

# Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2019



**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)**

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# Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2019

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## Acknowledgements

**H**uman rights violations have become the norm in Bangladesh notwithstanding the country's constitutional commitment to safeguard fundamental rights and its ratification of numerous international treaties and conventions. State authorities have repeatedly failed to protect citizens' fundamental rights such that constitutionalism and democratic governance are a far cry. According to HRSS's Report of 2019, the rising incidents of rape, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, violent attacks, public lynching and border killings reveal a very gloomy scenario of the overall human rights situation in Bangladesh. The situation has become so grave that common people feel insecure, whether they are in their bedrooms or on the streets. This shocking condition of human rights in Bangladesh motivates HRSS to work hard to raise awareness both home and abroad. We hope that the contents of this report will help the people to understand the overall human rights situation in the country. We further expect that both state and non-state actors working for human rights would be acquainted with the prevailing human rights conditions and take necessary steps to put an end to repeated human rights violations. HRSS strongly believes that this report will help mass people, civil society organizations, and international communities by providing them a concrete and evidential account of ongoing degrading treatment of human beings. Finally, I would like to thank all my associates for their hard work in preparing this Annual report and also thank to the executive committee members of HRSS for their full cooperation in assisting us discharge our duties. I do hope that your continuing support will help us improve the quality of this report and encourage us to play a vibrant role in the human rights sector.

**Ijjajul Islam**  
Executive Director





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**H**RSS publishes Human Rights Situation Analysis Report regularly, based on data collected from prominent national dailies and fact-finding reports prepared by country-wide representatives, as a part of its diverse activities. It's dedicated to upholding human rights for people through building awareness about human rights violations as well as monitoring and publishing the current situation of human rights in Bangladesh, helping the destitute, conducting advocacy with the government and other concerned authorities from home and abroad. HRSS also encourages the common people to be involved in various activities for protection of human rights. As part of this initiative, HRSS is going to publish annual report from January to December 2019. The report shows that the overall human rights condition is as dismal as it was in 2018. Political and civil society space continues to be curtailed. Security forces continue to enjoy impunity in cases of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests. Violence against women, in particular, gang rape and child rape are on the rise. Consequently, the state has not been able to ensure peace, justice and security to its citizens.

According to the sources of HRSS, at least 396 people have been killed extra-judicially in 2019. Of them, 357 people were killed in the name of 'crossfire/gunfights', 16 tortured to death, 01 shot to death and 22 were died in the custody. The deaths occurred during raids and operations conducted by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs). As in past cases, the government describes these deaths as "crossfire/gunfights/infights" and so on. On the other hand, a total of 23 persons have been 'disappeared' by the law enforcement agencies in different incidents.

Moreover, the report finds that in 2019, a total of 1429 females were raped. Among them, 595 victims were adult whereas alarmingly 834 were children under the age of 16. It's a rising concern in the incidence of raping crime that among victims at least 195 have been gang-raped. Among the victims, at least 58 were brutally killed after being raped. In 2019, about 150 women were killed in the family feud related violence. In the meantime, 54 were killed and 2 female committed suicide for dowry related violence. A total of 241 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment and 27 females were injured in acid violence between January and December 2019. It is also alarming that in a total of 112 violent incidents against children in 2019, 56 lost their lives and 157 were critically injured.

It has been reported by HRSS that in 2019, a Journalist was killed, 51 injured, whereas nearly 33 threatened, 17 arrested and 7 were assaulted. Meanwhile, 45 people were arrested and 49 cases filed under digital security act 2018. HRSS has also observed the incidents of attacks on minorities in 2019, where 11 people were injured, 4 victims of land grabbing and 38 temples were attacked in a total of 30 incidents. Moreover, at least 49 people were killed and 2863 people were injured in political violence, whereas around 73 people were killed in public lynching.

On the other hand, due to the silence of the Government combined with its submissive foreign policy, border killings have increased. Bangladeshi citizens have become victims of border killings, torture, and other forms of inhumane treatments. It has been reported that, 42 Bangladeshi citizens were killed by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and 02 other were killed by Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) in a total of 78 incidents. It has also been reported that 156 were killed in a violent attack on unarmed civilians in 2019. On the other hand, 930 people were injured, 83 were bullet hit and 23 people were tortured by law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

HRSS is deeply concerned about the degradation of human rights condition in the country. It urges all human rights organizations as well as common citizens to raise their voice to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh.

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# Acronyms

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ASI	: Assistant Sub-Inspector
BAL	: Bangladesh Awami League
BCL	: Bangladesh Chhatra League
BGB	: Border Guard Bangladesh
BGP	: Myanmar Border Guard Police
BSF	: Indian Border Security Force
BNP	: Bangladesh Nationalist Party
BJC	: Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal
BJI	: Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami
BNHRC	: National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh
BUET	: Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology
CAT	: Committee against Torture
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
CUET	: Chattogram University of Engineering & Technology
DB	: Detective Branch
DMCH	: Dhaka Medical College Hospital
DSA	: Digital Security Act
DU	: Dhaka University
DUCSU	: Dhaka University Central Student's Union
GD	: General Diary
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
JSD	: Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal
JNU	: Jagonath University
LEA	: Law Enforcement Agency
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
OC	: Officer In-Charge
OHCHR	: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
RAB	: Rapid Action Battalion
UN	: United Nations
UDHR	: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNHCHR	: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNO	: Upazilla Nirbahi Officer
UP	: Union Parishad
UPDF	: United People's Democratic Front
VAW	: Violence against Women



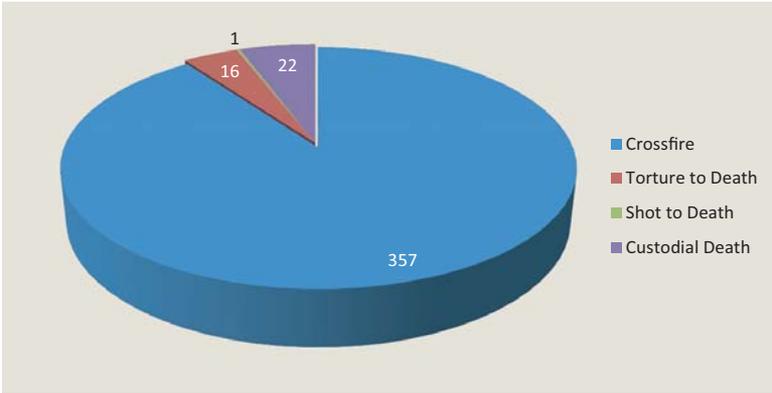
# Extra Judicial Killing

In Bangladesh, Extra Judicial Killings by law enforcement agencies are now very common. Though the constitution of Bangladesh does not support these kinds of killings. An extrajudicial killing is the killing of a person by governmental authorities without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.<sup>1</sup> So any deaths that are not executed by the order of judiciary in accordance with the laws are considered as Extra-Judicial killings. 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.

*Article 32 of Bangladesh constitution says: "No person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty". According to UDHR article 03, everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.*

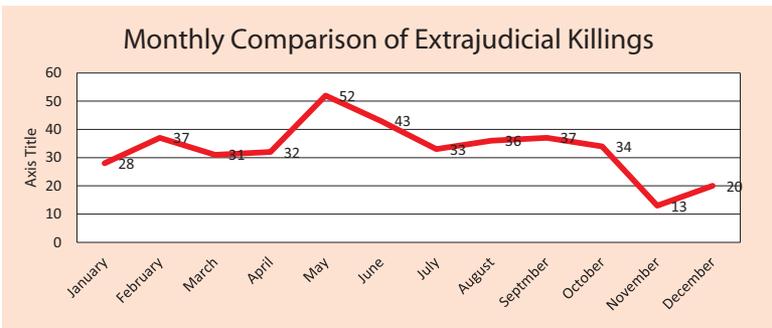
In order to avoid criticism for extra-judicial killings, the government now uses terms such as 'cross-fire','encounter', 'inflight' etc., which but apparently innocent terms used to refer to the act of killing individuals without the sanction of law. Relevant cases of extrajudicial killing have been discussed and analyzed below:

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**Figure 1 : Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing**

*The pie chart shows information about the extra-judicial killing from January to December 2019: a total of 396 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed. Of them, 357 were killed in the name of 'crossfire/ gunfights /infigts', 16 were tortured to Death, 01 were shot to death, and 22 were died in custody.*



**Figure 2 : Monthly Comparison of Extra-Judicial Killing**

*The line graph provides information about the extra-judicial killing from January to December'19. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 396 persons were allegedly killed extra-judicially. On an average, almost 33 people were killed each month. 28 were killed extra-judicially in January*

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while this number increased significantly in February. In May, the numbers of encounters were surprisingly higher, reaching up to 52 then the number of deaths by extra judicial killing were gradually decreased and became lowest in November.

Kinds	Police	RAB	Police And RAB	DB Police	Join Force	Coast Guard	BGB	Army	Total
Crossfire	176	108		29	2	1	36	5	357
Shot To Death	0	0		1			0	0	1
Torture To Death	13	1		0	0		2		16
Custodial Death	22								22
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>396</b>

Figure 3 : Actors of Extra-Judicial Killing

The graph provides updated information about the incidences of extra-judicial killings in 2019 by the members of the LEAs. Statistics shows that most of the deaths almost 211 were extra judicially killed by the Police and 109 people were killed by RAB although they are supposed to protect the safety and security of the people. The number of people killed by the Detective Branch (in brief 'DB') is also alarmingly high. Legally the members of DB are duty bound to hand over the alleged criminal to the concerned Police Station for further judicial process. On the other hand, 38 people were allegedly killed by the members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), in 2019.

### **Some of the cases of extra-judicial killings are detailed:**

On January 02, 2019 two suspected drug peddlers were killed by RAB in so called a 'gunfight' on Feni-Noakhali road at Silonia under Dagonbhuiya in Feni. The two killed are Mohammad Asad, 42 and Emamul Akond, 24, both of Rajoir in Madaripur.<sup>2</sup>

On February 13, 2019, a suspected robber was killed in a "gunfight" between two groups of robbers in Rahmatpur

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Kanagate area of Jashore's Sadar upazila, Jashore. The dead is Babar Ali Moral, 40, of Beta village in the district's Dumuria upazila.<sup>3</sup>

On March 03, 2019, a man was killed in what the law enforcers called gunfight with a team of detective branch of police at Kalibari in Mymensingh. The deceased Lalu Miah, 45, was a resident of city's Krishtapur Baganbari area, was a suspected drug trader according to the police. Lalu's daughter claimed that her father was missing from 1 March.<sup>4</sup>

On May 03, 2019, an alleged leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Sarbahara Party was killed in what police claimed was a gunfight between two groups of outlaws in Bogura's Sherpur Upazila. The dead is Shafiur Rahman Jyoti, 65, of Pratap khadulia village in Dhunat upazila. Shafiur's wife Rawshan Ara, 60, told that some plainclothes men introduced themselves as police and picked up her husband from Koichar Beel area in Dhunat. Sonatan Chakraborty, additional superintendent of police (Bogura sadar circle), said they went to Goalkandi Bridge area in Sherpur around 1:30 am, acting on information that two groups of outlaws were trading bullets there. Sensing the law enforcers' presence, the criminals fled leaving the bullet-hit body of Shafiur.<sup>5</sup>

On June 21, 2019, two brothers were killed in what law enforcers called a gunfight with the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) in Banshkhali upazila of Chattogram. The deceased were Md Jafar Prokash, 48, and his brother Khalilur, 45, sons of late Joynal Abedin of Saral union. ASP Rahman claimed Jafar is accused in 33 cases and his brother Khalilur was also accused in eight cases.<sup>6</sup>

On July 02, 2019, the main accused of Rifat Sharif murder Sabbir Ahmed alias Nayan Bond was killed in what police called a gunfight with them in Barguna's Burirchar area. Police officials claimed that a team of police, tipped off, went to the village to

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arrest Nayan when he and his cohorts opened fire at them in front of Master Bari area of east Burirchar village, forcing the policemen to retaliate and this triggered a gunfight. Police recovered three sharp weapons, a pistol and three bullets from the spot, the OC added.<sup>7</sup>

On July 31, 2019, a rape accused was killed in a so called “gunfight” with members of Rapid Action Battalion in Maher Ati village of Kusumpura Union under Patiya upazila of Chattogram. The deceased Arman 23, is a resident of Ziri Union’s maliara village of the Upazila. He was accused in a case filed over the rape of a grade-VIII student, said Rab-7.<sup>8</sup>

On August 02, 2019, a suspected drug peddler was killed in a “gunfight” with RAB in Pubail area of Gazipur city. The dead Nazrul Islam Naju, 30, of Tongi area, was accused in at least 12 arms and drug related cases, said Rab.<sup>9</sup>

On September 01, 2019, a suspected criminal was killed in a “gunfight” with police in Narsingdi’s Madhabdi area, few hours after he was arrested. The deceased was identified as Awlad Hossain Mithun, 35, son of Zakir Hossain, was accused in 12 cases, said Detective Branch (DB) of police. Police also claimed to have arrested three cohorts of Mithun - Mehedi Hassan, 25, Mainul, 24, Hridoy, 22 along with two foreign pistols, one pipe gun and eight bullets from the spot.<sup>10</sup>

On October 2, 2019, two suspected drug peddlers were killed in a “gunfight” with police at Teknaf upazila in Cox’s Bazar, hours after they were arrested. The dead are Mohammad Amin, 37, and Helaluddin Sumon, 21, of Shilkhali area.<sup>11</sup>

On October 14, 2019, a local leader of Jubo League was killed in what law enforcers called a gunfight with them in Chattogram’s Agrabad. The victim was identified as Khurshid Alam, 45, vice-president of Jubo League’s Pathanthuli Ward unit. RAB claimed

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that he was accused in eight cases filed with various police stations in Chattogram.<sup>12</sup>

On November 28, 2019, a suspected drug trader was killed in a reported gunfight with members of DB police at West Mahduripur in Sadar Upazila of Noakhali district. The deceased was identified as Ibrahim Khalil alias Bhandari Rubel, 27, son of Abul Kashem of Ayubpur village in Sadar Upazila. He was wanted in 16 criminal cases, police said.<sup>13</sup>

On December 3, 2019, a suspected robber was killed in a “gunfight” with police, a day after arrest, in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur district. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Ali alias Ali, 40, son of Najar Pramanik of Prajapati Char in the upazila and was wanted in 11 criminal cases.<sup>14</sup>

On December 16, 2019, a man accused of raping and murdering a mentally challenged girl was killed in what the police called gunfight with them at Rathkhola Launchghat Bridge in Faridpur. The deceased was identified as Yeasin Mollah, 22, son of Mony Mollah of Wireless Para in the town. On the other hand, the victim Fatema Begum, 14, was daughter of Alahi Sharif of Rajendra college adjacent area.<sup>15</sup>

- 1 <https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.
- 2 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/128598/???>
- 3 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=159350&cat=9>
- 4 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/191990/Man-killed-in-%E2%80%98gunfight%E2%80%99>
- 5 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/ex-sarbahara-leader-killed-gunfight-1737901>
- 6 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/197704/Siblings-killed-in-RAB-%E2%80%98gunfight%E2%80%99>
- 7 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/198272/Nayan-Bond-killed-in-police-%E2%80%98gunfight%E2%80%99>
- 8 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=183830&cat=9>
- 9 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/drug-peddler-killed-gunfight-1780921>
- 10 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=188286&cat=9>
- 11 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/two-drug-dealers-killed-gunfight-1807978>
- 12 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/203250/Jubo-League-leader-killed-in-RAB-%E2%80%98gunfight%E2%80%99>
- 13 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=230800>
- 14 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/251280/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AB>
- 15 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1629496/%E0%A6%AB>



16

# Enforced Disappearance

**E**nforced disappearance is a brutal practice and frightful violation of fundamental human rights such as the right of life and liberty of a person and recognition as a person before the law court including the right to life, the right not to subject to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or torture (UDHR-article 3, 5, 6).

*According to (Article 02 of ICPED). “Enforced or involuntary disappearances are considered to be the detention, abduction, and arrest, or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the support, consent, or acquiescence of the State, followed by a rejection to recognize the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law”*

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The cases of “Enforced Disappearance” have already triggered a gravest hurdle in our national life by polluting the political and administrative culture of Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, "Enforced disappearance" is frequently used as a strategy to spread the feeling of insecurity and fear not only to the close relatives of the disappeared person but also to the communities and society as a whole.<sup>17</sup> The victims are mostly members of political groups, human rights defenders, Journalists and what so one those oppose the government. The widespread impunity of State agents has not only permitted this rise in enforced disappearances and associated crimes, but it has also greatly eroded the rule of law in Bangladesh.<sup>18</sup> The absence of both political will and a credible criminal justice system to hold personnel of law enforcement agencies to account for enforced disappearances has allowed this State policy to continue.

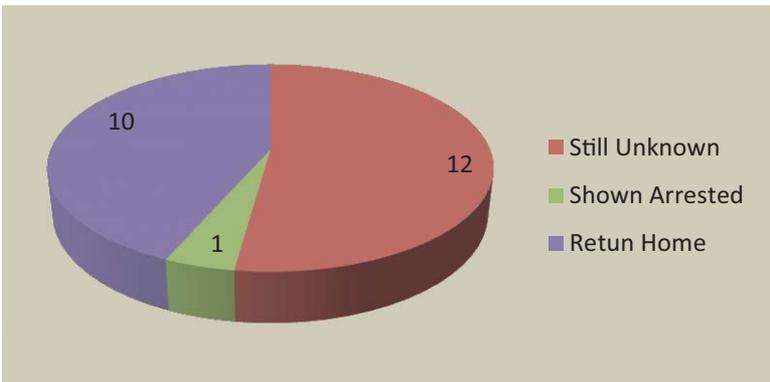


Figure 4 : Statistics of Enforced Disappearance

*Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) finds after primary investigation that from January to December 2019, a total of 23 people have been disappeared by law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 10 were returned home, 01 was brought before the court and couldn't address what happened to the rest 12 persons. The occurrence of "enforced disappearance" has reduced in 2019.*

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Figure 5 : Monthly Comparison of Enforced Disappearance in 2019



**Family members holding up photographs of victims of enforced disappearance, demanding safe return of the victims.**

### ***Selected cases are stated below:***

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. Some plainclothes men introducing themselves as law enforcers picked up Jamil Hossain Milon, 30, son of Emdadul Haque Miaz, of the district's Sadar upazila, alleged his family members at a press conference in Natore Press Club.<sup>19</sup>

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On February 09, 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 while going to Capital's trade fair area on 7<sup>th</sup> February, five friends have stated the journey. At 5.00 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.<sup>20</sup>



'Shootout witness Jahid Hasan' missing for 5 months

On March 10, 2019, an eyewitness to an alleged shootout between drug peddlers and Rapid Action Battalion-7 in Chattogram's Muradpur area has been missing for almost five months. The missing person Jahid Hasan, 18, son of late Md Yasin of Koddartek, Charlakkha union, was the driver of Jubo League leader Asim Roy Babu, who was killed in the "shootout" on October 12. Jahid was picked up two days after the incident by people in

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plainclothes from his aunt's home in Isanagar of Karnaphuli upazila. He has been missing since then, said family members. They also added that after the “shootout”, Jahid had spoken to several media outlets such as Somoy Television, Cplus TV, and a local online television channel of Chattogram as a witness.<sup>21</sup>

On April 16, 2019, two persons have been missing for the last five days since they were picked up by DB from Shiddirganj. The two missing persons are Madrasa teachers, Jahedur Rahman, 33, son of Abdul Hakim, Brakhanpara Shidlai area of ?? Comilla and small businessman, Iqbal Hossain, 39, son of Sheikh Shahidur Rahman of Bisherakot area under Devdibar police station of the same district. They were abducted in front of the Baits Sharif Jame Masjid, adjacent to the Nimakashari market in Siddhirganj, after Asha prayers on April 10. Witnesses said that after the prayers, Iqbal and Zahedur were standing and talking with each other. At that time, 8-10 people tried to pull them into a white-colored Hayes microbus of black glass. At this time, being protested by locals they introduced themselves as DB police. Later, when the men left, they picked up Iqbal and Zahedur in a car and left the place quickly.<sup>22</sup>

On May 13, 2019, a leader of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Swechhchasebak Dal (JSD) has been missing since he was picked up by plainclothes men from Sirajganj Sadar upazila's Malshapara area while he was returning home on a rickshaw, alleged BNP and JSD leaders. He has been missing since then, said Md Saidur Rahman Bachchu, Sirajganj BNP's general secretary.<sup>23</sup>

On May 24, 2019, a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), who was picked up allegedly by law enforcers over three months ago, returned home at Taltala Halfrasta village in Sadar upazila of Natore. The victim is Jamil Hossain Milon, 30, son of Emdadul Haque Miazi of the village, and former organising secretary of Natore municipality unit of BCL. The victim's father

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said some men identifying themselves as law enforcers picked up Milon from the house on January 31 this year.<sup>24</sup>

On June 09, 2019, in a facebook status former home minister Sohail Taj accused of abducting his nephew from chattogram city. The victim is Sayed Iftekhar Alam alias Sourav, a student of media and communication dept: at Independent University Bangladesh. Syed Iftekhar Alam's native home is in Chandnayesh Upazila of Chattogram. "According to the victim's family, Sourav was picked up by plainclothes men in front of Afmi Plaza on June 9, around 7:00 pm.

