



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

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Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh -April 2025

Monthly human rights monitoring report by HRSS

In April 2025, the human rights situation in Bangladesh did not improve as expected. A review of this month's human rights scenario reveals that incidents of death in political violence, violence against women, child abuse, torture and killings in mob beatings, worker oppression, attacks on journalists, interference with freedom of speech, and deaths in prison and custody have continued. This month also witnessed occurrences of extortion, theft, mugging, robbery, and murder, among other social crimes, which have created fear and panic among the general public. Heinous incidents such as attacks on police stations and police personnel to snatch away accused individuals with political affiliations, and attacks on accused persons at court premises and jail gates have taken place. In addition, the killing of innocent Bangladeshis at the Bangladesh-India border has increased, and the subversive activities of the armed insurgent group Arakan Army at the Myanmar border have raised concerns about the human rights situation.

Based on reports from various media outlets in Bangladesh and information collected by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the following data have emerged in the human rights monitoring report for April 2025:

- In April, at least 78 incidents of political violence occurred, resulting in the deaths of at least 11 individuals and injuries to at least 727 people. Most of these violent incidents were driven by power struggles, political vengeance, extortion, and occupation of various establishments. The number of political violence incidents in April slightly decreased compared to March. In March, there were 97 such incidents, resulting in 23 deaths and 733 injuries. Among the 78 incidents in April, 39 incidents were due to internal conflicts within the BNP, in which 467 people were injured and 7 were killed; in 25 clashes between BNP and Awami League, 202 were injured and 3 were killed; in 2 clashes between BNP and Jamaat, 3 were injured; in 3 clashes between BNP and NCP, 6 were injured; in 3 clashes between Awami League and Jamaat, 4 were injured; in 4 incidents between NCP and Awami League, 5 were injured; and in 3 internal conflicts within the Awami League, 40 were injured and 1 was killed. Additionally, 3 incidents occurred between various other parties. Among the 11 fatalities, 8 were from BNP and 3 from Awami League. 69 out of the 78 incidents involved BNP's internal conflict or conflict between BNP and other political parties. Compared to March, clashes between BNP and Awami League increased, while clashes involving Jamaat and NCP decreased.

Alongside these, at least 22 attacks by miscreants targeting leaders and activists of political parties were reported. In these attacks, at least 16 people were killed, including 5 from Awami League, 9 from BNP, and 1 from Jamaat.



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Furthermore, in this month's political violence, more than 10 individuals were shot, and over a hundred homes, vehicles, and business establishments were subjected to vandalism, arson, and looting. Additionally, at least 4 political offices of the BNP were attacked and vandalized either by their own members or by opposition groups.

- In April, at least 38 journalists were subjected to abuse and harassment in at least 29 incidents. Among these, at least 15 journalists were injured, 7 were assaulted, 5 received threats, and 3 were arrested. Additionally, 8 journalists were accused in 2 separate cases. This month, under the Cyber Security Act 2023, 3 cases were filed, resulting in the arrest of 2 individuals and accusations against 5 individuals.
- It is alarming that in 22 incidents of mob violence this month, at least 12 individuals were killed and at least 21 others were injured. In Uzirpur upazila of Barisal, a young man and woman were tied to an electric pole and tortured on allegations of having an "illicit relationship." In the Sylhet Bazaar area of Kamrangirchar in the capital, two individuals named Nadim (35) and Masud (29) were killed in a mob beating, while Sohag (28) was injured. At Domar's Gumnati Model Academy, the principal Mizan Ahmed (42) was falsely accused of rape, stripped, his head shaved and painted, and a garland of shoes was hung around his neck before being severely beaten in an attempted lynching. Abdul Kader Milon (35), a Jubo League leader from Noakhali, was beaten to death by a mob while visiting his family after returning from Umrah.
- In April, there were 10 incidents of violence along the India-Bangladesh border, in which the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed 5 Bangladeshi nationals, injured 5, and arrested 3. Among those killed, 2 were beaten to death, while 3 were shot to death. Two Bangladeshi youths named Muradur Rahman Munna (35) at Bijoy Nagar border in Brahmanbaria and Wasim (24) at Palianpur border in Maheshpur upazila of Jhenaidah were beaten to death by the BSF. Three Bangladeshis named Md. Abdullah (35) at Wahedpur border in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district, a farmer named Hasibul Islam (22) at the Bangladesh border in Hatibandha of Lalmonirhat and Obaidul Islam (36) at the Maheshpur border in Jhenaidah were killed in firing by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). Additionally, Kuti Mia (50), a Bangladeshi laborer, was shot and killed by Khasia tribesmen at the Doarabazar border in Sunamganj. At the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Teknaf's Whykong area of Cox's Bazar, Mohammad Firoz alias Firoz Alam (30), a Bangladeshi fisherman, lost his right leg in a landmine explosion planted by the Arakan Army. Moreover, 11 fishermen, along with two fishing trawlers, were abducted by the Arakan Army (AA) near the sea area close to Teknaf-Saint Martin's coast in Cox's Bazar.
- At least 196 women and girl children were subjected to violence in the month of April. Among them, 88 were victims of rape, of whom 52 (59%) were under the age of 18. Alarming, 19 women and girls were gang-raped, and 6 were murdered following the rape. In Baraigram, Natore, a first-grade student was raped, then strangled to death, and



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her face was burned afterward. In another case, a housewife in Nangalkot, Cumilla, was raped and brutally tortured after being tied with chains.

Additionally, 52 women and girls were sexually harassed, including 28 children. In incidents related to dowry, 2 women were killed and 4 injured. Domestic violence resulted in the death of 30 women, 4 were injured, and 16 women committed suicide. On the other hand, it is alarming that at least 105 children were victims of abuse during the same month. Among them, at least 15 lost their lives, and 90 suffered physical and psychological abuse.

- This month, there were 24 reported incidents of violence against workers, resulting in 5 deaths and injuries to at least 114 workers. Due to unhealthy working conditions and a lack of protective equipment, 11 workers died in workplace accidents. In addition, a domestic worker was seriously injured due to abuse by their employer.
- This month, at least 16 cases have been filed against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and leaders and activists of the Awami League. These cases mention the names of 1,031 individuals and list another 1,816 as unidentified accused. In total, at least 8,287 people have been arrested in political cases this month, the majority of whom were leaders and activists of the Awami League. In the last ten days of this month, a special police operation across the country led to the arrest of approximately 12,700 individuals, of whom 7,900 were arrested in regular cases and 4,700 in other types of cases.
- According to reports published in various national media, from victim's families, and data collected by HRSS, in the month of April, one person was killed and one injured by RAB gunfire, and one person died in police custody. On April 21 (Monday) around 6:00 PM, during an anti-drug operation in Baheghat a border village between Uzirpur and Agoiljhara upazilas in Barishal Siam Molla (18) was shot and killed by RAB, while his cousin Rakib Molla (17) sustained serious abdominal injuries from gunfire. In a separate incident, on the night of Eid, Md. Hasan (23) who had been detained on a rape allegation died in custody at Bhola Sadar Model Police Station.
- This month, at least 9 inmates died in prisons across the country. Among them, 2 were convicted prisoners and 7 were under trial. Two of the deceased were involved in Awami League politics. One of them, Riazul Islam (alias Raizul, age 74) Chairman of Purbo Birgaon Union Parishad in Shantiganj Upazila, Sunamganj, and a leader of the Awami League fell ill after being arrested and later died while under treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Raejuddin, an imam accused of sexually assaulting a child in Pubail, Gazipur, was beaten by a mob, became seriously ill, and subsequently died in prison.