

Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

July, 2016



**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT CENTER
(HRSC)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human rights violation in Bangladesh is continued in July 2016, as similar to the previous month. In this month, the most significant human rights issues were extra-judicial killing, domestic violence, abduction, arbitrary arrest. But the worst situation was in the case of rape, gang rape and child rape. Violent attack especially the attack on a foreigner and minority have been considered as a serious problem for the last July 2016.

According to the source of human rights support center (HRSC), approximately 31 people were killed extra-judicially in July 2016. The deaths occurred during raids, arrests as well as during operations by the law-enforcement agencies. The government often regretfully describes these deaths as the name of crossfire/gunfights/encounter killing. Secondly, Enforced disappearances were continued noticeably during the July 2016. Most of these allegations were against the security forces such as RAB, DB and Police. According to HRSC monitoring team, a total 03 people have been disappeared by Law enforcement agency (LEA).

Moreover, HRSC report demonstrates that, a total of 53 females were alleged to be raped in July 2016. Among of them, 03 were killed after rape and 14 were below the age of 16. About 07 women were subjected to gang rape. A total of 14 women were killed for dowry and roughly 17 were sexually harassed as well as 02 were victims of Acid violence. Approximately, 27 women were killed in the family feud and 03 have been injured in a total of 30 incidences.

On the other hand, at least 03 Bangladeshi citizens were killed by BSF and one was injured and 89 were killed in the violent attack. An account of 40 people have been abducted, among of them 20 were rescued and 06 were killed after the abduction. In terms of journalist attack, one was seriously injured. Furthermore, around 21 people were killed in political violence. At least 06 people were killed in a public lynching. Remarkably, in a total of three violent attacks on minority, almost two people were injured. In the case of “violence against children” in July 2016, around 14 children were killed and almost 06 children have been critically injured in a total of nearly 17 incidents.

However, we hope that this report will help mass people, civil society as well as international communities to realize the current dreadful and degrading human rights situation in Bangladesh. We are deeply concerned about debasing human rights situation in our beloved country. We also urge national and international human rights organizations as well as every non-state actor to raise their voice to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SL	Topics	Page Number
1	Executive Summary	01
2	Table of Contents	02
3	Introduction	03
4	Extra-judicial Killing	04
5	Violence Against Women	06
6	Attack on Minority	10
7	Territorial Dispute	11
8	Violence against children	13
9	Public Lynching	15
10	Abduction	16
11	Violent Attack	18
12	Political Violence	20
13	Recovery of Dead Body	22
14	At a Glance July 2016	24
15	Conclusion	25
16	Recommendation	26

INTRODUCTION

Human rights are rights that hold to be ‘inalienable’ and belonging to all human, according to natural law. Human rights are fundamental rights or basic rights. Fundamental rights cannot, rather must not, be denied or resisted by any legislature or Government actions and are often set out in a constitution.¹ Human rights are protected and upheld by international and national laws and treaties. All human beings are born free and equal. Human rights advocates agree that sixty years after its adoption, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is still more a dream than reality.

The state is the defender of all sorts of human rights. The Constitution of Bangladesh recognizes all forms of human rights i.e. civil and political rights, social, economic and cultural rights. Civil and political rights are recognized as ‘fundamental rights’ which are directly justiciable, i.e. a person can file a petition before the High Court in case there is a violation of her fundamental rights. In the Foreword of the Bangladesh Constitution it is declared, “Further pledging that it shall be a fundamental aim of the state to realize through the democratic process to socialist society, free from exploitation-a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens”.²

In spite of having such constitutional obligation, human rights are drastically violated in the country. In July 2016, human rights have been infringed against women, children, minority groups, a foreigner, political activists, and other good citizens of the country. The situation reached to such abysmal state that even the common people feel insecure everywhere whether it’s their bedroom or street.

HSRC agrees with prominent human rights experts that massive corruption in state machinery, the politicization of administration, weakness of judiciary, and culture of impunity are liable for the worse law and order situation in the country. Moreover, it’s also claimed that political patronization and shelter of criminals lead to human rights violation in the country.

¹ Human rights and governance training manual by manusher jonno. Page o3,

² http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/print_sections_all.php?id=367

EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLING

Extrajudicial killing is an arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life and simply murder. This is the killing of a person by governmental authorities without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.³Bangladesh has earned notoriety in carrying out extrajudicial killings. ‘Crossfire’ or ‘encounter’ and gunfight are very common terms used by the LEA to hide their crime and avoid the liabilities of extra-judicial killing. After killing in a pre-planned and cool head, the police and RAB⁴ authorities have informed the media that the victim’s died to engage in the crossfire. These extra-judicial killings are depriving the people of their rights to lives and right to get justice in neutral open court.⁵The government of Bangladesh has been violating the constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights day after day since 2002 especially when the operation clean heart started. Now the situation is becoming more complex day by day. In Bangladesh, the law says minimum force should be applied to arrests and every person has the right to seek a trial. In the cases of "crossfire or encounters, the rights to life and personal liberty are under threat in Bangladesh, despite the fact that they are guaranteed by the constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh the constitutions. The existing legal framework does not allow encounter killing.

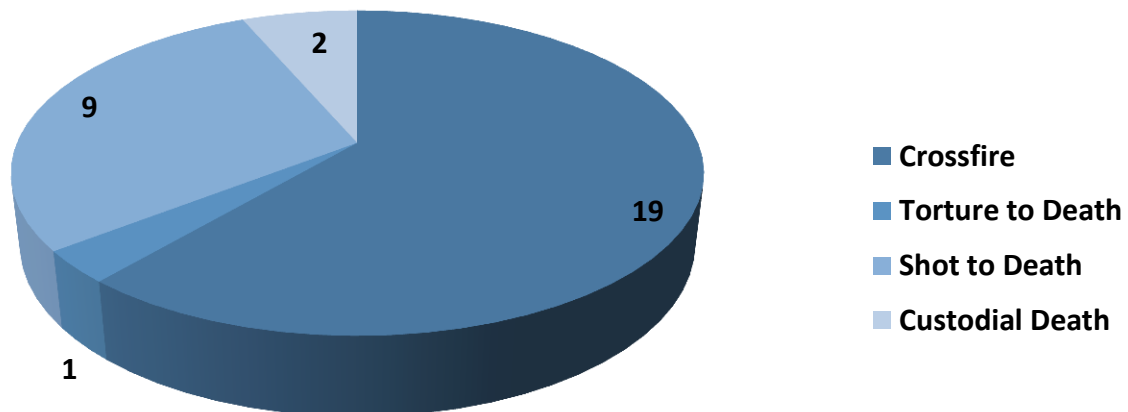


Figure 01: Scenario of Encounter killing in July 2016

The given pie chart provides information about the extra-judicial killing scenario in July 2016: According to human rights support center (HRSC) report, a total of 31 persons were alleged kill extra-judicially. Out of them, 19 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/gunfights’, 09 were shot to death, one were tortured to death and 02 have died in the custody.

Some important cases are mentioned below: On July 1, 2016 two activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, were killed in a reported gunfight with police at village Tetulbaria in Jhenaidah sadar. The deceased were identified as Shahid Al Mamun, and Anisur Rahman.⁶

³ <http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.

⁴ <http://www.lawteacher.net>

⁵ <http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.

⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/905041>

On July 1, 2016 a man who was allegedly abducted by police personnel earlier was killed in a reported gunfight with police. The deceased was identified as Faruk Hossain, 42, son of Abu Bakr of village Daulatdihi under Kotwali police station. Taslima Begum, the wife of the victim, told newsmen that her husband was a farmer. Four people who identified themselves as police personnel picked Faruk up while he was cleaning jute fibers in the river nearby their house around 11:00am on Friday, she said. ‘The police personnel came there riding two motorcycles.’⁷

On July 2, 2016 an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, was killed in a gunfight with police at Madhupur graveyard in Jhenaidah. Meanwhile, father of the deceased claimed his son along with three others was picked up earlier by police. Family identified the deceased as Ibnul Islam Parvez, 29, at Jhenaidah General Hospital morgue this morning.⁸

On July 10, 2016 A BNP man was killed in a so-called gunfight with police in Satkhira .The dead, Oliullah Mollah, 40, was the general secretary of Kashimari Union BNP in Shyamnagar upazila, said his brother Habibullah Mollah. The alleged shootout took place in Ganghati area of the upazila around 3:30am.⁹

On July 16, 2016 a suspected robber was killed in a ‘gunfight’ with police at Parbatinagar area under Lakshmipur. The deceased was identified as Md Tarek Hossain, 30, of Dakhkhin Makaddos village under the same upazila.¹⁰

On July 19, 2016 an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body, was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Jhenidah Sadar upazila. The dead is Saiful Islam Mamun, 22, son of Lutfor Rahman of Putimari village in Shaikupa upazila. He was a final year student of Arabic literature department at the Islamic University, Kushtia.Saiful's body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.¹¹

On July 24, 2016 an alleged inter-district robber gang leader was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Kalia upazila of Narail. The dead is Mizan Ali alias Mizan Kazi, 38, of Bagudanga village in the upazila. According to police, Mizan was leading the robber gang.¹²

On July 30, 2016 an alleged robber was killed in a 'gunfight' with the law enforcers in Moheshpur upazila of the district. The deceased, Ramzan Ali, 45, was son of Kuran Mondal of Krishnapur village in the upazila. Two constables, Ahsan Habib and Selim Reza of Moheshpur Police Station, also sustained injuries during the incident.¹³

⁷ <http://newagebd.net/238683/abducted-man-killed-jessore-gunfight/>

⁸ <http://newagebd.net/238670/another-shibir-activist-killed-jhenaidah-gunfight/>

⁹ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2016/07/10/75556.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2016/07/17/19304/>

¹¹ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/137130#sthash.mKE9dkEe.dpuf>

¹² <http://www.jugantor.com/news/2016/07/25/47698>

¹³ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=24960&cat=9>

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women and girls is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations. It is rooted in gendered social structures rather than individual and random acts; it cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries; affects all societies; which are the major obstacle to ending gender inequality and discrimination globally.¹⁴ In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.¹⁵ Violence against women is a main social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. Inhuman attacks on women have become commonplace and widespread across the country. Daily news reports are filled with atrocities including physical and psychological torture, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, dowry-related violence, trafficking, coerced suicide and murder. The rate of reported violent acts against women has risen steadily and at an alarming rate, especially in July 2016. HRSC provides the following data has been taken from 12 prominent daily newspapers in Bangladesh.

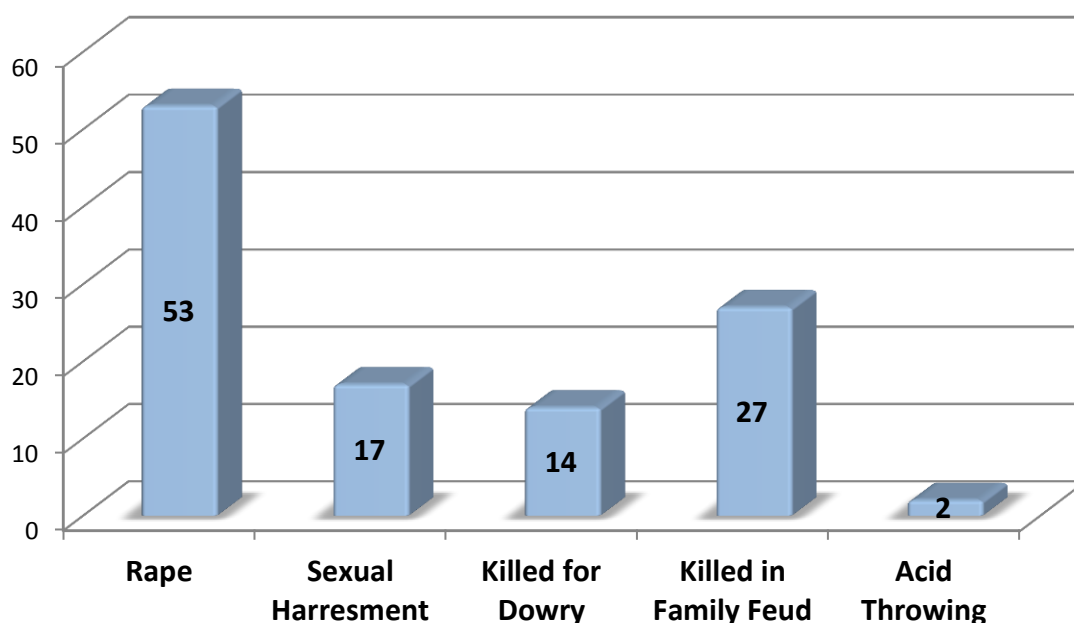


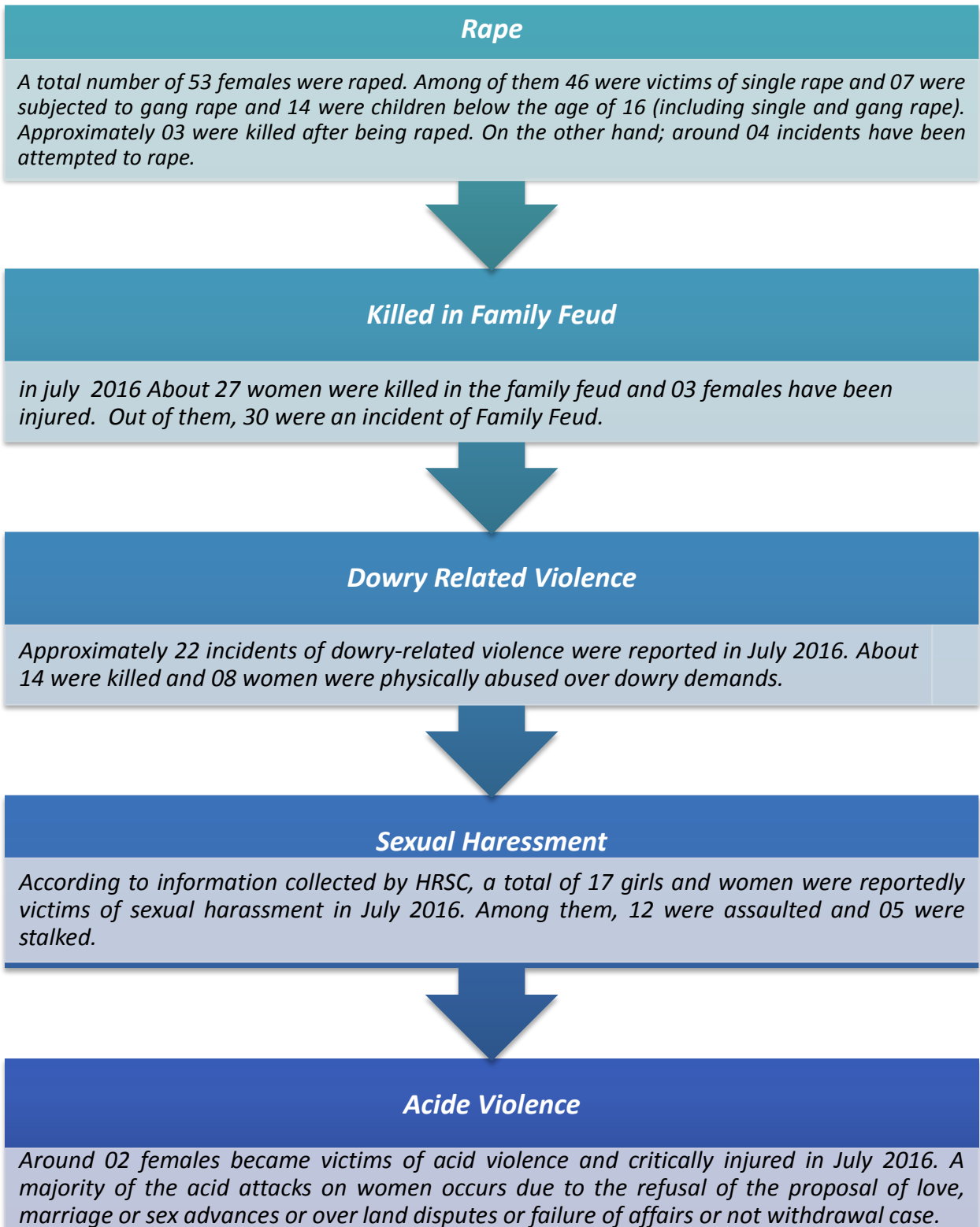
Figure 02: Violence against Women in July'16

HRSC detects the whole situation of female in Bangladesh and documented the issues relating to the violation of women rights. The major subjects of violation against women were dowry killings, rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid attacks, physical and mental abuse.