On July 6, 2019, it has been accused that a Juba League leader was missing for two months in Sonagazi upazila of Feni. The victim was identified as Gazi Milon, 45, president of Char Chandia Union's 5 No: word Juba League. In a press conference, family members claimed that Ghazi Milan was picked up near Jahangir doctor's pharmacy area by six-seven people, identified themselves as RAB with a white-colored microbus.<sup>25</sup>

On July 23, 2019, it has been accused that a bussiness man was abducted while returning home from Kanchan Bazar area with a blak coloured microbus by DB police in Rungange Upazila of Narayanganj. The victim was identified as Aoulad Hossain, 42, of the area. In a press conference, victim's wife Jannatun Nayem Shimla claimed that, her husband was picked up by DB police with a black microbus on his way to home from Kanchan Bazar of Runganj. Many people saw him when he was being taken to the microbus from Kanchan Bazar, she added.<sup>26</sup>

On September 22, 2019, a dead body of a Juba League leader was recoverd from river 24 hours after he was picked up by plain cloth police in Satok of Sunamganj. The death was identified as Anawer, 30, son of late Arosh Ali in Charmohollah Union's Chanpur village of the Upazila.The death relatives claimed that Juba League leader Anwar Hossain was killed in a planned way by the police.<sup>27</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On December 6, 2019, a student of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology CUET has been missing after detectives picked him up allegedly from Naya Bazar area of the city. The victim was identified as Md Shahidul Islam Azad, a student of mechanical engineering department, hailing from Lohagara upazila's Barohatia union. Family members accused that some people identifying themselves as detectives picked up Shahidul by a microbus from Moushumi residential area of Naya Bazar.<sup>28</sup>

On December 26, 2019, a man was picked up by some people, who identify themselves as members of police from Amnura Rail crossing area in Sadar Upazila of Chapainobabganj district. The victim was identified as Badsha brother of killed Awami league leader Robiul Islam from Jhilim Union of Sadar Upazila.<sup>29</sup>

- 16 [https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ALeKk01lbezi6fPnXUBkFibKnY\\_cJlBqA:1597820547255&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=Animated+picture+of+Enforced+Disappearance&sa=X&ved=](https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ALeKk01lbezi6fPnXUBkFibKnY_cJlBqA:1597820547255&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=Animated+picture+of+Enforced+Disappearance&sa=X&ved=)
- 17 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/disappearances/>
- 18 <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/bangladesh.>
- 19 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/ex-bcl-leader-picked-home-1696228>
- 20 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1578044/??>
- 21 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/shootout-witness-missing-5-months-1712827>
- 22 <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=168314&cat=9>
- 23 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/jsd-leader-missing-friday-1742605>
- 24 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/picked-4-months-ago-bcl-leader-returns-home-1747981>
- 25 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1602817/??>
- 26 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=182648&cat=9>
- 27 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/223671/?????>
- 28 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/206010/Picked-up-by-%E2%80%98detectives%E2%80%99-CUET-student-missing>
- 29 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/260040/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B9>



# Violence against Women

**V**iolence against women is one of the most severe and widespread human rights violations in Bangladesh. Most of the cases remain unreported due to the impunity, stigma, shame and political shelter surrounding it. So Violence against women remains a main social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. 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”.<sup>30</sup>

According to HRSS observation, the natures of violence commonly committed, are physical and psychological torture,

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

sexual harassment, assault, rape, dowry-related violence, trafficking, coerced suicide and murder, acid throwing and family feud related violence. The majority of women are subjected to violence by their husbands, in-laws and other family members. It is a clear violation of basic Human Rights, established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. The reasons mentioned for domestic violence against women are often trivial. It includes questioning of the husband, failure to perform household work and care of children, economic problems, dowry related disputes, etc. HRSS team tried to find out different categories and reasons of domestic violence against women in Bangladesh. The rate of reported acts of violence against women especially the incident of rape has increased at an alarming rate, from January to December 2019.

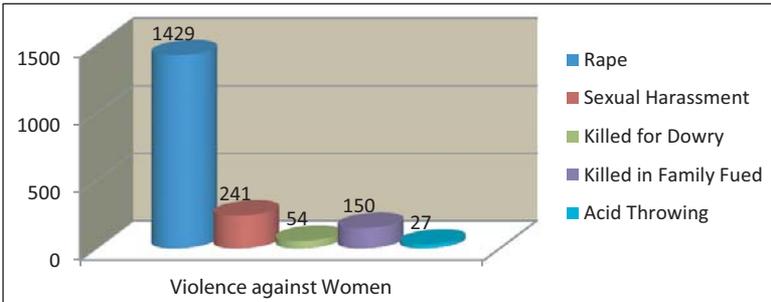


Figure 6 : Violence against Women

*The major atrocities against women are torture for dowry, killings, 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 between January and December'19 are detailed below:*

## Rape:

Rape is one of the severe forms of violence against women. In Bangladesh rape has increased steeply from January to December '19. The increasing rate of rape is an alarming phenomenon and it depicts the vulnerable condition of women in the society. It is heinous offense. Section 376 of the Penal Code, 1860 states: "whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment for life". It may be mentioned that sometimes rape is followed by murder, particularly when gang rape takes place.

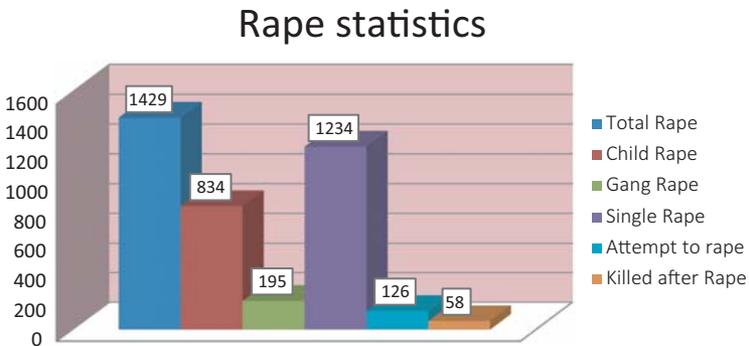


Figure 7 : Statistics of Female Victims of Rape

*According to the source of Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the graph provides information about 'Rape' from January to December '19; a total number of 1429 females were allegedly raped. Of them, about 1234 were victims of single rape and nearly 195 were subjected to gang rape, whereas alarmingly 834 were children below the age of 16 (including single and gang rape), Approximately 58 were brutally killed after being raped.*

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

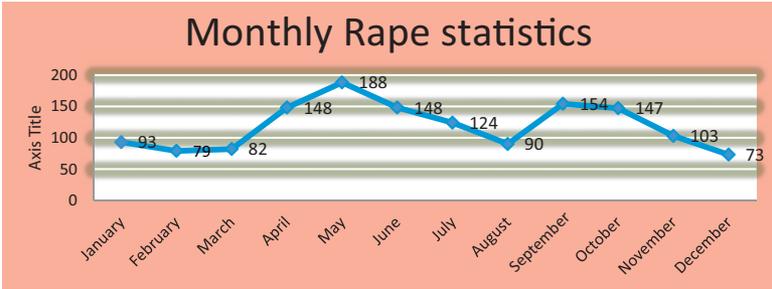


Figure 8 : Monthly Comparison of rape in 2019

*The above graph shows data of rape incidents between January and December 2019. In January, the number of rape was 93 then it reduces slowly in the following two months. Thereafter the numbers of rape climbing rapidly to a peak of 188 in May, then the number of rapes fluctuates in the following months and reduce to the lowest point in December.*



Protest Against Rape

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

### ***Reported Rape Cases are stated below:***

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, the victim's father said quoting her. The auto-rickshaw driver called his two cohorts and raped the woman throughout the night, he added.<sup>31</sup>

On January 05, 2019, a 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.<sup>32</sup>

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.<sup>33</sup>

On March 02, 2019, a girl (16) with intellectually disabled has been charged with gang-rape at the Harragach Thana area in Kownia Upazila of Rangpur. Police have arrested two youths Palash and Shakarul in connection with this incident. The arrested Palash, 26, is the son of Mantu Mia of Bagherpool Harintari village of Haragach municipality and Ratan son of Shakarul, 22, is the son of Raton of Sarderpara village.<sup>34</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



**A mother of six, who was allegedly gang raped in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila.**

On April 02, 2019, a mother of six, aged about 48 was allegedly gang-raped in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila over “campaigning for an upazila vice chairman candidate”. The victim said, “During the polling hours, a group of supporters of vice chairman candidate Farhad Hossain Chowdhury Bahar threatened me and my husband with dire consequences as we campaigned for his rival candidate Tajuddin Babar and beat them severely.” At one stage, Bechu Majhi, Bazlu and Abul Bashar took the victim to a banana orchard inside the fish farm of Ruhul Amin and violated her.<sup>35</sup>

On May 07, 2019, a schoolgirl was killed after rape at a hotel in Madaripur's Shibchar Upazila. The deceased was Anny Akter, 13, daughter of late Ilias Mridha of Nowdoba village in Zinjira upazila of Shariatpur, and a Class IX student at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Government Pilot Girls' High School.<sup>36</sup>

On July 14, 2019, it has been accused that a girl was raped by some miscreants when she was returning home from her workplace in Gulapganj Upazila of Sylhet. The accused Alal was a

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

son Musabbir Hossen of the Upazila's Bauchi village. The victim girl (19) was a resident of Hilalpur village and also an office assistant of BRAC Hatimganj brance. The victim filed a case against Alal Hossen with Golapganj Model Police Station under the Anti-Women and Child Abuse Act in this regard.<sup>37</sup>

On July 28, 2019, RAB arrested a madrasa principal for allegedly raping and sexually harassing 11 female students at Fatullah of Narayanganj. The accused Mostafizur Rahman, 29, son of wazed Ali, who is from Netrakona, is the founder and principal of Darul Huda Women Madrasa and Orphanage. "It is foroz (mandatory) to obey the hujur (sir), otherwise it will be a sin and they may go to hell, if they didn't do what he asked them to do," Rab said quoting arrested principal Mostafizur Rahman.<sup>38</sup>

On August 5, 2019, a girl accused of being gang raped by five police man including acting officer in charge OC Osman Gani Pathan in Khulna GRP police station. Quoting victim her brother-in-law said his sister-in-law were gang raped at police station in mid night, later she was sent to the court after shown arrest with five battle of fancidile. On the other hand, OC Osman Ghani claimed the incident was false.<sup>39</sup>



## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On September 3, 2019, a woman was allegedly raped by a police officer and his three companions at Laxmanpur village under Sharsha Upazila of Jashore. The accused are sub-inspector Khairul Hossain, an officer of Gorpara police camp under Sharsha police station, police source Kamrul, and villagers Abdul Latif and Abdul Kader. The victim, 30, said the policeman and the other men raped her in her residence at around 2:30 am when she denies to pay Tk 50,000 as per the demand of the police official 'The money was demanded to make the case of my husband simpler,' she added.<sup>40</sup>

On September 7, 2019, an 18-year-old college girl was allegedly raped by a local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) with the promise of marriage in Bhola's Manpura upazila. The accused Rakib Hasan Rony, 24, is the president of BCL's Manpura Degree College unit. The girl filed a case with Manpura police station in this regard.<sup>41</sup>

On October 28, 2019, a case was filed over the reported gang-rape of a housewife at remote Char Piyal in Manpura Upazila of Bhola district. The accused Belal Bepary, 35, M Rased Palowan, 25, Shahin Khan, 22 and Kiron, 26, of Rahmanpur Village in the upazila, forcibly took the speedboat to Char Piyal and raped her there. In the meantime, its owner Nazrul, former president of Dakkhin Sakuchia Union unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League, arrived at Char Piyal in the boat and beat the four rapists, allowed them to go after taking Tk 3,000 from them and later violated her and captured the incident in his mobile phone, the victim said.<sup>42</sup>

On November 11, 2019, a 22-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by two rice mill workers in Bogura's Adamdighi upazila. The accused were identified as Shahinur Rahman Dhalu, 26, and Md Nantu, 25. Both the accused are from Gaibandha. The victim filed a case with Adamdighi police station in this regard.<sup>43</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On December 20, 2019, three youths were sued on charge of gang-raping a tenth-grader on the night of Victory Day in Dinajpur Sadar upazila. The victim's mother filed a case with Dinajpur Sadar Police Station accusing one Moksedul Islam, a resident of Julkapara village in the upazila, and two unnamed people.<sup>44</sup>

- 30 General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993
- 31 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/rape-in-bangladesh-in-2019-mentally-challenged-girl-raped-in-molvibazar-1683238>
- 32 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/more-news/378104/?>
- 33 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-raped-in-manikganj-two-police-withdrawn-1700596>
- 34 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/33348/?????>
- 35 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/gang-rape-again-subarnachar-1723642>
- 36 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/girl-killed-after-rape-3-held-1739596>
- 37 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/19071125/>
- 38 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/75317/?>
- 39 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/77719/?????>
- 40 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/83526/housewife-raped-by-policeman>
- 41 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/201492/College-girl-files-rape-case-against-BCL-leader>
- 42 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=225278>
- 43 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/14-yr-old-girl-raped-1825894>
- 44 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/10th-grader-gang-raped-dinajpur-1842592>



# Sexual Harassment

**S**exual harassment is considered as gender discrimination and human rights violation against women. In Bangladesh, women are in vulnerable condition. Our society is governed by patriarchal attitudes. Gender discrimination leading to gender violence is deeply embedded in our social structure. Most Bangladeshi social institutions permit, even encourage, the demonstration of unequal power relations between the sexes. In other words, harassment of women in Bangladesh is culturally accepted, tolerated and in certain prescribed forms and given contexts, legitimized. According to the Human Rights Support Society report, in Bangladesh, 241 females were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from January to December'19.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



Figure 9 : Statistics of Sexual Harassment

*According to the information gathered by HRSS, a total of 241 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from January to December '19. Of them, 150 were assaulted and 90 were stalked.*



Figure 10 : Monthly Comparison of Sexual Harassment in 2019

### ***Some important incidents are described below:***

On February 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 lift to a home on his car and harassed her sexually.<sup>45</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On March 04, 2019, a schoolgirl was seriously injured in an attack allegedly by her stalker in Dewanganj Upazila of Jamalpur district. The stalkers are Biplob, 22, son of Abdus Salam of Balugram village, and his five to six friends. Family members said as the ninth grader kept refusing Biplob's repeated indecent proposal, he became so enraged and slashed her hands with a sharp blade on the way to school at Chukaibari Union Parishad intersection.<sup>46</sup>

On April 22, 2019, Taraganj police have arrested a teacher for allegedly sexually harassing a tenth-grade student in the name of private teaching in Taraganj of Rangpur. The accused teacher is Dalim Kumar Roy, 28, son of Suresh Chandra Roy, at Khatamudhpur union's Madhapara village in Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari district. The victim's father filed a case under the Woman and Children Repression Act in this regard.<sup>47</sup>

On June 28, 2019, two female students of Rajshahi University's Education and Research Institute filed separate general dairies against assistant professor Bishnu Kumar Odhikari for sexually harassing them with Motihar Police Station seeking security. In the complaints, both students stated that they had earlier lodged complaints against their teacher to the institute director as he had been harassing them sexually and mentally for long. 'Following the complaints, assistant professor Bishnu Kumar Odhikari imposed pressure on them to withdraw the complaints with the help of students close to him,' the complaints stated.<sup>48</sup>

On July 8, 2019, Students arrested a teacher red-handed and handed him over to police while trying to sexually assault a fifth grade student in Lalpur Upazila of Nator. The arrested Abdul Halim Dulal was the assistant teacher of Kuzipukur Primary School in Upazila and the son of late Haji Abdur Rashid of Arjunpur village and father of former MP Shefali Mumtaz's APS Rowshan Alam Suruj.<sup>49</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On July 12, 2019, Police arrested a tutor for allegedly trying to rape a Class-IV student in Sadar upazila of Manikganj. The arrestee is Rubel Hossain alias Rumel, 30, also a clerk cum night guard of Betila Govt Primary School. He had also been providing tuition to the victim and molesting the girl for the last one year threatening her of dire consequences if she disclosed the matter to anyone. The victim's father filed a case with Sadar police station in this regard.<sup>50</sup>

On August 30, 2019, a police constable was beaten up by local people allegedly for sexually harassing a woman in Rajshahi town's Lakshmipur area. Quoting witnesses, police source said that Sabbir Hossain, a police constable of Paba police station, sexually harassed a woman in the area, adding that hearing screams of the woman, local people caught Sabbir and beat him up, leaving him injured.<sup>51</sup>

On September 28, 2019, a female student of Jahangirnagar University's Government and Politics department was brought an allegation of sexual harassment against a teacher of the department. The accused teacher is Sanwar Siraj, an assistant professor. In the written complaint, she alleged that Sanwar had frequently asked her on Facebook Messenger to build an intimate relationship with him. The victim said in the complaint that she was traumatised by continued harassment that started last year. On the other hand, Sanwar said, "Anyone can bring allegation against anyone. The allegation is under investigation. If I'm guilty, I'll be punished. But, if anyone lies, he/she should be punished too".<sup>52</sup>

On October 16, 2019, a mobile court sentenced a college student to one month imprisonment on charge of stalking a college girl for long in Habiganj's Bahubal Upazila. The convict, Russell Ahmed Shaon, 20, an intermediate student, is son of Abdul Hai of Nandanpur village in the upazila.<sup>53</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On November 4, 2019, a nine grader was sexually assaulted on the way back to home after coaching, by three scoundrels in Boalmary Upazila's Rupapat Union of Faridpur district. The accused were identified as Linkon Bala, 16, son of Omar Bala, Ripon Bala, 22, son of Srinath Bala, Tonmoy Bala, 20, son of Omar Bala of Bazitpur village. The victim father filed a written complaint to the principal of Pondopasa Ideal High School.<sup>54</sup>

On December 5, 2019, a banker was sued for sexually assaulting three minor girls in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila. The accused was identified as Mobarak Hossain, 56, a senior officer of a state-run bank's branch in the district town. The father of one of the victims filed the case with Kaliganj Police Station in this regard.<sup>55</sup>

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

46 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/girl-injured-stalkers-1710142>

47 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/47808/??>

48 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/76883/2-female-students-harassed-by-teacher-at-ru>

49 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=180184&cat=9>

50 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=180957&cat=9>

51 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/83017/police-thrashed-for-sexual-harassment>

52 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/202469/JU-student-alleges-sexual-harassment-by-teacher>

53 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/stalker-jailed-1814911>

54 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=197660&cat=9>

55 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/banker-sued-sexually-assaulting-3-minor-girls-1835896>



# Dowry-Related Violence

**D**owry-related violence is one of the brutal violence against women, particularly in rural areas of Bangladesh. In Bangladeshi law, dowry has been given an extended meaning, whatever is presented whether before or after marriage under demand, compulsion or pressure as consideration for the marriage can be said to be dowry.<sup>56</sup> It's illegal, punishable with imprisonment and /or fine according to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980. Sections 11(a), (b) and (c) of the Prevention of Repression against Women and Children Act 2000 (Amended in 2003) provides various punishments against perpetrators for committing dowry-related crimes. In spite of the existing laws, dowry-related violence has increased sharply from January to December'19.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

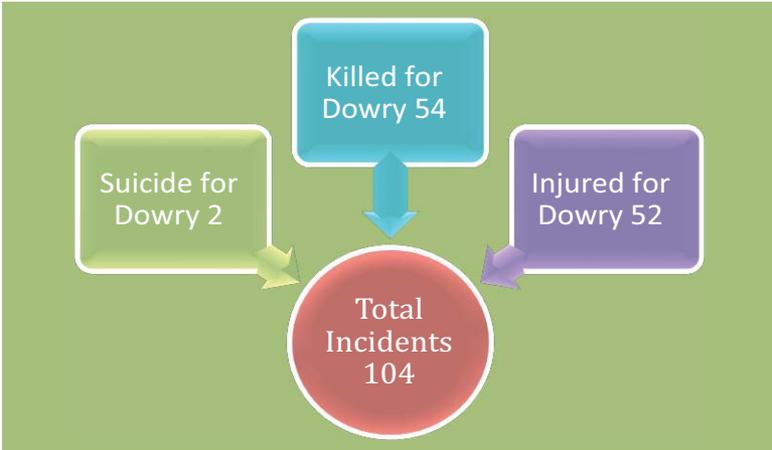


Figure 11 : Statistics of Dowry Related Violence

*The graph shows that a total of 104 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported from January to December'19. Out of them, about 54 were killed, 2 females were suicide for dowry related violence and 52 women were physically abused over dowry demands as victims of dowry-related violence.*

