



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

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Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh -May 2025

Monthly human rights monitoring report by HRSS

Reviewing the human rights situation in May 2025 reveals a rise in torture and killings in mob beatings, attacks on journalists, incidents of political repression and increased tensions along the Bangladesh-India border. Political violence resulting in deaths, violence against women and children, rape, labor exploitation, interference with freedom of speech, deaths in prison and assaults on accused individuals in court have continued. Moreover, the escalation of tensions along the Bangladesh-India border, the killing of unarmed Bangladeshis and the push-in of over a thousand people across various border points by Indian forces have raised serious concern about the human rights situation.

Based on news published in various Bangladeshi media outlets and data collected by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the following observations have emerged in the human rights report for May 2025:

- In May, at least 60 incidents of political violence left at least 9 people dead and around 381 injured. Most incidents of violence occurred due to conflicts over establishing dominance, forming committees, extortion, and occupying various establishments. The number of political violence incidents in May slightly decreased compared to April, when 78 such incidents resulted in 11 deaths and 731 injuries. Among the 60 incidents in May, 28 occurred due to internal conflicts within the BNP, resulting in 259 injuries and 5 deaths. Clashes between BNP and Awami League occurred in 12 cases (21 injured, 2 dead), BNP-Jamaat in 6 cases (60 injured), and one clash between Awami League and Jamaat resulted in the death of a Jamaat activist. Clashes between NCP and Awami League (4 incidents) injured 4 people; NCP and Jatiya Party clashes (2 incidents) injured 12 people; Awami League internal conflict (2 incidents) injured 11 people; and 2 incidents involved other parties. Of the 9 fatalities, 5 were BNP activists, 3 from the Awami League, and 1 from Jamaat. 49 of the 60 incidents were related to internal BNP conflicts or BNP's clashes with other parties. Compared to April, tensions between BNP and Jamaat as well as between Chhatra Dal and Shibir escalated, while BNP's conflicts with Awami League and NCP slightly declined. Tensions increased between NCP and Jatiya Party. Following the verdict against Jamaat leader ATM Azhar, clashes broke out between left-leaning student alliance Democratic Students' Alliance and anti-Shahbagh coalitions. Additionally, at least 10 attacks were reported on political activists by miscreants, resulting in 6 deaths—1 from Awami League and 4 from BNP. Political violence also led to the vandalism, arson, and looting of over 100 homes, vehicles, and businesses. Furthermore, at least three BNP offices vandalized by their own activists. One Jamaat office, and one Jatiya Party office were attacked and



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vandalized. On May 12, the interim government led by Chief Advisor Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus officially banned all activities of the ousted Awami League and its associated, allied, and likeminded organizations.

- It is alarming that attacks on journalists increased this month. At least 31 incidents resulted in 91 journalists being subjected to violence, arrest, or harassment. Of these, at least 33 were injured, 7 received threats, and 3 were arrested. In addition, 48 journalists were charged in 7 different cases. A terrorist attack in front of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) office in Segunbagicha injured at least 10 journalists, including DRU President Abu Saleh Akon. Moreover, Additionally, in this month, 1 person was arrested in a case filed under the Cybersecurity Act.
- In May, at least 26 mob violence incidents led to 10 deaths and 25 injuries. Several supporters of opposition political parties and members of the public handed over activists from Awami League and its allied organizations to the police after beating them. On May 4, Laxmipur Sadar Upazila's Laharkandi Union Awami League President Md. Murad Hossain was beaten by students and civilians before being handed over to the police. On May 13, in Nabiganj, local residents assaulted Mr. Nirmolendu Das Rana (45), Chairman of the Kargaon Union Parishad and General Secretary of the Awami League, and subsequently handed him over to the police. On May 16, Rakib Hossain (21) was beaten to death in Dhaka's Mohammadpur City Housing area, suspected of being a mugger.
- In 10 incidents along the Bangladesh-India border in May, 2 Bangladeshis were shot dead and 5 were injured by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), while 9 were arrested. Additionally, at least 1,147 people were forcibly pushed into Bangladesh through various border points by BSF. On the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, two individuals were injured in a shooting by the Arakan Army in Bandarban's Naikhongchhari area, and another was injured by a landmine explosion planted by the Arakan Army.
- At least 5 prisoners died in custody across the country in May—2 convicted prisoners and 3 detainees. In addition, 2 people died while fleeing from police. It is concerning that after the president of Nawapara Pouro Krishak Dal, S.M. Tariqul Islam, was stabbed and shot dead, on suspicion, 18 houses belonging to 13 families of the Matua community in Beredhapara village, Dogormoshiahati, Sundoli Union, Abhoynagar Upazila, Jessore, were vandalized, looted, and set on fire.
- In May, there were 16 incidents of worker abuse, resulting in the deaths of 7 individuals and injuries to at least 144 others. Due to unhealthy working conditions and the lack of protective equipment, 7 workers died in workplace accidents. In addition, one domestic worker was killed as a result of abuse by her employer.



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- At least 136 women and girl children were subjected to abuse this month. Among them, at least 55 were raped, including 25 are children under the age of 18. Alarming, 14 women and girls were subjected to gang rape, and 3 of them were subsequently murdered. Additionally, 33 women and girls were sexually harassed, including 22 children. Two women died and two others were injured in dowry-related abuse. 29 women were killed due to domestic violence, 8 were injured, and 5 committed suicide. Moreover, 85 children were subjected to abuse, including 19 deaths, while 66 suffered physical and psychological torture.
- In May, at least 22 cases were filed against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Awami League leaders and activists. These cases named 2,012 individuals and accused another 3,596 unidentified persons. At least 235 people were arrested in political cases this month, of whom at least 234 were from the Awami League. Additionally, special police drives across the country led to the arrest of another 11,683 individuals, most of whom were leaders and activists of the Awami League, Jubo League, Swechchhasebak League, and the recently-banned Chhatra League.