¹⁴ (UN General Assembly, 2006)

¹⁵ (General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993)

According to the HRSC the supplied graph illustrates about information of violence against women in July 2016 are detailed below.....



Some important cases are cited: On July 01, 2016 a woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry in Laury village under Monirampur upazila of Jessore. The deceased was Shathi Begum, 20, wife of Alomgir Sheik. Kamal Mollah, the father of the deceased, claimed that Alomgir used to torture his daughter for dowry since their marriage two years ago.¹⁶

On July 3, 2016 a man allegedly slaughtered his wife and their minor son at village Joydebpur in Dinajpur following a family feud, police said. The victims were identified as Bakul Parvin, 27, wife of suspected killer Sohrab Ali alias Bhutto, 28, of the village, and their four-year-old son Riyan-Al-Din. Bhutto is a rice trader by profession.¹⁷

On July 9, 2016 a teenage girl was raped by a group of young men at Nehalpur in Manirampur of Jessore. The victim filed a case against five people in connection with the incident with Manirampur Police Station, said sub-inspector of the police station Lutfur Kabir. The accused are Al-Amin, 22, son of late Hashem Dafadar, Ripon, 20, son of Mosharaf Dafadar, Masum, 21, son of Jamat Dafadar, Rezaul, 25, son of Asad Gazi, and Shamim, 20, son of Mashiar Sheikh, hailing from Balida village.¹⁸

On July 10, 2016 a female worker of Akij Jute Mills was gangraped at Nehalpur in Monirampur upazila of Jessore while she was returning home along with a co-worker. The incident occurred when the 16-year-old girl of Fedaipur village was returning home along with a colleague around 11:00pm on Thursday after watching a movie in a local cinema hall.¹⁹

On July 11, 2016 a woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Ratanpur village in Mujibnagar upazila of Meherpur. The deceased is Monira Khatun, 23, daughter of Monirul Haq. The victim's father said Babul Hossain often tortured Monira for Tk 50,000 dowry. On Sunday night, Babul along with his family members strangled Monira following an altercation over the issue, he alleged.²⁰

On July 12, 2016 A woman allegedly committed suicide in Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur . The deceased is Kakoli Begum, 30, wife of Akkas Ali of Balarhat village. Locals said Kakoli took poison following an altercation with her husband over the family matter in the afternoon. She was rushed to the upazila health complex where she died in the evening.²¹

On July 12, 2016 a housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry at Khamar Dasalia village in Sadullapur upazila of the district. The deceased is Monira Akhter Moyna, 30, daughter of Mofizul Huq of Subarnadaha village in Sunderganj upazila. Family members alleged that after 13 years of their marriage, Lutfar Rahman of Khamar Dasalia village often tortured Moyna for dowry.²²

¹⁶ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=21020&cat=9>

¹⁷ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=21583&cat=9/>

¹⁸ <http://newagebd.net/239496/teen-girl-gang-raped-jessore/>

¹⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/female-worker-raped-1251643>

²⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/2-housewives-murdered-four-arrested-1252165>

²¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-commits-suicide-1252924>

²² <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-killed-dowry-1252915>

On July 13, 2016 Criminals threw acid on a pregnant woman at Purba-Awrangabad village of Manikganj Sadar. The victim, Parul Akhter, 25, wife of Dubai expatriate Hossain Ali of the village, is undergoing treatment at Singair Upazila Health Complex. She has a seven-year-old son Tasim.²³

On July 16, 2016 a man allegedly killed his wife for dowry in Mohammadjoma village in Chuadanga Sadar. Quoting victim's family police said Mithun Ali Akash of Teorbillah had been torturing Tahmina Khatun, 22, for dowry after their marriage. Recently, Mithun sent Tahmina to her father's house in Mohammadjoma for dowry which her father denied paying. That's why He slit her throat with sharp a weapon while she was sleeping and fled.²⁴

On July 15, 2016 a woman sustained burn injuries in her leg in an acid attack in Kazihati village of Habiganj. Nil Banu, 35, wife of Manik Miah is undergoing treatment at Habiganj Sadar Hospital.²⁵

On July 16, 2016 a five-year-old girl was raped allegedly by a youth at Gozaria Boroitola village in Sherpur upazila. Police said when the victim was playing with other kids at their courtyard, Al-Mamun, 19, of the same village, took her to a nearby maize field and raped her.²⁶

On July 18, 2016 a young housewife of 25 was hacked in her house at Mirpur and later died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. The victim is identified as Sanjida Aktar, 25. Early morning around 4:00am victims neighbors brought her to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital with several stab injuries on her chest and abdomen, said DMCH source.²⁷

On July 21, 2016 Police recovered the body of a housewife from her house at Laxmi Mondop village in Kahaloo upazila of the Bogra district. The deceased was Modina Begum, 22, second wife of Abdul Kuddus of the village. Police said Kuddus and his first wife tortured Modian to death.²⁸

On July 27, 2016 a housewife was killed allegedly by her husband in Sakhipur upazila of the sathkira district. The deceased was Jobaida Begum, 25, wife of Hussain Ali of Bagerbari Burichala village. Police and locals said Hussain, 35, beat Jobaida, leaving her dead on the spot following an altercation over a trifling matter.²⁹

²³ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=22451&cat=9/>

²⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/man-kills-wife-dowry-1254325>

²⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/woman-hurt-acid-attack-1254322>

²⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/915628>

²⁷ <http://newagebd.net/241191/housewife-killed-mirpur/>

²⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-murdered-1257604>

²⁹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=24543&cat=9/>

ATTACK ON MINORITIES

Article 27 of The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language”. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights mentions explicitly in article 2 (2) that “the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

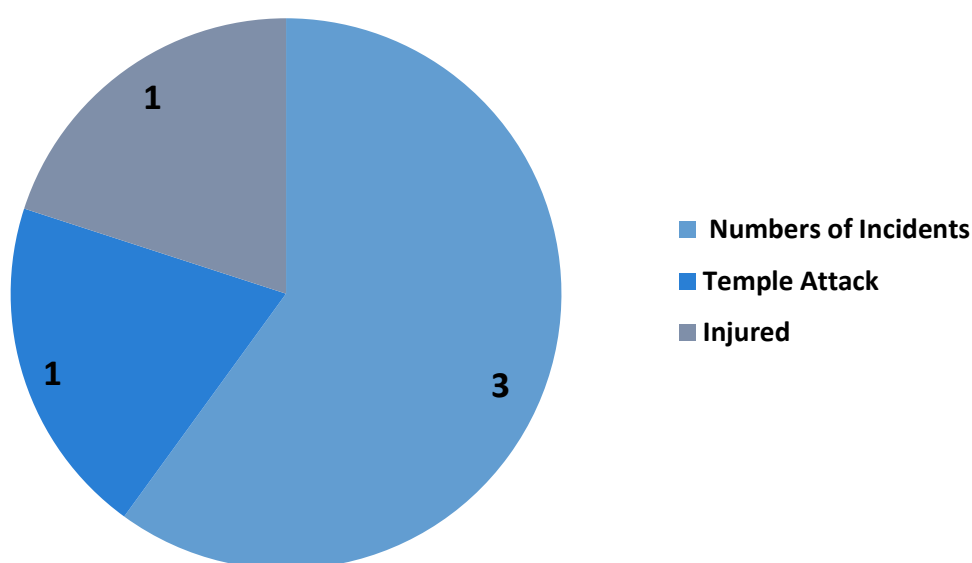


Figure 03: Statistics of attack on minority

The pie chart provides information about the incidents regarding attacks on minority, according to information collected by HRSC in the month July 2016, at least 00 men were killed, around 00 houses have been attacked, almost 01 temples were attacked and 01 minority members have been injured in a total almost 03 incidents.

Selected cases are as described here: On July 3, 2016 Two Hindu priests came under attack in Satkhira and Kishoreganj by unidentified assailants amid a spate of attacks on religious minorities. In Satkhira, Bhabasindhu Bar, 50, priest of Brahmarajpur Sri Sri Radha Gobinda Temple, was hacked with a machete by assailants at Brahmarajpur. In Kishoreganj, priest Palash Chakrabarty was assaulted by machete-wielding masked men at Nagua in the district town about 1:00am. He was slightly injured as he managed to escape, police said. Satkhira sadar police officer-in-charge Emdadul Haq Sheikh said a gang of five to six miscreants hacked Bhabasindhu Bar around 3:30am inside the temple. He was sent to Satkhira Sadar Hospital from where he was taken to Dhaka’s National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital with an injury in the lung. ‘He received stab injuries in the lung... bleeding occurred inside the lung’, said Satkhira Sadar Hospital medical officer Md Hasanuzzaman.