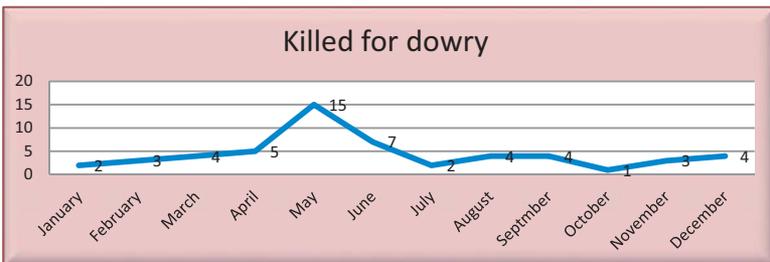


Figure 12 : Monthly Comparison of killed for dowry in 2019

*The above line graph shows information about dowry-related killing between January and December'19. From the beginning of 2019, the number of killings have increased gradually and reached to peak of 15 in May then it falls dramatically to the lowest point of 2 in July, after that it has remained almost same in the following Months.*

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

### *Some important incidents are given below:*

On March 13, 2019, a woman was killed allegedly by her in-laws for dowry at Aramgonj village in Kalapara upazila of the Patuakhali district. The deceased was Fatima Begum, 24, wife of Jewel Matabbor of the village. Police arrested the victim's mother-in-law Fahima Begum and brother-in-law Ripon Matabbor in this connection. The victim's uncle Md Solaiman said Jewel's family members often tortured Fatima for dowry. Jewel was outside the house when the incident took place, he said.<sup>57</sup>

On April 25, 2019, it has been accused of burning a bride by cigarette fire over the dowry claim in Basail Upazila of Tangail. The accused mason Sajib Mia is the younger son of Azizul Islam at Adajan village of Kanchanpur union in the Upazila. The bride Khadija, 18, is the daughter of Abul Hossain at Khuddi Jugni village of Baghil union of Tangail Sadar Upazila. The bride's father has filed a case against her husband Sajib Miah at Basil police station under the Woman and Children Repression Act in this regard.<sup>58</sup>

On April 27, 2019, a woman was allegedly tortured to death by her husband over dowry at Kulibari Village in Baghmara Upazila of Rajshahi district. The deceased was identified as Mukti Khatun, 17, daughter of Abdur Rahim of Saidpur Village under Bhabaniganj Municipality in the Upazila and wife of Sohel Rana, son of Abdur Sattar of Kulibari Village. A case was filed with Baghmara Police Station by the victim's father in this regard.<sup>59</sup>

On June 03, 2019, a young woman was strangled allegedly by her husband and in-laws for dowry in College Para area of Kurigram municipality. The deceased was Arifa Begum, 18, wife of Arif Mia, 22, of the area, and daughter of Kahinur Begum of Sarker Para in the municipality. The victim's mother filed a murder case, accusing Arif, his parents, younger brother and elder sister, said the inspector, adding that of them, Arif, his brother and mother were arrested.<sup>60</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On June 07, 2019, a housewife was strangled allegedly to death by her husband over dowry at Char Hatbari village of Doyle Union in Sarishabary Upazila of the district. The deceased was identified as Shikha Begum, 19, wife of Abdul Haleem's younger son Al Amin and Lutfar Rahman's daughter of Dulviti village.<sup>61</sup>

On July 26, 2019, a housewife was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry in Jashore's Monirampur upazila. The deceased, Hiramon Khatun, 27, was wife of Monirul Islam, 35, of Monoharpur village. The accused Monirul, son of Nesar Dhabok of the village, used to torture his wife Hiramon for dowry since their marriage 11 years ago and at one stage of altercation he beat Hiramon mercilessly with a bamboo stick, leaving her seriously injured.<sup>62</sup>

On August 20, 2019, police detained the accused husband on charge of killing his wife by strangling after physically tortured over dowry in Narayanganj. The deceased was identified as Sumaiya Akter Borsha, 23, daughter of Monjur Bhuiya in Kodomtoli Thana of capital city. The accused Mustafijur Rahman Nayon was resident of Shaherdi area.<sup>63</sup>

On September 8, 2019, a housewife was beaten mercilessly and broken her leg and hand by her husband over dowry in Aowna Union of Shorisha Bari Upazila in Jamalpur. The victim was identified as Poli Akter, daughter of late AKM Fazlul Haque of Awona Union. On the other hand, the accused Liakat Ali was the son of Abdul Halim master of the same Union.<sup>64</sup>

On October 13, 2019, it was accused of killing a homewife for dowry in Tongi Upazila of Gazipur district. Police detained husband Md. Rubel Mia in this connection. The deceased was identified as Shajeda Begum, daughter of Farid Mia of Nabinogor Upazila's Suvarampur village in Brahmonbaria. Police source, said it is thought that, Rubel strangled his wife by squeezing pillow without getting dowry.<sup>65</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On October 18, 2019, a pregnant housewife became victim of brutal torture by her dowry-greedy husband in Bauful upazila of Patuakhali. The victim Priyanka Rani, 20, daughter of Shushil Chandra Karmakar. Police arrested the victim's husband Tapos Chandra Mondol, 25, and his mother Laksmi Rani, 45.<sup>66</sup>



**Pregnant housewife Priyanka Rani tortured & shaved for dowry.**

On November 23, 2019, it was accused of killing a housewife by beating by her husband at Borodal Union's Dumurpata village in Ashashuni Upazila of Shatkhira. The deceased housewife, Shopna Rani Mandol, 20, daughter of Parimol Mandol of Upazila's Khajra union, Photic Khali village. Police detained killed's husband Proshanto Sarker and mother-in-law Shabita Sarker in this connection.<sup>67</sup>

56 The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000

57 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/woman-killed-over-dowry-1714294>

58 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/49044/??>

59 <https://www.observebd.com/details.php?id=195242>

60 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/woman-killed-laws-dowry-1752634>

61 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/mymensingh/415693/????>

62 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/housewife-killed-dowry-1777093>

63 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/81014/?>

64 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/1909594/??->

65 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/19101024/?>

66 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/pregnant-housewife-tortured-shaved-dowry-1815163>

67 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/458354/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE>



# Acid Violence

**A**cid violence is a severe crime which has been happening throughout Bangladesh, committed mostly against women and girls. Section 4 of the Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2002 prescribes death penalty or rigorous imprisonment for life including a fine of taka not more than one lakh if anybody causes death or makes an attempt to cause death to any child or woman by using any burning substance. Despite having stringent legal provisions, women are recurrently facing acid violence. The law made it punishable offense to use, buy, produce, sell, import or transport acid without a license; however, a majority of the acid attacks on women occurs due to the refusal of the proposal of love, marriage or sex scandals or over land disputes.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



Figure 13 : Attacks Using Acid on Women and Girls

*The chart shows the scenario of using acid on women and girls. About 23 incidents of acid violence were reported from January to December'19, of them almost 27 women/girls were injured after throwing acid. The occurrence of acid violence has increased in 2019 compare to 2018.*

### **Some important cases are cited below:**

On March 14, 2019, a miscreant hurled acid on a ninth-grade student by blocking the road for not teaching sewing work at the south Palito Kona area of Kamolganj Upazila in Moulovhibazar. The miscreant name is a Jamshed Mia and the injured Rima Begum is a nine-grade student of Abul Fazal High School in Kamolaganj. It has been known that Suhana Begum, daughter of acid thrower Jamshed, disputed with Rima over sewing work.<sup>68</sup>

On March 28, 2019, a man has been accused of pouring acid on his wife at Bhadrghat of Kamarkhand in Sirajganj. The victim was identified as Murshida Khatun, 22, daughter of Golam Hossain. The victim's father said that Murshida was also beaten up by her husband Abu Hanif over dowry-related issues.<sup>69</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



On April 29, 2019, a house-wife and her daughter were injured, in an acid attack, allegedly thrown by mother-in-law at Satpar village under Rajoir Upazila of Madaripur. The victims were identified as Somapti mandol, 21, wife of Milton Mondal and daughter Snigdha, six months old of the village. Locals said following a family feud, Milton's mother Gita Mondal threw acid on the sleeping victims in the absence of Milton.<sup>70</sup>

On July 30, 2019, two unidentified miscreant threw acid on the face of a madrasah student when she was coming from madrasah at taratia area in Gophargaon Upazila of Mymensing. The victim was identified as Rafida khan 18, daughter of Salauddin at Anshernagor village of the Upazila.<sup>71</sup>

On September 29, 2019, two children were injured of acid throwing in Handial Bazar area of Chatmohor Upazila in Pabna. The accused was identified as Moni Hosen, 18, son of Roton Ali of Sonabazu village. On the other hand, the victims were identified as Shariful Islam<sup>12</sup>, son of Shahidul Islam of Bezpatia village and Roton Sarker, 10, son of Abdul Kader of Handial Bazar area in the Upazila.<sup>72</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On October 23, 2019, a woman along with her daughter suffered burn injuries in an acid attack allegedly by her ex-husband at Chapra village in Ashashuni upazila of Satkhira. The victims were identified as Fatema Sultana, 29, daughter of Ekramul Quadir of the village, and her daughter Jakia Sultana, 2.<sup>73</sup>

On November 17, 2019, a woman allegedly was acid thrown on her for refusing indecent proposal by a youth in Jagannathdi village under Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur. The victim is Saraswati Malo, 23, wife of Chaitano Malo. The accused Sujun Kumar Hawladar, 28, was arrested after a case over the incident was filed with Madhukhali police station.<sup>74</sup>

On December 1, 2019, a madrasah student came under acid attack allegedly by stalkers when she was studying at her home in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna. Police arrested two suspected attackers, Ratan Hossain, 18, and Ripon Hossain, 17, residents of village Bonogram Pukurpar in Chatmohar upazila. The victim, 14, a Dakhil examinee, suffered chemical burn injuries at least 10 percent of the body.<sup>75</sup>

68 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=163496&cat=9>

69 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/68555/man-accused-of-pouring-acid-on-wife>

70 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=195526>

71 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/429061/-??>

72 <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/450788/?>

73 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/203725/Man-throws-acid-on-ex-wife-daughter>

74 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/acid-thrown-housewife-faridupur-1828708>

75 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/92320/stalkers-hurl-acid-on-girl>



# Family Feud Related Violence

**F**amily feud includes willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, murder, and/or any other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of family feud is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other. However, some data on family feud related violence are given below from January to December'19.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

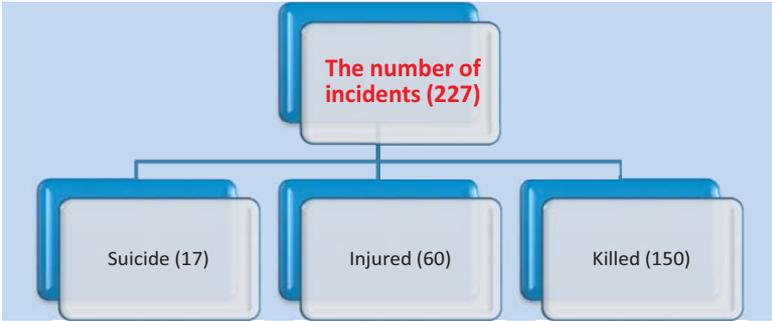


Figure 14 : Statistics of family feud

*The above chart provides information about the severity of family feud related violence in Bangladesh. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), about 150 women were killed, 17 suicide and 60 females were injured in a total of 227 incidents of the family feud from January to December'19.*

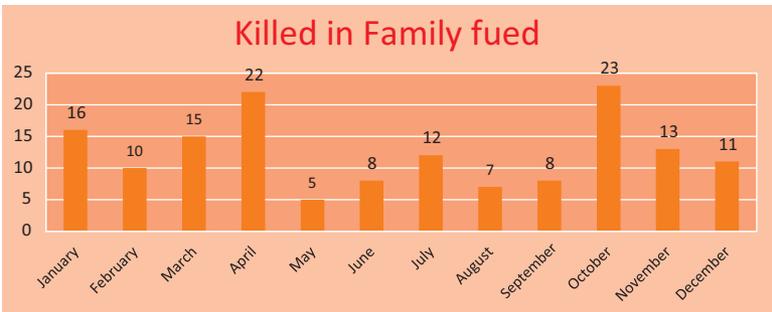


Figure 15 : Monthly Comparison of killing in 2019

### ***Some important incidents are stated below:***

On January 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

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

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.<sup>76</sup>

On March 08, 2019, it has been accused of burning wife to the death against the victim's second husband Shahidul Islam at Joynabari area of Hemayetpur in Savar. The deceased was identified as Rina Begum, 45, daughter of late Shamsul Haque of Joynabari area of Savar's Hemayetpur. The deceased's Sister Ripa Akhter alleged that Shahidul Islam injured her sister Rina Akhter by beating for demanding money. Later, he killed her pouring kerosene on her and set her on fire.<sup>77</sup>



**Husband burnt his pregnant wife's body with hot water**

On April 08, 2019, a pregnant woman's body has been burnt with hot water pouring by her husband at Beutha village of Manilganj sadar Upazila. The accused Sujon Mia, 23, is a son of Abdul Baten of Beutha village under Sadar upazila. The victim Lata Akter, 19, is a daughter of Bisa Kha. According to case

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

statement, Sujan locked into an altercation with his wife after he found his towel not fresh. At one stage, he beat her and poured hot water on her, leaving her badly injured.<sup>78</sup>

On April 09, 2019, a husband poured kerosene on a housewife and set her on fire over relatives coming at home, at New Eastpara area of Patgram municipality in Lalmonirhat. Police have arrested Rosina's husband, Abdullah, 24, son of Momin Miah of the area and Rosina's father's house in the Jaldhaka area of Nilphamari district.<sup>79</sup>

On July 12, 2019, a woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband over family feud at Kharagpur village in Bholahat upazila of Chapainawabgang. The deceased is Ayesha Khatun, 47, wife of Kobad Ali of the village. Police source said, at one stage of altercation, Kobad attacked his wife with a sharp weapon, leaving her dead on the spot, and fled the scene.<sup>80</sup>

On August 19, 2019, it has been accused that a house-wife was allegedly beat to death by her husband and in-laws in Pathorghata Upazila of Borguna district. The deceased Ruma Begom, 22, was a daughter of Md Shahed Gazi of Kamarhat village in the Upazila. The accused Jamal Mridha was the son of Habib Mridha of Word No: 9.<sup>81</sup>

On September 15, 2019, a pregnant woman and her three-year-old daughter were allegedly strangled to death over family feud at Kazirchar village of Noakhali Sadar upazila. The deceased were identified as Farhana Akhter Panna, 24, wife of Mohammad Suman of the village, and their daughter Sharmin Akhter, 3. The victim family member claimed that her father-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law strangled her to death during torture and they later killed her child as well.<sup>82</sup>

On October 16, 2019, a pregnant woman was strangled to death allegedly by her husband in Kashorarchor village under

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

Mohinond union of Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila. Locals said, husband Sumon, 21, son of Abdur Rahim Bhutto of Chongsholakia area, allegedly killed his pregnant wife Juena Akter, 19, daughter of certain Ali Newaz of village Kashorarchor, by strangling her.<sup>83</sup>

On December 8, 2019, a man allegedly beat his wife to death following a family fued in Goainghat upazila of Sylhet. The deceased was Munni Akter, 23, wife of Shafik Miah, a resident of Nayaganger Par village at Purba Jaflong union under the upazila.<sup>84</sup>

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

77 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=162713&cat=9>

78 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/44250/?????>

79 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/1904663/?>

80 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/woman-killed-husband-1770292>

81 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=186236&cat=9>

82 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/woman-toddler-killed-over-family-feud-1800397>

83 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1619546/?>

84 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/93021/man-allegedly-beats-wife-to-death>



# Attack on Journalists

**T**he UN General Assembly proclaimed November 2 as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists by the General Assembly Resolution adopted in 2014.<sup>85</sup> Moreover, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, states in Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.<sup>86</sup> Regarding this fact threats, physical attacks, and other forms of harassment are very common for journalists in Bangladesh. Freedom of expression was restricted in every aspect by the Digital Security Act (DSA) and Draft Broadcast Law

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

2018. Freedom of expression is a precondition for a functional democracy and participatory decision-making procedures. Unfortunately, individuals are unable to criticise the government without fear of reprisal. In many cases, the government has attempted to put an end to criticism by shutting down many electronic and print media. 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 journalists.

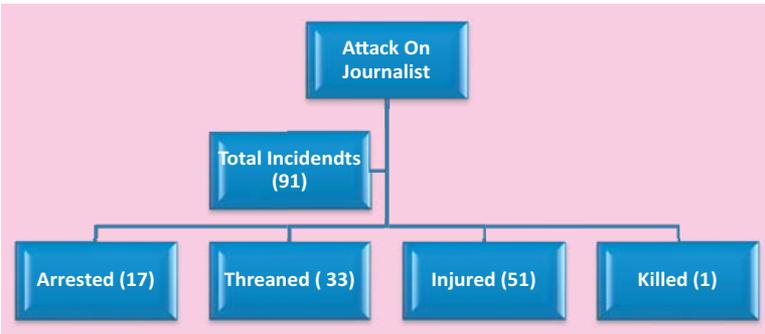


Figure 16 : Attack on Journalist

*The graph illustrates attack on journalists. According to HRSS's documented statistics, around 51 Journalists were injured, nearly 33 were threatened, whereas 17 were arrested and 01 was killed in nearly 91 incidents between January and December '19.*

### **Selected cases are as described below:**

On March 19, 2019 a local journalist received 'threat of crossfire' from a member of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur district yesterday. The victim, Md Abdur Razzak, 47, is son of Abdul Zabbar of Sujalpur area under Birganj municipality and editor of Birganj Protidin, an online news portal. He is also the upazila correspondent of Bangla daily Jai Jai Din and a news collector of private television channel Ekattor. Razzak said, when he was covering the upazila parishad election in Birganj a team

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

of Rab-5 hit him thrice and asked him to leave the polling centre, threatening him with crossfire. The elite force also abused him verbally, he said.<sup>87</sup>

On March 26, 2019, Sripur upazila correspondent of the private television (My TV) and organizing secretary of the Sripur Press Club, SM Sohail Rana has been attacked, while taking pictures of post-election violence in Sripur Upazila of Gazipur. The injured journalist is the son of Abul Kashem of Channapara village of Sripur municipality. The injured journalist's brother, Aman Ullah Farazi, said that his brother was coming to his residence at Mauna Chowrasta of Sripur around 9: pm. At that time, a group of 25 to 30 young men was attacked with sticks at Gazipur District Chatra League's General Secretary Zahidul Alam Robin's residence of Sripur road (adjacent to Mouna Chowrasta).<sup>88</sup>

On May 28, 2019, an attack on journalist Bachitul Habib Prince has been taken place in Khulna' Terakhada . The incident happened in front of a local model secondary school at around 5:30 pm. Police have arrested 3 suspects in connection with the attack. The victim journalist said, the attack on journalist Bachitul Habib Prince was occurred after a recent report on Terakhada's arms and drug dealers.<sup>89</sup>

On September 2, 2019, terrorist attacked on journalist Masum Siddiqui in Kalaiya Union's Bazar Road area in Baufal Upazila of Patuakhali district. The Injured journalist Masum Siddiqui is the Baufal Upazila representative of Daily Inquilab newspaper. Local

**Injured Journalist Masum Siddiqui**



Jubo League activist Shafi Hawlader was blamed for the attack by injured journalist Masum Siddiqui.<sup>90</sup>

On September 9, 2019, guards of a commercial

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

building assaulted a journalist at the New Market area of Rajshahi city. The injured journalist Rafiqul Islam is the Rajshahi bureau chief of the daily Kaler Kantho. Police arrested five guards of the building named “Omor Theme Plaza” after Rafiqul accused them in a case filed with Boalia Police Station. The arrestees are Sayeed Ali, 28; Jamal Hossain Munna, 27; Abdul Hakim, 48; Nahid Hasan, 20; and Sany, 22. “Some of the guards knew me. One of them once threatened me of dire consequences for writing against the lawmaker,” Rafiqul said. On the other hand, in a joint statement, Rajshahi Union of Journalists President and General Secretary said Rafiqul wrote more than one report against the owner of the building lawmaker Omor Faruk Chowdhury in last one week. They demanded that law enforcers investigate whether the attack was pre-planned and an attempt on Rafiqul’s life.<sup>91</sup>



**Injured Journalists, Rahatul Islam Rafi, Afsar Munna and Anisur Rahman.**

On September 23, 2019, three Dhaka University correspondents of different media outlets were injured as Bangladesh Chhatra League activists attacked them on the campus. The BCL activists also snatched a mobile of one of the journalists while he was filming the incident. The victim are Daily Potidiner Sangbad

