an inspector of the detective branch (DB) of police, also pleaded to the court to accept the final report, adding that further investigation would be a "waste of valuable money and time of the government." However, speaking to The Daily Star recently, Bahauddin, the third IO of the case, claimed they were unable to collect the footage of the exact location of the crime scene and that the CCTV footage of the adjacent area of the said location did not "properly reveal the incident".³⁸

On February 01, 2019 A second grader was allegedly raped by her neighbor in Jashore's Jhikargachha upazila. The incident came to light on Wednesday when the girl's mother filed a case with Jhikargachha Police Station in this connection, said Nazmul Hossain, officer-in-charge (Investigation) of the police station. The accused, Nur Islam, 43, is a resident of Kamarpara village in the upazila.³⁹

On Feb 03, 2019 A private tutor allegedly strangled a Class III student to death after a failed rape attempt at Raikhali Purbakodala Borokhola Para in Kaptai upazila of Rangamati. Police arrested private tutor identified as Bachingmong Marma, 40 after local people caught him on Saturday night while he was trying to dump the body in a roadside ditch in the dead of night. During interrogation, Bachingmong confessed to the crime and said that he had strangled the girl to death after failing to rape her. He kept the body on the ceiling of his house in a sack, said the police.⁴⁰

³⁷ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=180449>

³⁸ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/sexual-assault-girl-police-seek-close-case-1694722>

³⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/second-grader-raped-jashore-1695913>

⁴⁰ <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/190638/Failing-to-rape-tutor-kills-3rd-grader>



Sekander Mia

On Feb 03, 2019 A Dhaka metropolitan magistrate's court has granted a two-day remand of Ekushey Television chief reporter and planning Editor Sekander Mia in a sexual harassment case. Hatirjheel police station sub-inspector Mobin Ahmed prayed for a five-day remand before magistrate Satyabrata Sikdar. According to the plaintiff, an apprentice journalist at the television channel, Sikandar Mia used to make indecent proposals to her. On January 27, Sekander offered her a lift to a home on his car and harassed her sexually.⁴¹

On Feb 05, 2019 The police detained the headmaster of a high school in Fatullah over the allegation of abusing a fourth-grade employee. The arrested was identified as Ahsan Habib, headmaster of Dapa Ideal High School. Majibur Rahman, the inspector of Fatullah police station, said the office assistant of the school filed a complaint with them that the headmaster abused her.



Sekendar Hossain and Mazharul Islam are two cops face rape allegation-Primary probe finds evidence

On February 11, 2019 A probe committee has found the allegation of rape against two Manikganj police officers to be true. "Primarily, we have found proof of the allegation," Hafizur Rahman, additional superintendent of police (Sadar circle) in the Manikganj district, told. Hafizur, who headed the probe, said the committee members had enquired about the allegation throughout and talked to the 22-year-old woman who said she had been held captive for two days last week and repeatedly raped by Sub-inspector Sekendar Hossain and Assistant Sub-inspector Mazharul Islam.⁴²

⁴¹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/63801/etv-chief-reporter-on-two-day-remand-for-sexual-harassment>

⁴² <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-raped-in-manikganj-two-police-withdrawn-1700596>

Attack on Minorities

According to the data collected HRSS, from Jan to Feb'19, it is found, in different corners of the country, a large number of atrocities were committed against the members of the minority communities. The violations against the Hindu minority have been left largely unreported. According to 'The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights' declaration, "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language"⁴³. It also states that "the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or another opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or another status"⁴⁴.

Human Rights Support Society catches data about the incidents of attacks on the minority. It shows that between Jan and Feb '19 at least 50 houses and one temple attack. A significant case is stated below:



On 4 Jan 2019 Faridpur Sadarpur and Bhanga Upazila's post-election violence many were forced to leave the place. In those places, minorities were targeted was also alleged. More than 50 houses were attacked, police have taken 7 Cases. Some of the perpetrators were arrested but many were remained at large. Faridpur-4 Constituency is Bhanga, Sadarpur one side and Charbhodrason with. In National Election, Independent Candidate Mujibur Rahman Nixon Chowdhury won the election. In 2014, he was also elected as an MP from Independent Candidate. His nearest Candidate Awami League Kazi Zafor Ullah was defeated. Nixon as an Independent Candidate is a nephew of one leader's. Kazi Zafor Ullah was also lost in an election with Awami League to the then independent candidate Nixon Chowdhury.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ ibid

⁴⁵ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/election/377943/৳>

Violence against Children

Bangladesh has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (September 2, 1990). Despite having such an existing legal framework, the violation of child rights is a common problem in Bangladesh. It occurs within the family, at home, and at schools where children may face sexual abuse or harassment. Girls in particular face the threat of child marriage. In schools, children might be 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".⁴⁶



Figure 6: Statistics of Violence against Children

According to Human Rights Support Society's report, the graph presents below regarding violence against children from Jan to Feb'19, shows that around 10 children were killed and 10 children's have been critically injured in a total 22 incidents. Some important cases are stated below:

On 26 Jan 2019 Boalmari Municipal Area's Solna Sal Mia Orphanage, a student was tortured in the toilet by his teacher. That sick student was taken to Upazila Health Complex for treatment. In this regard, Student's mother, Nupur Begum has filed a written complaint against the teacher to the Head Tutor. It was alleged that Boalmari area, while residing in a rented house, Nupur Begum's Son, Salman Farsi was admitted to the Madrassa on last 1 Jan. After admission, Salman was tortured by the Madrassa's teacher Md. Robiul Islam. Last 20 Jan., from 8 pm to 9.15 pm Salman was locked in the toilet. In this period, he became sick. After hearing his loud scream, one son opened the toilet's door of Salman. In the next day, while carrying food to Salman, Nupur Begum found her son sick.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27.

⁴⁷ <https://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/19015250/সাকাল>



Yasin Arafat, the a 12 years old student of Raojatul Ulum Islamia Madrassah, is undergoing treatment at Lakshmipur General Hospital after being chained and beaten up by his teacher On Jan 08. Photo⁴⁸

On Jan 08, 2019 A madrassah teacher allegedly tortured a 12 years old student at Raozatul Ulum Islamia Madrassah at Pashchim Laharkandi of Lakshmipur. The Victim is Yasin Arafat and the accused teacher, Abdul Quader Fayezi has absconded. Md Salim, the brother-in-law of the victim, told that Yasin, a hizul Quran student of the madrassah, wanted to take admission to another madrassah. Being angry over it, Fayezi chained Yasin and beat him up mercilessly.⁴⁹

On February 04, 2019 A three-year-old girl of the town was killed allegedly by her paternal uncle as the victim's mother rejected the latter's illicit proposal. Halima, daughter of Amir Ali of Bhadughar area, was found murdered in the town on Saturday. Helal Mia, 26, had been giving an illicit proposal to Halima's mother for over a month. As the woman rejected, Helal along with his accomplice Rubel Mia, helper of a mason, planned to kill Halima. On Saturday, Helal and Rubel lured the kid with potato chips and took her to a narrow lane in the area. Later, Helal strangled Halima.⁵⁰