Brahmarajpur union parishad chairman Md Shahidul Islam said the priest used to live in a room inside the temple along with her wife and their five-year-old son Jagannath Bar. He was hacked in front of them, Shahidul said. Assistant sub-inspector Shawkat Ali, in-charge of Brahmarajpur police camp, said some of the assailants wore shorts and vests. The priest received injury marks in the head, back and chest. Kishoreganj headquarters police officer-in-charge Mir Mosharrif Hossain said Palash Chakrabarty, priest of Vibekananda Temple, was assaulted after he opened the door hearing knock on it in the wee hours. ‘Three machete-carrying masked men swooped on him after he opened the door’, the OC said.³⁰

TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

Bangladesh is surrounded by India on three sides. Bangladesh needs a better relation with India for its own existence. But Indian behavior with Bangladesh is not so amicable. Human rights are extremely violated in the border area of Bangladesh by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). Human rights violations by BSF have been going on for a long time along the borders between Bangladesh and India. Members of the BSF also illegally enter Bangladesh territory and attack people residing along the border, shoot and kidnap Bangladeshis. The India-Bangladesh border is probably the most helpless and delightful border in the world. However, we have frequently observed that India has been violating treaties, shooting at anyone seen near the border, which is a pure violation of the international act and human rights.

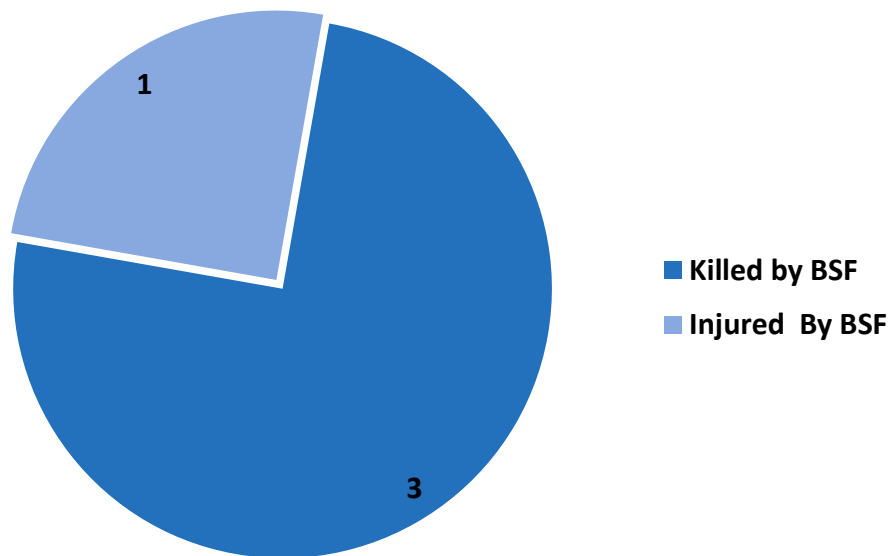


Figure 04: Statistics of Territorial Dispute

The given pie chart gives data on the border dispute. According to HRSC in July 2016, roughly 03 Bangladeshis citizen were killed, and almost 01 were injured by BSF.

³⁰ <http://newagebd.net/238818/two-hindu-priests-attacked/>

Some important cases are mentioned below; On July 10, 2016 Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot a Bangladeshi national dead on Chakiram border under Dhamoirhat upazila in Naogaon district. The deceased was identified as Golap Hossain, 34, son of late Khairul Hossain of Chandipur village in the upazila. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said BSF troops of 75 Battalion opened fire on a group of 10/12 Bangladeshi smugglers while they were returning home from India through Chakiram border on Saturday midnight.³¹

On July 10, 2016 One Bangladeshi national was shot dead at Chakchandi border under Dhamairhat upazila in Naogaon Sunday morning by Border Security Force of India. The victim was identified as Golap Hossain, 33, son of one Khairul Islam of Chandipur village of Dhamairhat upazila.³²

On July 21, 2016 A Bangladesh national was shot dead by members of Indian Border Security Force near frontier at village Kanapara of Godagari in Rajshahi. The victim was identified as Abdul Kalam, 40, a cattle trader of the village. The Godagari police officer-in-charge, SM Abu Farhad, said BSF personnel opened fire when Kalam along with others was bringing cattle near the frontier at about 4:30am. Seriously injured Kalam was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where physicians declared him dead at about 6:00am, the OC said.³³

On July 22, 2016 Indian Border security Force members killed a cattle trader opening fire and charging bayonet along Bangladesh-India frontier at Putkhali under Benapole Port in Jessore. The victim was identified as Md Shaheed, 35, son of Chhabed Ali of Putkhali village. The Benapole port police station officer-in-charge said Shaheed died on the spot when he was shot and bayonet charged by BSF at around 4:00am.³⁴

³¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bangladeshi-shot-dead-bsf-1251664>

³² <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=21929&cat=9/>

³³ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/922675>

³⁴ <http://newagebd.net/241984/bsf-kills-bangladeshi-opening-fire-charging-bayonet/>

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The violation of child rights is a common problem in Bangladesh. The children have basic rights to education, balance diet, health and nutrition, protection, participation, recreation, safe water, and hygiene. Most of the children of Bangladesh are deprived of these basic rights. Children have been recognized by the international community in recent times. As a signatory to U.N. Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1990, there is an upsurge of awareness of rights of children.³⁵ The rights of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development".³⁶

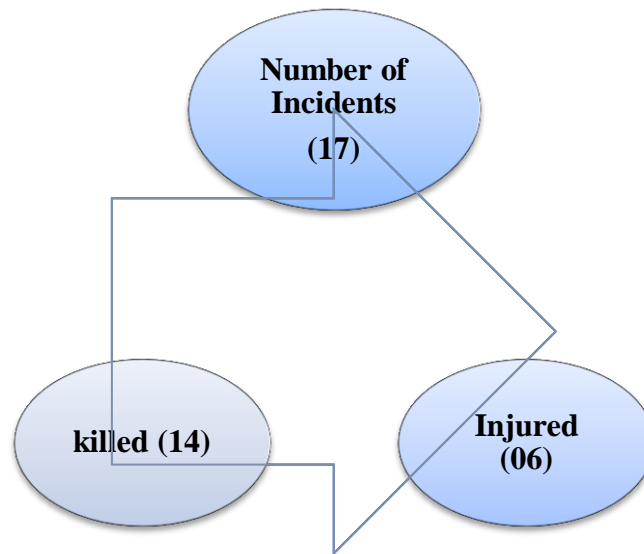


Figure 05: Violence against children in July '16

According to HRSC report, the graph presented below regarding the violence against children in July 2016, around 14 children's were killed and almost 06 children's have been critically injured in a total of nearly 17 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On July 3, 2016 a man allegedly slaughtered his wife and their minor son at village Joydebpur in Dinajpur following a family feud, police said. The victims were identified as Bakul Parvin, 27, wife of suspected killer Sohrab Ali alias Bhutto, 28, of the village, and their four-year-old son Riyan-Al-Din. Bhutto is a rice trader by profession. Quoting Bhutto's mother Sharifa Begum, Kotwali police officer-in-charge Rezwanur Rahim said that she heard a daughter of Bhutto crying at their house around 12:30am. As she asked Bhutto about the matter, he replied nothing had happened but the girl continued crying, he said. Later Sharifa and others broke open the door and found bodies of Bakul and Riyan lying in a pool of blood.³⁷

³⁵ Abdul Halim, Constitution, Constitutional Law & Politics Bangladesh Perspective, 3rd ed p. 53.

³⁶ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art. 27.

³⁷ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=21583&cat=9/>

On July 10, 2016 a man allegedly killed his two-and-a-half-month-old son following a family feud in Kaliakoir of Gazipur. Khadiza Begum, the mother of the victim Arafat Hossain alias Sunny, filed a murder case against her husband Jahangir Alam, 28. The couple lived in a rented house in Sakaswar area of Kaliakoir.³⁸

On July 17, 2016 a man took his life after killing his eight-year-old son in Kaharol upazila of the district. The deceased are rickshaw puller Zinnat Hossain, 32, and his son Md Munna of Garnurpur village. Police said Zinnat hung Munna from the ceiling of his living room. Later, he took his life by hanging from the same rope around 9:00am.³⁹

On July 19, 2016 a three-year-old boy was killed allegedly by his mother following a family feud at Paschim Char Uria in Sadar upazila. The deceased is Md Yamin, son of Alamgir Hossain and Poly Akter, 20, of the area. Ajifa Khatun, the grandmother of the victim, said Alamgir and Poly locked in an altercation over a family matter around 10:00pm. At one state, Poly poisoned Yamin. She also took the poison out of anger, said Ajifa.⁴⁰

On July 19, 2016 a woman allegedly killed her 10-year-old stepdaughter at Sharankuthi village in Gabtoli upazila of the bogra district. The deceased is Mahfuza Khatun, daughter of Abdul Awal of the village. Police detained Rehana Khatun, 28, Awal's second wife, from the house.⁴¹

On July 21, 2016 Police recovered the body of a minor boy from a betel nut storehouse in Kawkhali upazila under the Pirojpur district. The deceased was Md Yasin, 8, son of Md Mahbubur Rahman Hawlader of Hogla Betka village. Locals said Yasin's mother married Mahbubur after the demise of his father and they stayed at a rented house in Kawkhali launch terminal area. On Wednesday afternoon, as the victim's stepfather scolded him, he went out of the house. The following day, the body was found inside a betel nut storehouse.⁴²

On July 25, 2016 a woman killed her four-year-old boy and committed suicide, allegedly over a family feud at Angaria village in Rajapur upazila of the district. The deceased are Sheuli Begum, 30, wife of Delwar Hossain, and their son Yousuf, of the village. Luckily their six-year-old daughter Chandni survived murder attempt by her mother.⁴³

³⁸ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=21916&cat=9/>

³⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-kills-son-takes-own-life-1255165>

⁴⁰ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=23325&cat=9/>

⁴¹ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2016/07/20/76979.html>

⁴² <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/kids-body-found-1257616>

⁴³ http://www.amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2016/07/24/345543#.V5TYSTVQf_g

PUBLIC LYNCHING

Lynching is an extrajudicial punishment by an informal group. It is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob, often by hanging, in order to punish an alleged transgressor, or to intimidate a minority group. It is an extreme form of informal group social control. In Bangladesh due to lack of respect for law, distrust of the police and instability in the country people are taking the law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice any other way. As a result, the incident of public lynching became a banal matter. HRSC believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

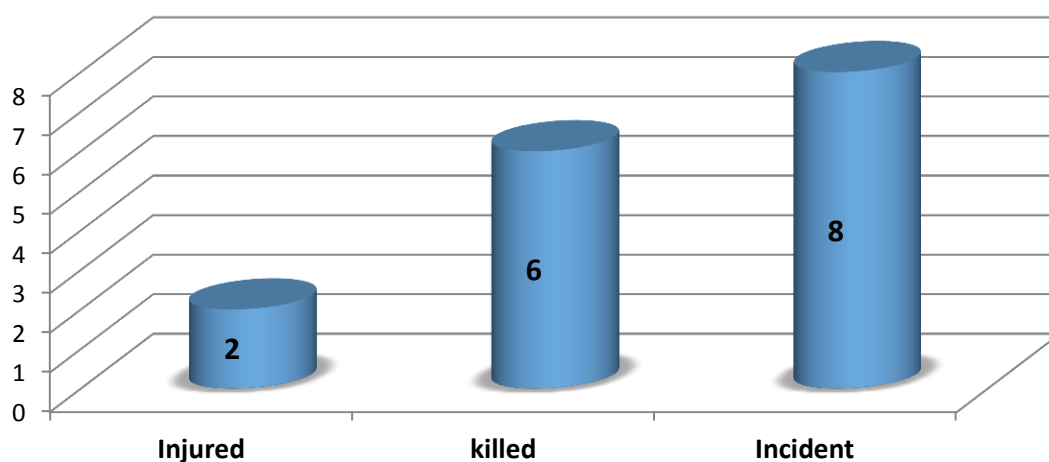


Figure 07: statistics of Public Lynching in July '16

According to human rights support center (HRSC) information, in July 2016, about 02 people have been injured; nearly 06 people were killed in a total of 08 incidents of the public lynching.

Some important cases are given below- On July 01, 2016 a man was beaten to death on the campus of Dinajpur Medical College, triggering protest. Police said the man was suspected to have been a thief but his family and neighbours said he was mentally ill and innocent. The dead Sohel Rana, of Dinajpur Satellite Town area, was a father of two children.⁴⁴

On July, 22.2016A matchmaker was beaten to death at Bhabanipur village in Mohammadpur upazila. The victim is Rashid Biswas, 45, of the village. Police and locals said Rashid arranged a marriage between one Feroz Mandol's daughter-in-law and Abdul Wahab's son two months ago. Feroz wanted to pay Tk 2000 after the marriage. Rashid pressured Feroz for the money several times but in vain. On Monday night, Feroz and his men beat up Rashid following an altercation over the issue. Seriously injured Rashid later died at a hospital.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=21131&cat=9/>

⁴⁵ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/137141#sthash.MPiEZfw0.dpuf>

ABDUCTION

Abduction is a brutal violation of human rights. Abduction, Kidnapping, killing after the abduction, etc. are the common phenomena in Bangladesh. Nobody could confidently predict his safe return after going outside of his resident. The numbers of victims, according to HRSC report is increasing day by day. In July 2016, the occurrences of abduction increased all over the country. But there are provisions regarding kidnap & abduction in our Penal Code. According to section 362 of the Penal Code, 1860 a person is said to commit the offence of abduction when by force compels or by any deceitful means induces any other person to go from one place to another. Article 3 & 9 Of Universal declaration of human Rights declared that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”. The graph provides information about the total abduction in July 2016.

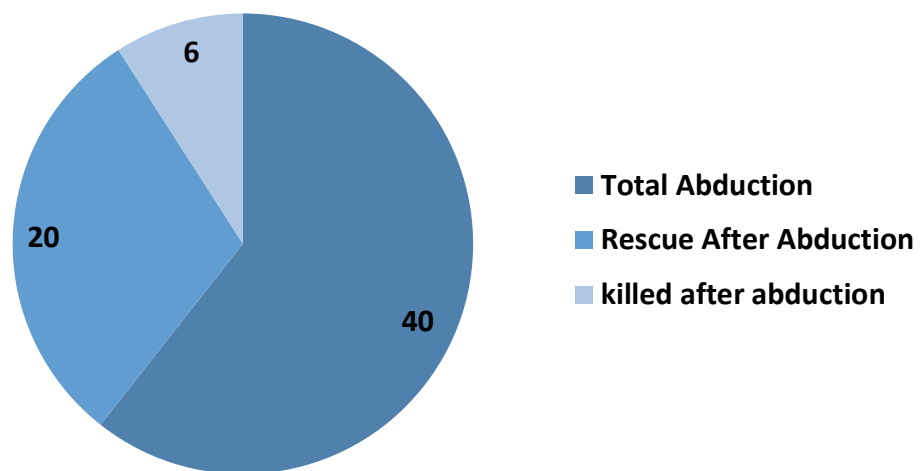


Figure 07: Statistics of Abduction July'16

The supplied pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in July 2016 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support center (HRSC) information, a total of 40 people were abducted, among of them, 06 were killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 20 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

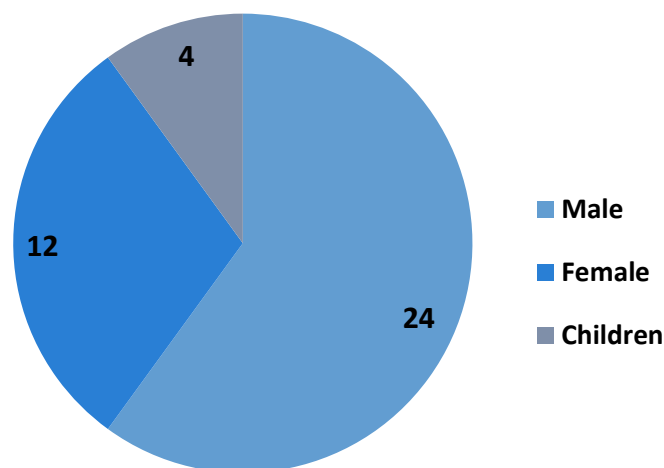


Figure 08: Categorization of Abduction July'16

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in July 2016 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support center (HRSC) information, a total of 40 people were abducted, among them, 24 were male, around 12 were female and nearly 04 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On July 22, 2016 the body of the missing college student in the Bay of Bengal was found on the Saturday one kilometer off the coast of Kuakata in Patuakhali. Plaban Ahmed, a higher secondary student of Hossain Shaheed Sohrawardy College in Magura, went missing while bathing at Kuakata beach on Friday noon. Kuakata tourist police assistant police superintendent Mir Fasiur Rahman said the body of Plaban was caught in the net of a fisherman Nuruzzman.⁴⁶

On July 24, 2016 Criminals abducted a college girl from Jessore Sadar upazila. Family members said a gang of 3/ 4 allegedly led by Badhan Biswas Shanto, 21, son of Nazrul Biswas of Sadar upazila, picked up the girl in a microbus while she was on her way to college. The victim's father then filed a case with Sadar Police Station against Shanto, Nazrul Biswas and Abdul Mannan in this connection.⁴⁷

On July 29, 2016 An Awami League leader of Bandarban's Lama Upazila was abducted for ransom. The victim is Nurul Absar, 52, ward level president of AL of the district. Victim's son Mizanur Rahman said a gang of 15-18 broke into their house around 2:00am and abducted his father at gunpoint in Hargaja area. "They also looted valuables and cash worth Tk 1.4 lakh," he said. "The gang also looted three of our relatives' houses of valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh. "One of the abductors phoned me around 10:00am and demanded Tk 8 lakh as ransom."⁴⁸

On July 01, 2016 a man was found dead in Nabogram village of Jhalakathi Sadar, a day after he went missing. The deceased, Mohosin Howlader, 30, of the village, used to ride motorbikes on a rental basis, said Mahe Alam, officer-in-charge of Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station. He left home with his rented motorcycle on Thursday evening and did not return home. The next day his hacked body was found in a field, said the OC.⁴⁹

On July 13, 2016 the body of the missing Sylhet Polytechnic Institute teacher, who went missing in River Surma on Tuesday after falling from a boat, was recovered. Local people informed the police after seeing a floating body in the River Surma near Khalorpar village under the Dakkhin Surma upazila, Dakkhin Surma police officer-in-charge, Aatur Rahman, said.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/137453#sthash.ybYLUI69.dpuf>

⁴⁷ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/138639#sthash.pYjAGzOJ.dpuf>

⁴⁸ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/929974>

⁴⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/missing-jhalakathi-man-found-dead-1249027>

⁵⁰ <http://newagebd.net/240212/missing-teacher-found-dead/>

VIOLENT ATTACK

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security. So the state is obliged to protect the citizens from all kinds of criminal attack to them. 'The obligation of protection' requires the state to prevent violations of rights of citizens by third parties. This obligation also implies that state has to exercise due diligence to prevent, punish, investigate or redress the harm caused by acts of private persons or entities. In spite of growing concern of criminal attack, the number of incidences is gradually increasing day by day. HRSC try to detect and divulged all kinds of violent attack from July 2016.

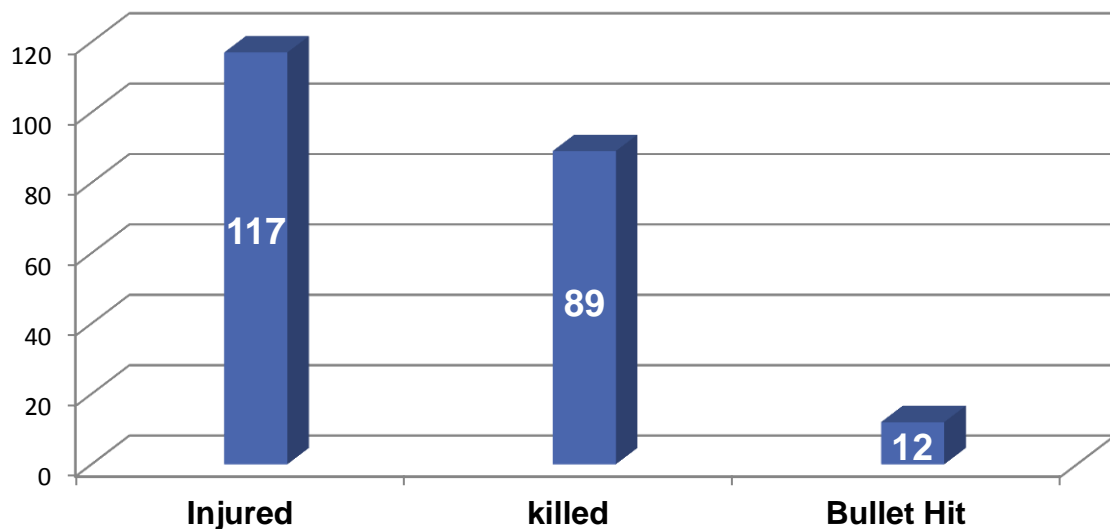


Figure 09: statistics of Violent Attacks in July '16

The bar chart provides information regarding the violent attack on armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Centre (HRSC) in July 2016, a total 62 incidents of violent attack have happened and 89 were killed in these attacks, 117 were seriously injured and around 12 persons have been bullet hit.

Selected cases are as analysed: On July 1, 2016 Miscreants killed a local Awami League leader by slitting his throat at Naikhyangchari in Bandarban. The victim Mong Shoi Lu Marma, 50, was a resident of Dhabankhalipara who served as the vice-president of ward-1 Baishari union unit Awami League. Police said miscreants killed him in Shawshankhola area in front of Baishari union parishad around 10:00pm when Mong Shoi was returning home.⁵¹

On July 01, 2016 the bullet-hit body of a young man was recovered near a prison in Sikdarghona area of Cox's Bazar. The deceased was Md Ismail, 26, of Romaliarchara area. Police recovered the body from a mountain near the area, after locals informed them, said Md Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station.⁵²

⁵¹ <http://newagebd.net/238497/al-leader-killed-bandarban/>

⁵² <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bullet-hit-body-found-near-jail-gate-1249063>

On July 02, 2016 an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League was shot by unidentified miscreants at Nalchhiti in Jhalakati who later died in a Barisal hospital in the noon. The deceased was identified as Sajal Hawladar, 18, son of Rafique Hawladar of Mollarhat union in Nalchhiti. Sajal passed higher secondary examinations from Mollarhat ZA Bhutto Degree College last year.⁵³

On July 4, 2016 a local Awami League activist was shot to death in Godkhali Mothbari area of Jhikargachha upazila. The deceased was identified as Hasan Sardar, 40, brother of local Awami League leader and Godkhali union parishad member Rahajjan Sardar. He was also an activist of the local unit of the ruling party. Rahajjan Sardar alleged that a group of miscreants, led by Mohiuddin, younger brother of the union Awami League general secretary Abdul Jabbar, stormed into their house around 3am breaking open the gate and shot Hasan in the head from a point blank range, killing him on the spot.⁵⁴

On July 09, 2016 unidentified criminals stabbed a local Awami League activist to death allegedly over a previous feud in Kaliganj upazila of the district. The deceased is Jalil Molla, 50, son of Abdul Gafur of Natuapara village in the upazila. Quoting local's police said a gang of masked criminals, equipped with sharp weapons, swooped on Jalil while he was gossiping at Chatkabarai Bazar around 7:30pm.⁵⁵

On July 11, 2016 a young man was found murdered in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat. The deceased is Md Rahim Badsha, 32, son of Sada Mondal of Ghoraghat upazila in Dinajpur. He was a microbus driver. Locals found Badsha's body inside his microbus on a road in Panchbibi upazila in the morning and informed the police.⁵⁶

On July 23, 2016 an alleged criminal was hacked to death near Haludgar bridge in Santhia upazila of the district. The deceased was Md Nur Islam, 40, son of Abdul Hakim of Bondiramchar village. Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the area in the morning and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.⁵⁷

On July 30, 2016 A Union Parishad member was hacked and later died on the way to the hospital at Sendo area in Brahmanbaria. The victim is identified as Anwar Hossain, 45, a member of Ramrail Union Parishad. Police said some unidentified miscreants hacked Anwar around 10:30pm while he was talking to someone on a road at Sendo area and managed to flee.⁵⁸

⁵³ <http://newagebd.net/238855/bcl-activist-shot-dead-in-jhalakati/>

⁵⁴ <http://newagebd.net/239227/al-man-shot-dead-jessore/>

⁵⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/jhenidah-al-man-stabbed-dead-1251214>

⁵⁶ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-found-murdered-1252129>

⁵⁷ <http://www.jugantor.com/news/2016/07/24/47353/>

⁵⁸ <http://newagebd.net/243617/member-hacked-brahmanbaria/>

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Political violence in Bangladesh is a banal phenomenon. The role and way of democratic politics have been subjected to a great question due to the considerable number of political classes among the parties as well as intra parties. At present, it has been considered a sign of an immature or even immoral political class.⁵⁹ After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th March 2014 by controversial election, political violence is still continued. But due to limited space for opposition parties, now political violence are mostly intra-factional clashes of ruling party over the issues of supremacy, tender and possession of power, collecting subscription, grabbing land etc. The activist of opposite political parties is being tortured, killed by the activist of ruling parties in every corner of the country.

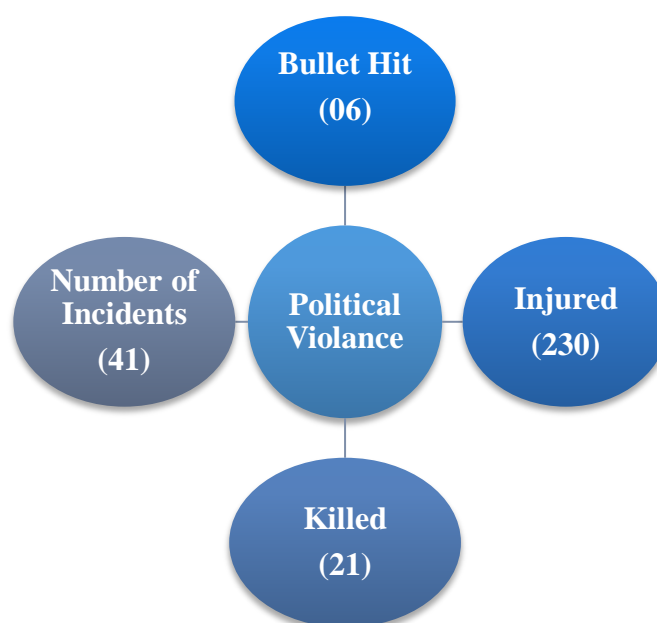


Figure 10: statistics of Political Violence in July'16

The figure presents information about the political violence in July 2016. According to Human Rights Support Centre (HRSC) information, a total of 21 people were killed, around 06 were bullet hit, and almost 230 people were injured due to political related issues. Most of the political violence occurred among the sub-organization of ruling party on the supremacy of power or tender.

Selected cases are as follows: On July 14, 2016 a union parishad member and his brother were killed in a gunfight over what appears to be establishing supremacy at Charbalaki area in Gazaria upazila. Hosendi Union Parishad member Golap Sarkar, 45, and his brother Ayub Sarkar, 28, died of gunshot wounds, and 10 others were injured in the clash.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2016.

⁶⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/2-killed-rival-groups-clash-munshiganj-1254118>

On July 15, 2016 two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed in Banshkhali upazila of Chittagong, injuring about 10 leaders and activists from both the groups. Of the injured, Emranul Haque, 28, president of the upazila unit of BCL; and Md Fahim, its organising secretary, were admitted to Banshkhali Upazila Health Complex.⁶¹

On July 20, 2016 a local Awami League (AL) activist was seriously injured in a bomb attack allegedly by party rivals at Kobikhali village in Chuadanga Sadar upazila. The injured is Monjir Ali, 40, son of late Alim Uddin of the village. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.⁶²

On July 23, 2016 A Swechhasebak League leader was shot dead allegedly by his rivals in the ruling Awami League at the bus terminal in Pabna town over establishing supremacy in the area. Md Amin Uddin, 28, was publicity secretary of Pabna poura unit of the pro-AL organisation.⁶³

On July 25, 2016 A man was killed and four others were injured in a factional clash of the ruling Awami League in Mathbaria upazila town. The dead, Liton Pandit, 30, was a Jubo League activist. Locals said some supporters of Mathbaria Upazila Parishad Chairman Ashrafur Rahman beat up Nazmul Ahsan alias Tuku, 50 in the morning. Nazmul is a follower of Rafiuddin Ahmed Ferdous, Mathbaria municipality Julyor and also the upazila unit AL president.⁶⁴

On July 27, 2016 A Jubo League activist was killed and two others were hit by bullets in a factional clash at East Hajipur village in Hajipur union under Begumganj upazila of the Noakhali district. The deceased was identified as Md Masud, 26, son of Md Tazul Islam, and the injured are Md Sohel, 18, son of Md Abu Taher and Md Alo, 26, son of Nur Islam of the village. Sohel was admitted to Noakhali Medical College Hospital and Alo to a private clinic.⁶⁵

On July 30, 2016 An Awami League leader was chopped and shot to death at Baramhati of Lalpur upazila in Natore. The deceased was as Abbas Ali, 60, a former member of Arjunpur-Baramhati Union Parishad and also vice president of the union's AL. Abu Obayed, officer-in-charge of Lalpur Police Station, said there were a longstanding feud Abbas and Mizan Uddin, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League of the union, over establishing supremacy in the area, and both of them often locked into altercations.⁶⁶

⁶¹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=22609&cat=9>

⁶² <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/al-man-hurt-bomb-attack-1256830>

⁶³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/pabna-pro-al-leader-shot-dead-1258549>

⁶⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/one-killed-al-factional-clash-mathbaria-1259641>

⁶⁵ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=24576&cat=9>

⁶⁶ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/natore-al-leader-shot-dead-ex-bcl-leader-1262185>

RECOVERY OF DEAD BODY

Security of life is the foremost right for enjoyments of all others human rights. In Bangladesh, due to worsening law and order situation recovery of the dead body from the different place of the country has been regular incidents. Most of the killers of these incidents are not identified on the other hand sometimes dead bodies' identities are not found.

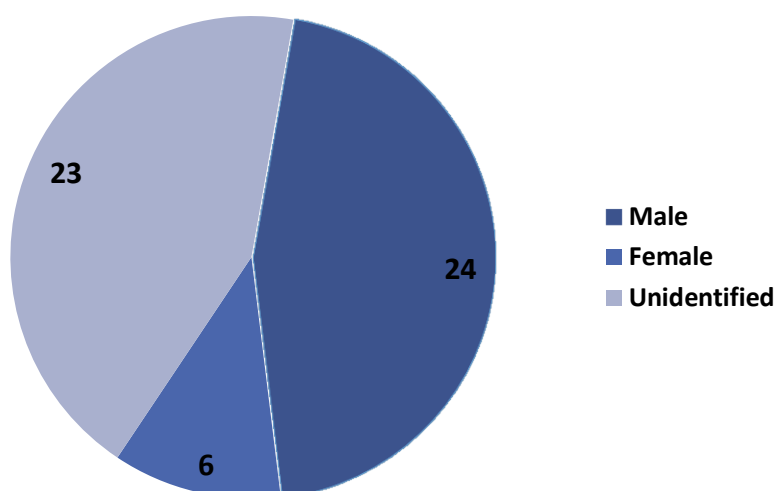


Figure 11: Recovery of Dead Body in July'16

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSC July 2016, a total of 53 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 24 bodies were male and 23 bodies were female and 06 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On July 01, 2016 Police recovered the decomposed body of an unidentified man from a tea garden in Banshkhali upazila of Chittagong. The deceased, aged around 35, might have been killed or trampled by wild elephants, said Officer-in-Charge of Banshkhali Police Station Alamgir Hossain. As the body is decomposed the reason of death could not be ascertained, said the OC.⁶⁷

On July 01, 2016 Police recovered the body of an unidentified man, aged about 55, from the port warehouse under Benapole Port Police Station in Jessore district on Wednesday night. The body was sent to Jessore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Apurba Hasan, officer-in-charge of the police station. Locals said the victim was seen begging in the area for long but nobody knew his identity.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/mans-decomposed-body-found-ctg-1248466>

⁶⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/beggar-found-dead-1248364>

On July 24, 2016 a teenage boy was found dead wrapped up with polythene in a jute sack in the district town. The deceased was Md Labu Ahmed, son of Rafiqul Islam of Golapbagh area in the town. The body was sent to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.⁶⁹

On July 25, 2016 Police recovered the body of a missing boy from the River Punarbhaba in Parsha upazila of Naogaon district. The deceased is Md Nayan, 11, son of Sujon Mia of Raghunathpur village. He went missing on Saturday. The body was sent to Naogaon General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Md Mosabberul Islam, officer-in-charge of Parhsa Police Station.⁷⁰

On July 29, 2016 Police recovered the body of a local Juba League activist from Fultala area in Bogra. The deceased was identified as Enamul Haq Akul, 28, son of Ajmal Hossain, of Fultala area of the district. Shahjahanpur police OC Abdullah Al Masud said Akul might have been killed on Thursday night with sharp weapons over establishing supremacy as the body bore several injury marks. Akul was an accused in a murder case and other cases. Locals said Akul was a close associate of Fultala Juba League leader Manju and Shahin.⁷¹

On July 29, 2016 the body of an Ansar member was recovered in Sylhet. The deceased was identified as Zikir Ali, 32, a member of Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory Ansar camp at Fenchuganj and son of Alai Miah of village Karimpur at Rajnagar upazila in Moulvibazar, police said. Local sources said that Zikir Ali came at his working station Jetty Ghat at Fenchuganj around 2:00 pm.⁷²

⁶⁹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=24086&cat=9>

⁷⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/missing-boy-found-dead-1259257>

⁷¹ <http://newagebd.net/243440/juba-league-activist-found-dead/>

⁷² <http://newagebd.net/243430/ansar-member-found-dead-sylhet/>

AT A GLANCE HUMAN RIGHT SITUATION OF BANGLADESH (JULY'16)

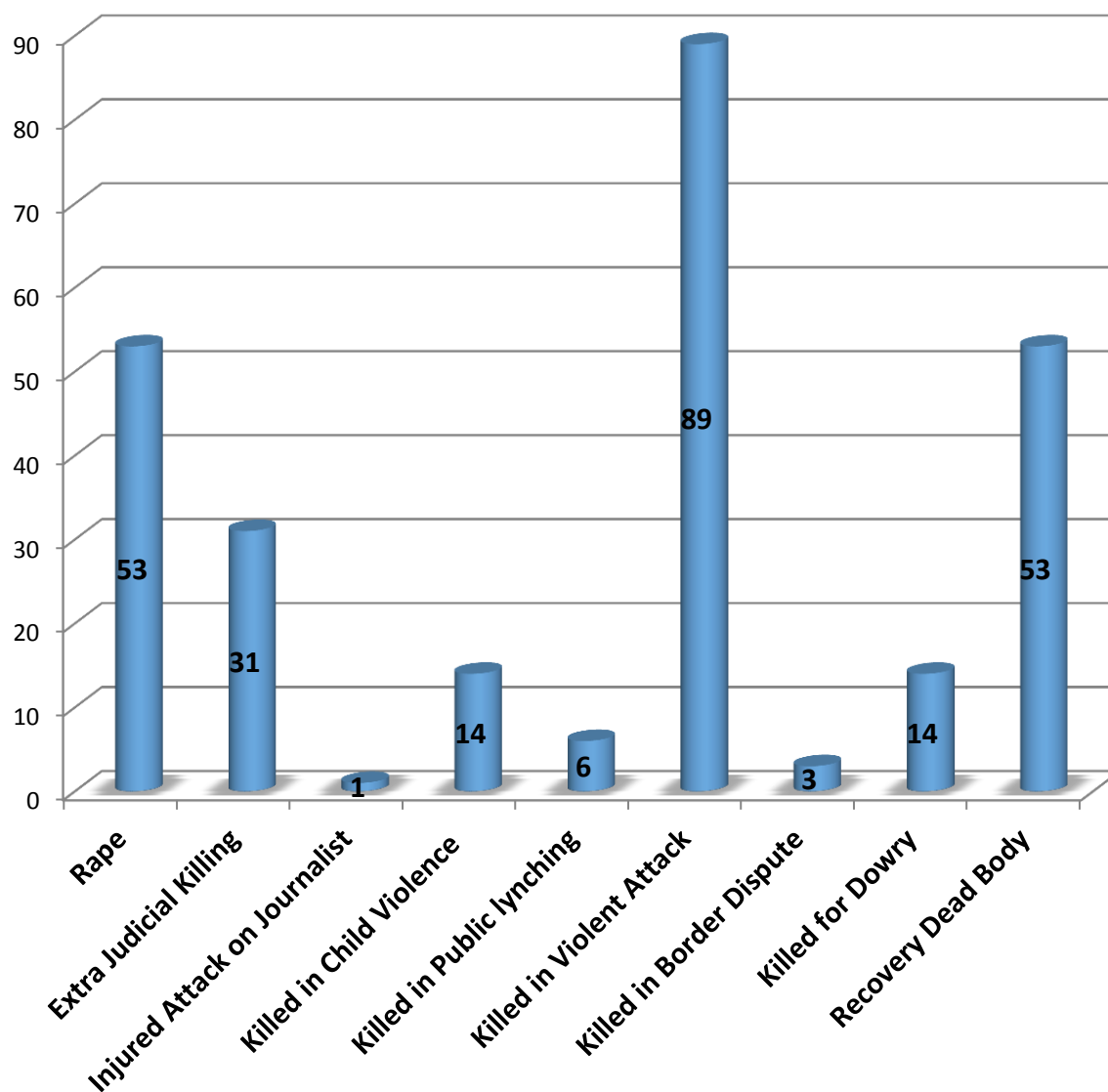


Figure 12: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in July 2016

CONCLUSION

Finally, it is observed that the human rights situation in Bangladesh was pathetic in July 2016. This is mostly because of the failure of the public administration to protect the life and property of the common people.

Often, security forces were getting involved in the abduction and killing as the reports suggest. The incident of torture, oppression, and arbitrary arrests by law enforcement agencies became more common in Bangladesh than before. It is claimed by some stakeholders that the Government authority through its administrative mechanism is randomly abusing its legitimized power and committing torture to the common people for articulating their self-desire as well as securing the vested interest of the ruling party which is unexpected. The problem is that the government is not taking any effective measures to improve the situation rather than blaming the oppositions, and thus escaping from their responsibilities.

Violent attacks, domestic violence, and rape, have become significant features of the deterioration of human rights conditions in July 2016. Political turmoil between rival political parties is gradually intensified. Many innocent citizens are facing different forms of suppression, discrimination and exploitation by different vested quarters without any justified allegations. Although UDHR and Constitution of Bangladesh (Article no. 27-44) strictly defend all forms of human rights, it's a matter of deep concern that they have been denied by most incumbents of the government.

It might be estimated that if human rights situation gradually deteriorates as it happens during the July of the year 2016 then the whole country would be undisciplined, anarchic, unstable as well as disordered. Upon such alarming circumstances, HRSC calls to every conscious citizen and non-state actors to be more vocal against these sorts of deplorable human rights situations in the country. HRSC also urges the Government to be more responsive in protecting the life and property of the general people and thereby fulfill their constitutional commitment.

RECOMMENDATION

- ❑ The fair practice of democratic system is the prerequisite to ensure the human rights. Hence, the Government should initiate the cordial dialogue with all major political parties to resolve the deadlock regarding the election procedure and find out the proper way to ensure stable political situation and democratic system in the country.
- ❑ Violence against women (VAW) is both structural and cultural. So, actions should be taken to create a culture against VAW at all spheres and criminal must be faced before the law.
- ❑ The government needs to form a special independent agency or judiciary investigation team to inquiry every incident of extra-judicial killing, enforce disappearance and abduction. After an investigation, real culprits should be given exemplary punishment.
- ❑ The government should take necessary steps to find out the victims of disappearance and handed back them to their families. HRSC urges the government to abide by the agreements of the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance, adopted by the UN on December 20, 2006 in a proper manner.
- ❑ The Proper initiative has to be taken to ensure the security of women, children and minority group members. Equity must be ensured in every sphere of social, economic and political life.
- ❑ The Government should be flexible in the matter of freedom of expression. All types of print and electronic media should enjoy fearless opportunity to broadcast their news even though it goes against the Government. The Government has to be more tolerant of the oppositions and their ideas.
- ❑ Arbitrary arrests of persons with reverse political ideology must be stopped. The Government should immediately retract the repressive special powers act of 1974 and the Information and Communication Technology Act 2006 (Amended 2013).
- ❑ The Government must ensure the accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies and should take effective measures to end impunity.