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

correspondent Rahatul Islam Rafi, Business Bangla correspondent Afsar Munna and Student Journal correspondent Anisur Rahman. Anisur sustained injury in his left ear and was undergoing treatment at the university medical centre following primary treatment at DMCH.<sup>92</sup>

On October 1, 2019, two BCL leaders of Rajshahi University unit were expelled temporarily in charge with threatening two journalists of the university. The expelled BCL leaders were identified as Hasem, liberation and research sub-secretary of BCL university unit and Abdul Haque, mass education sub-secretary of the same unit.<sup>93</sup>

On October 27, 2019, a human bond program was came off to protest the threat of three journalists and offensive writing on Facebook by an Awami League leader and landlord, over establishing control on a land of an innocent family in Bamonpara area of Jamalpur district. The victim were identified as lecturer Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, district correspondent of Mas RangaTV and daily Jugantor newspaper and two others. On the other hand, the accused landlord was Sarower Hosen Shanto, member of district Awami league unit.<sup>94</sup>

On November 2, 2019, a female journalist was assaulted by some local addicted youth, while going to buy medicine in Manikkhali Bazar of Kotiadi in Kishorganj district. The victim journalist Mahmuda Akter Mala, 25, was a representative of Bangladesh Dainik Sandha Bani, central member of Safe Road Movement, female secretary of international human rights organization Ain Shohayata Cendro(ASK) and daughter of Safadat Hossen Milon of Dhonkipara village in the Upazila's Mumurdia Union.<sup>95</sup>

On November 8, 2019, Jagannath University authorities suspended its three students over their involvement in assaulting a journalist of Ekushe-TV online on the campus on

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

October 20. The suspended students were Sohanur Rahman of Zoology department, Kowshif Sarkar of Music department and Mohin Uddin Ahmed of Finance department. They all are the students of 2018-19 academic year of the university. On the other hand, the victim was identified as Md. Shagor, journalist of Ekushe -TV online.<sup>96</sup>

On November 21, 2019, a journalist was threaten to killed by an Awami league and Chatra league leaders over writing on Facebook in Borguna district. The victim Md. Musfiqur Rahman Arif was acting general secretary of Borguna press Club and district correspondent of Mas Ranga TV. On the other hand, the accused were Md. Jahangir Kabir, general secretary of district Awami League and former Chairman of district council and his son Md. Jubayer Adnan Anik, president of district Chatra League.<sup>97</sup>



**A mob vandalising the office of The Daily Sangram and assaulting Editor Abul Asad.**

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On December 13, 2019, a mob vandalised the office of The Daily Sangram in the capital's Boro Moghbazar over running a report, which termed executed war criminal Abdul Quader Molla a "martyr". Angered by the report, Muktijuddho Mancha announced that it would lay seize to the newspaper office. On condition of anonymity, a staff of the Bangla daily alleged that some 50 members of Muktijuddho Mancha vandalized the newspaper office and padlocked its main gate during the protest. However, Muktijuddho Mancha leaders denied the allegations.<sup>98</sup>

On December 29, 2019, a journalist was stabbed by some assailants while returning to his village home from Awami League National Council in Dhaka near Rahimabad village under Raipura upazila of the district. The victim veteran freedom fighter Prity Ranjan Saha, 73, was Narsingdi Press Club office secretary and district correspondent of Daily Bartoman.<sup>99</sup>

85 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/2018/11/01/how-safe-are-journalists-in-bangladesh>

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

87 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/journo-faces-crossfire-threat-1717048>

88 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/159601/>

89 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=174565&cat=9>

90 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/216906/?>

91 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/security-guards-building-beat-rajshahi-journo-1797925>

92 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/85459/bcl-assaults-12-jcd-leaders-3-journalists-at-du>

93 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/19092503/?>

94 <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/456637%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE>

95 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=197360&cat=9>

96 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/90109/jnu-suspends-three-students-for-assaulting-journalist>

97 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=200171&cat=9>

98 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/sangram-office-vandalised-1840162>

99 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/94320/journalist-prity-ranjan-stabbed>



# Attack on Minorities

**T**he status of minority groups all over the world has deteriorated day by day due to discrimination, insecurity and violent attack. Bangladesh is no exception. Ethnic and religious minorities are the most persecuted and oppressed people in Bangladesh.

*According to Francesco Capotorti, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a minority is: A group numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a State, in a non-dominant position, whose members - being nationals of the State - possess ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics differing from those of the rest of the population and show, if only implicitly, a sense of solidarity, directed towards preserving their culture, traditions, religion or language.<sup>100</sup>*

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

The seeds of violence against the minority communities are inherent within the structures of the modern system which has turned human beings into vote banks and vote constituencies. Lack of accountability and transparency of the state machinery only makes the situation worse.<sup>101</sup>

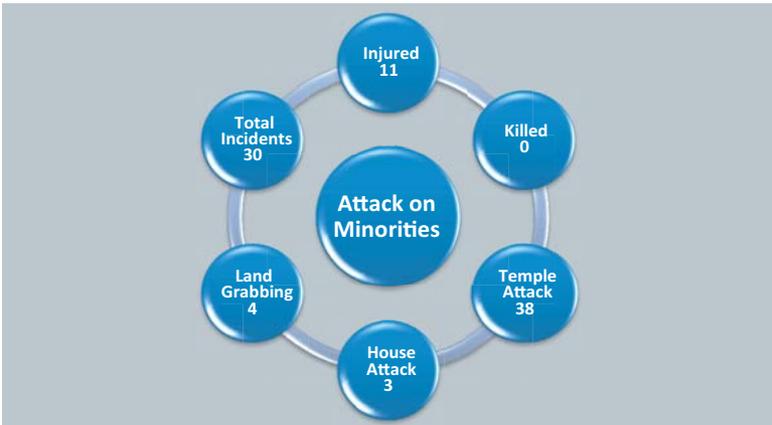


Figure 17 : Statistics of Attacks on Minority

*The above graph provides information about the incidences of attacks on minorities. It shows that at least 38 temples and 3 houses were partially or fully destroyed, 4 land grabbing and 11 minority members were injured in a total of 30 incidents.*

### **Important cases are stated below:**

On January 4, 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 Charbhadrason with. In National Election, Independent

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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.<sup>102</sup>



### **Vandalised idols shows the real condition of minorities**

On March 28, 2019, miscreants vandalised two idols of a Hindu temple at Tulsī Borat village in Rajbari's Baliakandi upazila yesterday. Ajit Kumar Sarker, general secretary of Tulsī Borat Kali Mandir Committee, said Nepal Raj, president of the committee, found disfigured idols of goddess Kali and god Shiva around 7:30 am when he went there for worshipping. Sanjit Kumar Das, vice president of the committee, urged police to arrest the criminals immediately.<sup>103</sup>

On April 21, 2019 criminals vandalised idols of Hindu god and goddess at a temple and set fire to another temple at Manikdaho village in Bhangā upazila of Faridpur district. Narayan Chandra Das, president of Manikdaho Kali Temple Committee, said locals found disfigured two idols, including Kali and Shiva, at Manikdaho Kali Temple early in the morning. A

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

gang also torched another temple of goddess Saraswati at the village, said police. Uzzal Saha of the village said “I saw fire at Saraswati temple around 4:30 am when I was going to my shop.”<sup>104</sup>

On April 29, 2019 Upazilla Juba-League’s General Secretary Abdul Khaleque and his associates, attacked on Deepak Bosak’s House at Bosak Para Village in Saturia upazila of Manikganj district on Saturday at 11.00 am. In attack, Deepak Bosak (33), his wife Rumpa Bosak (25), Father Dulal Bosak (63), father-in-law Dinesh Bosak and brother-in-law DeepBosak (23) have been injured. In Counter-Attack, Abdul Khaleque (35) and his associate Shahinoor Islam (25) were injured. They two were the resident of Saturia Upazillas North Kaunnara Village. The father’s name of Khaleque is Fazlul Haq Master and Shahinur Father’s name is Jul Hass Mia. Deepak Bosak told that, he and his wife had been taking rest after breakfast. At that time, Khaleque enter into his house around 11.00 am and dragged him on from his home. “He also beat him and his wife along with others while protesting it” he added.<sup>105</sup>

On May 18, 2019 it has been accused of threatening of murder and abduction, to the plaintiff defendant and his family members, to withdraw case filled due to attack on minority family and injured incident by opposition’s terrorist, in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj district. The plaintiff defendant Popel Chandra Das told that unidentified 20-25 people, including Tofazzal, Jewel, Sujan, Hachibur, Alam, Mintu and Mamun of the same village were attacked on Popel Chandra Das’s house and starting vandalized it because of previous enmity. At one point, the assailants sexually harassed Pople Chandra Dash’s wife Jui Rani Dash. Later they vandalized the gold shop next to the house and loot 7.66 Grams gold and 1, 20,000 Taka.<sup>106</sup>

On July 14, 2019, a Hindu family accused of occupying their family’s land and crematorium against BRAC in Gauripur Upazila

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

of Mymensingh. In a press conference, Swapan Kumar Naha and Ratan Kumar Naha complained against BRAC (a top-level institution of the country) lead Tatkura Poultry Farm that they sold 32 percent land but BRAC occupied 47.5 percent of their land including crematorium and gave border walls.<sup>107</sup>

On August 25, 2019, a young man was handed over to police for vandalising Radha-Krishna idol in a Hindu temple in Rangasree village under Bakerganj upazila of Barishal district. The accused Sagar Fakir, 26, red handed while vandalising 'Radha Krishna' idol and some musical instruments in the temple. Samir Kumar Dey, priest of the temple, lodged a case in this connection with Bakerganj police station.<sup>108</sup>

On September 1, 2019, criminals vandalised temples of Shiv and Radha-Govinda and a statue in historical Sindurmati Pond area at Sindurmati village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. They also threw cow dung at the temples, said President of Sindurmati Temple Managing Committee Atul Chandra Roy. Devotees came to the temples for praying in the morning and found ventilators of the temples broken. The statue of Radha-Govinda was also found vandalised.<sup>109</sup>

On October 22, 2019, some unknown agitating people attacked on temples, houses and business place of Hindu community over allegation of defaming the Prophet(SM) on social media in



**Unknown agitating people set fire on house of a Hindu family at Borahanuddin of Bhola district.**

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

Borahanuddin of Bhola district. Lakshmi Rani De, one of the victims of the attack, said, "When they attacked my house, they burnt my house, set fire to other furniture inside the house and also looted some 10 to 15 thousand taka."<sup>110</sup>

On November 13, 2019, unknown miscreants vandalized five idols of Kali temple at Silimpur Uttar Senbari village in Kalihati upazila of Tangail district. Govinda Chandra Saha, general secretary of Puja Udjapan Parishad in the upazila, urged the administration to take necessary action against the culprits as such incident would not occur in future. The OC of Kalihati Police Station said they were investigating the matter and action will be taken against those responsible for the incident after investigation.<sup>111</sup>

On December 4, 2019, house of a Hindu family was allegedly attacked and vandalised in Palpara village of Sonaimuri Upazila in Noakhali. The accused was identified as Swapon, a member of Ward 1 in Deoti Union Parishad and general secretary of Awami League's unit in the ward led the attack. The victim Ripon Chandra Sutradhar, son of Jagadish Chandra Sutradhar, was the resident of Palpara village.<sup>112</sup>

100 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Minorities/Pages/internationalaw.aspx>

101 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/51091/violence-against-religious-minorities>

102 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/election/377943/???>

103 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/2-idols-vandalised-hindu-temple-1721209>

104 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/temple-torched-faridpur-1732834>

105 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/406212/>

106 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/4108>

107 <https://www.bangladeshtoday.net/? ???>

108 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/82593/man-held-for-vandalising-idol-at-temple>

109 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/temples-vandalised-1793749>

110 [https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-50135730?fbclid=IwAR3NV2s9k\\_eieIDsdJ4bcF7ur6EeJ2Q8\\_RVaGjqobWueciRUgGiRYOjGh0](https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-50135730?fbclid=IwAR3NV2s9k_eieIDsdJ4bcF7ur6EeJ2Q8_RVaGjqobWueciRUgGiRYOjGh0)

111 <https://bangla.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2019/11/13/16982/%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%99%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE>

112 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/hindu-house-vandalised-sonaimuri-1835407>



# Violence against Children

**D**espite having existing legal framework, violence against children is a common problem in Bangladesh. Children from all classes are facing various forms of physical, sexual and psychological torture and abuse. In order to protect children from all kinds of violence and torture and ensuring their rights, Bangladesh has ratified many international conventions.

In Article 2(1) of The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that: “States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language,

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status".<sup>113</sup> Most of the cases of child rights violation occur at home, in the workplace, in institutions and other public places. The incidents of violence against children, including killing, trafficking, abduction, rape, sexual abuse or harassment, child marriage and humiliating and degrading punishments for minor errors or infractions have increased across the country in recent times amid slack.

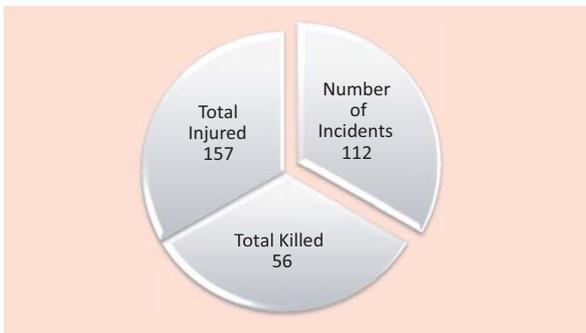


Figure 18 : Statistics of Violence against Children

*According to Human Rights Support Society's report, the graph presented above regarding violence against children from January to December '19, shows that 56 children were killed and 157 children's have been critically injured in a total 112 incidents.*

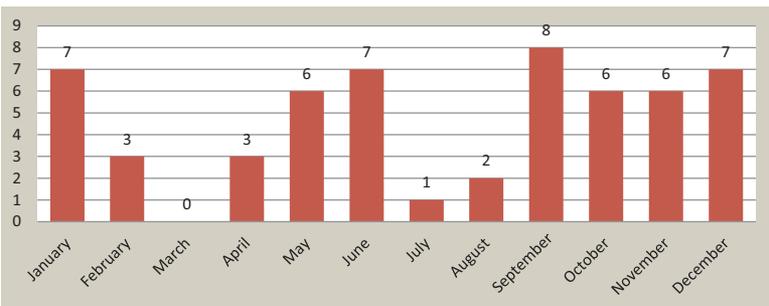


Figure 19 : Monthly Comparison of Child Killing in 2019

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

*The column graph provides information about child killing throughout the year of 2019. The number of killings was almost same throughout year except March, July and August. The number of killings dropped to lowest point of 0 in March, thereafter the number of child killings climbing rapidly to a peak of 8 in September.*

### ***Some important cases are stated below:***

On January 26, 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 January. After admission, Salman was tortured by the Madrassa teacher Md. Robiul Islam. Last 20 January, 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.<sup>114</sup>



***Yasin Arafat, 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 January 08. Photo<sup>115</sup>***

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On January 08, 2019, a madrassah teacher allegedly tortured a 12 years old student at Raozatul Ulum Islamia Madrassah at Pashchim Laharkandi of Lakhsmpipur. 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 hifzul Quran student of the madrassah, wanted to take admission to another madrassah. Being angry over it, Fayezi chained Yasin and beat him up mercilessly.<sup>116</sup>

On February 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.<sup>117</sup>

On April 10, 2019, a construction worker named Faruk has beaten to kill an eighth-grade student at Noakhali Sadar. Locals said, an eighth-grader at the local school of Aozbalya village Rumana, daughter of Nur Mohammad, has a love affair with Faruq, son of his cousin Abul Kashem. Rumana and Faruk have an altercation with each other on Sunday night. At one point, Faruq hits on Romana's head. Rumana was admitted to Noakhali General Hospital at midnight and later died.<sup>118</sup>

On April 22, 2019, it is known that Dhornibari Union's Motherary Village of Ulipur upazila, Abul Kashem's son, Ashraful Alam and his wife Fatema Begum used to physically tortured their daughter Ashamoni(4) with or without reason regularly. In this context, with a petty matter, she was beaten and kept hungry for twodays. Later, the baby becomes sick. Locals recovered the baby and took her to Upazilla Health Complex and informed the police after arresting the merciless parents. Later, police take the baby's father to Thana after arresting him.<sup>119</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



**Young child Ashamoni is abused by her parents.**

On May 01, 2019, a housewife has been arrested for torturing a child domestic worker at Adabar in the capital. The housewife's name is Eti Begum. The seven-year-old victim was admitted to the One-Stop Crisis Center at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The victim's village home in Bagerhat. His father's name is Ismail Hossain and his mother's name is Meherun. Adabar Police Station rescued the child near the Ahsanullah chairman's market at around 1 am on Tuesday. The police filed a case after hearing his statement. The

child told police he was tortured at various times for various reasons that's why he escapes.<sup>120</sup>

On June 16, 2019, two men allegedly beat a 13-year-old boy with sticks and hammer over allegation of theft at Potka village of Sreepur Upazila in Gazipur on Thursday. They also allegedly pressed a needle into one of the fingernails of the victim, police said. On Friday night, the family members of the victim filed a case against seven people with Sreepur Police Station over the incident. Anwar Hossain, 40, and Sohail, 24, of the same village, are the prime accused.<sup>121</sup>

On June 18, 2019, two-year-old girl Sneha Ara was stabbed to death allegedly by her mother at Sonatanpur village in Chuadanga's Alamdanga upazila. Police arrested accused Shamim Ara Saima, 38, wife of village doctor Mamun or Rashid of the area. All the family members, including Saima's husband, were asleep when the incident took place, said the OC, Asaduzzaman Munshi.<sup>122</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



**Lima Akhter is undergoing treatment at the hospital.**

On July 11, 2019, it has been accused that a teenager house worker was allegedly tortured by heating and ironing at a house in Kachukhet area of the capital city. The victim Lima Akter, 15 was a daughter of Habibur Rahman at Koicha para Union's Dorsha para village in Haluaghat Upazila of Mymensingh district. However the accused house-wife Mim denied the complaint about her.<sup>123</sup>

On July 29, 2019, a female lawyer was arrested from a residence in Mominbag residential area of Hamjarbagh in Chittagong city on the charge of torturing a child domestic worker. The accused female lawyer Shamoli Kazmi was send to court after arrest. The police rescued the victim child Riwad, 8, after being informed by 999.<sup>124</sup>

On September 21, 2019, a local Awami League leader was charged with torturing a teenager boy for allegedly stealing a mobile phone in west Raznagor Bandhao para village in Nalitabari Upazila of Serpur district. The victim child was identified as Monirul of the area. The accused were identified as Ali Hossen, local Awami League president including two others

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

named Eshak and Robiul. Later a case was filed at Nalitabari police station in this regard.<sup>125</sup>

On September 26, 2019, a madrasah student was allegedly beaten by his teacher in Habigang Sadar Upazila. The victim Mujammal Hossen, son of Billal Hossan was a student of Lashkarpur union's Hatirthan madrasah in Habigang Sadar Upazila. The accused madrasah teacher was identified as Hafiz Nayem Ahmed, son of founder of the madrasah Tajul Ahmed Alfhu.<sup>126</sup>

On October 14, 2019, some unidentified miscreants killed brutally a six-year-old boy by cutting his two ears and pains, placing two Sharpe knives in his bally and hanging him on a tree at Gochia Kazawra village in Dirai Upazila of Shunamganj district. The decrease was identified as Tuhin, 6, son of Bosir Mia in the same area.<sup>127</sup>

On October 25, 2019, police arrested a housewife from the capital's Mohammadpur area, for allegedly torturing a 12-year-old domestic help to death. The accused was identified as Roksana Parvin, 38, wife of Sayed Ahmed, an engineer of Water Development Board. The deceased Jannati Akter's father Janu Mollah filed a murder case in this regard with Mohammadpur Police Station.<sup>128</sup>

On November, 6, 2019, it is noticed that three madrasah students were detained with iron chain on their legs for 24 hours, so that they couldn't flee from Bhaiyashuti Hafizia Madrasah and Atimkhana, in Kaliganj Upazila of Gazipur district. The victims were identified as Md. Ifad Mia, 13, son of Kawshar Mia, an expatriate from Islampara village of Danga union, Palash upazila of Narsingdi, Azizul Islam, 13, son of Nasir Uddin, a farmer from the same area. On the other hand, Yasin, 13, son of Maulana Mohammad Ullah resident of Tech Manikpur village of Kaliganj upazila.<sup>129</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On November 6, 2019, a 6-year-old orphan child was brutally tortured for money by his uncle in Nabiganj Upazila of Habiganj district. The video of the torture was sent to his expatriate mother. The victim was identified as Jisan, 6, son of Sufi mia of Chargaon Village. The victim's mother Sumana Begum filed a case with Nabiganj Police Station, accusing Swapan in this regard.<sup>130</sup>