On Feb 23, 2019 An 11-year-old schoolboy, beaten up following an altercation over standing in front of an irrigation pump, died at a hospital in the capital. Fourth-grader Sourav Mandal was the son of Kartik Mandal of Magura village in Gournadi upazila of Barishal. Locals said Bellal Molla and Faruk Hawladar tortured Sourav following a dispute over standing in front of the pump on 15 February. They also pushed the boy into the water.⁵¹

⁴⁸ New Age

⁴⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/61410/madrassah-teacher-chains-tortures-student-in-lakshmipur>

⁵⁰ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/three-year-old-killed-uncle-arrested-1697437>

⁵¹ <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/191577/Tortured-fourth-grader-dies-in-city-hospital>

Border Killings



Bangladesh, Myanmar and India, three neighboring countries are located in the South and South East corner of Asia. There are various issues of conflict among these three countries; among these, the issues over border dispute is considered as prime, because of the killing of Bangladeshi nationals by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP). BSF has been constantly violating the right to free movement of Bangladeshi Nationals living near the borderline. The killing of Bangladeshi citizens by BSF at the Bangladesh-India frontiers is rising at an alarming rate. The report shows that BSF is used to killing, torturing, abducting, beating, stoning etc. to the people for silly reasons. Such activities degrade friendly relation between Bangladesh and India gradually. Collected data also show that very often members of the BSF also enter into Bangladesh territory without legal permission and attack Bangladeshi people residing along the border.

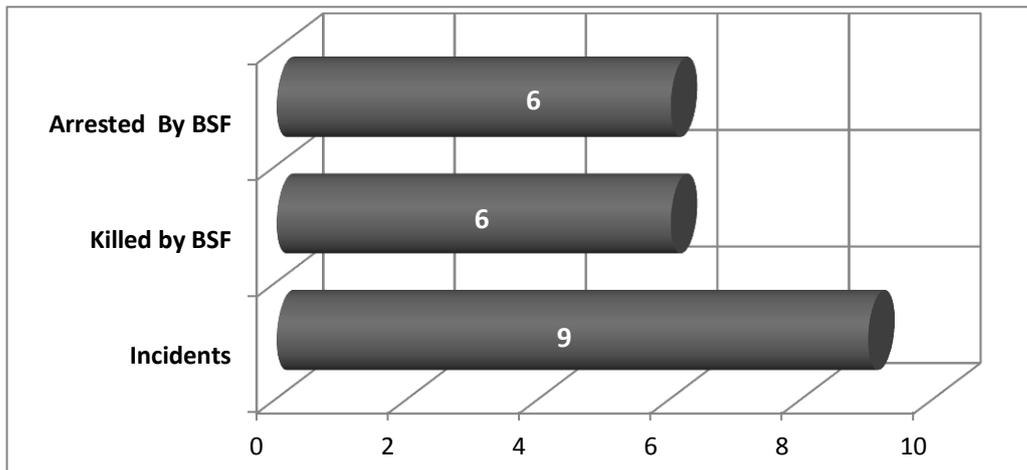


Figure 7; Violence in Border by BSF between Jan and Feb

The given bar chart provides data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS between Jan and Feb, roughly 06 Bangladeshis citizen were killed, and 06 arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force).

Some important cases are mentioned below: On Jan 01, 2019 a young man was found at the bank of River Nagor near Indian border of Haripur upzilla in Thakurgaon. The deceased was identified as Nijarul Islam, 35, son of Ali hossain of village Kismat Mednisagor of Haripur.⁵²

On January 15, 2019A Bangladeshi was shot dead by members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the Bhujaripara border in Dimla upazila in nilphamari. The deceased was identified as Khalilur Rahman, 25, son of Moksed Ali of Paschim Chatnai village in the upazila.⁵³

On Jan 21,2019A Bangladeshi youth was shot dead by the members of Indian Border Security Force along the border in Haripur in Thakurgaon, four days after the killing of another man by the BSF in Ranishankail. The deceased was identified as Jenarul, 18, son of Abdul Toaf of the Haripur.⁵⁴

On January 2019 Indian Border Security Force shot dead a Bangladeshi national inside their territory along the Dharmagar border in Thakurgaon's Ranisankail upazila in thakurgaon. The dead, Jahangir Alam, 21, was the son of Badsha Mia of Shahanabad village in the upazila.⁵⁵

On Jan 24,2019A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force through Shaheb Nagar border in Godagari of Rajshahi while another was detained from Kantibhita border in Baliadangi of Thakurgaon. Deceased Jamal Uddin, 45, was the son of Mostafa, a resident of village Moinar Tag of Char Ashariadhah union under the upazila.⁵⁶

On February 01, 2019The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has killed a Bangladeshi national, this time along the Macherhat border area in Lalmonirhat. Confirming the matter to the Dhaka Tribune, “The deceased, Asadul Haque, 30, was shot dead by a patrol team of the BSF 143 Battalion from New Kuchlibari Camp around 4 am, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) 51 Battalion Thangjehara Company Commander Rafiqul Islam said.⁵⁷

On February 27, 2019A youth was found dead along the India-Bangladesh border fence in Kasba upazila of the Brahmanbaria district. The deceased, Mazharul Islam Tanim, 30, was the son of late Abdu Mia of Austajangal village. Being informed by the victim's family members, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered the body from Khadla village under Bayek union in the upazila around 8:30 pm.⁵⁸

⁵² <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/128547/ঔট>

⁵³ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1574682/>

⁵⁴ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/62571/bsf-kills-bangladeshi-along-thakurgaon-border>

⁵⁵ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1575074/ঔট>

⁵⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/62740/bsf-kill-bangladeshi-in-rajshahi-pick-up-another-in-thakurgaon>

⁵⁷ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2019/02/02/bsf-kills-bangladeshi-national-at-lalmonirhat-border>

⁵⁸ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/youth-found-dead-beside-border-fence-1708195>

Violent Attack



Attacks against civilians are an increasing concern in Bangladesh. It's viewed a wave of violent attacks against civilian people, politician, atheists, secular bloggers, academics, gay rights activists, foreigners, and members of religious minorities in several times. The state is obliged to protect the citizens from all kinds 'of criminal attack. 'The obligation of protection' requires the state to prevent violations of the rights of citizens by third parties. This obligation also implies that the 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. "Between Jan and Feb 19, Bangladesh has experienced a series of violent attacks by extremists. HRSS tried to track all kinds of violent attack took place from Jan to Feb' 19.

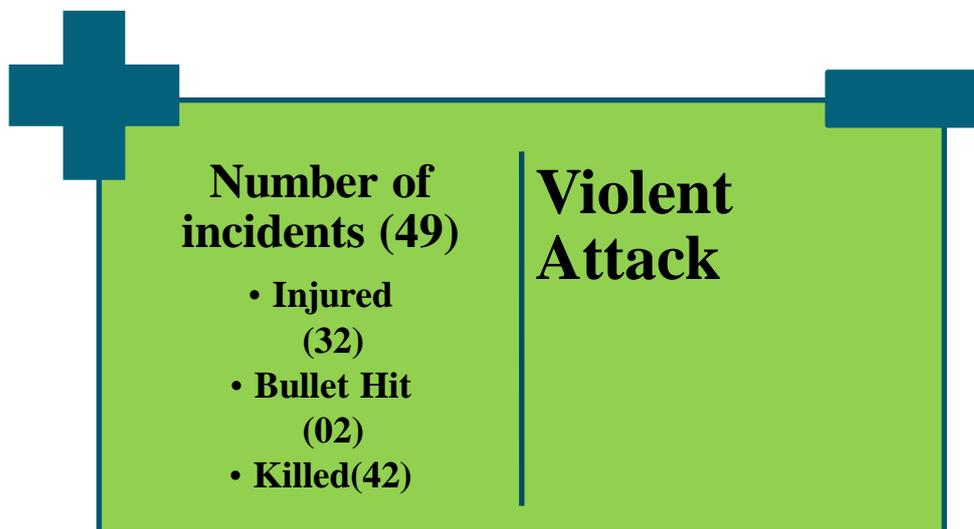


Figure 8: Statistics of Violent Attacks

The chart provided Information about the violent attacks on armless civilians has been summarized above. Statistics shows, a total 49 incidences of violent attack happened and 42 were killed in those attacks, 32 were seriously injured and around 02 were hit by a bullet.

Some of the incidences have been stated below: On Jan 02,2019An unidentified man was stabbed to death by miscreants at Patkajor of Keraniganj in Dhaka. Sarwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Keraniganj Model Polce Station, said a group of miscreants entered into a second floor flat of a house, owned by one Wahidul Islam Mia, in the area and stabbed the victim indiscriminately at around 1:30 am, leaving him dead on the spot.⁵⁹

On 19 January 2019 two people were killed by unidentified criminals in Sonadanga Bus Stand area under Sonadanga Model Police Station in the city. The victims are Akter Hossain, 55, owner of an Engineering Workshop and Mehedi Hasan, 18, a worker of the workshop. Being informed, police recovered the bodies from their residence at road no-2 of Sonadanga Truck Terminal area.⁶⁰

On Feb 01, 2019 An Awami League and a Juba League activist were killed in stab attacks in Mymensingh and Chattogram. In Mymensingh, a local Awami League leader was stabbed dead by unidentified miscreants in village Moazzempur in Nandail. Deceased Morshed Ali, 55, was president of Moazzempur union AL. In Chattogram, a local Juba League activist was stabbed to death by unknown miscreants at Akbar Shah area on 01 Feb. The deceased was Md Masud, Juba League activist of Pahartali ward 9 unit, and son of Abul Bashar of Jorarganj in Mirsharai.⁶¹

On February 04, 2019Criminals shot dead a member of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS-MN Larma) and his friend at Karigar Para village in Kaptai upazila Rangamati. The victims are Mongsanu Marma, 42, of Gongri Chara village of the same upazila, and Jahid, 30. Mongsanu, who had been involved with PCJSS, has recently joined PCJSS-MN Larma, a faction of the PCJSS, said Ashraf Uddin, officer-in-charge of Chandraghona Police Station.⁶²

On Feb 04,2019A female college student was stabbed to death by miscreants outside her house at Nalchity Upazila in Jhalakati. The deceased, 19-year-old Benazir Zahan Mukta, was a first-year undergraduate student of Jahalاکati Government College. She was the daughter of one Jahangir Hawladar. The murder took place at Baroikoron Kapuria.⁶³

On Feb 06,2019A local Awami League leader and freedom fighter was shot to death by miscreants at Rooppur village in Iswardi upazila of Pabna. The deceased was Mustafizur Rahman Selim, 62, former general secretary of Pakshi union unit of AL and resident of the village. Victim's younger brother Rubel said a group of miscreants in a motorcycle opened fire on Selim as soon as he reached near his house from Rooppur BBC Bazar on foot. The attackers sprayed the AL leader with several bullets, leaving him injured.⁶⁴

⁵⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/60626/man-stabbed-to-death-in-keraniganj>

⁶⁰ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=178951>

⁶¹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/63577/al-ji-activists-stabbed-dead-in-ctg-mymensingh>

⁶² <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/386017/-সাঁও>

⁶³ <http://www.unb.com.bd/category/bangladesh/college-girl-stabbed-to-death-in-jhalakati/11995>

⁶⁴ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1577898/পাব>

Abduction

Abduction means the crime of taking away of a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.⁶⁵ Originally abduction applied only to such taking away of women and children, but now in Bangladesh also applies it to an adult male. It is distinguished from kidnapping, which requires an element of force or threat of force that is a grave violation of human rights. Abduction is a common incidences in present-day Bangladesh. The numbers of victims, according to HRSS report is increasing day by day. Between Jan and Feb'19, the occurrences of abduction increased all over the country. The graph below provides information about the total number of abduction.

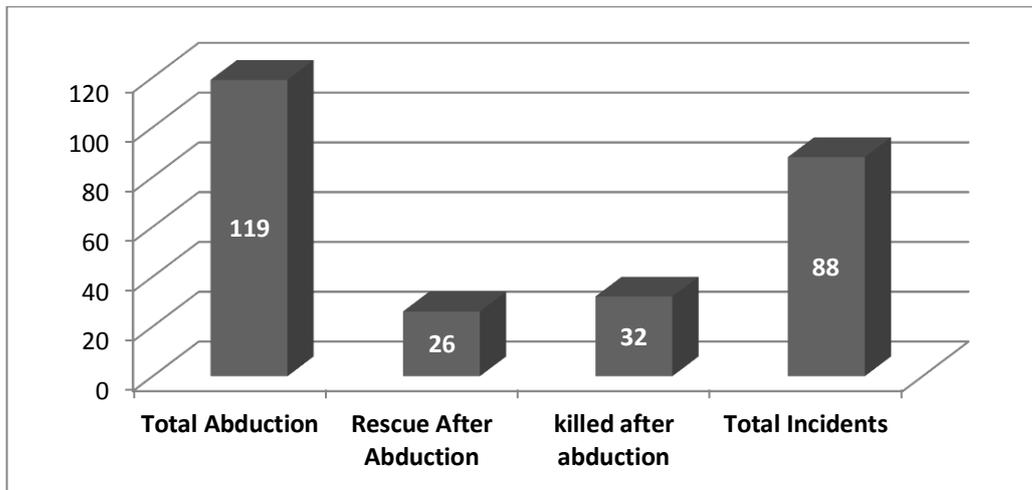


Figure 9: Statistics of Abduction between Jan to Feb'19

The provided chart denotes information about the abduction cases between Jan to Feb'19 in Bangladesh. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), a total of 119 people were abducted in the different area of the country, among them approximately 57 were male, roughly 13 were female and almost 49 were children. On the other hand, 32 were killed after the abduction and nearly 26 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

Selected cases are as follows: On Jan 20,2019A seven-year-old boy was found dead in a lemon garden beside his house at village Jalshuka under Saturia upazila of Manikganj, three days after he went missing from his home. The deceased was identified as Jubayer, son of Samsul Haque, a student of class one in Jalshuka Government Primary School. After filing the general diary, he received a phone call from an unknown person and the caller demanded Tk 3 lakh from him with the exchange of his baby son within twelve hours, said victim father's Samsul Haque. The caller also threatened him to kill the boy if he did not give the ransom money, Samsul said.⁶⁶

On Jan 10, 2019, a man, who remained missing since January 4, was found dead in a septic tank at West Madhugram of Chhagalnaiya in Feni. The deceased was Abul Kalam, 55, a retired army man. MM Murshed, officer-in-charge of Chhagalnaiya Police Station, said Abul Kalam went

⁶⁵ <https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/abduction/>

⁶⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/62442/missing-class-i-student-found-dead-in-manikganj>

missing on January 4 after his first wife Rekha along with their five children went to his in-law's house.⁶⁷



Hrihoy Sana, Seven-year-old boy abducted, murdered for only Tk 1,500.

On January 29, 2019 A seven-year-old boy was abducted and killed as his father failed to pay back Tk 1,600 to a lender, police said after recovering the partially decomposed body of the child from Kamrangirchar area four days after he had gone missing from Dhaka's Lalbagh area. Hridoy Sana, the victim, went missing after he went to Balurghat sand ground to play on January 26.⁶⁸

On Feb 06, 2019 The police rescued a child from Satmail area under Jashore Kotwali Police Station after she was abducted from Gazipur. The police also arrested the suspected abductor, Arman Ali, of Mollahat area in Bagerhat. The victim is Maliha Akhter, 3, daughter of Shahidul Islam of Barobari under Tongi police station in Gazipur and a Bangladesh expatriate in Saudi Arabia.⁶⁹

On 06 February 2019 Police rescued a girl from Chandrahar Bazaar in Gournadi Upazila of the barishal district, seven days after her abduction. In this connection, police arrested one Kaium Bepary, a cohort of the abductor Hero Chaprashhi. Investigation Officer of Gournadi Police Station Mahbubur Rahman said Hero Chaprashhi abducted the girl on January 29 last. The victim's father lodged an abduction case accusing Kaium and Hero with the PS on February 2 last.⁷⁰

On 01 February 2019 In Mirsarai, after missing for four months from hill Golaler Rahman (70) an old Senior Citizens Skeleton has been recovered. In Bhanga Towa Area, from Jorabridge, a hill's canal the skeleton has been recovered. He is in Upazila's Hinguli Union's East Hinguli Village late Bashir Ullah's Son. The Deceased's daughter, Pakhi Begum traced his dead body told by police.⁷¹

⁶⁷ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/61502/missing-man-found-dead-in-feni-septic-tank>

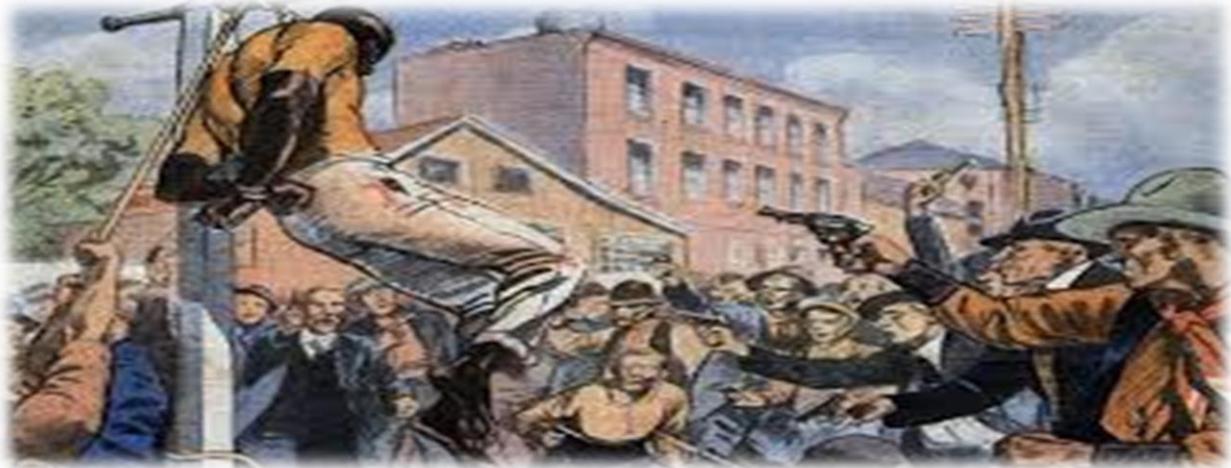
⁶⁸ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/384414/১৬০০-টী>

⁶⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/64091/kidnapped-child-rescued-in-jashore>

⁷⁰ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=182021>

⁷¹ <https://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/190226/মির>

Public Lynching



Lynching is the practice of murder by extrajudicial action. It is an unlawful punishment by an informal group. It is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob, often by hanging, in order to punish an alleged transgressor or to intimidate a minority group. It is an extreme form of informal group. In Bangladesh, A lot of people are being killed in different places in public lynching due to lack of respect for law, mistrust on the security forces, people are taking law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice any other way. As a result, the incident of public lynching became a common matter. Human rights support society believes that everyone has the right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

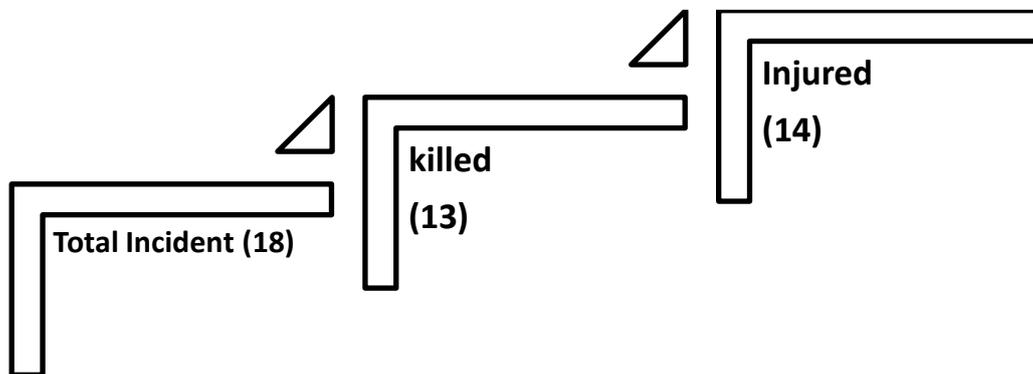


Figure 10: Statistics of Public Lynching from Jan to Feb'19

The supplied chart describes information about public lynching cases from Jan to Feb 19. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 14 people were injured and nearly 13 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total of 19 incidents.

Some important cases are given below:

On Jan 30, 2019, two men were killed by a mob after allegedly being caught red-handed while committing robbery at Kaliganj in Gazipur. They were involved with a gang of 10 criminals who allegedly robbed a house in the upazila's Nagori union, said locals. Both of them were aged around 40, locals added.⁷²

On January 26, 2019, a man was stabbed to death in Savar allegedly over a dispute centring on betting. The deceased, Johorul Islam, 30, was a day labourer. Johorul, one Rezaul and some others were playing a board game, wagering against each other's, at a house in Palashbari area in the evening, said police quoting locals.⁷³

On Feb 01, 2019 A suspected member of an inter-district robber gang died from injuries sustained during mob beating in Muksudpur upazila of Gopalganj. He succumbed to his injuries at Muksudpur Health Complex around noon. Muksudpur police station officer-in-charge Mostafa Kamal Pasha said two men, Din, and Bashir Fakir, swooped on the house of a person named Kamal to rob it at village Dignagar on Wednesday night. Local people caught them during the attempted robbery and beat them up before handing them over to the police.⁷⁴

On 02 February 2019 Local people lynched two unknown persons to death over an allegation of cow lifting at Nawla area of Kaliakoir Upazila in the Gazipur district. Officer-in-Charge of Kaliakoir Police Station Md Alamgir Hossen Majumder said a gang of thieves first stole three cows from one Md Shahjahan's house at Nawla area and three cows from Atabaha area. Later, they went to one Abdus Samad's house for lifting a cow, and at that time, the local people woke up from sleep. Hearing announcement from a local mosque, they caught two of the thieves and lynched them, leaving one dead.⁷⁵

⁷² <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/400682/গাজী>

⁷³ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/man-killed-over-betting-feud-1693306>

⁷⁴ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/63568/robber-beaten-by-mob-in-gopalganj-dies>

⁷⁵ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=181266>

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.⁷⁶ 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.

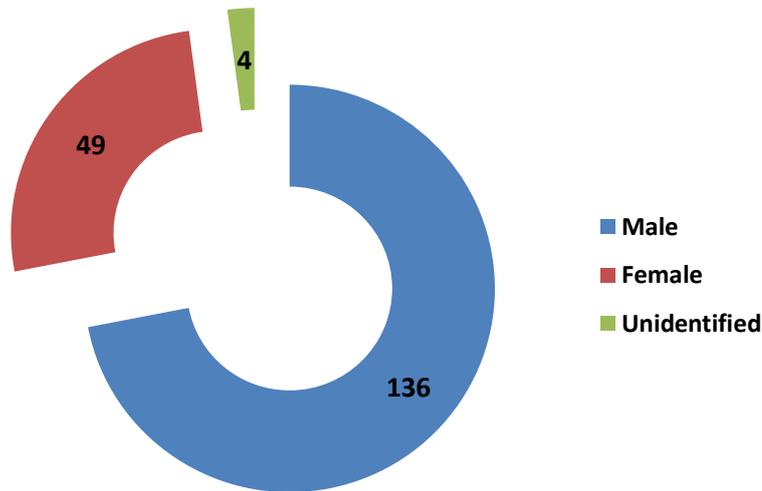


Figure 11: Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body

The given pie chart provided information according to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), from Jan to Feb'19, a total of 199 dead bodies were found in different areas of the country, among them 136 bodies were male and 49 bodies were female and 04 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows:

On January 02, 2019 The slit-throat body of the wife of an expatriate in Saudi Arabia was found in her house at Basail upazila, Tangail. The deceased was Monoara Begum, 42, wife of Dhala Khan of Nothkhola Pouli village. Monoara lived alone in the house as her husband and son Al-Amin has been working in Saudi Arabia for the last few years.⁷⁷

On January 03, 2019 the body of a teenage boy found in Khilgaon area of Dhaka. The deceased was Sheikh Mamun, 17, helper of a human hauler service. Moshire Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station, said the deceased was a drug addict and lived in Khilgaon.⁷⁸

On Jan 06, 2019 An elderly man, who was reportedly abducted after he has attacked at Urkirchar in Raoujan upazila on of Chattogram, was found dead in Hathazari upazila. The

⁷⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/expatriates-wife-found-murdered-1681717>

⁷⁸ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/teenager-found-dead-khilgaon-1682848>

deceased was identified as Nurul Alam, 60, a resident of village Harpara in Raujan upazila. Police recovered the body from Shikarpur around 12 noon, the victim's wife Nur Banu said.⁷⁹

On Jan 07, 2019 A high schoolteacher was found dead by the side of a road in Sukhbaspur area of Munshiganj Sadar upazila, Munshiganj. The deceased, Md Ishrafil Haque, 42, son of Mujibur Rahman of Chapainawabganj, used to live in Panchasar Haji Zahir Uddin Model Town of Munshiganj Sadar upazila with his family. He was an assistant teacher of mathematics of Betka Union High School of Tongibari upazila in Munshiganj. The victim's wife, Sabrina Khatun, said that Israfil went to Hatimari area on Sunday evening for tutoring students; he did not return home at night and his mobile phone was found switched off.⁸⁰

On January 10, 2019 Two unidentified youths were found dead in the river Buriganga in Dhaka. Informed by locals, they recovered a body in the afternoon and another one in the evening near Shyam Bazar area, said Shah Jaman, officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj Police Station.⁸¹

On Jan 26, 2019, the prime accused in a case filed over the alleged 'gang rape' of madrassah girl Karima Akhter, was found dead at village Binapani of Kathalia in Jhalakati. Police recovered the bullet-hit body of Sajal Jomaddar, son of Abul Hossain Jomaddar of village Nadmula in Bhandaria upazila, from a garden in the area at noon. Officer-in-charge of Kathalia police station Enamul Haque said locals spotted the body with two bullet wounds on his head and one on the chest. A handwritten placard with the following message was found on the body: 'My name is Sajal and I am the mastermind of madrassah girl Karima's gang rape case.' The OC also said they were yet to find any clue as to who killed him and dumped the body in the garden. Police said Sajal and some of his associates intercepted Karima while she was going to nearby Hetalbungia at her uncle's house on January 12. They took her to a betel leaf garden and took turns to rape her. A case was filed accusing Sajal mastermind over the incident on January 14 with Bhandaria Police Station. Earlier on January 17, police recovered bullet hit the body of Ripon, 39, another prime accused in a similar case of gang rape, from a field inside Amin Model Town. Ripon too had a similar message on a placard tied around his neck which read: 'I'm the mastermind of the gang rape.' Ripon was the prime accused in a case filed over the death of a garment worker following gang rape. Ripon and his four associates intercepted the female RMG worker, an employee at Yagi Garments where Ripon was a line manager, while she was returning home from work at Beron in Ashulia on January 5. She died at home two days later.⁸²

⁷⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/61094/man-found-dead-in-chattogram>

⁸⁰ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/61178/schoolteacher-found-dead-in-munshiganj>

⁸¹ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/379675/বুড়ি>

⁸² <http://www.newagebd.net/article/63012/another-gang-rape-accused-found-dead>

On 01 February 2019: A fruit trader was found dead at a house at Madina Market in the city. The deceased was identified as Shahab Uddin, 40, a resident of Moglabazar of Dakkhin Surma upazila in the Sylhet. Selim Mia, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, said being informed by local people police recovered the body of Shahab Uddin from the house around 11:15 am and sent it to local hospital morgue for autopsy.⁸³

On Feb 01,2019The body of another rape suspect riddled with bullets was found near a brick kiln at Rajpur upazila in Jhalakati, barishal. The deceased was identified as Rakib Hossain Mollah, 25, a resident of village Bhitabari in Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur district. Police recovered the body with a note tied to it that read, 'I am the rapist of...of Pirojpur. This is the fate of rape. Be cautious, rapists. Hercules.' Rajpur police station officer-in-charge Jahid Hossain said that Rakib was a rape accused and his body was found at an abandoned brick kiln at village Angaria in the area. On January 12, Rakib and another accused Sajal Jomaddar, 28, allegedly raped a madrassah student who had come to her relative's house in Barishal. The victim's father filed a case over the matter with Bhandaria police in Barishal on January 14. On January 26, the police recovered Sajal's bullet-hit body from a field near Kanthalia area of Jhalakati. The recovery of Rakib's body is the third identical recovery that had occurred in 19 days after Sajal's body was first found with a note attached to it. On January 17, the police recovered the body of a 25-year-old young man from Birolia area in Savar. The young man was identified as Ripon, a suspect in the rape of a 14-year-old girl at Ashulia who committed suicide on January 6, hours after she was raped by a group. The police found a piece of paper tied to his neck that read, 'I am a rapist. I committed suicide.'⁸⁴

On Feb 01,2019A Secondary School Certificate examinee and a 28-year old youth were killed in Munshiganj and Feni respectively. In Munshiganj, SSC examinee Md Nirab Khan, 16, son of Nayem Khan, of Kumarbhog Rehabilitation Centre under Louhajang upazila, and also an SSC examinee from Medenimanadal Anwar Ali High School, was found dead near his residence on 01 Feb. In Feni, police recovered the body of an unidentified youth, 28, on a road near Alokdia village of Feni sadar upazila. The body was sent to Feni Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.⁸⁵

On February 06, 2019Police recovered the body of a college student from cropland, in Kamarpara area under Kurigram municipality. The deceased, Habibur Rahman, an HSC first-year student at Kurigram Collectorate School and College, was the son of Abul Hossain of Goalerchar village in Chilmari upazila of the Kurigram district. Habibur, who used to live at the house of one Suruzzaman in Kamarpara area, was a deed writer at Kurigram Court.⁸⁶

⁸³ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=180989>

⁸⁴ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/63563/bullet-hit-body-of-another-rape-suspect-found>

⁸⁵ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/63560/2-found-dead-in-feni-munshiganj>

⁸⁶ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/26242/৳>

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 use cruel methods such as indiscriminate beatings, pouring boil water, removing finger nails and administering electric shocks etc. The scenario of inhuman torture in Bangladesh over the period of the first two of 19 is detailed below:

Inhuman Torture by Law Enforcement Agencies	Number of incidents (41)
	Injured (466)
	Shot (28)

Figure; 12, Statistics of Inhuman Torture

The graph illustrates information about inhuman tortured by law enforcement agencies, According to HRSS, from Jan to Feb' 2019, a total of 466 people were reportedly injured, and almost 258 shot by the law enforcement agency. Some cases are as follows:

On Jan 08, 2019 a garment worker was killed and around 100 others were injured in clashes with police at Savar and Uttara in Dhaka and in Gazipur as workers continued demonstration for the third consecutive day on Tuesday for a wage hike. Workers said that the deceased, Sumon Miah, 22, was a finishing section operator of Anlima Yarn Dying Ltd at Ulail of Savar industrial belt. A Savar Upazila Health Complex physician said the victim was brought their dead. He died from a gunshot wound on the left side of his chest, the dJanor added. Workers alleged that Sumon died in a police shooting.⁸⁷

⁸⁷ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/61191/worker-killed-100-injured-in-clashes>



*Police are in action during clashes with apparel workers demonstrating for wage hike at Uttara in the capital on 08.*⁸⁸

On January 08, 2019A garment worker was shot dead allegedly by police and at least 36 others were injured in separate clashes between garment workers and law enforcers at Savar. Meanwhile, police also raided the homes of some garment workers, vandalizing their properties and even shooting them with rubber-bullets, victims alleged. In the Savar incident, family members and co-workers identified the dead as Sumon Mia, 22, a worker of Anlima Textile of Kornopara area in Savar. His colleagues claimed he was not a protester but was caught in the clash between law enforcers and demonstrators while on his way to work. The clashes began when police fired several teargas canisters and charged batons to disperse demonstrators, who occupied a main road in the area.⁸⁹

In Ashulia, hundreds of the workers clashed with police when they were barred from blocking a road there around 8:00 am, an industrial police source said. Meanwhile, in Dhaka city, around 200 garment workers tried to block the Airport Road protesting the same around 11:45 am. Such protests were also reported from Dakkhin Khan and Kalshi areas. The protests also spread to other areas in Savar. Twenty-five people were injured, including police and four workers who suffered rubber-bullet injuries, in clashes between garments workers and law enforcers during and after demonstrations by workers at Hemayetpur of Savar. Afterward, law enforcers raided the houses of workers and allegedly attacked them.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ Photo star

⁸⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/rmg-worker-killed-clash-cops-savar-family-claims-1684774>

⁹⁰ Ibid3



A relative of Imdadul, a garment worker, holds up the shells of bullets fired by police after they raided his house. Photo: ⁹¹

Locals and witnesses said workers staged a demonstration blockading Hemayetour Tannery road around 8:30 am. The clash ensued when police fired several teargas canisters and charged batons to disperse demonstrators. The clash continued for around an hour.⁹²

On January 09, 2019 Garment workers' protests over the disparity in their new wage structure once again turned violent as they clashed with law enforcers and vandalized some factories and vehicles in Savar, Ashulia, and Gazipur the apparel manufacturing hub of the country. At least 72 people, including 15 policemen and two journalists, were injured in the clashes that led to long tailbacks on both sides of Dhaka-Aricha and Dhaka-Mymensingh highways. A number of workers alleged that they had been beaten up by law enforcers during peaceful protests.⁹³



Police charge towards protesters to clear the highway. Photo: ⁹⁴

In Ashulia, hundreds of workers from several factories blocked different spots on Abdullahpur-Bypile and Nabinagar-Chandra highways, and fought with law enforcers, leaving at least 10 workers and seven policemen wounded. In the evening, Sana Shaminur Rahman, superintendent of police of industrial police Dhaka-1, told journalists that 15 policemen were injured in clashes. In Gazipur, at least 20 workers and two journalists were injured in clashes at different places,

⁹¹ Aklakur Rahman Akash

⁹² Ibid3

⁹³ <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/pay-disparity-protest-rages-1685380>

⁹⁴ Palash Khan

including Gazipura, Naojora and BSCIC areas. To keep the situation under control, BGB personnel were deployed in Gazipura, Hotapara, Konabari and Mouchak areas and other places in Tongi.⁹⁵

On Feb 10, 2019 A man was shot in his leg allegedly by police in the capital's Shahbagh. The police officials labelled the injured man, Masud Sheikh, 35, of Nababganj of Dhaka district, as a mugger. The suspected mugger Masud, 35, received a bullet beneath his left knee and went under treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, said Inspector Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station. The police officials said their team fired gunshot after coming under 'attack'.⁹⁶

On February 12, 2019 Three people were killed and at least 16 others suffered bullet wounds as members of a BGB patrol team opened fire following a scuffle with locals in Thakurgaon's Baharampur village. Md Moniruzzaman, superintendent of police in Thakurgaon, said that acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of Border Guard Bangladesh went to the village in Haripur upazila by a locally made three-wheeler in the morning to seize smuggled cattle. At one stage, the BGB personnel got into an altercation with villagers, who encircled them. The BGB men failed to calm the villagers, and opened fire, the SP told this newspaper over the phone. The dead were identified as Nabab, 35, son of Nazrul; Sadek, 45, son of Jahiruddin from Ruhia village; and Joynul Islam, 12, son of Nur Islam from Baharampur village.⁹⁷

On February 16, 2019 A police officer allegedly tortured a youth when the latter denied him of being a witness of a murder case that took place in Nasirnagar upazila of the district on January 21. Injured Abdul Jaher, 35, a farmer and son of late Abdun Noor of Daulatpur village, is now undergoing treatment at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. Following the death of a four-year-old girl during a clash between two groups of rival villagers on January 21, Sub-Inspector (SI) Mainal Hossain of Nasirnagar Police Station went to the village as part of an investigation in this regard on February 2, Jaher said. While investigating, SI Mainul called Jaher out of his house near the spot and asked him to be a witness of a murder case filed in connection with the clash. As Jaher denied the police officer of being a witness of the case, SI Mainul forcibly took him to the police station and physically tortured him there. "Failing to bear the inhuman torture, I finally agreed to be a witness of the case in a bid to escape from his wrath," Jaher said. During a visit to the hospital's Surgery Ward, this correspondent saw Jaher's mother-in-law was taking care of the injured youth, who sustained injuries on his thumb, backbone, forehead and other parts of the body.⁹⁸

⁹⁵ Ibid6

⁹⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/64475/man-shot-at-by-police-in-shahbagh>

⁹⁷ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/3-villagers-killed-bgb-firing-thakurgaon-1701043>

⁹⁸ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/youth-tortured-si-1703095>

The situation of Freedom of Expression



The present condition of freedom of expression in Bangladesh is dreadful because of an absence of social equality, democracy and a lack of useful societies, which have been provoked by a gradually suppressive political milieu. The rights to freedom of expression are constantly violated while human rights activists and journalist, opposition party are facing systematic oppression under the state actor. The declaration of draconian laws against the journalist, human rights defenders, online activists, and bloggers are extensive. Suppression of uncooperative voice has become a regular practice due to a culture of impunity, lack of accountability and destructive justice delivery mechanisms. The following issues are major concerns for freedom of opinion and expression in Bangladesh.

According to the Human Rights Support Society's data on right to freedom of speech between Jan and feb19 a total of 14 have been arrested and about 13 cases filed under 'Digital Security Act 2019' in different areas of the country from in a total 12 incidents.



Dhaka Tribune's Khulna correspondent Hedait Hossain Mollah is being taken to a Khulna court in handcuffs on Jan 01, hours after he was arrested in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.⁹⁹

⁹⁹ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/khulna/377167/>

On 01 Jan, 2109 a journalist has been arrested in Khulna in a case filed under the Digital Security Act for publishing “false” information on the number of votes cast in a constituency during national's polls. Hedayet Hossain Mollah, the local correspondent of the Dhaka Tribune, was arrested 01 Jan, a day after the case was filed against two reporters, including him, with Batiaghata Police Station in the district. The other accused is Rashidul Islam, staff reporter of the daily Manab Zamin, reports our correspondent in Khulna.¹⁰⁰

on January 17, 2019, Law enforcers claimed arrest of five persons for committing fraud on Facebook using the name of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The arrestees were identified as Md Omor Faruk, 30, Md Sabbir Hosen, 24, Md Al Amin, 27, Md Aminul Islam, 25, and Md Monir Hosen, 29. They created fake profiles of the premier and other national leaders to extort money and spread propaganda, said a message of Rapid Action Battalion.¹⁰¹

On February 12, 2019 Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man, allegedly for attempting to destabilize the country spreading anti-state and anti-government propaganda on Facebook. The arrestee was identified as Md Masum Ahmed, 37, a resident of Dakshin Surma upazila in Sylhet. Rab arrested him from Bharthakhala area of Dakshin Surma at around 9 pm. Md Moniruzzaman, additional superintendent of police and media officer of Rab-9, said Masum had been spreading the rumor, propaganda, anti-state and anti-government statements and photos on Facebook by creating fake accounts for a long time.¹⁰²

On February 20, 2019 A reporter of the Bangla daily Jugantor was arrested in Keraniganj, hours after a case was filed against him and four other reporters of the newspaper under the controversial Digital Security Act. Abu Zafar is the Keraniganj correspondent of the newspaper. The other accused are Nawabganj correspondent Azharul Islam, Ashulia correspondent Mehedi Hasan Mithu, Dhamrai correspondent Shamim Khan and Gopalganj correspondent SM Humayun Kabir.¹⁰³

On January 27, 2019, Md Jahidul Islam's posts allegedly contained anti-state and provocative material Members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), in a drive, arrested a young man for posting alleged anti-state remarks on his Facebook profile. Md Jahidul Islam, 20, was arrested from Shekherkhil area in Banshkhali upazila, Chittagong. The arrestee is the son of Md Ishhak of the same area.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/khulna/377167/>

¹⁰¹ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1574904/ঐ>

¹⁰² <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=159219&cat=9>

¹⁰³ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-journo-arrested-four-more-sued-1705192>

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2019/01/28/young-man-held-in-chittagong-over-fb-posts>

Bi-monthly Human Rights Report At Glance

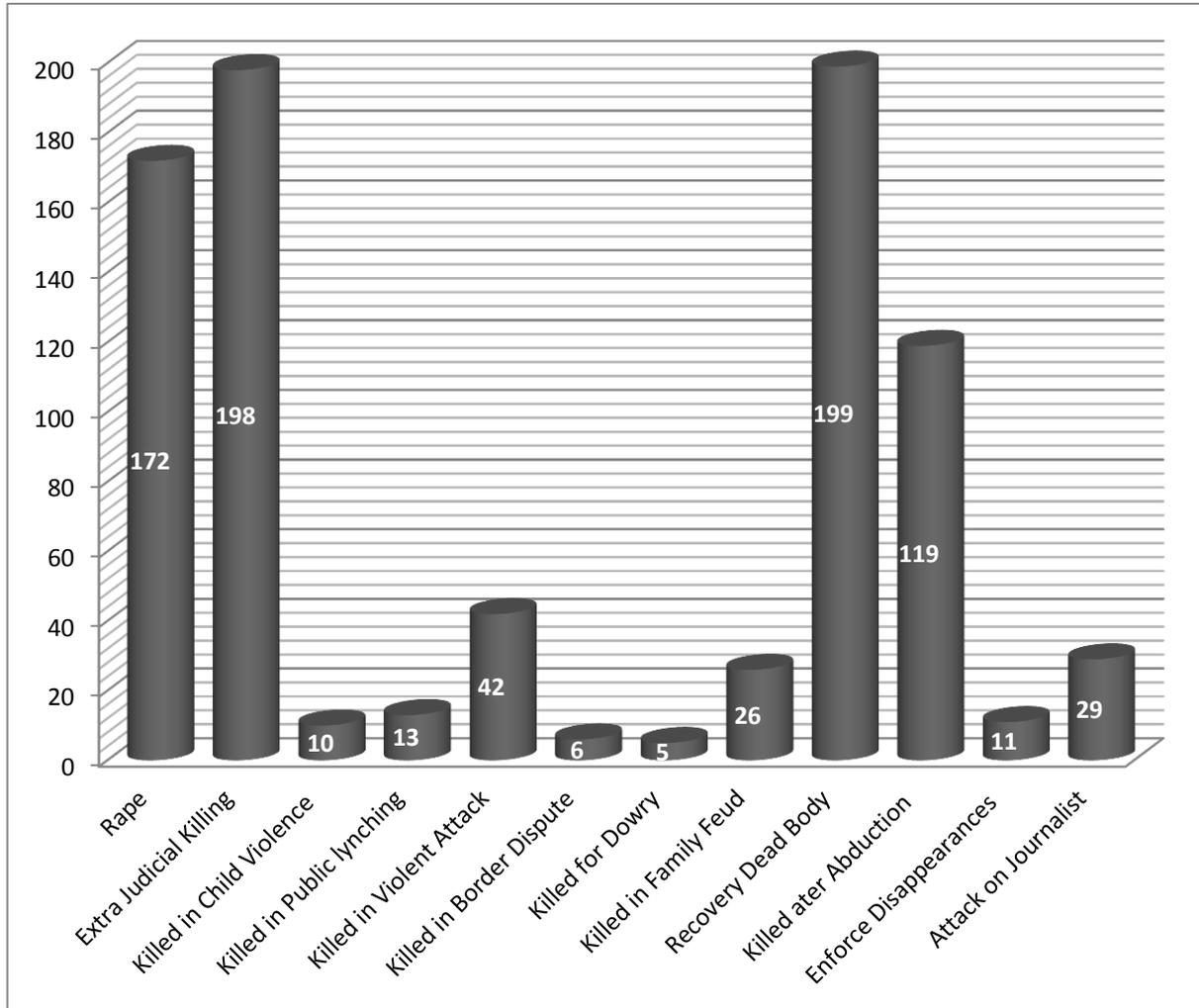


Figure 13: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh from Jan to Feb'19

Monthly Comparison

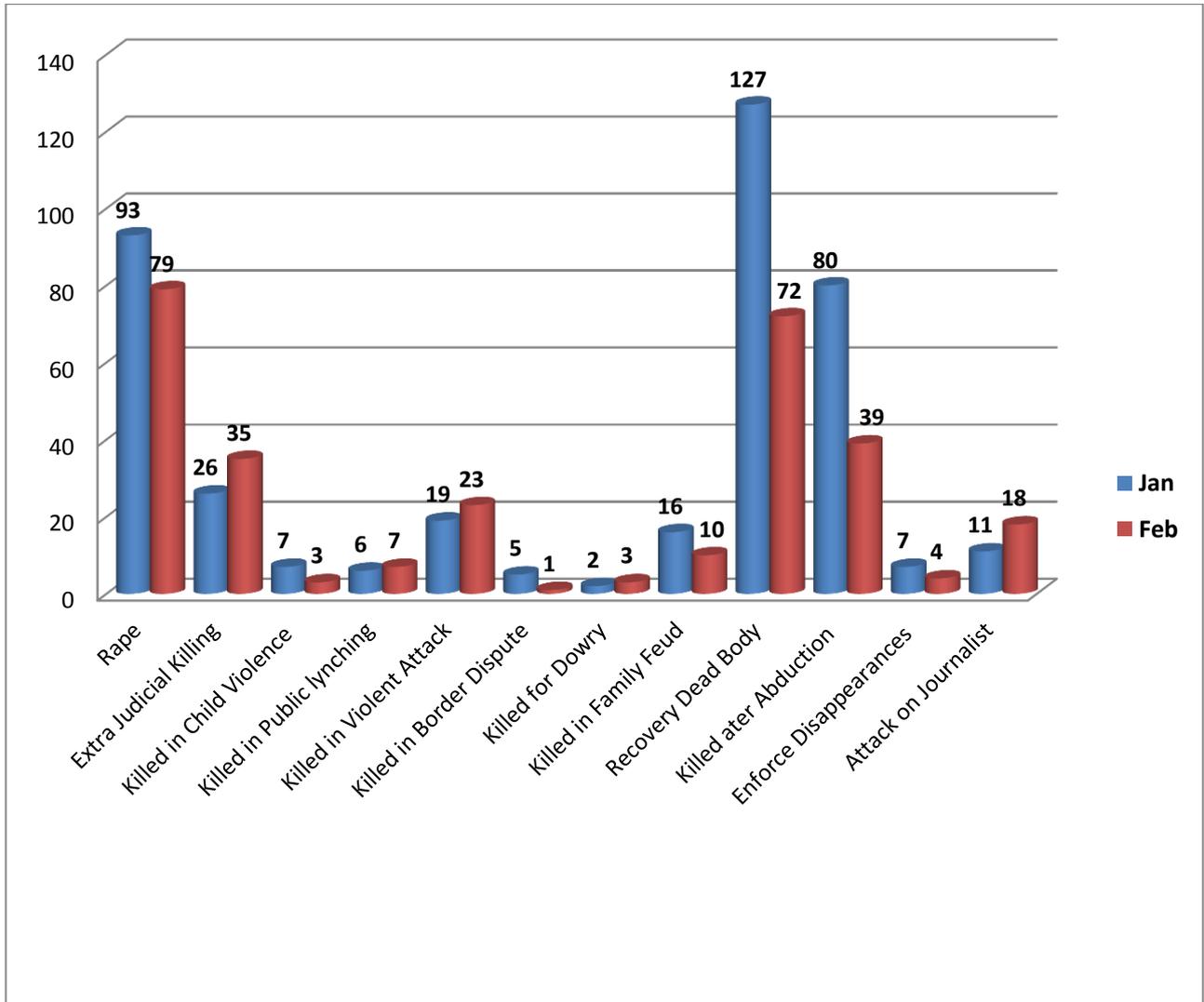


Figure 14: Monthly Comparison between Jan and Feb 2019

Conclusion

In summing up, 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 from Jan to Feb '19. 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 an 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 over all human rights situation in Bangladesh.

Recommendation

- ✘ The Judiciary and the Administrative Authorities must ensure justice to all minorities' communities. Restructure all damaged temples and places for worship that were subjected to attack and end all potential attacks on places of worships irrespective of race, sex, color, religion and any other social standings. And ensure the fundamental rights of all citizens guaranteed by the Constitution of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh.
- ✘ The government must ensure the accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies. Further, constitute judicial inquiry committee to investigate each incident of extra-judicial killing, enforced disappearance and abduction; and ensure a speedy and fair trial of all culprits by a lawfully constituted tribunal.
- ✘ Actions should be taken to end structural and cultural violence against women from all spheres of life. Moreover, in order to ensure safety and security of women, children, and members of minority communities, immediate appropriate measures should be taken by the concerned authorities. The proper environment should be ensured so that the victims can come up with appropriate complaints against the perpetrators.
- ✘ The state should take the necessary steps to identify the victims of forced disappearance and hand them over to their families. HRSS urges the government to comply with the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance adopted by the United Nations.
- ✘ The government should be respectful to the freedom of expression of all citizens. Print, Electronic, and online media should be allowed to work freely even though it goes against the government. The government must be tolerant of the democratic rights of the oppositions.
- ✘ Arbitrary arrests of citizens including opposition leaders and activists must be immediately stopped. The government must comply with the directives given by the Supreme Court of the land. It should immediately repeal the Special Powers Act, 1974 and the digital security Act 2018.
- ✘ Freedom of assembly and association should be respected. The government must allow oppositions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to express their opinions by way of public gatherings, processions, seminars, and symposium and so on.