**BCL leader  
beating a  
nine-year-old  
boy with a  
piece of  
cloth**

On November 28, 2019, a video clip of a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader beating a nine-year-old boy with a piece of cloth went viral on Facebook, at Chougram of Singra upazila in Natore. The accused was identified as Arafat Rony, office secretary of BCL's Chougram union unit. On the other hand, the victim is Mohon Hossain, son of day-labourer Mukul Hossain of the area.<sup>131</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



Two minor boys were tortured mercilessly with tying to a tree

On December 8, 2019, Police arrested two people for tying two minors to a tree and torturing them mercilessly on suspicion of stealing a mobile phone in Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur district. The detainees were identified as Khalilur Rahman, 65, and his son Mehedi Hasan, 27, of Bhitabaria village of the upazila. The victims were named as Rakib, 9, and Hridoy, 11 of the same area.<sup>132</sup>

- 113 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- 114 <https://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/19015250/???>
- 115 New Age
- 116 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/61410/madrassah-teacher-chains-tortures-student-in-lakshmipur>
- 117 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/191577/Tortured-fourth-grader-dies-in-city-hospital>
- 118 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/401845/>
- 119 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/47801>
- 120 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1591598/>
- 121 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/13-year-old-tortured-over-mobile-theft-1757500>
- 122 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/kid-killed-mother-1758466>
- 123 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/1907925/> ??
- 124 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=183663&cat=9>
- 125 [http://www.m.somoynews.tv/pages/details/175471?fbclid=IwAR3MFzC2Rf3Eh3gUveceUZNDe8L\\_9eWzBZFb05NUGkxm68K-Q7wbsKq57WA](http://www.m.somoynews.tv/pages/details/175471?fbclid=IwAR3MFzC2Rf3Eh3gUveceUZNDe8L_9eWzBZFb05NUGkxm68K-Q7wbsKq57WA)
- 126 <https://www.jugantor.com/capital/225465/??????>
- 127 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/96947/?>
- 128 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/woman-held-over-torturing-12-yr-old-house-help-death-1818295>
- 129 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/103381/%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8B>
- 130 <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2019/11/06/835934>
- 131 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/205617/Video-of-BCL-leader-beating-minor-boy-goes-viral>
- 132 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/206155/5th-graders-tied-to-tree-tortured-in-Pirojpur-2>



# Border Killing

**B**angladesh, 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 killing of Bangladeshi nationals by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP). According to the Memorandum of Understanding and related treaties signed between India and Bangladesh, if citizens of the two countries illegally cross the border, it would be considered trespass and as per law, those persons should be handed over to the civilian authority.<sup>133</sup> However, we have repeatedly noticed that India has been violating treaties, and killing, torturing, abducting and beating Bangladeshi citizens on trivial grounds, which is a clear violation of international law and human rights. It also undermines friendly relation between Bangladesh and India.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



Figure 20 : Violence in Border by BSF between January and December '19

*The given chart provides data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS, between January and December '19, roughly 42 Bangladeshi citizen were killed, 4 were injured, and 51 persons were arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) in a total of 78 incidents.*



Figure 21 : Violence in Border by BGP from January to December '19

*The above bar chart gives data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS, roughly 2 Bangladeshi citizens were killed, 7 were arrested and another 17 were shot by Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP).*

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



Figure 22 : Monthly comparison of killing by BSF in 2019

### ***Important cases are mentioned below:***

On January 15, 2019, a 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 West Chatnai village in the upazila.<sup>134</sup>

On March 04, 2019, Indian border guard BSF opened fire at the Wahedpur border of Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj and a Bangladeshi was killed. The deceased was identified as Tipu, 20,

**Photo shows BSF members patrolling near a border between Bangladesh and India. Photo Daily Star**



## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

a son of Foring Biswas of Bisarshia village in West Charpankar, Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj.<sup>135</sup>

On March 22, 2019 a Bangladeshi teenager was shot dead by Indian nationals at Companiganj upazila of Sylhet. The deceased, 19-year-old Md Babul Mia was the son of Muslim Uddin of Turung village of the upazila. Locals said Babul went to a nut orchard in Domdoma border near Pillar No. 1260 when some Indians opened fire on him, killing him on the spot.<sup>136</sup>

On April 22, 2019, a Bangladeshi youth was shot dead by members of Border Security Force of India along Dongaon border area in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon on early Monday. The deceased was Sumon, 22, son of Shafirul Islam, a resident of Dangipara village. Lieutenant Colonel Samiun Nabi, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh 50 battalion, said that the BSF members from Basatpur camp opened fire on a group of cattle traders when they went to border pillar no. 357, leaving Sumon dead on the spot.<sup>137</sup>

On May 26, 2019, a Bangladeshi national was shot to death allegedly by members of the Indian Border Security Force along Kathalia Para border of Biral upazila in Dinajpur. The deceased was identified as Alam, 40, a cattle trader and son of Moshahok Ali of Kamdebpur of Dharmapur union. Local people said that BSF members opened fire on Alam while he was passing through a road adjacent to border pillar No 20/10 in S Mohatola area, leaving him dead on the spot.<sup>138</sup>

On June 21, 2019, the bullet-hit body of a youth was found at bordering village of Shingnagar in Shibganj upazila early yesterday. The deceased was Manarul Islam, 27, son of Nuhu Monna of Tarapur village in the upazila. Locals said Manarul along with some people was going to India through Shingnagar border for collecting goods around 3:00 am. Indian Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire on them, leaving Manarul dead on the spot.<sup>139</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



### Ershadul Islam gunned down by BSF

On July 7, 2019, a Bangladesh national was killed by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Sreerampur border area in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat district. The deceased Ershadul Islam, 35, son of late Ahsanul Haque, was a resident of Islampur village in the upazila. Witnesses said the BSF members opened fire on Ehsanul Haque and some others when they were entering into Bangladesh crossing the border with cattle-heads, leaving Ershadul injured by bullets.<sup>140</sup>

On July 8, 2019, a Bangladeshi national was shot dead by members of Indian Border Security Force at Kiranganj border pillar no 178 in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj. The deceased was identified as Dulal, 20, son of Safiku Islam of the area. Commanding officer of Border Guards Bangladesh Rangpur-59 battalion Lieutenant Colonel Mahmudul Hasan said BGB would hold a flag meeting with BSF over the incident soon.<sup>141</sup>

On August 14, 2019, a Bangladeshi national was allegedly beaten dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from Thakurpur

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

border in Chuadanga's Damurhuda Upazila. The victim was identified as Mohammad Abdullah, 46, son of late Golam Rasul of Thakurpur village in the upazila. Deceased's younger brother Habibur Rahman said his brother was allegedly beaten and killed brutally after being caught by BSF.<sup>142</sup>

On October 3, 2019, four Bangladeshi cattle traders were shot dead by members of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Bayurjhari border in Baliadangi Upazila of Thakurgaw district. The deceased were identified as Dulal Hossen, 35, son of Abdul Mazid, Bangal Pal, 40, son of late Polanu Pal, Dulal, 28, and Mizan, 28, of the BoroBari Union.<sup>143</sup>

On October 10, 2019, members of Indian Border Security Force detained and released three members of Rapid Action Battalion and two of their informers at Ashabari border in Cumilla's Brahmanpara Upazila. The Rab members are Constable Regan Barua, Constable Abdul Matin and Sepoy Sainik Wahid and their informers are Moni Begum and Khuki Liza. BSF picked up the five as they mistakenly crossed the border line. Later, they were handed over to BGB through a flag meeting, said Shahjahan Ali, officer-in-charge of Brahmanpara Police Station.<sup>144</sup>

On October 31, 2019, a Bangladeshi fisherman was killed and another injured allegedly by Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) while fishing in the Naf River in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. The deceased was identified as Nur Muhammad, 34, son of late Siddiq Ahmed of Kharangkhali's east Moheshkhaliapara area and the injured was Abul Kalam in the same area.<sup>145</sup>

On November 26, 2019, a Bangladeshi youth was stabbed and beaten dead by members of Indian Border security force (BSF) along Chakulia border of Damurhuda Upazila in Chuadanga. The deceased was Abdul Goni, 30, son of local farmer Abu Taher. Locals and family members said when Goni and four other farmers went to irrigate a maize field near zero point BSF troops

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

of Rangiarpota Camp chased the farmers and dragged Goni into Indian territory, letter local found him stabbed and severely injured lying inside Bangladesh territory.<sup>146</sup>

On December 22, 2019, a Bangladeshi cattle -trader was shot dead by members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Betna border in Haripur Upazila of Thakurgaon district. The deceased Rejabul, 26, son of Badrul Islam, was the resident of Bohorsmpur village, Amgao Union of Haripur Upazila.<sup>147</sup>

133 <http://odhikar.org/violations-in-the-border-area> .

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

135 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/1903245/>

136 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/192946/Indians-kill-Bangladeshi-teen-on-Sylhet-border>

137 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/70530/bsf-kills-bangladeshi-in-thakurgaon>

138 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/73572/bangladeshi-cattle-trader-killed-by-bsf>

139 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/bullet-hit-body-found-border-1760191>

140 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/68837/??????>

141 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/77860/bangladeshi-shot-dead-by-bsf-along-cnawabganj-border>

142 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/209628/?>

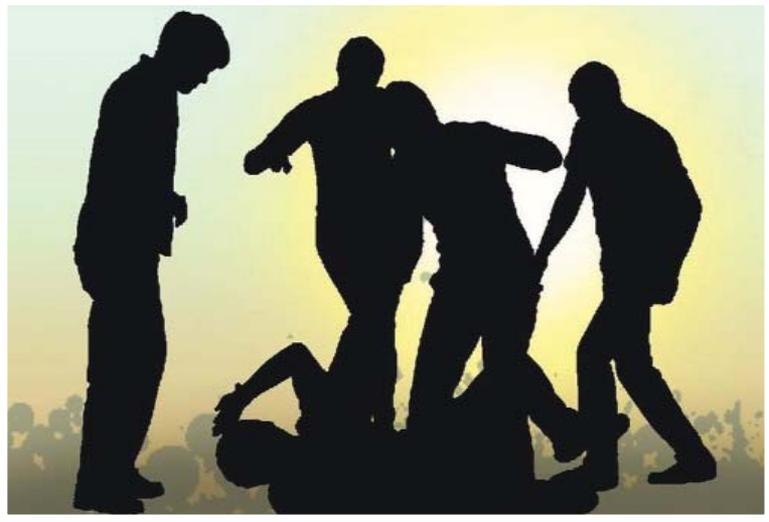
143 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/445053/????>

144 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/bsf-detains-3-rab-men-returns-them-after-5-hrs-1812064>

145 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/19102771/%E0%A6%A8>

146 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/205518/Bangladeshi-beaten-dead-allegedly-by-BSF>

147 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/115968/%E0%A6%A0%E0%A6%BE>



# Violent Attack

It is the duty of a state to ensure the safety of all its citizens and residents and must do so in accordance with human rights and international law. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration provides that "everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. So 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 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. But attacks against civilians are an increasing concern in Bangladesh. In recent time, Bangladesh has experienced a wave of violent attack against civilian people, politician, atheists, secular bloggers, academicians, gay rights activists, foreigners, and members of religious minorities in several times. HRSS tried to document all kinds of violent attack took place from January to December '19.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

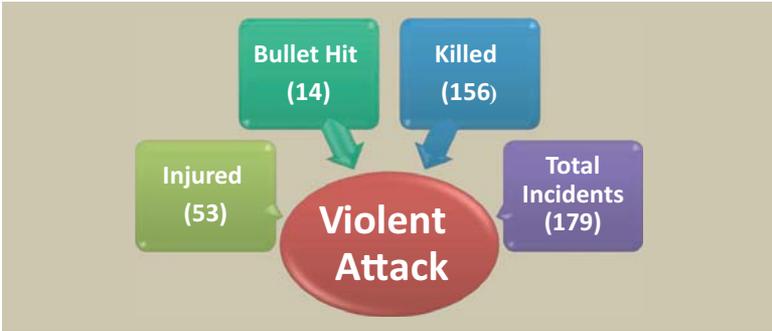


Figure 23 : Statistics of Violent Attacks

*The above chart provides Information about the violent attacks on armless civilians. Statistics shows, a total of 179 incidences of violent attack happened and 156 were killed in those attacks, 53 were seriously injured and around 14 were hit by bullet.*

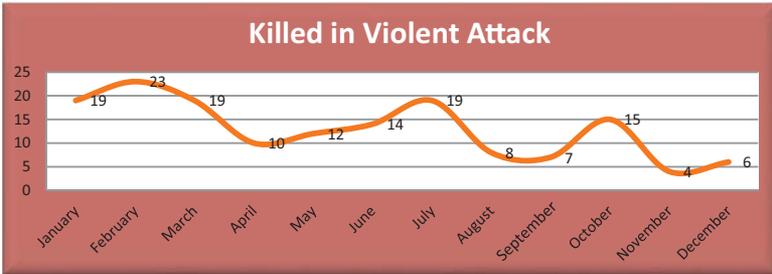


Figure 24 : killed in Violent Attack from January to December '19

### ***Some of the vital incidences have been stated below:***

On February 04, 2019, criminals 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.<sup>148</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On February 06, 2019, a 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.<sup>149</sup>

On March 19, 2019, an Upazila Awami League chief was gunned down and killed right before his family in Rangamati. Unknown assailants opened fire on Bilaichhari AL President Suresh Kanti Tanchangya while he along with his family members was traveling in a boat from Farua union to the Upazila town. The victim's son Nirupom Tanchangya said, three to four men intercepted the boat and shot his father at close range.<sup>150</sup>

On April 06, 2019, a member of the village police was shot dead when he was returning after refueling the vehicle of Upazila vice-chairman Amir Hossain at around 10:30 am, by unidentified criminals on Talshahar-Bahadurpur Road in Ashuganj of Brahmanbaria. The deceased was Bhanu Chandra Das, 35, son of Hari Chandra Dash, a resident of Talshahar village.<sup>151</sup>

On May 20, 2019, a local Jubo League leader was gunned down at his house by armed miscreants at Naikhongchhora in Rangamati's Rajasthali Upazila. The victim was Chongkla Ching Marma, president of Bangalhalia Ward unit of Jubo League.<sup>152</sup>

On June 08, 2019, a union parishad member and local Awami League leader has been stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants over previous enmity at Bheduria in Sadar Upazila of Bhola. The deceased was identified as Hanif Mizhi, 50, member from ward-4 of Bheduria union parishad and AL vice-president of the ward.<sup>153</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On July 2, 2019, a woman was stabbed to death while sleeping in Puthia Upazila of Rajshahi district. The deceased was identified as Kareena Begum, 42, wife of Shafiqul Islam of Shilmaria union's Leppara village. The victim's son filed a case at the police station with the unknown accused. However, a suspected Qasim Uddin, 45, son of Ahsan Pramanik of the same area was arrested by police in this connection.<sup>154</sup>

On July 5, 2029, a union parishad member was hacked dead in Kasba area of Brahmanbaria district. The deceased was identified as Md Showkat alias Jasim, 38, member of Mehari union parishad under Kasba upazila and word unit secretary of Juba League, ruling Awami League-backed youth organization. Victim's daughter Jidni Akter said Showkat went out of their house in the evening and later they were informed that her father was attacked by some miscreants, she added.<sup>155</sup>

On August 11, 2019, miscreants shot to dead two JSS (MN) leaders in the Babu Para area of Baghichhari upazila in Rangamati. The deceased were identified as Sotoshiddhi Chakma 38, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the JSS Reform-backed youth committee and Eno Chakma 35, general secretary of the same committee of Baghaichari Upazila.<sup>156</sup>

On August 16, 2019, an Awami League leader was allegedly injured in Naragati area of Kalia upazila in Narail district. The injured Molla Nazrul Islam 70 was the president of Kolabaria Union AL unit. Relatives accused that a group of miscreants led by former UP member Hafizur Rahman Biplob attacked him. Police arrested three suspects in connection with the incident. The arrestees are Jubair 33, Khubayer 29, and Didarul 31.<sup>157</sup>

On September 20, 2019, miscreants cut down the wrist of a young man's hand, in the Wazirpur area of Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj. The injured Rubel Hossein 28 is the son of

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

late Khudabox at Ranihatti Bazar of the Upazila. Relatives alleged that a local influential person attacked on Rubel because of a dispute over establishing supremacy and lifting sand from the Wazirpur Ghat of the Padma River.<sup>158</sup>



Rubel Hossain

On September 28, 2019, a member of Dattapara Union Parishad (UP) was shot dead by miscreants at a tea shop in East Saidpur Bazar of Lakshmipur Sadar Upazila. The deceased was identified as Khorshed Alam, 42, UP member of six number ward and also the convenor of the Union Volunteer League.<sup>159</sup>

On October 20, 2019, unidentified criminals stabbed a trader to death near his house at Sabupura village, Boga Union of Baufal upazila in Patuakhali. The deceased, Siddique Rahman Sharif, 50, son of Aijuddin Sharif of Sabupura village, used to run a grocery shop at Sabupura Bazar. Quoting local people, police said an unidentified gang waylaid Siddique while he was returning home from his shop around 7:00 pm and stabbed him indiscriminately.<sup>160</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On November 2, 2019, a group of unidentified criminals shot a local Awami League leader dead in Sirajganj. The victim Bokul Hossain, joint secretary of Bagbati union unit AL, was returning home around 8:30 pm on a motorbike when he was shot.<sup>161</sup>

On December 4, 2019, a leader of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) was shot dead by some miscreants at Egoijachhara in Naniarchar upazila of Rangamati. The deceased was identified as Shubho Chakma Greek, 40, commander of local unit of UPDF. Police said Shubho might have been killed following enmity over establishing supremacy in the area.<sup>162</sup>

148 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/386017/-????>

149 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1577898/???>

150 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/al-leader-killed-rangamati-1717690>

151 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/69335/village-police-member-shot-dead-in-brahmanbaria>

152 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/195876/Jubo-League-leader-shot-dead-in-Rangamati>

153 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/74625/al-leader-stabbed-dead-in-bhola>

154 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/422016/??????>

155 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/77645/bbaria-up-member-hacked-to-death-by-miscreants>

156 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/209471/???>

157 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=185986&cat=9>

158 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/print-edition/first-page/89981/?????>

159 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1616651/???>

160 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/449772/??>

161 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/al-leader-shot-dead-sirajganj-1822456>

162 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/205937/Rangamati-UPDF-leader-shot-dead>



# Political Violence

**P**olitical Violence is a common phenomenon of the Bangladeshi political landscape. Since the revival of the parliamentary system in 1991, tensions between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Awami League (AL) have often led to political violence. The present government assumed power through a controversial election in December 2018 and has been playing an oppressive role against oppositions. Opposition political parties face considerable difficulties in attempting to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right to hold assemblies and meetings and to carry out regular political activities. This is a sign of immature political culture.<sup>163</sup> Since there is a little political space for the opposition, most of the recent reported incidents of political violence include intra-party clashes over political dominance, collecting subscription, land grabbing etc.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

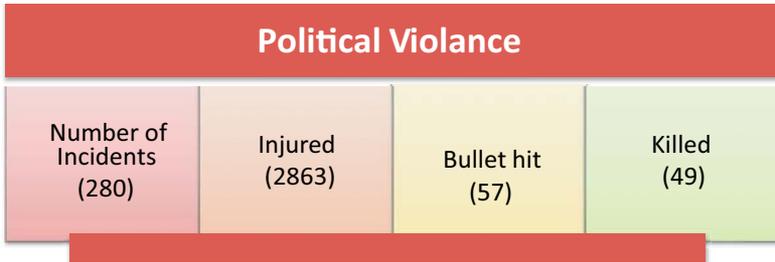


Figure 25 : Statistics of Political Violence

Figure presented above explain the situation of political violence from January to December'19. According to HRSS, a total of 49 people were killed, 57 were bullet hit, and almost 2863 people were injured due to clash over political interests in a total 280 incidents. Most of the political violence occurred among the groups of the ruling party over political dominance or tender.

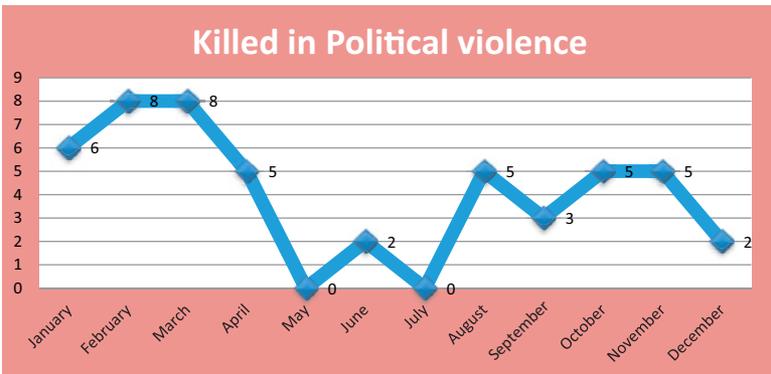


Figure 26 : Monthly Comparison of Killing in 2019

### ***Selected cases are as follows:***

On January 02, 2019, a 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

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

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.<sup>164</sup>

On January 06, 2019 a 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.<sup>165</sup>

On February 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 Jaggannath 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. The victims were rushed to nearby Dhaka National Medical College Hospital, Sumona Hospital, and Asgar Ali Hospital.<sup>166</sup>

On March 03, 2019, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was stabbed to death allegedly by rivals following previous enmity over a cricket match, in Boran Munshi Para area in Tongi on Friday night, Shuvo Mandal, sub-inspector of Tongi East Police Station, said. The deceased was identified as Prince Mahmud Nahid, 26, son of Jahirul Islam, a resident of Datta Para area in Tongi.<sup>167</sup>

On March 05, 2019, in Nilphamari, the Awami League man was killed when supporters of two chairman candidates for Kishoreganj Upazila Parishad clashed in Bahagli Chairman Para village. The victim, Tapan Kumar Sarker, 65, former general



**Weapon-wielding men, who belong to a faction of Awami League, left at least 15 people injured.**

secretary of Kishoreganj upazila unit AL, was a supporter of party chairman candidate Zakir Hossain Babul. He was also the elder brother of AL rebel chairman contender Biplob Kumar Sarker.<sup>168</sup>

On March 19, 2019, at least two people were killed and 15 others injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League at Mirzarchar of Raipura in Narsingdi on Tuesday morning. The deceased were identified as Iqbal Hossain, 30, and Amanullah, 27.<sup>169</sup>

On March 24, 2019, at least four people sustained bullet wounds in a clash centering the ongoing Upazila elections near a polling center in the Mognama union of Pekua Upazila on Sunday morning. The injured are Abul Hossain, Sadek, Bodi and Ramiz. Presiding officer Osman Goni said they had heard about a clash outside the center.<sup>170</sup>

On June 19, 2019, at least 15 people were injured including three policemen, in a clash between two groups of Awami League over establishing supremacy at Gulliya village in

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

Mohammadpur Upazila of Magura. One of the injured was shot and two others were burnt. The injured Chunnu Mollah, 35, Zillur Khan, 45, shot Shahinur Mollah, 25, burnt Jinnah Fakir, 25, Shanta Biswas, 14, and Sohail, 15, were rushed to Magura 250 bed hospital and the rest other received first aid. Meanwhile, more than half a hundred of the shops and houses were vandalized, looted and set fire on five installations.<sup>171</sup>

On July 30, 2019, at least fifteen people were injured in a clash between two groups of Awami league over establishing supremacy in Doharo village under Shaillkupa Upazila of Jhenaidha district. Police source said supporters of Mosarrof Hossan present member of Doharo village and followers of Gulam Ali Ex. member of the village locked in a clash with Ramda, Surki, Bamboo stick and brick patel over building a house.<sup>172</sup>

On August 02, 2019, at least five people, including a schoolgirl and her father, were shot during a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League in Sylhet. The injured are Samia Akhter Maisha, 16, a student of Class IX, her father Munim Ahmad, 40, and BCL activists Dipu Ghosh, Maruf Ahmad and Rajib Ahmad. Injured Munim Ahmad, also an activist of the city unit of Swechchhasebak League, said that the supporters of the BCL city unit former vice-president Sujel Talukder and BCL leader Suman Ahmad got into a clash at Nayapara area to get control on the area. They also exchanged bullets that hit him and his daughter Maisha.<sup>173</sup>

On August 24, 2019, a local Awami League leader was killed and ten others people injured, in a factional clash over establishing supremacy at Ratankandi village of Habibullah Nagar Union under Shahjadpur Upazila in Sirajganj. The deceased Osman Gani 55, was the Vice-President of Habibullah Nagar Union's Awami League. The injured were Shamsul Alam 50, Rahima Khatun 50, Sharif Uddin 25 from the Chairman Side, and Hussain

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

Ali 50, Palo Sheikh 35, Alam Mia 40, and Shukur Ali 45 from Tarab Ali side.<sup>174</sup>

On September 26, 2019, a union level Awami League (AL) activist was stabbed to death and five others sustained injuries in an attack allegedly by their rival group over establishing supremacy in the locality in Kushtia Sadar upazila. The deceased, Azim Uddin Mondol, 60, a resident of Madhpur village, was an activist of Ujangram union unit AL. The injured are Jalal Mondol, 43, a Motiar Mondol, 47, Rabbani and two others.<sup>175</sup>

On October 3, 2019, five members of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Jagannath University (JNU) unit were allegedly attacked by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), when they brought out a procession on the campus, demanding release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. The injured were JCD leader Abdur Rashid, 3rd Batch student of Economic department of JNU, Zitu, Polash and Rubel. Of them, JCD activist Abdur Rashid was taken to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital as his condition was critical. JNU Proctor Mostofa Kamal said they will take steps if anyone lodges a written complaint in this regard.<sup>176</sup>

**BCL is beating JCD man at Jagannath University (JNU) campus.**<sup>177</sup>



## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On October, 8, 2019, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), was beaten to death allegedly by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at a BUET residential hall, due to his status on social media platform Facebook regarding the recent deals Bangladesh signed with India. The deceased Abrar Fahad was a second-year student of BUET's Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE). Abrar's father filed a case with the Chawk Bazar Police Station against 19 students including the general secretary of BUET BCL unit. Krishna Pada Roy, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Crime) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), said, "We have detained nine BUET students over Abrar murder," Police are trying to nab the rest of the suspects, the DMP official added.<sup>178</sup>



**Abrar Fahad, Killed by Buet BCL**

On October 20, 2019, four activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured in an attack allegedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League and Muktijuddho Mancha activists near Madhur canteen at Dhaka University campus. The injured were identified as



Dhaka University students march demanding punishment to those involved in the murder of Abrar Fahad.<sup>179</sup>

freedom fighter Ziaur Rahman Hall Joint convenor, Sahjahan Shawon, Tarique Hasan Mamun, of the same Hall, Mamun Khan, who contested for the President post of Chhatra Dal central council, Obaidullah Naim, joint convenor of private university unit, all are the former student of DU.<sup>180</sup>

On November 3, 2019, at least 20 people, including five bearing bullet wounds, were injured in clashes between two rival groups of the ruling Awami League at Gazaria in Munshiganj over establishing supremacy in the area. Among the injured the bullet wounded Ahsan Bepari, Shahid Bepari, Jahid Hasan, Shah Paran and Abu Taher were admitted to different hospitals in Munshiganj and Dhaka.<sup>181</sup>

On December 8, 2019, at least 50 people, including five policemen, were injured in a sporadic clash between supporters of the Awami League and the BNP on EB road in Sirajganj town. Law enforcers fired 86 rounds of bullets in the air to take the situation under control. The police source, said as soon as the

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

two rallies encountered, supporters of the two parties attacked each other, making a place a battle field and leaving 50 people injured.<sup>182</sup>

On December 19, 2019, at least 10 activists of Chhatra Odhikar Parishad were injured during an attack allegedly launched by the activists of Muktiyoddha Mancha in Sylhet. The activists of the Mancha, a platform of descendants of freedom fighters, launched the attack on a human chain formed by Sylhet unit of the Parishad, previously known as Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan



**BCL and Muktiyuddho Mancha activists are beating JCD activists at DU Campus.**



## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

Parishad, which led the quota reform movement in 2018. The Parishad's divisional unit joint-convener Nazmus Sakib alleged that the Mancha activists—armed with cricket stumps and bamboo sticks—injured 10 of their activists and vandalised their speakers too.<sup>183</sup>



**Vice-president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) Nurul Haque Nur came under an attack on the Dhaka University (DU) campus reportedly by Muktijoddha Mancha activists.**

On December 23, 2019, 30 students including Vice-president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) Nurul Haque Nur were allegedly injured in an attack by Muktijoddha Mancha activists at Dhaka University (DU) campus. Among the injured Tuhin Farabi, a private university student was taken off life support at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). DUCSU VP Nurul Haque Nur, joint convenors of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad Faruk Hasan,

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



**Injured Tuhin Farabi**

APM Suhel, Nur's brother Aminur and many others were also injured in this attack. Detectives detained two leaders of Muktijuddho Moncho over the attack on Ducus VP Nurul Haque Nur and his supporters. The detainees are Al

Mamun, general secretary of the platform's central unit and also a former deputy liberation affairs secretary of the central unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League, and Yeasir Arafat Turjo, general secretary of Muktijuddho Moncho's Dhaka University unit and organising secretary of DU BCL.<sup>184</sup>

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

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

165 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/khulna/378439/????>

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

167 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/bcl-activist-stabbed-death-1709662>

168 <https://www.bioscopelive.com/en/channel/bbc-world>

169 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/67834/two-killed-in-narsingdi-al-factional-clash>

170 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/1930264-shot-in-Cox%E2%80%99s-Bazar-polls-violenc>

171 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1599496/????>

172 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/75934/????>

173 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/80412/girl-father-injured-during-clash-of-bcl-factions>

174 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1610946/>

175 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=192068&cat=9>

176 <https://www.jugantor.com/politics/227768/???>

177 Photo source Daily Star

178 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=221724>

179 Photo source Daily Star

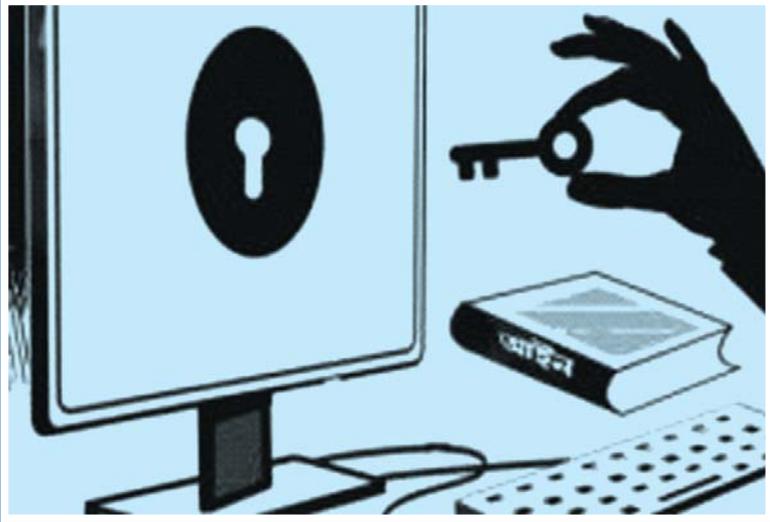
180 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1620196/??>

181 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/89638/20-injured-in-al-factional-clashes-in-munshiganj>

182 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/50-hurt-al-bnp-clash-sirajganj-1837666>

183 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/94008/10-injured-as-muktijoddha-mancha-attacks-in-sylhet>

184 HRSS research desk and <https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/article/1630877/%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BE>



# Digital Security Act

**F**reedom of expression has been limited in Bangladesh, as the government passed the “Digital Security Act, 2018”, designed to monitor all electronic and social media communications. This new law was supposed to address abusive provisions in the Information and Communication Technology Act. Meanwhile, hundreds continued to face charges for their social media commentary by members of the law enforcement agencies. Human rights groups remained under pressure, due to restrictions on accessing foreign funding. Journalists reported threats and intimidation to prevent any criticism of the government. The ordinary people have lost all hope and are reluctant to speak their minds due to the culture of impunity, lack of accountability and an ineffective justice delivery mechanism. The following issues are major concerns for freedom of opinion and expression in Bangladesh.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

According to the Human Rights Support Society's information in 2019, a total of 45 have been arrested under "Digital Security Act 2018" from different areas of the country in a total of 49 incidents.



Figure 27 : Statistics of Arrest in Digital Security Act

### ***Some vital cases are stated below:***

On March 07, 2019, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has arrested a youth for allegedly making pornographic images of a schoolgirl and publishing it on social media in Madaripur Sadar upazila. The arrested youth is Enamul Mollah, 28. The victim's mother filed a case under the Information and communication Technology Act (ICT) at Madaripur Sadar Police Station on Thursday morning.<sup>185</sup>

On March 27, 2019, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has arrested a youth in Sylhet city's Ghashitul area for posting obscene, false and derogatory pictures about Prime Minister, MP, Sajib Wazed Joy, IG of police and DG of RAB and spreading anti-state rumors on social media. The arrested youth is Khaled Ahmed, 35, son of the late Abdul Bari of Alfur village in Bishwanath upazila of Sylhet. "He was handed over to the

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

Kotwali police station in Sylhet after a case was filed against him under the Digital Security Act", RAB-9 media officer Major Md. Nur Alam said.<sup>186</sup>

On April 13, 2019, a student of Jagannath University has been placed on a two-day remand in police custody in a case filed under Digital Security Act over a Facebook post. The arrested youth is Forhad Hossain Fahad, a student of Bangla department at Jagonath University. Md Nur-e-Alam, a law department student of the university, filed the case against Forhad with Kotwali Police Station over derogatory remarks on religion under Digital Security Act. Police arrested Forhad in Shakhari Bazar area of Old Dhaka yesterday in this regard.<sup>187</sup>

On May 12, 2019, Police have arrested a youth under the Information and Communication Technology Act due to spreading rumors about London visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, on social media, Facebook, from Zoina Bazer area of Gazipur's Sreepur Upazila on Saturday noon. The arrestee is Md. Mujahid, son of Zoj Mia, in Godercala area of the Upazila. The plaintiff defendant Zakirul Hasan Ziku, President of Sreepur Upazila Chhatra League, said in this regard, as an activist of Bangobondhu's ideology, giving a malicious status against his daughter, PM Sheikh Hasina couldn't be accepted anyway.<sup>188</sup>

**Five people were arrested for allegedly spreading rumour On 12 July, 19.<sup>189</sup>**



## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On July 12, 2019, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested five people for allegedly spreading rumour about the Padma Bridge construction. The arrestees were Shahidul Islam, 25, a resident of Narail, Md Arman Hossain, 20, of Chattogram, and Md Faruk, 50, of Moulvibazar, Hayatunnabi, 32, of Cumilla and other arrestee could not be identified immediately. RAB source, said Separate cases were filed against the arrestees with the concerned police stations under the Digital Security Act as they were spreading rumour over the Padma Bridge construction through social media, including Facebook.<sup>190</sup>

On July 29, 2019, RAB arrested a madrasa teacher for spreading rumors on social media by using online. Detained Md. Didarul Islam is an Assistant Teacher of Darul Islam Model Madrasa at Sudharam Police Station in Noakhali. He is the son of Shamsul Haque of North Fakirpur village of Sudharam police station. The commander of RAB-1 Lakshmipur camp said that Didarul Islam has long been trying to mislead the people by spreading confusing pictures and videos through social media along with religious provocative rumors. Besides, he is exposing various false information by disrespecting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In this incidence, a case has been registered against Didarul Islam at Sudharam Police Station under the Digital Security Act, he added.<sup>191</sup>

On August 02, 2019, members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)-8, in a raid at Lundi Village under Rajoir Upazila of Madaripur district, arrested a youth for tarnishing the image of Prime Minister through IMJ MEDIA in YouTube saying that PM Sheikh Hasina has been suffering from cancer. Arrested Milton Hawlader, 19, is the son of Faruk Hawlader of the village. Officer-in-Charge of Rajoir Police Station said a case under Digital Security Act was filed in this connection.<sup>192</sup>

On August 25, 2019, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested a youth from Chattogram city's Akbarshah area for his alleged

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

involvement in spreading rumour against the state. Arrested Rahidul Islam alias Rahat Kabir, 22, is the son of Mohammad Taslim Uddin, of Borhan Uddin upazila of Bhola. A case was filed against the detainee with Akbarshah police under Digital Security Act, RAB said.<sup>193</sup>

On October 24, 2019, police arrested a former student of Jahangirnagar University under digital security act for allegedly spreading rumour via a messaging app against JU Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam to remove her from the post, from campus. The arrestee is Saad Sharif, former student of government and politics department of the university.<sup>194</sup>

On October 25, 2019, police arrested a man under Digital Security Act, on charges of criticizing police and other dignitaries including Prime Minister by distorting various pictures on social media Facebook, from Shidhirganj Upazila of Narayanganj district. The arrestee was identified as Amir Hossein Patwari, 57, son of late Mohammadullah Patwari from the Jadia area of Chandraganj Upazila in Laxmipur district.<sup>195</sup>

On November 10, 2019, a student of Jahangirnagar University was sued for allegedly disparaging the government, the prime minister and the vice-chancellor on social media. The accused, Mumitul Mimma, is a 44th batch student of the Institute of Information Technology. Shahadat Hossain, vice chairman of Savar Upazila Parishad, filed the case with Ashulia Police Station under the Digital Security Act.<sup>196</sup>

On December 14, 2019, an editor of a national daily was arrested under Digital Security Act, for publishing a report mentioning Kader Mulla as martyr, who was hanged for the crime of humanity in 1971, from his Office in Dhaka city. The accused was identified as Abul Asad, editor of Doinik Songram. Afzal Hossen, 36 No. ward's freedom fighter commander, filed a case under Digital Security Act.<sup>197</sup>

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On December 29, 2019, a case was filed under the Digital Security Act, against Ducusu Vice President Nurul Haque Nur, who came under a fierce attack by Muktijoddha Moncho activists on December 22. Arnob Hore, publicity secretary of Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall unit Chhatra League, filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station accusing Nur of spreading propaganda and false information through his Facebook page.<sup>198</sup>

185 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1582357/??>

186 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/more-news/398389/??????>

187 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-jnu-student-remanded-over-fb-comments-1729183>

188 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/1905802/???>

189 Photo source rising bd. Com

190 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/78334/five-held-for-spreading-rumour-over-padma-bridge>

191 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/19072465/???>

192 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=211094>

193 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/82575/youth-held-for-spreading-rumour-in-chattogram>

194 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/two-arrested-under-digital-security-act-1818064>

195 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=196122&cat=9>

196 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/ju-student-sued-over-fb-posts-1825321>

197 <https://www.jugantor.com/national/255520/%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BF>

198 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-nur-sued-over-fb-video-clip-1846579>



# Abduction

**A**bduction means the crime of taking away of a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.<sup>199</sup> 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 a common problem in Bangladesh similar to that faced by many developing and underdeveloped countries. In recent times, the abductions have increased, however the government has failed to adopt any strong measures to put an end to such crimes and inhumane practices.<sup>200</sup> However, HRSS tried to monitoring and documenting the abduction incidents occurred between January and December, 19. The graph below provides information about the total number of abduction.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

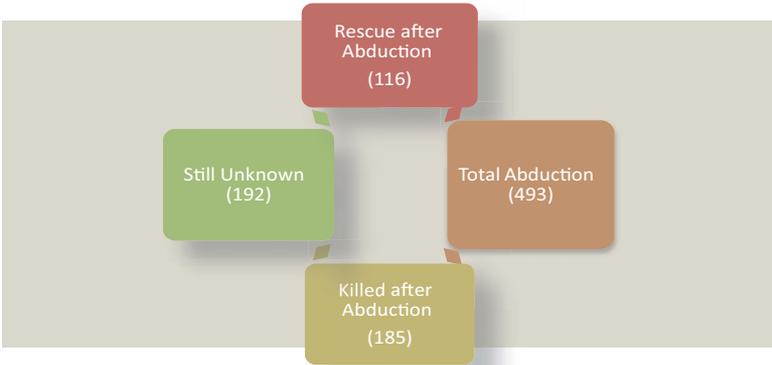


Figure 28 : Statistics of Abduction in 2019

*The above chart describes information about abduction cases between January and December '19 in Bangladesh. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), a total of 493 people were abducted and among them 185 were killed after the abduction, 192 still unknown and nearly 116 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.*

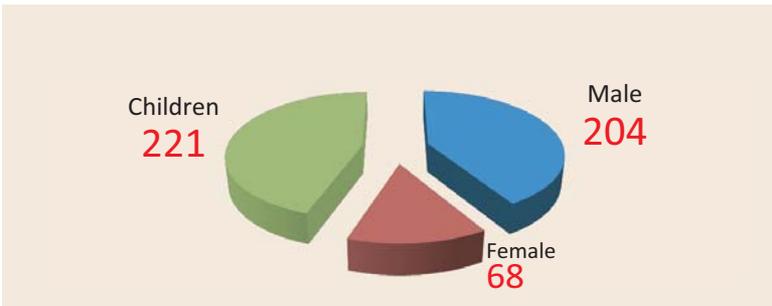


Figure 29 : Categories of abduction

*The above pie chart illustrates information about abduction. According to information gathered by HRSS from January to December '19, a total of 493 people were abducted in the different area of the country, among them approximately 204 were male, roughly 68 were female and almost 221 were children.*

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

### *Selected cases are as follows:*

On January 20, 2019, a seven-year-old boy was found dead in a lemon garden beside his house at village Jalshuka under Saturaia 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.<sup>201</sup>

**Hrihoy Sana, Seven-year-old boy abducted, murdered for only Tk 1,600.**



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.<sup>202</sup>

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.<sup>203</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On March 08, 2019 a college student from Satkhira was found dead in Khulna city, three days after he had gone missing. The deceased was identified as Habibur Rahman Sabuj, 26, son of Abdul Hamid of Omarpara village of Satkhira Sadar upazila. The following day, "Sabuj's family got a call from his number demanding Tk 600,000 as ransom," said Mustafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sadar police station. Abdul Hamid, Sabuj's father, filed a complaint at the local police station on Thursday evening. "My son had a business deal in Khulna. His murder is likely related to his business" he said.<sup>204</sup>

On April 15, 2019 it has been alleged that Michael Chakma, top leader of UPDF (Prasit), a regional organization of Chittagong Hill Tracts, was abducted. In a statement sent to the mass media, Aungya Marma, president of the UPDF affiliated Democratic Youth Forum, Sachib Chakma, president of the Labor Front (UWDF), Bipul Chakma, president of Pahari Chatra Parishad and president of Hill Women's Federation, Nirupa Chakma allege this.<sup>205</sup>

On May 23, 2019 Police have recovered a dead body of a university student, 12 days after he went missing in Gazipur. The dead body was recovered from a septic tank at a Jahangir Alam's house in Kathora area of ??Gazipur City Corporation on Thursday morning. Police have arrested a youth named Hasibul Islam, 25, in this incident.<sup>206</sup>

On June 27, 2019, Burichong Thana Police have recovered a packed dead body of an elderly man named Narayan Chandra Bhowmik, 60, in Comilla, seven days after he went missing. The body was recovered from a jangle at Barahatua area in ??Barura upazila of Comilla district. The deceased was identified as Narayan Chandra Bhowmik, son of late Nibarhan Chandra Bhowmik in Manipur village of Burichang upazila.<sup>207</sup>

On July 7, 2019, it is accused that a youth return from abroad, had been missing for eleven days from the Cortea By-pass area of

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



Miah Md Hasan Ali Reza

Sakhipur Upazila in Tangail district. The victim Akkas Ali 30, is the son of Javed Ali of Kaiyamudh village of the Upazila. The victim's father filed a GD in Tangail Model Thana.<sup>20</sup>

On July 14, 2019, body of a missing freedom fighter was found in River Louhajang at Akur Takur Para in Tangail

town five days after he went missing. The deceased was identified as Miah Mohammed Hasan Ali Reza, 76, a lawyer and central committee member of Krishak Sramik Janata League.<sup>209</sup>

On September 25, 2019, a baul singer was missing from Chatmohar upazila of Pabna district. The victim was identified as Subash Rosario, 40, of Jonail village in Boraigram upazila of Natore. Subash's elder brother Luis Rosario said Subash on Tuesday night went to Chatmohar railway station in Pabna to catch a Gazipur-bound train and since then he went missing.<sup>210</sup>



Killed BNP leader Dipomoy Talukder

On October 23, 2019, a former union parishad chairman was abducted and killed on the way to home after work at Haludia Para in Rajasthali upazila of Rangamati. The deceased Dipomoy Talukdar, 45, was a former chairman of Haludia union parishad, a vice-president of BNP's Upazila unit and also a president of Rajasthali Bazar Moitri Bihar governing committee.<sup>211</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On November 15, 2019, in a press conference at Sagor Runi auditorium of Dhaka Repoters Unit, family members claimed that a madrasah teacher was abducted last week from Scince Lab area of Capital City while going to Badda. The victim was identified as Hafez Mawlana Aciq Ullah, 41, Principal of Madrasahtul Quranul Karim. A general dairy was filed(No: 262) with Adabor police station, in this regard.<sup>212</sup>

On December 18, 2019, a dead body of a minor girl, is suspected to have been raped and murdered, was found at west Kuttapara village in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria district. The deceased Joinab Begum, 10, was a Class IV student of Kuttapara Government Primary School and daughter of Abdul Hafiz Mia of the village. Police said the victim's body bore several injury marks and suspected that the girl was killed after rape.<sup>213</sup>

- 199 <https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/abduction>
- 200 [https://www.academia.edu/32028842/Abduction\\_in\\_Bangladesh\\_docx](https://www.academia.edu/32028842/Abduction_in_Bangladesh_docx)
- 201 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/62442/missing-class-i-student-found-dead-in-manikganj>
- 202 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/384414/???-??>
- 203 <https://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/190226/???>
- 204 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/192252/Missing-Satkhira-student-found-dead-in-Khulna>
- 205 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/167153>
- 206 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/56544/>
- 207 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=178619&cat=9>
- 208 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=180080&cat=9>
- 209 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/78472/missing-ffs-body-found-in-tangail>
- 203 <https://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/190226/???>
- 204 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/192252/Missing-Satkhira-student-found-dead-in-Khulna>
- 205 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/167153>
- 206 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/56544/>
- 207 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=178619&cat=9>
- 208 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=180080&cat=9>
- 209 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/78472/missing-ffs-body-found-in-tangail>
- 210 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/19092330/??>
- 211 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/99475/???-??>
- 212 <https://www.dailyinqilab.com/article/248036/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE>
- 213 <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/114827/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF>



# Public Lynching

**M**ob behavior is usually defined to be a strange and mysterious one compared to the individual and personal character types from a psychological point of view.<sup>214</sup> Lynching is the practice of murder by extrajudicial action. It is an unlawful punishment by an informal group. Public lynchings have become a national epidemic in Bangladesh due to the habitually impatient and overenthusiastic character of its citizens. In Bangladesh, many people are being killed in different places in public lynching due to lack of respect for law and mistrust of the security forces. People are prone to take the law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice any other way. As a result, the incidents of public lynching have become common place. Human Rights Support Society believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

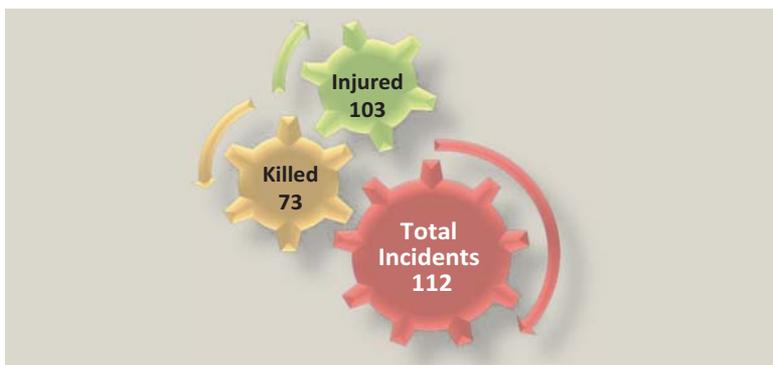


Figure 30 : Statistics of Public Lynching in 2019

*The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases from January to December'19. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 103 people were injured and 73 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total of 112 incidents.*

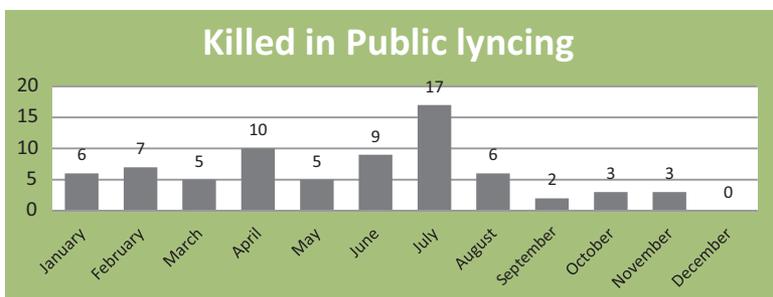


Figure 31 : Monthly Comparison of Public Lynching in 2019

### ***Some important cases are given below:***

On January 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.<sup>215</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On February 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 Bashar Fakir, swooped on the house of a person named Kamal to rob it at village Dignagar. Local people caught them during the attempted robbery and beat them up before handing them over to the police.<sup>216</sup>

On March 01, 2019, two suspected robbers were killed in a mob beating at Charshibpur village in Bancharampur Upazila of Brahmonbaria. The deceased was Sumon Miah, 27, and Al-Amin, 32, of Narsingdi Sadar Upazila. Sensing the presence of the robbers, the angry mob gave the two a good beating, leaving Sumon dead on the spot. Critically injured Al-Amin later died at the Upazila health complex.<sup>217</sup>

On April 13, 2019, in a mob beating, three suspected robbers were killed and two other were injured in this incident at north Alipur village in Dhagonbhuiya Upazila of Feni. Among them, one was identified as Md: Sohag, 30, son of Jasim Uddin of Charfashan Upazila of Bhola, but the rest were not identified. The injured were identified as Monir Hossain, 28, and Nur Alam, 30, of the same Upazila.<sup>218</sup>

On April 24, 2019, a garments worker has been given mass beating in front of the university's main gate for stalking a student of Jahangirnagar University on the bus. The victim is a 3rd-year student of the University's English Department. The accused youth is Mohammad Ali, 24, in Ishwardi Upazila of Pabna. He works in Savar's J.K. Garments.<sup>219</sup>

On May 08, 2019, an Awami League leader has been subjected to mob beating by villagers at Baluchar para village in Palash

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



**A drug dealer handed over to police after mob beating in Mirzapur on June 23, 2019.**

**Photo: Manob Zamin**

Upazila of Narsindi, while harassing sexually a 10-year-old child. The accused Kiran Shikdar is the vice-president of the Ghorashal Municipal Awami League. He also owner of a business institution named 'Saj Decorator'.<sup>220</sup>

On June 19, 2019, a man was beaten to death and another injured by an angry mob after one of them reportedly hurled a bomb on a young man at Shankarpur Bus Terminal in Jashore. The deceased is Sunny Hossain, 25, and the

injured man is Ananda, 24 of Shankarpur area.<sup>221</sup>

On July 03, 2019, locals handed over three persons to police after giving them good beating during robbery at drugstore in Saver. The arrested are Municipal Awami League leader Mohsin Hossain 39, son of late Alamgir Hossain of Jaleshwar Mohalla in Savar municipal area 2. Mostafizur Rahman, 36 son of late Shafiqur Rahman of Tapain area and Saleh Al-Mamun, 37, son of Abdul Matin Bhuiyan, of Radio Colony Bhatpara area. Moreover, Jhantu 38 and Joy 36 of the Tiabari area of the municipality also fled the scene. A case has been filed with Savar Model Police Station in this connection.<sup>222</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On July 18, 2019, a mob killed a man who was carrying a severed head of a seven-year-old boy in his bag in Netrokona's New Town area. The dead Robin Mia, 35, of the town's Katli area -- was a rickshaw puller by profession and an alleged drug addict. The boy is Sajib Mia, son of rickshaw puller Raisuddin of Aamtoli area in Netrokona Sadar. According to the Sajib's family members, he went out of home around 10:00 am to buy ice-cream but did not return.<sup>223</sup>



**A single mother Taslima Begum Renu was killed in public lynching**

On July 20, 2019, a single mother of two was beaten to death on suspicion of being child kidnappers when she went to Uttar Badda Government Primary School to ask about the admission process in the capital's Badda. The deceased was identified as Taslima Begum Renu, 40. Her nephew Nasir Uddin Tito filed a case against 400 or 500 unknown people with Badda Police Station.<sup>224</sup>

On July 28, 2019, a suspected thief was beaten to death by an angry mob at Noirhati of Rupsha upazila in Khulna. The deceased was identified as Ajgor Sheikh, 35, son of Mohor Ali of Fakirhat upazila in Bagerhat. Quoting local people, police said that three people, including Ajgor, went to steal fish from a warehouse.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



The BGB is taking the detainees, including Upazila Chhatra League president Rizvi Alam Rana, who were the victims of mob beating during abduction in Chapainawabganj on July 23, 2019. Photo: Jugantor

Where he was caught by security guards and local people and was critically injured in a mob beating.<sup>225</sup>

On August 18, 2019, two suspected robbers were killed in a lynch-mob attack in Sondaha Kanelpara area under Santhia Upazila of Pabna district. The deceased were identified as Shaheen alias Holka Shaheen, 45 of Jorgachha Village and Machhir alias Kalu, 35 of Daramucha Village in the upazila. Quoting to locals, police said when a gang of four robbers were attempting to commit robbery in the village; local people caught two of them and gave them a good beating, leaving them seriously injured.<sup>226</sup>

On September 05, 2019, a man was killed in a public lynching on suspicion of cattle theft in the Kumirmara village slicegate area of Sadar upazilain in Pirozpur. The deceased was identified as Jamal Hossain, 48, son of late Hashem Hawlader of Kumir Mara village.<sup>227</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On October 16, 2019, a man was killed in a mob beating for stealing goods at Jogotpur village in Ramganj Upazila of Lakshmipur district. The deceased was identified as Nazrul Islam 35, son of late Khalilur Rahman of the same village.<sup>228</sup>

On November 22, 2019, an UP member was injured in mob beating on charge of illegal relation with one Malaysia expatriate's wife at Akua village in Kalihati Upazila of Tangail district. The accused was identified as UP Member Yakub Ali, son of Khalilur Rahman and press secretary of Sohodebpur Union Awami League.<sup>229</sup>

On November 29, 2019, three police members including their source were victim of mass beating for trying to trap an innocent person by stuffing Yaba in his pocket at Bashtoil Fari of Mirzapur Upazila in Tangail district. The accused were identified as SI Shirazul Islam, Constable Golap Shaha, Rasel and their source hasan Mia.<sup>230</sup>

214 <http://www.theindependentbd.com/printversion/details/209180>

215 <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/400682/> ???

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

217 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/2-robber-suspects-killed-mob-beating-1708903>

218 <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=168077&cat=1/????>

219 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1590495/????>

220 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/408349/???>

221 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/197558/Man-beaten-dead-in-Jashore>

222 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=179509&cat=9>

223 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/mob-beats-man-death-1773580>

224 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/mobs-beat-2-dead-kidnapping-1774471>

225 <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/199568/Man-killed-in-Khulna-%E2%80%98mob-beating%E2%80%99>

226 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=212775>

227 <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/445485/????>

228 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/448455/??>

229 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=200300&cat=9>

230 <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=201510&cat=1/-/%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%A3>



231

## Recovery of Dead Body

**S**ecurity of life is the prime and foremost right of all others human rights and guaranteed by Universal declaration of human Rights' Article 3, that states: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".<sup>232</sup>

In Bangladesh, due to different reasons including a growing culture of impunity and worsening of law and order situation, unidentified dead bodies are often found at different places of the country. Sadly, most of the perpetrators of these incidents remain beyond the clutches of the law. On the other hand, sometimes dead bodies' identities are not found.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

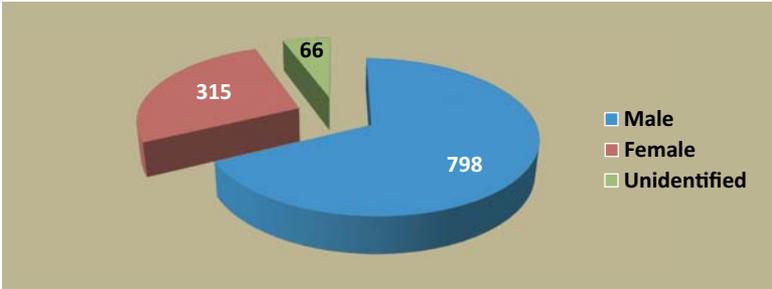


Figure 32 : Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body

*The given pie chart provided information according to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), from January to December'19, a total of 1179 dead bodies were found in different areas of the country, among them 798 bodies were male and 315 bodies were female and 66 bodies were unidentified.*

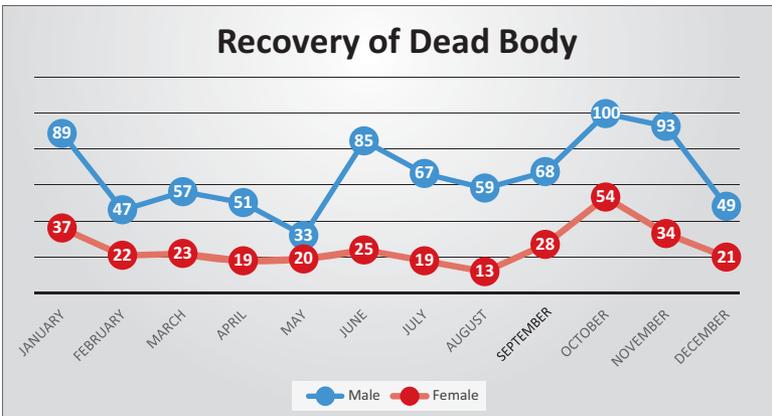


Figure 33 : Monthly Comparison of the Number of Dead Bodies Found in 2019

***Selected cases are as follows:***

On January 10, 2019, two unidentified youths were found dead in the river Buriganga in Dhaka. Informed by locals, they

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

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.<sup>233</sup>

On February 01, 2019, a Secondary School Certificate examinee was killed in Munshiganj. 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 February.<sup>234</sup>

On March 02, 20-19, police recovered the throat-slit body of a teenager at Biral upazila in Dinajpur district. The deceased was identified as Zakir Hossain, 18, son of Shamsul Islam of Baluadanga area under Dinajpur Municipality area. Locals of Kanchan village under Biral upazila spotted the body under a rail bridge and informed police.<sup>235</sup>

On March 20, 2019, a woman entrepreneur was found dead inside the storeroom of her café in Halishahar Housing Estate in Chattogram city. The deceased was identified as Lucky Akhter, 32, wife of Sri Lankan expatriate, residing at Block-K of the residential area. Mamun Howlader, brother of the deceased, told that manager Khaled used to live at the storeroom of the café. Mamun also said at 11:30 pm he received a phone call from a man telling him that his sister was murdered at the store of the café. He claimed that voice was Khaled's.<sup>236</sup>

On April 08, 2019, Police recovered the body of a jewelry shop employee from Boxirhat in Chattogram city. The deceased was identified as Utpaul, 30, an employee of 'Danu Miah Sawdagar Jewelry shop. Locals said Utpaul was pushed off the rooftop of a building centering a mobile phone theft incident.<sup>237</sup>

On May 12, 2019, the hanging body of a woman doctor has been recovered from the Pallabi residential area of West Pathanula in

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

Sylhet. The woman's father alleged that she was killed in a planned way. The deceased was identified as Priyanka Talukder Shanta, 29, daughter of Rishikesh Talukder at Gangadharpur village of Jamalganj upazila under Sunamganj. She was a lecturer in the physiology department at Park View Medical College in Sylhet.<sup>238</sup>

On June 04, 2019, a dead body without head and leg of a businessman' were recovered from a suitcase near the Kazipur women's madrasa in Tangail Sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Mohar Ali,40, of Bargucha area of ward no 11 in Tangail Municipality.<sup>239</sup>

On July 10, 2019, the body of a teacher of Sylhet Osmani Medical College was recovered from his rented house in Sylhet. The deceased was paediatric surgery department's assistant professor Md Habib Ullah Khan. SOMCH assistant director Abul Kalam Azad said primarily they assumed that Habib might have died sustaining a cardiac arrest.<sup>240</sup>

On July 11, 2019, a policewoman was found dead at her residence in the capital's Motijheel area. The deceased Beauty Akhter, 22 was a constable at Company No-3 of Rajarbagh Police Lines. Beauty used to live at AGB Colony with her husband Tariqul Islam, said police, adding that the man was being interrogated.<sup>241</sup>

On August 19, 2019, Police recovered the dead body of a madrasa student in the abandoned bogie's toilet of a train at Kamalapur Railway Station. The deceased was identified as Asma Akter, 18, daughter of Abdur Razzak from Panchogar district. Police sources said initially, it is assumed that Asma was killed.<sup>242</sup>

On September 8, 2019, police recovered the dead body of an unidentified young girl from the second-floor deck of Bagerhat-2 launch, which has left Dhaka for Golachipa of the district.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

According to police and launch passengers, a young man along with the girl was coming to Golachipa by the launch. Later, when the launch reached DC Road around 2 pm, the supervisor of the launch found that the young woman was not alive and the man was missing.<sup>243</sup>

On October 1, 2019, police recovered the hanging body of a college girl from Darikharbona area in Rajshahi district. Deceased Trina, 18, was the daughter of Monirul Islam of Dupali Village in Lalpur Upazila of Natore District. She was a 2nd year HSC student of Rajshahi University School and College. An unnatural death case was lodged with Boalia Model PS in this regard.<sup>244</sup>

On October 8, 2019, police recovered the hanging body of a deed writer from Sonali village in Dumuria upazila of Khulna. The deceased is Nirapod Debnath, 60. His body was found hanging from a tree behind his house. Police said, an unnatural death case was filed in This regard.<sup>245</sup>



**Members of bomb disposal unit recover a body from a travel bag in China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge area in Mymensingh town on October 21, 2019. Photo: Daily Star**

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

On November 1, 2019, police recovered Slit-throat bodies of two women from a flat of house No. 21 on road No. 28, adjacent to Nazrul Institute in Capital's Dhanmondi. The deceased were identified as house owner Afroja Begum, 65 mother-in-law of the industrialist and DMD of creative group Monir Uddin Tarim and domestic worker Diti, 20.<sup>246</sup>

On November 21, 2019, a missing NGO worker was found dead, a day after his missing from Mirzapur Upazila of Tangail district. The deceased was identified as Ranjit Kumar Paul, 30, an employee of Disha, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), and son of Atul Paul of Thakurgaon district.<sup>247</sup>

On December 30, 2019, police recovered the body of a two-year-old girl from the tank of a sanitary latrine 15 days after she went missing from her grandfather's house, in Rangunia upazila of Chattogram. The deceased is Jannatun Asifa, daughter of Jamir Uddin.<sup>248</sup>

231 Daily Star online graphics

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

233 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/379675/????>

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

235 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/teenager-found-dead-1709263>

236 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/entrepreneur-found-dead-ctg-suspect-the-run-1717570>

237 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=192420>

238 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1593561/????->

239 <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=175577&cat=9/??>

240 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/78048/sylhet-medical-college-teacher-found-dead>

241 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/police-woman-found-dead-house-1770364>

242 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1610037/??>

243 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/438686/>

244 <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=220425>

245 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/body-deed-writer-recovered-khulna-1811065>

246 <https://www.samakal.com/capital/article/19112908/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE->

247 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/ngo-employee-found-dead-1830073>

248 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/body-2-yr-old-found-1847542>



# Inhuman Torture by Law Enforcement Agencies

**A**lthough the Bangladesh Constitution and laws expressly prohibit torture, law enforcement agencies especially, RAB and police often perpetrate severe torture and physical and psychological abuses following arrests and during interrogations of accused individuals. Security forces are known to often resort to inhumane torture such as pouring boil water, removing nails and administering electric shock to individuals detained in police custod.

*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*

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

*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 under an international obligation to comply with its provisions. The scenario of inhuman torture in Bangladesh, documented by HRSS, over the period of 2019 is detailed below:

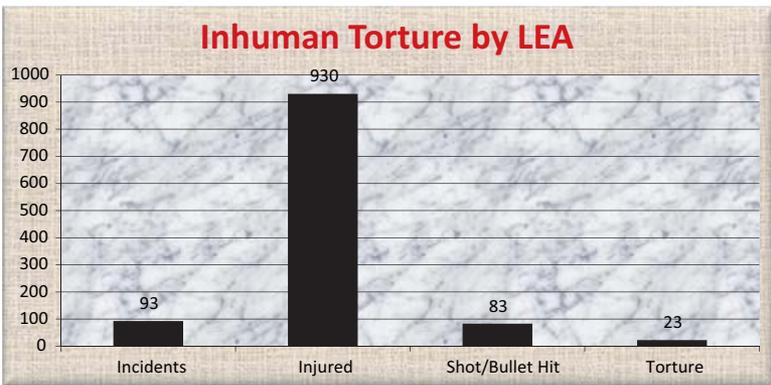


Figure 34 : Statistic of Inhuman Torture by Law enforcement Agencies

*The above graph describes the formidable state people are facing due to impunity of Law Enforcement Agencies. HRSS finds in 2019, 930 were injured, 83 bullet hit and 23 tortured in a total of 93 incidents.*

### **Selected cases are stated below:**

On March 05, 2019, at least 16 people, including two police men, were injured in a clash after locals blocked a road in Ukhia of Cox's Bazar demanding quick repatriation of the Rohingyas and fences around the refugee camps. Several hundred locals under the banner of Odhikar Bastobayon Committee (committee for ensuring rights) formed a human chain at Koat Bazar with a 14-

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

point demand around 7:30 am. At one point, they blocked the road to stop vehicles of NGO officials. As police tried to clear the road, the clash started, witnesses said.<sup>249</sup>

On March 14, 2019, Police allegedly tortured a youth for refusing to pay bribe of Tk 80,000 at Birganj Police Station in Dinajpur. The victim, Aminul Islam, 34, son of Abdul Kader of Doulatpur village in the upazila. Aminul told Officer in Charge (OC) of Birganj Police Station Shakila Parvin, raided his house around 2:00 am on Monday and detained him for his alleged involvement with a recent motorcycle theft incident. On the way they asked him to admit his involvement in the motorbike lifting incident or pay Tk 80,000 bribe, he added. "As I declined to obey their order, Sub-Inspector Mohammad Touhid beat me up at least 30 times in presence of the OC," Aminul said, adding that failing to get his confessional statement police released him next day after taking his signature on a blank paper.<sup>250</sup>

On May 04, 2019, it has been accused of physically abusing a madrasah student overnight against two police officers for refusing to pay a bribe of TK 50,000 in Ishwardi of Pabna. At present, the student is being treated at a private hospital in Dhaka as his condition is serious. The victim was identified as Musaddikur Rahman Moni, 15, son of Kazi Mostafizur Rahman Farhad of Mandal Guli in Albagh area and a tenth-grade student of Ishwardi Islamia Alim Madrasah.<sup>251</sup>

On June 13, 2019, an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) has been accused of beating a day laborer for refusing to pay a bribe of TK 20,000 at Hoza Anantakandi area of Durgapur Upazila in Rajshahi. The injured was identified as Saidul Isalm of Hoza Anantakandi area.<sup>252</sup>

On August 8, 20129, 20 workers were injured in a conflict with police for demanding pay bonuses by blocking the road at an export-oriented garment factory in Fatula, Narayanganj. Police

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fired 45 rounds of shotguns and 5 rounds of gas guns to disperse the workers. The incident took place at Dhaka Narayanganj Link Road along with garment workers, called Jazz Apparel, in the Bhugar area of Fatullah.<sup>253</sup>

On September 14, 2019, at least 8 Jagannath University students were injured as some members of Rapid Action Battalion-10 attacked the university's Uttoron-2 bus at the entrance of Mayor Hanif Flyover. Of the injured, Sharif Hossain, Rifat Ahsan, Al Amin and Siam were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. The injured students said that a microbus of RAB-10, bearing the number Dhaka Metro, Cha -532237, was loitering in front of the university bus. An altercation took place between the RAB members and students as some students requested the RAB men to take the microbus to the left or right side of the road and soon the altercation turned into a full scale scuffle and later, the RAB members started beating up the students, leaving eight of them injured.<sup>254</sup>

On September 16, 2019, at least 30 workers of an industrial factory were injured in a clash with Police in Kanchpur area of Sonargaon in Narayanganj district. Workers of the Sinha OPEX

**Police are torturing Abrar Fahad uncle's wife Toma.**



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Group factory in Kanchpur blocked the road for demanding an increase in salary and allowance and maternity leave. At that time, the clash broke out when the police went to remove them. Police fired fifty tear shells and four rounds of rubber bullets to control the situation.<sup>255</sup>

On October 9, 2019, family members of Abrar Fahad, student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) were tortured by Law enforcement agency (Police) at Raidanga village, Koya Union of Kumar Khali Upazila in Kustia. The victim were identified as Abrar Fahad's younger brother Abrar Faiyaz and his uncle's wife Toma. Of the two critically injured uncle's wife Toma was admitted to Kumar Khaly Hospital.<sup>256</sup>

On October 20, 2019, at least four people were killed and more than a hundred others injured as religious zealots clashed with police in Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila over a hate conversation spread through Facebook and its messenger. The dead are Mahfuzur Rahman, 45, a resident of ward-3 of Borhanuddin

**A Tawhidi Muslim Janata' activists with his back covered in shotgun-pellet wounds lying on a hospital bed following the clash with police.**



## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

municipality; Mahbub Patwari, 14, and Abu Raihan of Borhanuddin upazila; and Mizanur Rahman, 40, of Hazirhat of Monpura upazila. Of the injured, 42 were admitted to Bhola Sadar Hospital. Thirty others were receiving treatment at Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and 10 more at Borhanuddin Upazila Health Complex, said sources at the three hospitals.<sup>257</sup>

On November 8, 2019, it is accused that, a man was tortured by LEA in police custody after covering his eye and wearing handcuffs in Lohagora Upazila of Norail. The victim was identified as Shihab mollik, 28, son of Anamul Mollok of Lohagora municipality's Gopinathpur village. One relative of Shihab, said SI Nurus Salam Siddique, investigative officer of case allegedly tortured Shihab after taking huge amount of bribe from plaintiff.<sup>258</sup>

249 <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/16-injured-locals-clash-police-1710652>

250 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/cops-torture-youth-bribe-1714795>

251 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/407384/???>

252 <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1598881/???>

253 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/208604/????>

254 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/84614/jnu-students-protest-against-assault-on-fellows-by-rab>

255 <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/19091227/???>

256 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/230194/>

257 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/clash-in-bhola-4-killed-100-injured-1816540>

258 <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=198377&cat=1/%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE>

# Annual Human Rights Report

## At a Glance

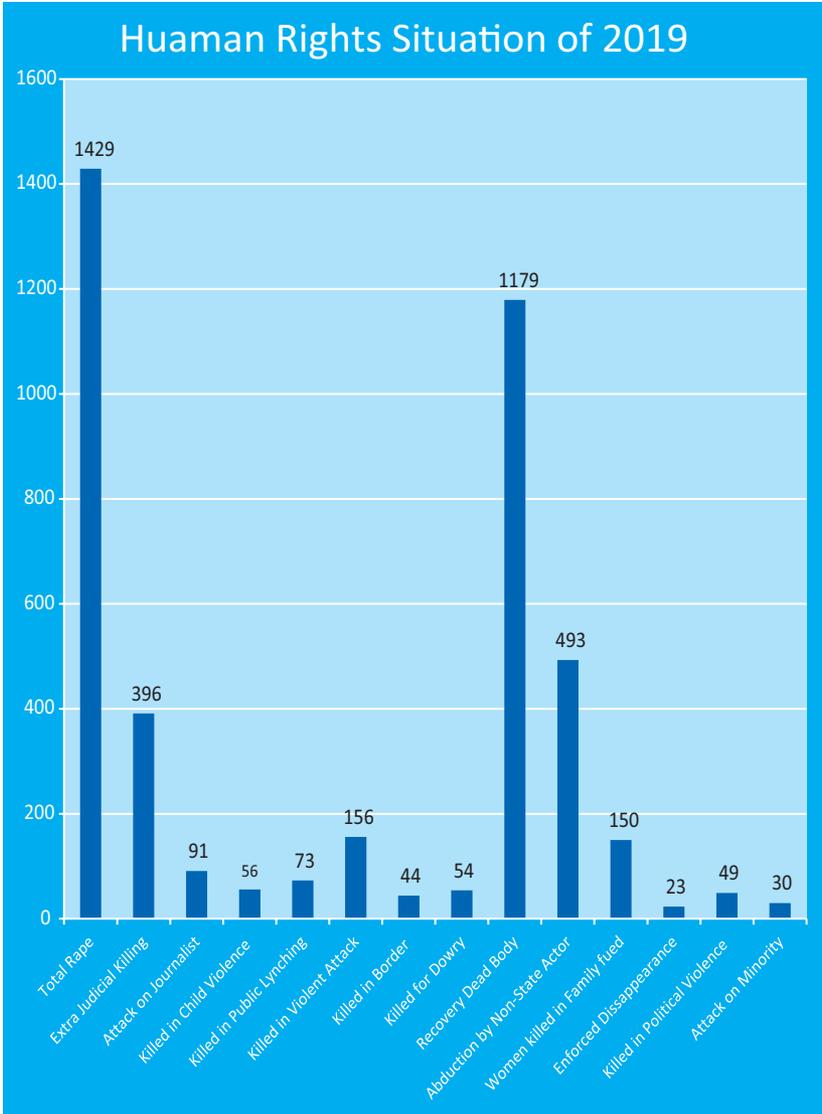


Figure 35 : Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2019

# Human Rights Report

## Yearly Comparison

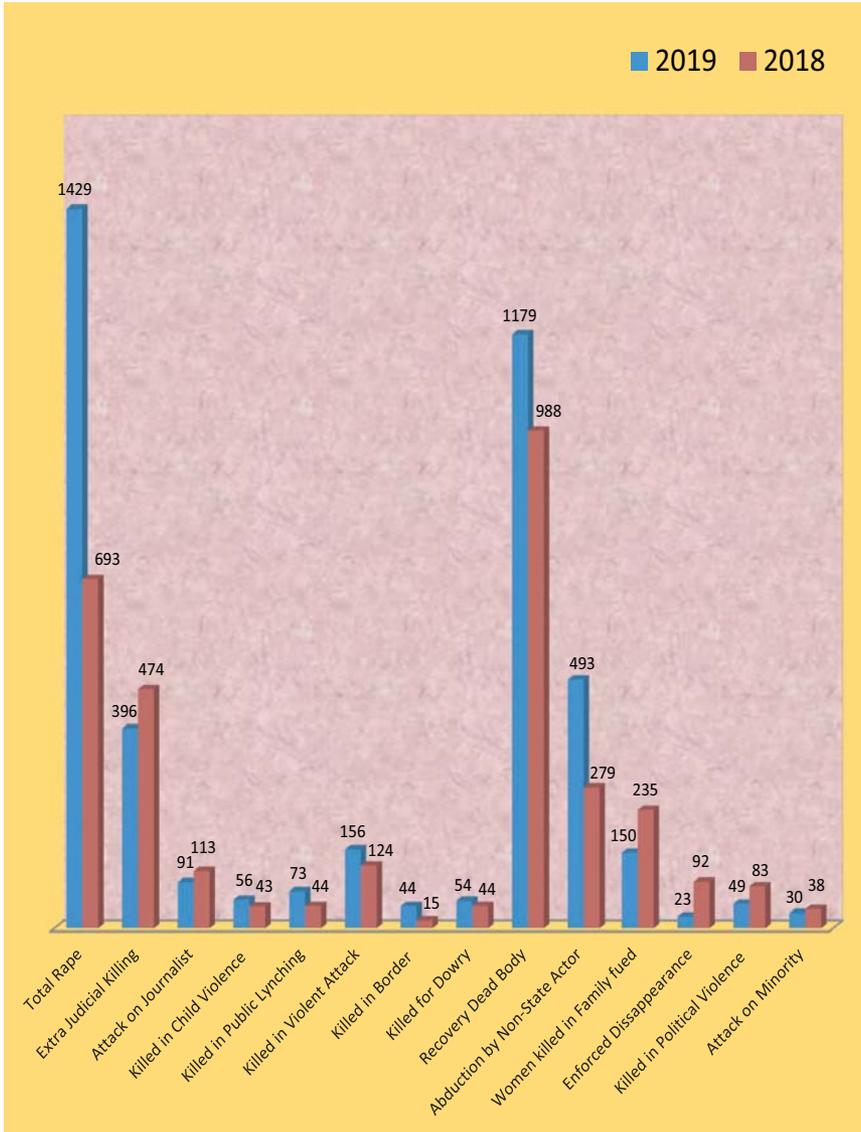


Figure 36 : Comparison between Annual Report of 2019 and 2018

# Conclusion

**T**he human rights situation in Bangladesh is appalling. Government authorities fail to show respect for the life and property of the citizens. Political turmoil threatens the existence of freedom of expression, assembly and association. Moreover, human rights violations, such as enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, targeted killings, and arbitrary arrests, have become all pervasive. Election violence, including vote rigging, has been widely reported. Domestic violence, rape and child abuse have risen alarmingly in 2019. Although UDHR and the Constitution of Bangladesh specifically guarantee basic human rights, it is a matter of deep concern that successive governments have failed to take adequate measures to protect the fundamental rights of its citizens.

The members of the opposition political parties specifically Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami are reportedly victims of political persecution sponsored by the ruling party. The existing government assumed power through uncontested and controversial general elections in 2018 which led to serious political violence. The government, in order to continue its regime, undertook repressive measures against the oppositions. The rule of law has been compromised. A political vacuum has developed creating conditions for the growth of extremism and militancy. Surprisingly, the government has been trying to cast responsibility for militancy on the leaders and activists of oppositions and has undertaken unprecedented repressive measures against them by branding them as 'extremists'. Consequently, the government has initiated

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019



drastic and draconian measures against the leaders and activists of the opposition political parties.

HRSS considers that the state authority should be more vigilant 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, ensuring transparency and accountability in all sphere of life. Certainly, this mission is challenging but achievable. We believe relentless effort would ensure improvement of over all human rights condition in Bangladesh. ■



# Recommendations

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**T**he current human rights situation in Bangladesh is highly alarming. Therefore, the government along with all relevant state authorities is under a duty to take appropriate measure to improve the situation and to meet demands of human rights related treaties. To improve the situation HRSS recommend the adoption of the following highly effective procedures.

- The government must ensure the accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies. Judicial inquiry committees should be constituted to investigate each incident of extra-judicial killing, enforced disappearance and abduction. Speedy and fair trial of all culprits should be ensured by a lawfully constituted tribunal.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION 2019

- 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 measures should be taken by the concerned authorities. Proper environment should be ensured so that the victims can come up with appropriate complaints against the perpetrators.
- The state should take 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 they publish news criticising the government. The government has to be respectful of the democratic rights of opposition political activists.
- The Judiciary and the Administrative Authorities must ensure justice to all minorities' communities. Damaged temples and places for worship that were subjected to attack should be rebuilt and potential attacks on places of worships irrespective of race, sex, color, religion should be curbed. Fundamental rights of all citizens guaranteed by the Constitution of Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh must be upheld.
- The Bangladesh government should establish a judicial inquiry commission to look into all violations of international human rights law by the Border Security Force. The government should invite both Indian and Bangladeshi nationals to come up with complaints and credible evidences to the lawfully constituted inquiry commission. The inquiry should be transparent and time bound. Specifically, the committee should have statutory power to ensure privacy and protection of the witnesses. ■

# Annexure 1

## Annual Statistics 2019

Type of Human Rights Violation		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Violence Against Women	Sexual Harassment	8	13	8	44	14	22	42	16	30	14	11	19	241
	Rape	93	79	82	148	188	148	124	90	154	147	103	73	1429
	Killed for Dowry	2	3	4	5	15	7	2	4	4	1	3	4	54
	Killed for Family Feud	16	10	15	22	5	8	12	7	8	23	13	11	150
	Acid Violence	3	4	3	4	0	0	2	2	3	3	2	1	27
Killed in Child Rights Violence		7	3	0	3	6	7	1	2	8	6	6	7	56
Extra-judicial Killing	Crossfire	24	34	28	29	49	36	30	35	30	29	11	17	357
	Shot to death	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Torture to death	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	3	2	1	3	16
	Custodial death	1	1	2	1	2	5	2	0	4	3	1	0	22
	Total	26	37	31	30	52	43	32	36	37	34	13	20	396
Abduction		80	39	39	25	18	50	47	48	35	36	39	37	493
Enforcees Disappearance		7	4	3	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	23
Attack on Minority		0	1	1	4	2	0	2	1	2	15	1	1	30
Border Disputes	Killed	5	1	2	5	3	2	5	3	4	5	5	4	44
	Injured	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
	Arrested	1	5	0	4	3	0	21	7	3	5	7	2	58
Attack on Journalists	Injured	9	13	4	5	6	5	0	0	5	0	0	4	51
	Threatened	2	5	1	0	0	1	6	7	1	4	6	0	33
	Assaulted	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	7
	Arrested	2	3	1	0	0	2	2	0	3	3	0	1	17
Political Violence	Killed	6	8	8	5	0	2	0	5	3	5	5	2	49
	Injured	213	199	409	154	175	239	121	187	185	265	410	306	2863
Digital Security Act	Arrested	12	2	4	2	6	2	6	4		7			45
	Case Filed	6	7	4	2	6	2	10	4		8			49
Violent Attack	Killed	19	23	19	10	12	14	19	8	7	15	4	6	156
	Injured	27	5	1	1	2	5	5	5	0	0	0	2	53
Killed in Public Lynching		6	7	5	10	5	9	17	6	2	3	3	0	73
Recovery Dead Body		127	72	83	74	60	112	90	79	103	164	137	78	1179

# Annexure: 2 Photo Gallery



10<sup>th</sup> December International Human Rights Day Rally



Unwrapping of Annual Human Rights Bulletin, 2018



Round table meeting with International Media: BBC, CNN, ABC, AFP, Washington Times, Newyork Times, The Jakarta Post



Audrey Hsieh, political officer of USA Embassy, deliberate her speech at 5<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Conference, 2019

# Annexure: 2 Photo Gallery



Nur Khan, Advisor of HRSS deliberate his speech at 5<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Conference, 2019



Certificate giving session at 5th Human Rights Conference



Iftar  
Banquet  
and  
exchange  
of views  
with  
HR  
defenders



Round table meeting with vitim families in International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances