

# Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

**March, 2016**



**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT CENTER  
(HRSC)**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Human right support center (HRSC) is functioning in Bangladesh to ensure all sorts of human rights for all people through building awareness as well as monitoring and publishing the human rights situation, providing legal aid, helping destitute people and conducting advocacy with the government and others concerned authority and international community. We are working to raise awareness among the general people about the violations of human rights in Bangladesh.

We also encourage immersion of general people in various human rights related activities. As part of our mission we are regularly publishing monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly Human Rights observation report on the basis of twelve prominent newspapers in our country. As part of our duty, we are regularly publishing this monthly report on the basis of 12 prominent daily newspapers of Bangladesh and fact-finding report from our regional representative of the country. Recently, we have published monthly human rights observation reports of March 2015.

Human rights violation is also continued yet as same as previous months. In this report, extra-judicial killing, violence against women, abduction and an arbitrary arrest have been increased tremendously specifically the rate of rape, gang rape and child rape increased to the first-time extent.

***Human rights violation is also continued in March 2016, as like as previous time. According to the source of human rights support center (HRSC), an almost 12 people were killed extra judicially. Around 70 women were raped. A total of 11 women were killed for dowry, 28 females were sexually harassed and 04 have become victims of Acid violence.***

***On the other hand, two Bangladeshi citizens were killed by BSF, one was arrested, at the same time, almost 71 were killed in the violent attack. A total of 48 people have been abducted, among them 29 were rescued and 07 were killed after the abduction.***

***Besides, 04 journalists have been seriously injured and 02 were threatened. Furthermore, 161 people in total were injured in political violence. At least 13 people were killed by public lynching.***

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 of 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 citizen to raise their voice to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh.

finally, we want to acknowledge the contribution and pay our thanks to those people who assisted and encouraged us to complete the monthly report more qualitative and encourage us to keep a vibrant role in human rights sector.

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# INTRODUCTION

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Human rights are rights which hold to be 'inalienable' and belonging to all human, according to natural law. Human rights are sometimes called fundamental rights or basic rights. Fundamental rights cannot, rather must not, be taken away by any legislature or any act of the government and are often set out in a constitution. Human rights are protected and upheld by international and national laws and treaties. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and right without any kinds of discrimination. Human rights advocates agree that sixty years after its issue, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is still more a dream than reality.

The state is the defender of all sorts of human rights. As the Constitution of Bangladesh recognize 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, meaning a person can file a petition before the High Court in case there is a violation of 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".

In spite of having such national and international obligation, human rights are drastically violated in Bangladesh. In the month of March'16, human rights have been infringed specifically violence against women, abduction, attack on a journalist and extra-judicial killings. The situation reached to such abysmal state that even the mass people feel insecure inside their homes and pedestrian plus commuters doubt if they will be back safe to their beloved ones at the fall of dusk.

Massive corruption in state machinery, the politicization of administration, weak judiciary, and culture of impunity are degrading law and order situation as well as political patronization and shelter of criminals lead to human rights violation worsen in Bangladesh.

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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“Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women.<sup>1</sup> Violence against women conflicts with the basic Human Rights established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948 and other documents like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Such as:

*violence denies women the right to life (ICCPR Article 6); right to be free from discrimination; right to health; right to bodily integrity; right to privacy; the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (ICCPR article 7); the right to liberty and security of person (ICCPR article 9); and the right to be free from all kinds of violence’s including sexual violence. Early marriage and pregnancy are also violations of the rights of the girl child to equal opportunities in education and training.*

Violence against women in Bangladesh is an extensive and political impact; governmental failure and lack of social conflict and implementation of laws are the main causes that lead to the criminals going free. HRSC faithfully screens the whole condition of women and girls in Bangladesh and documents the issues relating to violence against women, Some main acts of violence committed against women include dowry killings, rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid attacks, physical and mental abuse and sex trafficking. it has been continued and increasing day by day. Rape, sexual harassment, acid violence are increasing to a greater extent because of corrupted judicial and administrative system. Most of the perpetrators of violence are out of punishment with taking ruling parties shelter. the government should take a step proper protective measures to stop violence against women.

**According to source of HRSC in March 2016, incident of violence against women are-**

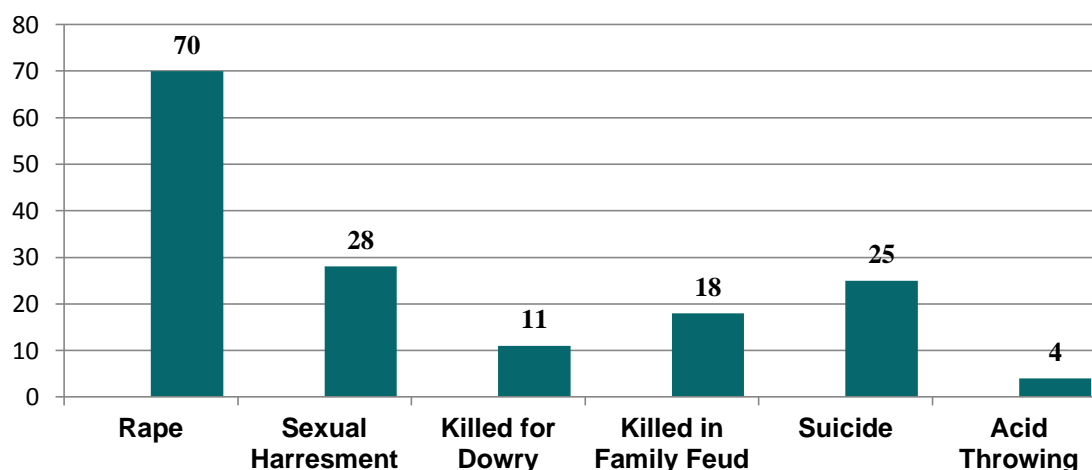
**Rape:** *A of 70 females was reportedly raped. Among of them, 04 female were killed after rape, among total raped about 23 children who were below the age of 16. Of the women, 13 were victims of gang rape*

**Sexual Harassment:** *A total of 28 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment. Of them, 20 were assaulted and 08 were stalked.*

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<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, General Assembly Resolution, December 1993

**Dowry Related Violence:** A total of 16 incidents of dowry-related violence have been reported on daily newspaper. Out of the 16, 11 were killed because of dowry and 07 women were physically abused over dowry demands. Have become victims of acid violence.



**Figure 1: Violence against Women**

The Numbers of vital cases are mentioned below: On March 27, 2016 a woman, who suffered burns after her husband allegedly poured boiling water over her in the capital's Badda on March 21, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The deceased Purnima Akter, 26, was undergoing treatment at the hospital with 30 percent burn injuries, said Resident Surgeon Partha Sankar Pal. Following a family feud, Purnima's husband Mizanur Rahman poured boiling water on her when she was cooking on that day, Officer-in-Charge of Badda Police Station MA Jalil told.<sup>2</sup>

On March 27, 2016 a woman was tortured and her head shaved for alleged involvement in an extra-marital affair with a nephew of her husband at Ichhadi village under Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila. The victim is the wife of Habib Rari of the village and mother of two children. MA Kuddus, former upazila parishad (UP) chairman, and Khaledul Islam Swapan, newly elected UP chairman and also president of Galachipa upazila Jubo League arranged an arbitration meeting at about 7:30pm, where they declared that the accused would be beaten. They also fined Mizan Tk 30,000. Mizan and the woman were taken to a field where Swapan beat up both of them with sticks. Swapan also told a barber to shave the woman's head.<sup>3</sup>

On March 26, 2016 Three sisters sustained burn injuries in an acid attack following a dispute over land at Kumri Pherengitila village in Baniachong upazila of Habiganj district. The victims are Safia Khatun, 35, wife of Abdur Razzak, Monwara Khatun, 32, wife of Jitu Miah, and Amena Khatun, 30, wife of Nazrul Islam of the village. They were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.<sup>4</sup>

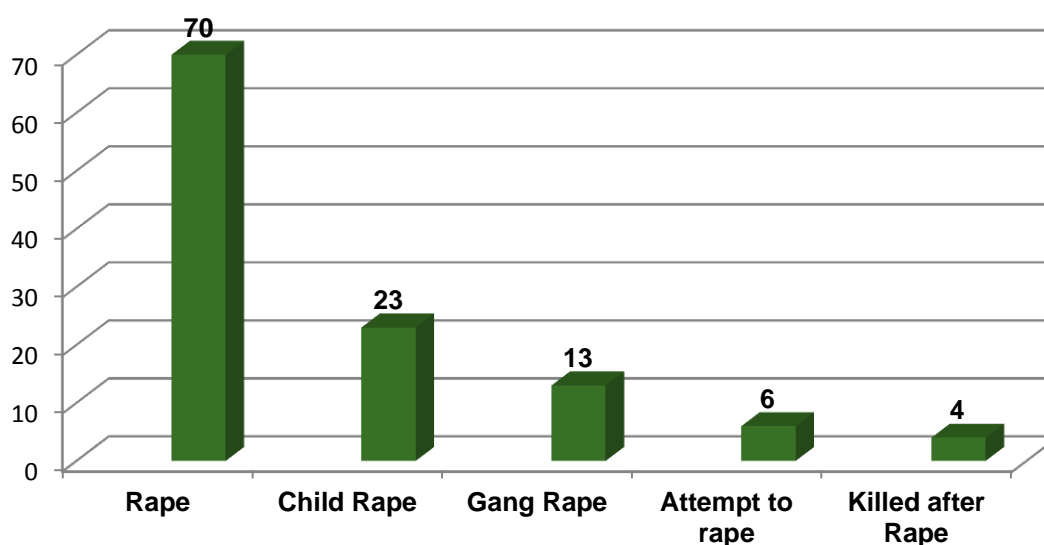
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/woman-scalded-husband-capital-dies-1200592>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/812221>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2016/03/26/8038/>

## RAPE

Rape is one of the cruelest forms of violence against women in Bangladesh. In a culture that holds a woman's chastity sacred, rape is particularly injurious to a woman's self-identity and social future as well as her physical and psychological wellbeing. The increasing rate of rape is an alarming phenomenon and it depicts the diminishing value of women in society. In Bangladesh rape is also an offense. As section 376 of the penal code 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 2: Statistics of Raped in March 2016**

*Numbers of vital cases are mentioned below:* On March 5, 2016 a physically challenged girl was raped by a group of youths at Mobarakkathi village in sadar upazila. Illas Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali police station, said Kawsar, son of Jakaria, Rashed Ahmed, son of Pute Ahmed, and Russell Hossain, son of Sakar Hossain, all residents of Mobarakkathi village, allegedly grabbed the girl when she came out of the house to respond to call of nature around 12:30am. They dragged the girl into a nearby brickfield and raped her there by turn in deep dark.<sup>5</sup>

On March 11, 2016 a 30-year-old man allegedly raped a three-year-old girl at Rayebazar in the capita. Police arrested Hossain, victim's neighbour, after the victim's father filed a rape case against him and he was sent on a three-day remand by a Dhaka court, said Jamal Uddin Mir, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station. The victim was missing for over two hours until her father saw her coming out of the accused's house around 7:00pm and crying, the OC said, quoting the victim's father.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/news/2016/03/05/16215/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/796444/>

On March 20, 2016 the body of 19-year old Tonu, with her head smashed, was found in a bush near a culvert at the cantonment's Alipur area. After recovering the body, police, based on the findings at the crime scene, had said that the girl was first raped and then murdered. Tonu was in her second year studying history at Comilla Victoria College. She was also into theatre and lived with her family at Alipur. Quoting her family, Tonu's classmate Mainul Haque said she used to give private tuition to earn some money to supplement her expenses. Tonu had left her student's house at around 7:30pm for home, but did not get there. Police failed to find any clue to the rape and subsequent killing of Sohagi Jahan Tonu, The following day, Tonu's father Yaar Hossain, a Class IV employee of the Cantonment Board, had lodged a case with Kotwali police of Comilla city. But the police are yet to make any headway in the investigation of the rape and murder case. Police also failed to identify the killers four days into the murder. Several organisations including Nari Sanghati, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation also held protest programmes. Students and cultural organisations demonstrated in other districts including Chittagong against the murder. Facebook, Twitter, blogs and other social media users have erupted in furore in no less intensity. Many have criticised the silence of the local administration while some questioned how such incident could take place inside a high-security area such as an army cantonment.<sup>7</sup>

On March 18, 2016 a minor girl was allegedly raped by a day labourer while another minor girl was attempted to be raped allegedly by a shop owner in Bogra. The victim was the daughter of a rickshaw-puller Rubel Mia. Aleya Khatun, victim's mother lodged a case.<sup>8</sup>

On March 24, 2016 A housewife was gang-raped at Gopalpur in Sadar upazila of the district. Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said the victim was at Gaibandha bus stand on her way to Dhaka in search of job when one Nazrul Islam approached her and took her to his house at Ghorabanda in Palashbari upazila, promising to give her a job. From there, she was taken to a place close to a school at Gopalpur village, where Nazrul and his accomplices raped her by turn. They left the place, leaving the victim there alone.<sup>9</sup>

### **DOWRY RELATED VIOLENCE:**

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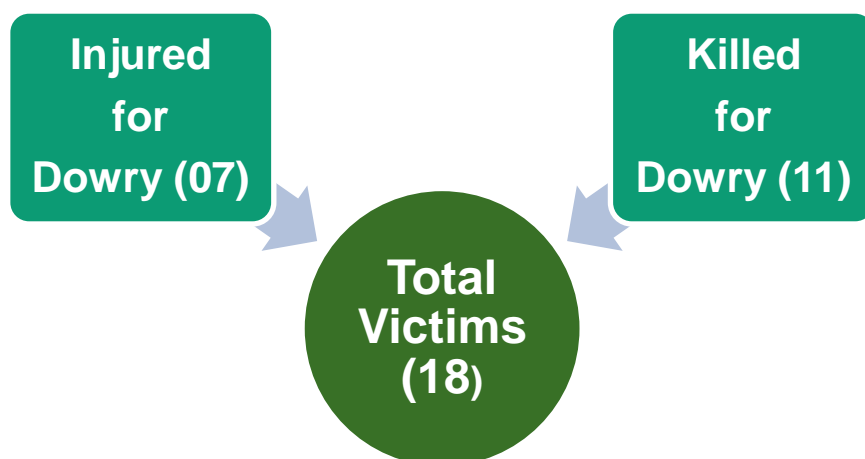
Domestic violence by men against women is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh both in rural and urban areas. Here Dowry related violence is being practiced unchanged, particularly in rural areas of Bangladesh. It is observed that dowry-related domestic violence (often death) against women is increasing at an alarming rate. In spite, taking or giving dowry is 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 steeply in 2015.

<sup>7</sup> www.hrscbd.org, Human rights support center(hrsc)\*\*\*

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/girl-raped-rapist-held-bogra-1196314>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-gang-raped-1199140>





**Figure 03: Statistics of Dowry Related Violence**

**The given line graph shows information about the Dowry Related Violence. According to the source of human rights support center (HRSC) from March 2015: The graph shows that in total of 16 incidents of dowry-related violence, 11 were killed and 07 women were physically abused regarding dowry demands.**

**Some important incidents are given;** On March 8, 2016 a woman was killed allegedly by her husband over dowry at Doshaid in Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital. The deceased was Rozifa Akter 23, of Lalmonirhat and wife of Md Berek Miah. The couple and their three-and-half-year-old daughter lived in a slum in Ashulia. Mohsinul Kadir, officer-in-charge of Ashulia police station, said the police recovered the body on Tuesday morning which had been hanging from the ceiling of the house.<sup>10</sup>

On March 23, 2016 A man killed his wife and six-year-old son over dowry int Barapilak area under Guimara upazila of the district. The deceased are Majeda Begum, 20, and her son Mohammad Hridoy. Quoting family members, Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Guimara Police Station, said Majeda and her husband Sabar Ali, 30, had an altercation over his demand for Tk 1 lakh as dowry. At one stage, he strangled Majeda and Hridoy and fled the scene.<sup>11</sup>

On March 20, 2016 a housewife was murdered allegedly for dowry at Ramnagar village in Phulbaria upazila of the district. The victim was Khodeja Khatun, 25, daughter of late Abdul Khaleque of Achhim Horipur in the upazila. The victim's uncle Saiful Islam informed Phulbaria police about the alleged murder. Quoting the victim's family, Rifat Khan Rajib, officer-in-charge (OC) of Phulbaria Police Station, said Khodeja got married with Nazrul Islam, a day labourer of adjacent Ramnagar village, 10 years ago.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <http://newagebd.net/209872/woman-killed-by-husband-for-dowry/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/news/2016/03/24/20591/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-killed-dowry-11>

### SOME FAMILY FEUD RELATED CASES ARE GIVEN:

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On March 01, 2016 a housewife was found dead in Tangail. Police recovered the body of a woman from Beltoil village in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail. The deceased is Shahida Begum Farzana, 25, daughter of Faruk Miah of Shobhulla village in the upazila. She married Selim Reza, son of Abdul Khalek of Beltoil village two years ago. After their marriage, Shahida and her mother-in-law often engaged in altercation over family matters. As a result, Farzana and her husband recently got separate although they continued living at the same house. Farzana was found hanging from the ceiling of her room.<sup>13</sup>

On March 04, 2016 A man killed his wife over a family feud at Kadampur Umradagi village of Ranishankoil upazila in Thakurgaon. The deceased was Sohagi Begum, 30, wife of Kosim Uddin of the same village. Locals said that over the cell phone that Kosim engaged in a quarrel with her wife over a trifling matter around 8:00am. At one stage of the altercation, he hit her on the head, leaving her dead on the spot, and fled the house.<sup>14</sup>

On March 5, 2016 a woman was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at village Padampur Umaradangi of Ranisankail upazila in Thakurgaon. Ranisankail police officer-in-charge Rezaul Karim said Shohagi, 30, died as her husband Kashimuddin beat her severely over a family feud. The body was sent to morgue for post-mortem examinations, the OC said, adding that, the alleged killer was absconding.<sup>15</sup>

### SOME SUICIDES RELATED CASES ARE GIVEN:

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On March 03, 2016 An HSC examinee allegedly committed suicide over love affair at Navaron Dakkhin Burujbagan village in Sadar upazila of Jessore district. The deceased was identified as Sheuli Khatun, 17, daughter of Ashraf Ali of the village. Locals said Sheuli fell in love with a youth. Recently, he broke up their relationship. Following the incident, Sheuli took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room.<sup>16</sup>

On March 13, 2016 a young couple, who were in love, committed suicide as their families refused to accept their affair at Janpara village in Sadullapur upazila. The deceased were Rustom Ali Khandker, 17, son of Mohiruddin of Fakirpara village and a student of Sadullapur Degree College, and Sultana Akhter Mukti, 15, daughter of Motaher Hossain of the same village and a Class IX student of Mohishbandi Girls' High School. Locals found the bodies hanging from a tree at the village in the morning and informed the police.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/two-housewives-commit-suicide-tangail-bogra-784696>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/man-kills-wife-over-family-feud-786496>

<sup>15</sup> <http://newagebd.net/208941/woman-killed-by-husband-in-thakurgaon/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/hsc-examinee-commits-suicide-785851>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/couple-love-commits-suicide-790690>

On March 17, 2016 a housewife committed suicide in Chirirbandar upazila of the district. The deceased is Sultana Begum, 22, wife Md Jahedullah of Margaon village, and daughter of Sultan Mia of the village. The woman, mother of a daughter, was found hanging from the ceiling of her bedroom at around 11:00pm. Being informed, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.<sup>18</sup>

On March 18, 2016 A housewife committed suicide in Chirirbandar upazila of the district. The deceased is Sultana Begum, 22, wife Md Jahedullah of Margaon village, and daughter of Sultan Mia of the village. The woman, mother of a daughter, was found hanging from the ceiling of her bedroom at around 11:00pm. Atwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Chirirbandar Police Station, said the woman might have committed suicide following a quarrel with her family members over microcredit issue.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-commits-suicide-1043374>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-commits-suicide-1043374>

# EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLING

The term “extrajudicial killing” means execution without justice. This is an arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life and simply a murder. An extrajudicial killing is the killing of a person by governmental authorities without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.<sup>20</sup> Bangladesh has earned notoriety in carrying out extrajudicial killings. ‘Crossfire’ or ‘encounter’ and gunfight are very common terms used by the law enforcing agencies to hide their crime and avoid the liabilities of extra-judicial killing. After killing in a pre-planned and cool head, the police and RAB<sup>21</sup> authorities have informed the media that the victims 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. Extra-judicial killing totally diminishes public faith in the judicial system<sup>22</sup>.

The government of Bangladesh has been violating the constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights day after day since 2002 especially when did the operation clean heart starts. Now the situation is becoming more complex day by day. According to UN General Comment No.35; “States parties have the duty to take the appropriate measures to protect the rights to liberty of persons against deprivations by third parties”. States parties must protect individuals against abduction or detention by individual criminals or irregular groups, including armed or terrorist groups, operating within their territory. They must also protect individuals against wrongful deprivation of liberty by lawful organizations, such as employers, schools, and hospitals.

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," however, we find that these legal provisions are being totally ignored:

**Article 31<sup>23</sup> of the constitution of Bangladesh<sup>24</sup> states:**

*"To enjoy the protection of law, and to be treated in accordance with law, is the inalienable right of every citizen, wherever he may be, and of every other person for the time being within Bangladesh, and in particular, no action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law."*

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.

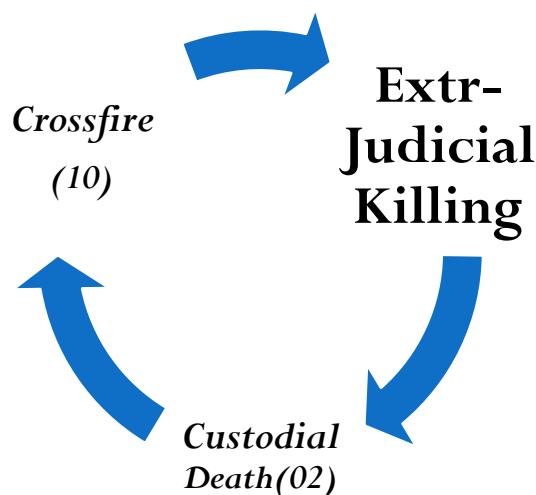
<sup>21</sup> <http://www.lawteacher.net>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.

<sup>23</sup> [http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf\\_part.php?id=367](http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf_part.php?id=367)

<sup>24</sup> [http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf\\_part.php?id=367](http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/pdf_part.php?id=367)

The given pie chart provides information about the extra-judicial killing scenario in the month March 2016: According to human rights support center (HRSC) report, a total of 12 persons alleged to kill extra-judicially. Out of them, 10 people were killed in the name of 'crossfire/ encounters /gunfights', two were custodial Death.



**Figure 4: Extra-Judicial Killing**

*Some important cases are mentioned below:* On March 01, 2016 an alleged Yaba trader was killed in a 'gunfight' with Rapid Action Battalion in Patuakhali town. The deceased was identified as Golam Mawla Mridha, 35, son of Nurul Haque Mridha of Kalikapur area in the town. He was an accused in a number of cases including an arms case, KM Tariqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Patuakhali Police Station said. The 'shootout' took place in Hatalia area of Kaliakpur village at 4:00am, he said<sup>25</sup>.

On March 03, 2016 two suspects of a double-murder were killed and three others injured in a "gunfight" with police in Narsingdi Sadar upazila, hours after the murder. Those killed in the "shootout" are Jahirul Islam, 25, and Rakib, 24. They stood accused in the killings of Arif Khandaker and his younger brother Khokon Khandaker. Criminals shot the two brothers dead at Bhagdi in Narsingdi town on Wednesday evening allegedly for protesting extortion from their relatives.<sup>26</sup>

On March 07, 2016 a suspected robber was killed during a “gunfight” with police in Kashundi bridge area on Magura-Dhaka highway. The deceased was identified as Aminul

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/785014/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2016/03/03/5807/>

Islam, 30, of Azampur in the sadar upazila of Magura. Aminul was an accused in five robbery cases filed with Magura sadar and Islamic University police stations. A number of people from adjacent areas rushed to the spot on hearing the gun shots.<sup>27</sup>

On March 08, 2016 a youth was killed in a “gunfight” with detectives at Khilgaon in the capital. Law enforcers identified him as Pias, 30, a member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh. The “gunfight” took place around 3:30am near Khidma Hospital, said Kazi Mainul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station.<sup>28</sup>

On March 10, 2016 four people were killed in what law enforcers described as a gunfight during a crackdown by the Rapid Action Battalion and Bangladesh Coast Guard on robbers in the Sundarbans. The dead have been identified to the media as Monir, 35, chief of a robbers' gang called Nayan Bahini and his three accomplices Enam, Hassan and Gias. The “gunfight” took place at Sarankhola range of the mangrove forest in Bagerhat district around 6:30am, said Lt Col Faridul Alam, commanding officer of Rab-8.<sup>29</sup>

On March 17, 2016 an alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Shalikka upazila of Magura. The dead is Obaidur Rahman, 32, of Hatbaria village in the upazila. According to police, Obaidur stood accused in four robbery cases filed with different police stations in Magura and Jessore. He was the chief of an inter-district robber gang.<sup>30</sup>

On March 26, 2016 a suspected criminal killed in gunfight with Rapid Action Battalion at Tongi, on the outskirts of the capital city. ‘The shootout took place when a gang of criminals fired gunshots at a patrol team of RAB-1 and in retaliation they also fired back at Nadi Bandar area of Tongi around 3:00am,’ Lieutenant Colonel Tuhin Masud of RAB-1 told.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>27</sup> <http://bangla.samakal.net/2016/03/07/197935#sthash.4AJNObCg.dpuf>

<sup>28</sup> <http://newagebd.net/209860/jmb-commander-killed-in-city-gunfight/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2016/03/10/6494>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/802078/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://newagebd.net/215141/criminal-killed-in-tongi-gunfight/>

# ATTACK ON JOURNALIST

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) contains, *in Article 19, the first and most widely recognized statement of the right to freedom of expression: “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>32</sup>

The UDHR is not a binding treaty but a recommendatory resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly. Through time and universal acceptance, however, much of the UDHR has risen to the level of customary international law, including Article 19, and is, therefore, binding on all states.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) was meant to elaborate the UDHR and contains a more detailed but very similar statement about freedom of expression (again in Article 19):<sup>33</sup>

- 1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.*
- 2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.*

The UN’s Human Rights Committee, the body that is mandated to monitor states’ implementation of the ICCPR, has clarified that law which criminalizes the expression of opinions about historical facts are incompatible with the obligations on states to respect freedom of expression and opinion. As a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), all of Bangladesh’s branches of governmental authority, including the judiciary, must respect and protect freedom of expression.

Freedom of expression is a precondition for working democracy, creating peace and public participation in decision-making. Regrettably Freedom of expression was seen to limited in every aspect in Bangladesh in 2016. Individuals are not always able to disparage the government publicly without the fear of reprisal and the government often attempted to impede criticism by prohibiting or dispersing as well as shutting out many electronic and print media due to the silly matter of publishing real but against to government reports.

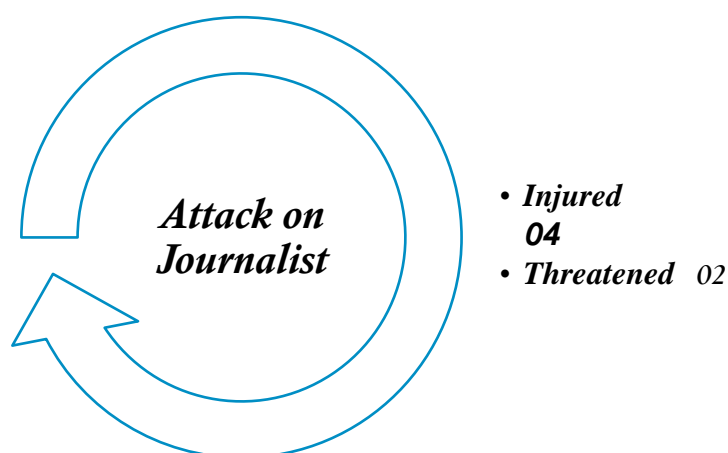
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<sup>32</sup> UDHR-1948, article 19

<sup>33</sup> ICCPR-1966, article 19

Even the social media was banned for two times. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly. Moreover in Bangladesh, attacks on journalists are very frequent incidents; assaulting, threatening and disrupting in their professional duties have become very mundane matter.

***The journalists and the media constant were to be victims of attacks, physically assaulted, threaten and intimidated from different powerful quarters, especially from the government and the ruling party leaders and activists. In March 2016: According to HRSC's documented statistics, around 04 journalists were injured, 02 were threatened.***



**Figure 5: Attack on Journalist**

***Selected cases are as described here:*** A Journalist of a nongovernment TV channel was alleged to be severely beaten during working his duty in Barishal on 03<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016. The victim was Selim Reza, working as camera man of Banglavision, a non-government TV channel. Witness said that there was creating a clash between police and University student regarding matter of mobile stealing. When Selim Reza went there to collect the news, mob and student attacked him and tortured him along with vandalize the camera. The extra force rushed there and rescues him to the hospital.<sup>34</sup>

On 05<sup>th</sup> March 2016, two journalists were alleged to be injured seriously during collecting news of union parishad election in Munshigonj. The victims were Aodhir Rajbongshi, staff reporter of daily Vorer Kagoj and Mir Ratul, staff reporter of daily Rupbani. During raid the mob vandalized their camera and motorcycle. Witness and local said that when Awami candidate Mokhlechur Rahman and neutral candidate Tajul went to Union parishad to submit their nomination paper. The supporter of Mokhlechur Rahman attacked on the house of Tajul as rumor that Tajul storing arms to fight with Mokhlechur. When the Aodhir Rajbongshi and Mir Ratul went the spot collect news the mob beat them seriously and left as critically injured condition.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/news/2016/03/03/15739>

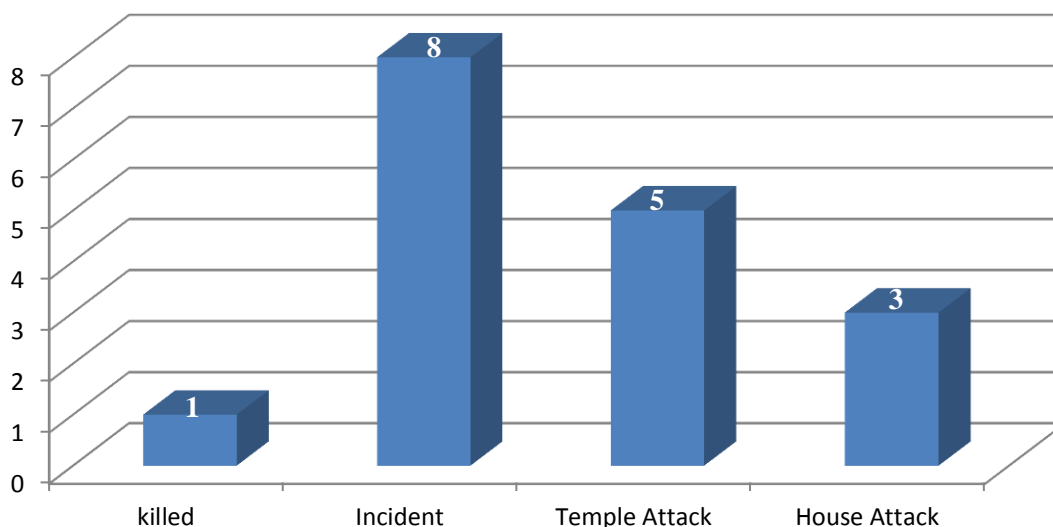
<sup>35</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/790423/>



A journalist, Shah Shultan was severely beaten by a marked terrorist in Nabiganj on 26<sup>th</sup> March. The culprit was Labu mia (beating Shah Shultan), escaping from prison after ending ten year rigorous imprisonment. Local said that Shah Shultan published a report on his daily regarding to low quality meal of Dawskandi restaurant. As a result Labu mia prejudiced to the restaurant owner beat Shah Shultan, vandalized his camera and snatch some money. Shah Shultan registered a general diary to the local thana.<sup>36</sup>

## 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 06: Statistics of attack on minority**

**The bar graph provides information about the incidences regarding attacks on minority, According to information gathered by HRSC in March, an account at least 01 people were killed in a total of 08 incidences regarding temple, business and family attack on the minority.**

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=7209&cat=9/-&#x09;>

Selected cases are as described here: On March 22, 2016 Assailants killed a Christian convert by slitting his throat during his morning jogging at Garialpara in Kurigram. The victim was identified as Hossain Ali, 68, a freedom fighter who converted to Christianity over a decade ago. Witnesses said the killing took place near his house on Kurigram-Mogholbasha road when he was jogging. Three assailants, who came in a motorbike, intercepted the victim, also a retired government employee, near Ashrafea Government Primary School and slit his throat and exploded hand bombs before speeding away. Witnesses said that the locals had tried to capture the assailants by blocking the road but failed.<sup>37</sup>

On March 22, 2016 a group of activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League of Islamic University unit in Kushtia allegedly vandalised the glasses of a Hindu temple in the campus. Witnesses said some activists of Chhatra League, followers of Faysal Siddique Arafat, assistant secretary of university BCL unit, vandalised the glasses of the temple adjacent to university central auditorium around 2:30pm. President of the university's Puja Udjapan Committee, Professor Arabina Saha said that they condemned the incident and urged the university authorities to take steps against the miscreants.<sup>38</sup>

On March 28, 2016 A gang led by Akbar Ali swooped on the house of Ripon Deb around 9:00pm to grab his land, at Barcoat village in Dhaka Dakkhin area of Gopalganj upazila under Sylhet, said Kajal Das, convener of Hindu-Bouddha -Christian Oikya Parishad in Golapganj upazila said. The gang also stabbed three members of the family when they tried to resist them from grabbing the land, police quoted locals as saying. They also vandalised, looted and torched the house.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=6756&cat=2>

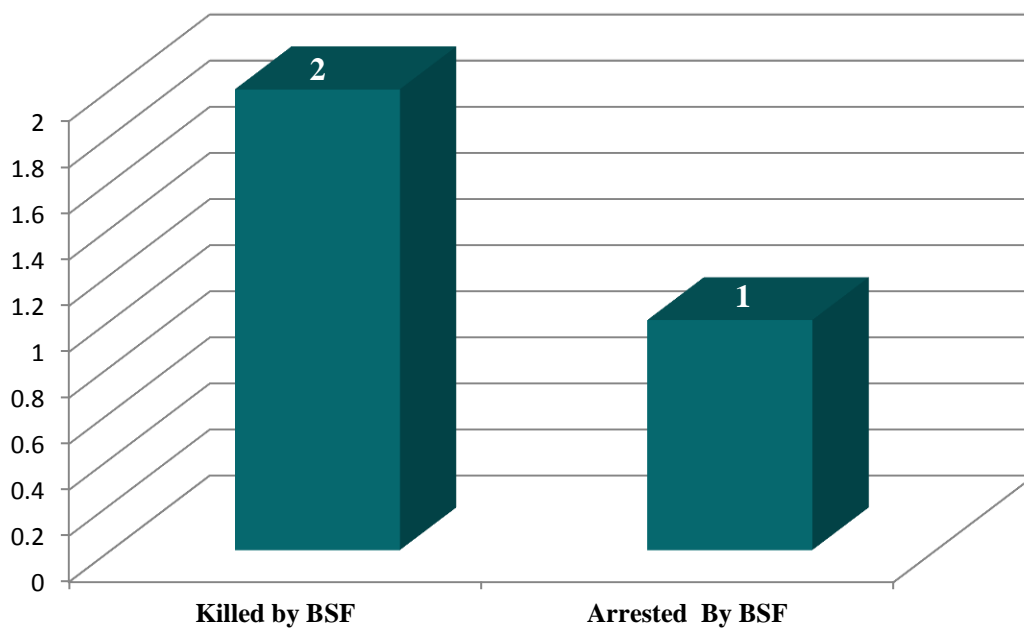
<sup>38</sup> <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/104266#sthash.JlqIrd8B.dpuf>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/15-sued-torching-hindu-house-sylhet-one-held-1201060>

# BORDER DISPUTE

Human rights are also 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 these borders between Bangladesh and India. Examples of BSF shooting, murder, tormenting and abducting unarmed Bangladeshi civilians in the border areas violate international norms and treaties. 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 goriest border in the world. In 2010, Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued an 81-page report which brought up uncountable abuses of the BSF. The report stated that over 1000 Bangladeshi citizens were killed during the first decade of the 21st century.<sup>40</sup>

However, we have frequently observed that India has been violating treaties, shooting at anyone seen near the border or anyone trying to cross the border, which is a pure violation of the international act and human rights.



**Figure 07: Border Dispute**

***The given chart gives information on the border dispute. According to the source of Human Rights Support Center (HRSC) in March 2016, around 02 Bangladeshi citizens were killed by the BSF and 01 was arrested by BSF.***

<sup>40</sup> "India/Bangladesh: Indiscriminate Killings, Abuse by Border Officers". Human Rights Watch. Archived from the original on 21 March 2011.

*Some important cases are mentioned below;* On March 02, 2016 Indian Border Security Force shot a Bangladeshi cattle trader to death in Zaharpur frontier under Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj. The deceased was identified as cattle trader Md Benjir Ahmed, 22, of Gaipara village at Shibganj upazila. Border Guard Bangladesh battalion-9 commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Junaid Alam Khan said that BSF members of Chandnichak camp opened fire at a group of Bangladeshi people at about midnight on allegation that they entered Indian territory.<sup>41</sup>

On March 25, 2016 Members of Border Guard Bangladesh recovered the body of an unidentified woman from Taluigacha bordering area in Satkhira sadar. Taluigacha border outpost commandar naik subedar Kabir of BGB Satkhira-38 said locals spotted the body of the woman, wearing burqa, near the demarcation pillar number 13 of the bordering area and informed BGB. BGB men recovered the body and handed it over to sadar police station.<sup>42</sup>

On March 26, 2016 One Bangladeshi national was killed and two others were injured in grenade blast hurled by members of Indian border security force (BSF) on Gaipara border under Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district. The identity of the deceased could not be known as the BSF men took away his body although associates managed to bring injured persons into Bangladesh territory. Local sources said a group of Bangladeshi numbering 10/12 led by Abdur Rahim, son of Taimur Rahman of Gaipara village, were returning home along with 26 cattle through Thakurbari border point in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. BSF men halted them in Indian Territory when they were about two kilometers away from the border. But as they continued to advance towards the border, BSF men hurled grenade targeting them, leaving one person dead on the spot and two injured.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/787429/>

<sup>42</sup> <http://newagebd.net/214953/woman-found-dead-in-satkhira-border/>

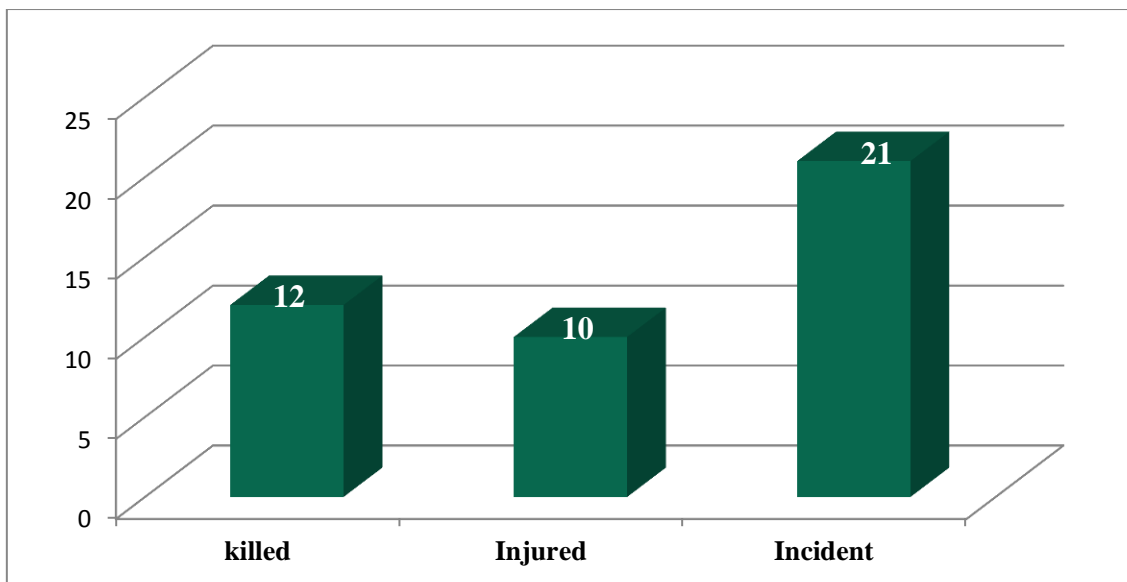
<sup>43</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2016/03/27/8055>

# VIOLATION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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, sanitation, and hygiene. Most of the children of Bangladesh are deprived of these basic rights.

Children have rights as members of society. This has 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.<sup>44</sup> The rights of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development".<sup>45</sup> In our country the family attends to care and protection of the children. In the extended family, the duties and responsibilities of parents are shared by other members of the family. The well-being and welfare of the children are a matter of general concern. Everything needed by the child could be provided by the family or the local community which was integrated. Life has become more complex and strains on the family have become more severe today<sup>46</sup>.

**According to HRSC report, In March 2016, 12 children's were killed and 10 children's have been critically injured in a total of 21 incidents of violation of child rights.**



**Figure 08: Violation of Child Rights**

<sup>44</sup> Abdul Halim, Constitution, Constitutional Law & Politics Bangladesh Perspective, 3rd ed p. 53.

<sup>45</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art. 27.

<sup>46</sup> The Daily Star (1st March, 2010).

*Some important cases are mentioned below;* On March 05, 2016 a two-year-old boy was murdered allegedly by his “mentally challenged” mother in Paradanga village under Kishoreganj Sadar upazila. The child, Mahathir, was the son of Abul Kalam Azad of Karimganj upazila.<sup>47</sup>

On March 02, 2016 Mother has allegedly killed her two children at the city's Banasree area, claims Rapid Action Batallion (RAB). "Mother Mahfuza Malek Jesmine has confessed killing her two children--22-year-old daughter Nusrat Jahan Arani and 6-year-old Alvi Aman," said Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of RAB's legal and media wing.<sup>48</sup>

On March 10, 2016 Police arrested a councillor of Jamalpur municipality on charge of torturing a 14-year-old orphan of Jamalpur Shishu Paribar. The arrestee, Jamal Pasha, son of Sohrab Ali of Bania Bazar area under the municipality, is a councillor of Ward No 6. Police said Rakibul Islam Shraban of the orphanage, also a Class VIII student of Bania Bazar High School in Sadar upazila, took part in the annual sports. During the event on the school playground, Sraban locked in an altercation with Shakil Ahmed, 12, nephew of the arrestee, over a trifling matter around 1:30pm, Sabina Yesmin, assistant teacher of the orphanage, said.Councillor Jamal Pasha, who was present as a special guest, beat up Shraban mercilessly, leaving him critically injured, Sabina said.<sup>49</sup>

On March 14, 2016 a woman was killed allegedly by her son at Dakkhin Shahbazpur village in Barlekha upazila of the district. The deceased was identified as Ajirunnesa, 55, wife of late Tayeb Ali of the village. Police and locals said Tajul Islam stabbed his mother Ajirunnesa, leaving her seriously injured following an altercation over a family matter. Later, she died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/mother-kills-toddler-kishoreganj-787021>

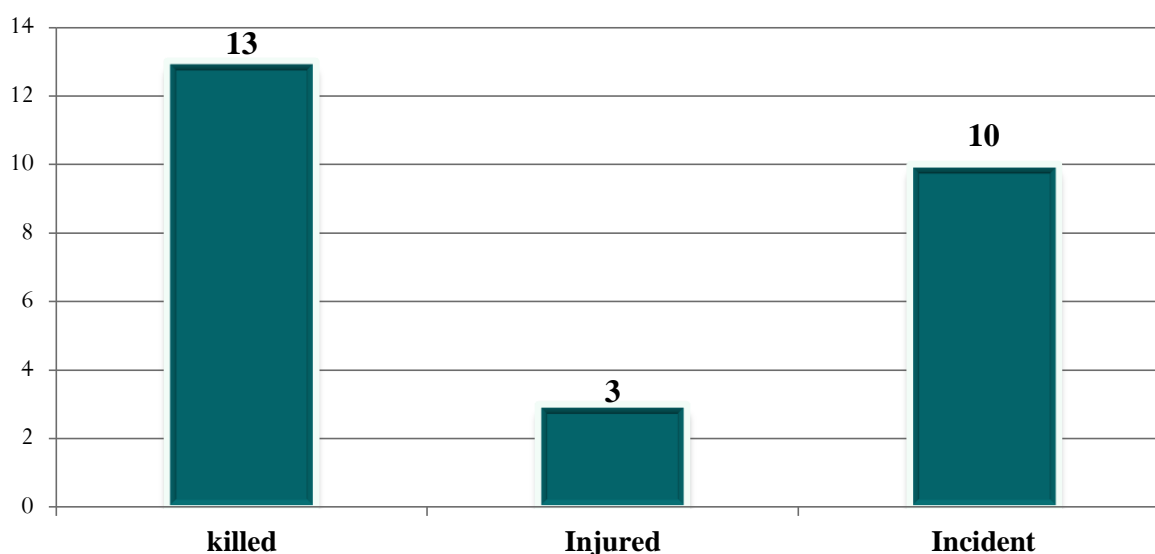
<sup>48</sup> <http://www.newsbangladesh.com/english/Banasree-mother-kills-her-two-children--RAB/12209>

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/councillor-held-torturing-orphan-789385>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-killed-son-791200>

## 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 the result, the incidence 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 09: Public Lynching**

***In March 2016, According to human rights support center (HRSC) information, there were 03 people injured, nearly 13 people were killed in a total of 10 incidents of the public lynching.***

*Some important cases are given below-*

On 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2016, the victim was Abdul shukur (20) was son of Abdul Kabir of Haspatal area. The victim mother said that Abdul shukur lost his cell phone and he suspected their neighbor Tajul, his daughter Shima and Lima. As a result all of the Tajul family attacked Abdul shukur in his house and shukur was spot dead for severe beating. Police detained Tajul along with is two daughter- Shima and Lima.<sup>51</sup>

Two alleged members of Hezbut Tawheed, an Islamist group, and a local were killed and over 150 others, including several policemen, injured in a clash between villagers and the

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=4073&cat=9/>

Hezbut men over building a mosque for the Islamist group at Sonaimuri upazila in Noakhali on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. The Hezbut activists are Ibrahim Khan Rubel, 27, son of Nurul Haque, and Mohammad Solaiman, 24, of Pourkara village, and local Mujibul Haque Mujib, 50, of Khodkhasta village. Elias Sharif, superintendent of police in Noakhali, said there had been a longstanding conflict between the Hezbut members and the villagers of Pourkara as they believed that the Hezbut men, followers of its founder Bayezid Khan Panni, was "propagating against Islam". Villagers vandalised the office of Hezbut Tawheed at Chashirhat Bazar and set fire to a house of a Hezbut supporter during the clash. The injured were admitted to different hospitals and clinics.<sup>52</sup>

An alleged thief was killed in a mob beating in Dakkhin Rajanagar area of Rangunia upazila in Chittagong 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The deceased was Jahir, 30. Jahir was caught red handed while he went to a house to conduct theft around 12:30am. Later, locals gave him a good beating, said Officer-in-Charge of Rangunia Police Station Humyun Kabir. He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he died.<sup>53</sup>

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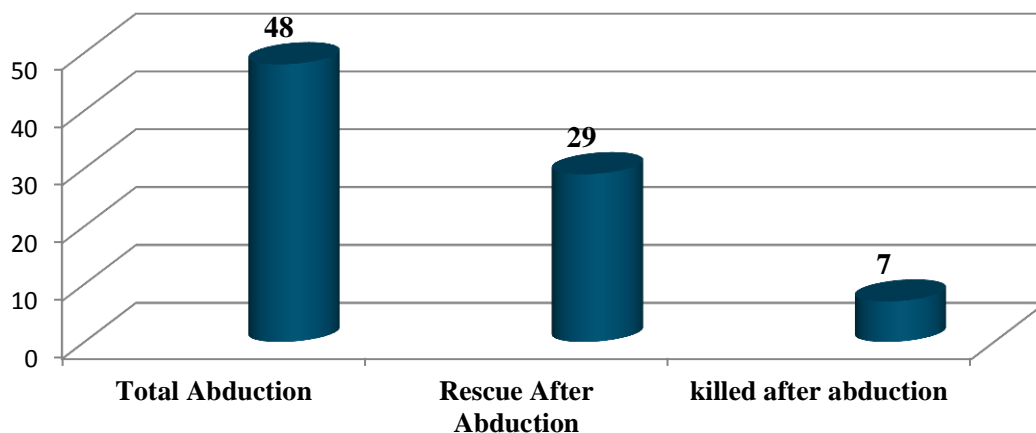
<sup>52</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/3-killed-noakhali-791428>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/thief-killed-mob-beating-port-city-791809>



# ABDUCTION

Abduction is an atrocious violation of human rights. The numbers of victims, according to HRSC report is increasing day by day. In March 2016, the occurrences of abduction increased all over the country. Most of the incidents are still unsolved and a very few people are rescued successfully by the law enforcing forces. However, in most of the abduction cases family members, relatives and friends of the victim triggered their assertion towards law enforcement agencies and specifically, they suspect and alleged that people wearing civil dress introduce them as member of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Police, or Detective Branch (DB) are arresting and forcefully bringing the victim with them. 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 he 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 line graph provides information about the total deduction in the month of 2016.



**Figure 11: Abduction**

***The supplied pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in March 2016 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support center (HRSC) information, a total of 48 people were abducted, among them, 07 were killed after the abduction. On the other hand, 29 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.***

*Selected cases are as follows:*

On March 01, 2016 Police recovered the body of a nine-year-old boy who went missing from Monohorganj Bazar area in Comilla. The body of Mohammad Riyadh, son of restaurant worker Khokon Mia, was found stuffed in a sack behind a workshop around 7:30am. Riyadh, a class III student at Dishaband Government Primary School in Monohorganj upazila, was the second among three children of Khokon and Nayan Akter.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=3735&cat=1/>

On March 02, 2016 a truck driver, abducted from Bogra town was rescued from a place near Bogra-Shantahar rail track at Koicor under Sadar upazila. The driver Abdul Khaleque, 50, hails from Dinajpur district and lives in Puran Bogra area of the town. Police, quoting the victim's relatives, said 3/4 masked people swooped on Khaleque while he was unloading sand from his truck. They beat him mercilessly and took him away.<sup>55</sup>

On March 07, 2016 Police rescued an expatriate from Shibganj upazila, 19 hours into his abduction. The victim, Manik Hossain, 35, son of Abdur Rahman of Shitlai village in Kahaloo upazila, is an expatriate in United Arab Emirates. Police also arrested three alleged abductors--Mina Khatun, 30, wife of Abdul Wahab, Yakub Ali, 50, son of late Mohammad Ali, of Pathan village and Masud Rana, 40, son of Selim Hasan of Dhankunja village in Nandigram upazila of the district, from the spot. Quoting victim's family members, police said Mina lured Manik by saying that she wanted to sell a gold-made doll at a cheaper price as she desperately neededz some money to meet her family expenses.<sup>56</sup>

On March 09, 2016 Police rescued a two-year-old boy from Bandartila area in Chittagong city, two days after his abduction from Feni town. The victim, Mehedi Hasan Rafi, son of Feroj Mia, was abducted from their rented house in Masterpara area of Feni town. The law enforces arrested alleged abductor Saiful Islam, a distant uncle of the victim, from Lankarhat Bazar in Feni Sadar upazila.<sup>57</sup>

On March 11, 2016 Bijoy Marma, 7, admitted to Bandarban Sadar Hospital. A class-II student of Islampur Govt Primary School in Rangamati, he was tortured badly by his abductors. About 22 hours into his abduction, the boy was rescued from a jungle. Lying on a hospital bed, Bijoy Marma looked absolutely helpless. Several parts of his feeble body had bruises and his eyes could tell you that he was still haunted by fear. The seven-year-old was beaten mercilessly after his abduction from Rajasthali upazila of Rangamati.<sup>58</sup>

On March 17, 2016 an information technology expert, who earlier claimed to be involved in investigation into the theft of \$101 million from the Bangladesh Bank reserve in New York, was abducted at Kachukhet in the capital, family alleged. The family of the victim, Tanvir Hasan Zoha, said that they rushed to four police stations but could not trace him out and the police too declined to register any general diary regarding his abduction.<sup>59</sup>

On March 18, 2016 The Rapid Action Battalion rescued a seven-year-old boy, who was abducted from Narayanganj, from Bottola bus stand area of Chandraganj upazila in Laxmipur. The rescued boy is Rafin, son of Tipu Sultan of Nabinagar in Brahmanbaria. the RAB said they also arrested the abductor, Abdul Hakim, 23, resident of village Ram Narayanpur of Chatkhali in Noakhali.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/trucker-rescued-five-days-abduction-785560>

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2016/03/07/6248/>

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/minor-boy-rescued-two-days-abduction-one-held-788980>

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/tortured-boy-rescued-789913>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=5983&cat=1/>

<sup>60</sup> <http://newagebd.net/212949/abducted-boy-rescued-in-laxmipur/>

# 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 in March 2016.

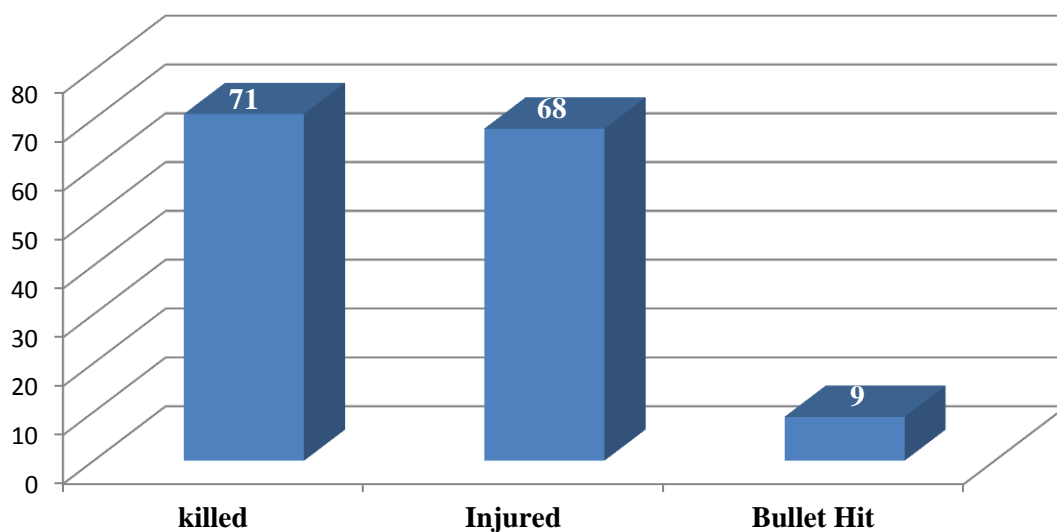


Figure 12: violent attack

**The pie chart provides information regarding the violent attack on armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Centre in the month of March 2016, a total 51 incidents of violent attack have happened and 71 were killed in these attacks, 68 were seriously injured, at least, 09 people were bullet hit.**

**Selected cases are as analysed:** On March 1, 2016 Miscreants hacked a local Awami League leader to death at Shahzadpur in Sirajganj. The victim was identified as Korban Ali, 42, general secretary of Kayempur union unit Awami League and son of Abdul Aziz of Saratail. Shahzadpur police inspector Munir Hossain said a gang of miscreants swooped on Korban Ali near Sarappur-Shayestabad Government Primary School around 9:30pm on his way home from Kashinathpur Bazar. The attackers hacked him indiscriminately with sharp weapons leaving him dead on the spot, he said.<sup>61</sup>

On March 04, 2016 a motorbike rider was hacked to death by miscreants at Haliura of Nandail upazila in Mymensingh. The victim was identified as Md Sharif Miah, 25, son of

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2016/03/01/5597>

Suruj Ali of Nandail. Sharif who used to carry commuters on motorbike for rent, was on his way to Haliura when some miscreants in guise of passengers grabbed him and allegedly hacked him to death, said Md Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police.<sup>62</sup>

On March 07, 2016 a trader, who sustained bullet injuries during a robbery incident at Miarhaat Bazar in Kalkini upazila, died at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital yesterday noon. The deceased, Swapan Kazi, 40, son of Amin Uddin of Bhabanipur village in the upazila, was the owner of a cosmetics shop at the bazar.<sup>63</sup>

On March 08, 2016 unidentified criminals stabbed an apprentice lawyer dead during an alleged mugging attempt at Nataler Intersection in Bhairab upazila under the district. The deceased is Ismail Hossain Palash, 35, son of Abdul Hashim Mia, a UP member and also former president of Aganagar union unit of Awami League.<sup>64</sup>

On March 16, 2016 a sand trader was hacked to death by unidentified criminals at Sadar Char village in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari district. The dead was identified as Ameer Sikdar, 45, of Char Ramnagar in the upazila. Abu Shama Md Iqbal Hayat, officer-in-charge (OC) of Pangsha Police Station, said a gang of 4/5 people waylaid Ameer when he was returning home from his shop at Sadar Char around 11:30pm. They hacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him dead on the spot.<sup>65</sup>

On March 19, 2016 Goons gunned down an agent of mobile money transfer service bKash looting Tk 45,000 from him at Comillapara of Badda in the city. The victim is identified as Mahbub Hossain, 30, son of Abdul Malek of Barisal. Officer-in-charge of Badda police station MA Jalil said around 12:00pm this afternoon some unidentified miscreants shot him dead near his shop killing him on the spot.<sup>66</sup>

On March 21, 2016 masked criminals killed an aspirant for the post of chairman of Galengya Union Parishad under Bandarban's Ruma upazilla. The deceased was identified as Shanti Priyo Tripura, 40, a member of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS) of the upazila. A gang of five to six masked gunmen broke into Shanti's house at Ramdu para around 3:30am and fired blank shots to scare away the locals, deceased's brother in-law Jogesh Tripura told.<sup>67</sup>

On March 23, 2016 Miscreants hacked a Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader to death at Lohapatti in Jessore town. The victim was identified as Ferdous Hossain, 52, son of Amin Uddin, a resident of Battala in Jessore sadar. Ferdous was the assistant organising secretary of the Jessore district unit of BNP.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/motorbike-rider-hacked-death-786478>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/robbers-kill-trader-loot-six-shops-madaripur-787798>

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/muggers-kill-lawyer-bhairab-788242>

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/sand-trader-hacked-death-792334>

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=6489&cat=10>

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/chairman-aspirant-shot-dead-bandarban-1197589>

<sup>68</sup> <http://newagebd.net/214649/bnp-leader-hacked-to-death-in-jessore/>

On March 24, 2016 A BNP leader was stabbed to death by some unidentified criminals at Lohapatti area in Jessore district town. The deceased was identified as Ferdous Hossain, 50, son of Amin Uddin of Battala in Jessore Sadar upazila. Ferdous was the assistant organising secretary of the Jessore district unit of BNP.<sup>69</sup>

On March 27, 2016 a college student was stabbed to death by a youth in Raipara area of Jessore town. The dead, Hasibul Hasan Tarafdar Jim, 17, of Choramara Dighirpar area in the town, was a class-XI student at Jessore City College. Quoting witnesses, Ilyas Hossain, officer in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the incident happened around 9:00pm when Jim was hanging out with his friends near the house of a drug peddler in Raipara area. Suddenly, an altercation broke out between an unknown youth and Jim. At one point, the youth stabbed him and fled.<sup>70</sup>

March 31, 2016 A BNP leader was shot dead by an unidentified gang at Barinagar Bazar in Jessore Sadar upazila. The victim is Idris Ali, 46, joint secretary of Kashimpur union unit of BNP, and son of late Hashem Ali of Shyamnagar village in the upazila. Police quoted locals as saying that a gang of three, riding a motorcycle, arrived at the bazar at around 7:30pm and opened fire on Idris while he was playing carom. The gang members fled the scene, firing blank shots.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/808342>

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2016/03/27/61457.html>

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bnp-leader-shot-dead-jessore-1202071>

# 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.<sup>72</sup>After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

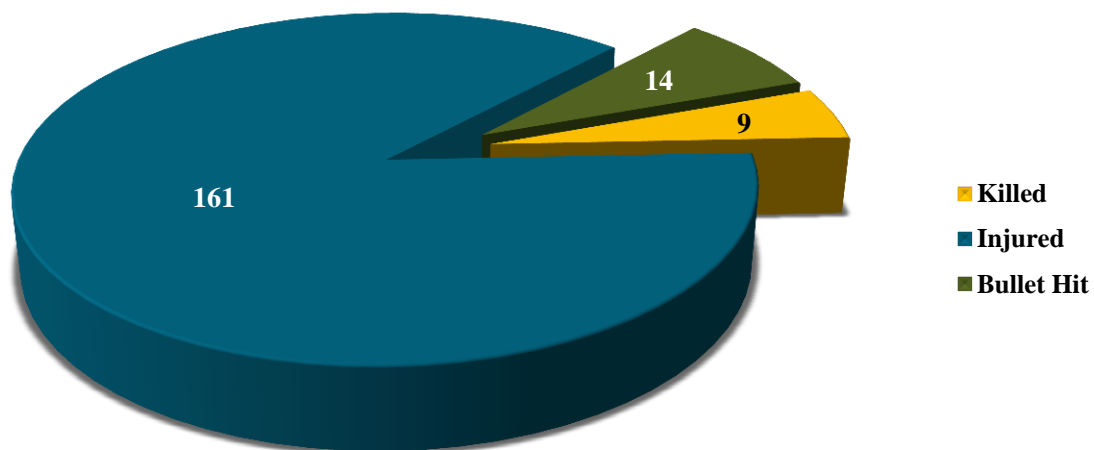


Figure 13: Political Violence

***In March 2016, According to Human Rights Support Centre (HRSC) information, a total of 161 people were injured due to political related issues and 14 were bullet hit as well as 09 were killed. 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 March 15, 2016 three people, including the president of Ward No 7 unit of Jubo League under Kuakata municipality, were injured in a clash between the activists of Jubo League and Chhatra League over control of the local bus stand. The injured are Anwar Hossain, 32, president of Jubo League Ward No 7 unit, his father Asmat ALi, 60, and Nur Sayeed, vice-president of Jubo League Kuakata municipality unit.

<sup>72</sup> Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2016,

They were admitted to Kalapara Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Patuakhali General Hospital as their condition deteriorated.<sup>73</sup>

On March 15, 2016 A man was shot dead in a clash between two factions of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the associate student body of the ruling Awami League, in Chittagong city's Kamal Gate area. The deceased was Abdul Jahed, 45, son of late Abdur Razzak of Kamal Gate area under Sadarghat police station of the port city. The officer-in-charge of Sadarghat police station, Md Mainul Islam Bhuiyan, said two factions of local BCL, one led by Royal and another led by Anis, locked into a clash at Kamal Gate around 1:00am over establishing supremacy in the area.<sup>74</sup>

On March 21, 2016 a college student was shot dead and two activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League suffered bullet wounds in a clash between two BCL factions at Begumganj in Noakhali. The dead were identified as Fazle Rabbi Rajib, 22. Police said Noakhali District BCL activists Mohammad Wasim and Mohammad Yasin, along with their friend Rabbi, went to College Para at Begumganj in the evening to settle an intra-BCL feud.<sup>75</sup>

## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

The crime regarding enforced disappearance can be considered a way to create terror in society when victims are picked up and never be seen again; and where victim families are left in a turmoil and fear, uncertainty and in many cases economic crises. The international community has condemned this form of human rights violation through resolution 65/209; where the UN General Assembly expressed its deep concern regarding the increase in enforced disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances. Through this resolution, the Assembly also adopted the International convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

The government of Bangladesh has ratified the Convention against Torture but has yet to accede to the International convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance. In Bangladesh today, the human rights violation of enforced disappearances is on an alarming rise. In fact, when a person is arrested or picked up by people claiming to be from a law enforcement agency, the common fear is that he would be subjected to tortured or disappear.

***According to the information gathered in 'Human Rights Support Center' (HRSC), in the month March 2016, a total 03 people have disappeared by LEA.***

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/800599/>

<sup>74</sup> <http://newagebd.net/211973/one-killed-in-bcl-factional-clash-in-ctg/>

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=6619&cat=9/>



Selected cases are as follows: A shibir leader named Hafej JoshimUddin (23) after 21 days of abduction by member of law enforces agency. The victim was found dead in a field at Hingerpara village of Harinakundaupazila in Jhenidah, 21 days after he had gone missing. JasimUddin, son of Khalil Mondol, was the president of IslamiChattrashibir of Ganna union unit. He was the first year student of Fajil in Jhinidoh Sddikia Kamil Madrasha. The local people said that they found the severely wounded blindfolded dead body of the victim with tying legs and hands by rope. The body bore marks of bullet injuries. Though Police said that miscreants might have killed him and left the body there. But the victim relatives and friends indicate their index finger to the member of law enforces agency, because 22 days ago Jossim Uddin was detain by some peoples, aquatinting themselves as the member of law enforcing agency. The victim's brother SaifurRahman identified the body, he said, law enforcement agency has killed his brothre and left the body there.<sup>76</sup>

On March 18, 2016, Cyber expert Tanvir Hasan Zoha, who was reportedly involved with the investigation into the heist of US\$ 101 million from Bangladesh Bank's reserve account with the Fed, has remained missing since Wednesday midnight, family members have alleged. They claimed that unidentified people abducted him from the capital's Kachukhet area while he was returning to his Kalabagan residence by a CNG-run three-wheeler about 1:00 am on Thursday. While talking to a private television channel, Zoha's wife Dr. Kamrun Nahar said she talked for the last time with her husband about 12:00 hours over mobile phone. "He informed me that he was returning home by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw along with his friend Yamir Ahmed and he was at Kachukhet at that time." Later about 1:30 am, she got another call from Yamir who informed her that Zoha was kidnapped by some unknown persons who took him away after they dropped him from the auto-rickshaw, she said.<sup>77</sup>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=4186&cat=1/>

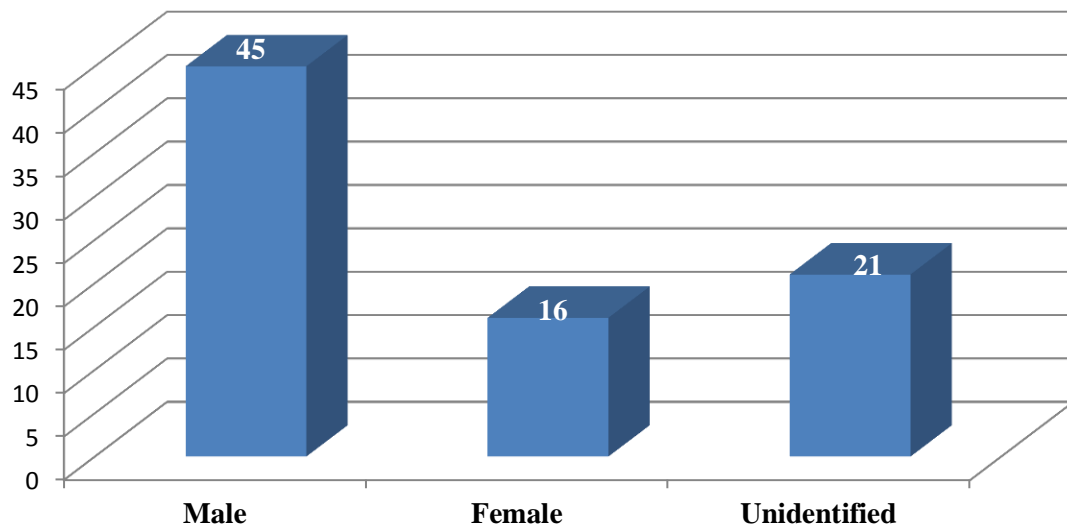
<sup>77</sup> <http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2016/03/18/21756>



# 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.

**The presented the chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information gathered by HRSC in the month of March 2016, a total of 82 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among them 45 bodies were male, 16 bodies were female and 21 bodies were unidentified.**



**Figure 14: Recovery of Dead Body**

*Selected cases are as follows:*

On March 03, 2016 the divers of Fire Service recovered the body of a worker from a canal, after he went missing when a girder of an old bridge collapsed on Sunday. The deceased Md Hashem, 28, of Naogaon Sadar, along with others, was breaking the bridge over the canal to construct it anew, said Officer-in-Charge of Boalkhali Police Station Salahuddin Chowdhury.<sup>78</sup>

On March 5, 2016 Police recovered the beheaded body of a young man from Ashoktala rail crossing in the city. Being informed by locals, railway police recovered the body of the unidentified youth, wearing a yellow striped shirt and pants, from the southern side of the rail

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/body-missing-worker-found-ctg-784849>

crossing around 11:00am and sent it to sadar hospital morgue for an autopsy, said Nazrul Islam, sub-inspector of railway police camp.<sup>79</sup>

On March 06, 2016 Police recovered the body of a young man from a septic tank of a school building at Chowddoghor village in Morelganj upazila. Officer-in-Charge Rashedul Alam of Morelganj Police Station said Mizan Shikder, 32, son of Abdul Malek Sikdar of the village, went missing. Police arrested Ilias Shikdar, 24, younger brother of the deceased, suspecting his link to his brother's disappearance.<sup>80</sup>

On March 06, 2016 A schoolgirl was found dead in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat. The deceased Mithun Akhter, 13, daughter of Rezaul Mondal of Khapura village under Akkelpur upazila, was a Class IX student of Tilakpur Girl High School in the upazila. Family members found her hanging from the ceiling of her room. Azahar Ali Dulu, chairman of Tilakpur Upazila Parishad, confirmed the incident, saying the girl was a meritorious student.<sup>81</sup>

On March 7, 2016 Police recovered the body of a youth from Chandulia field under Mirzapur upazila of Tangail. The victim was identified as Rubel Bhuiyan, 25, son of Iman Ali Bhuiyan, a resident of Takia-Kadma village of the upazila. Being informed, a team of police from Mirzapur police station rushed to the spot and recovered the body. The body was later sent to hospital morgue.<sup>82</sup>

On March 09, 2016 Police found a student of Eden Women's College dead in a mess at the capital's Wari. Shapla, 20, daughter of Aminul Mia of Faridpur, was a first year student of the sociology department. Police could not ascertain the reason behind the death immediately.<sup>83</sup>

On March 12, 2016 a youth was found dead at Laldighir Par in the district. The deceased was identified as Rasel, 25, son of Asrab Ali of Soriatnagar of Ajmiriganj upazila in Habiganj district. Informed by locals, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to a hospital morgue for autopsy, said Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Sohel Ahmed.<sup>84</sup>

On March 14, 2016 Police recovered the body of an unidentified man, aged around 30, from a hill in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong. On information, police recovered the body, with no injury mark, from the hill in Kumira area, said Sub-Inspector of Sitakunda Police Station Rafikul Islam Jaman. The body was sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.<sup>85</sup>

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/790366>

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2016/03/06/6124/>

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/schoolgirl-found-dead-787225>

<sup>82</sup> <http://newagebd.net/209563/youths-body-recovered-tangail/>

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/student-found-dead-mess-789103>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/youth-found-dead-790234>

<sup>85</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/798910>

On March 19, 2016 Police recovered the beheaded body of a newborn baby girl from the capital's Badda area. Sources at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said locals noticed the body in a dustbin beside Swadhinata Sarane Khanka Sharif and informed police. Badda police sent the body to DMC morgue for autopsy.<sup>86</sup>

On March 22, 2016 Police recovered the body of a newborn from a carton in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore district. Sahidul Islam Sahid, officer-in-charge of Keshabpur Police Station, said locals found the body stashed in a paper carton kept at a place near the Muslim Hotel adjacent to the PS in the morning and informed the police.<sup>87</sup>

On March 24, 2016 A young couple allegedly committed suicide at Barilya village in Manda upazila of the district. The deceased are Shafiqul Islam, 32, and his wife Bilkis Bibi, 28, residents of the village. Quoting locals, police said Shafiqul, son of Lafir Uddin, married Bilkis, daughter of Saidur Rahman of the same village, a year ago following a love affair. However, Shafiqul's parents did not approve of the marriage which led to frequent quarrels between them. Shafiqul locked into an altercation with his father in the morning over the issue. At one stage, the young man and his wife took poison.<sup>88</sup>

On March 28, 2016 Police recovered the body of a schoolboy from a house at Kadamtali in the capital, with its throat slit. The deceased was Mohammad Swadhin, 15, son of Sohel Rana of Louhajang upazila in Munshiganj and a Secondary School Certificate examinee from Muradpur Samirun Nesa High School in the capital. He was residing with his family in a rented house at Dania.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/newborns-body-found-capital-1196725>

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/body-newborn-found-carton-1198093>

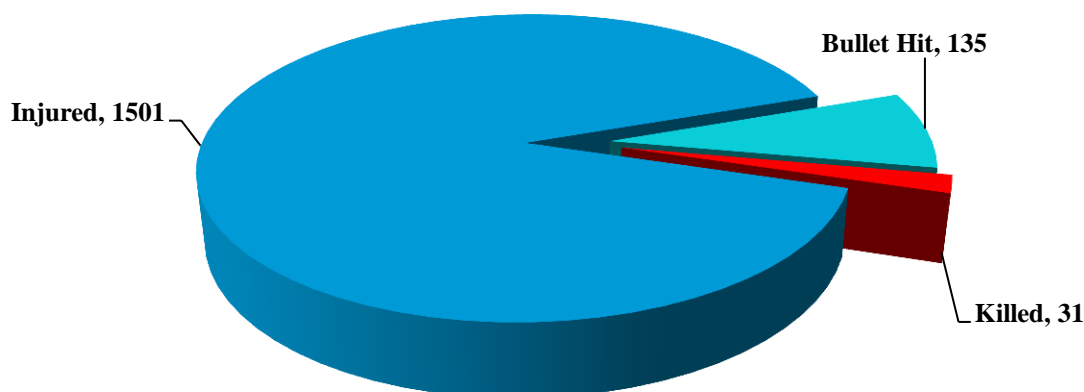
<sup>88</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/couple-commit-suicide-1199128>

<sup>89</sup> <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/813118>

## ELECTION VIOLENCE AND VOTE RIGGING

The election is the foundation of modern democracy. It is the most common and acceptable way of changing power from one person to another as well as one party to another party in the democratic country. In 5th January 2014, the contemporary government arranged an election which ultimately did not get acceptance both home and abroad. Bangladesh is not different from the other country. Here the elections are arranged to elect the nominee to a role the country as people representative. As a part of it, the UP election was held in different district in March 2015.

But regrettably, the civil society of Bangladesh, as well as the observers of foreign countries, identified these elections as a Partial election with intense interference from the government. It has well been reported that this election was greatly influenced by the activists, leaders, and workers as well as the representative of the ruling party. The civil society also predicted that this election loss the people's interest in the election in future which would also be the awful sign for democracy.



**Figure 15: Violence in city corporation election**

**The given pie chart provides information about the turbulent figure of UP election in March 2015. According to the source of Human Rights Support Centre (HRSC), a total of 1501 people were seriously injured in UP election, 31 were killed and 135 were bullet hit in this election.**

**Some important cases are given below;** A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader was killed allegedly by members of the ruling Awami League over a feud centring on the upcoming union parishad polls in Pirojpur on 09<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The victim, Shamsul Haque Chhotto, 28, was organising secretary of the Nazirpur upazila unit of pro-BNP student body Chhatra Dal, reports our correspondent. With several stab injuries to the lower part of the body, he was rushed to a local hospital where he died four hours later, said police and family members.

Pirojpur Superintendent of Police Walid Hossain said the incident had resulted from a conflict over the polls.<sup>90</sup>

An activist of ruling Awami League was killed and six others injured in a clash with the activists of Bangladesh Nationalist Party at Shibganj in Bogra on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The victim Mahatab Ali, 55, of village Khadail, was the nephew of the Awami League-backed chairman candidate of Buriganj union parishad, Abdul Gafur. Mahatab was also the director of Shibganj upazila Palli Bidyut Samiti. Among the injured, two Awami League men — Amirul Islam, 22, and Mozaffar Hossain, 30, of the village — were admitted to the upazila health complex. Shibganj police officer-in-charge Ahsan Habib said the police detained 10 people in this connection.<sup>91</sup>

A man was killed along with 12 others were injured in a clash between the supporters of two chairman candidates in the upcoming election to Bhasanchar Union Parishad (UP) at Mehendiganj upazila in Barisal on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The deceased was identified as Samir Howlader, 35, son of Razzak Howlader of Madarbumia village in the upazila. The clash ensued at around 7:00am when the supporters of chairman candidate Mujibor Rahaman led by Feroj Member swooped on the campaigners of AL nominated candidate Nazrul Islam Chunnu near Boroia Madrasha at Madarbumia village. The clash left Samir Howlader, one of the campaigners of Nazrul Islam, dead and 12 other from both sides injured.<sup>92</sup>

Widespread violence left at least 10 people dead and around a thousand others wounded in the first phase of union parishads elections on 22 March 2016. The festive mood of the polls to the lowest tier of local government was largely marred by electoral irregularities and incidents of clashes between supporters of rival candidates. Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur saw the deadliest violence in which at least five people were killed and several others injured in firing by law enforcers. Apart from this, two people were killed in Cox's Bazar and one each in Jhalakathi, Netrakona and Sirajganj in polls-related violence.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/jcd-leader-killed-pirojpur-788911>

<sup>91</sup> <http://newagebd.net/211806/al-man-killed-in-bogra-up-polls-violence/>

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/one-killed-37-injured-barisal-bhola-792355>

<sup>93</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/5-killed-violence-1198312>

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

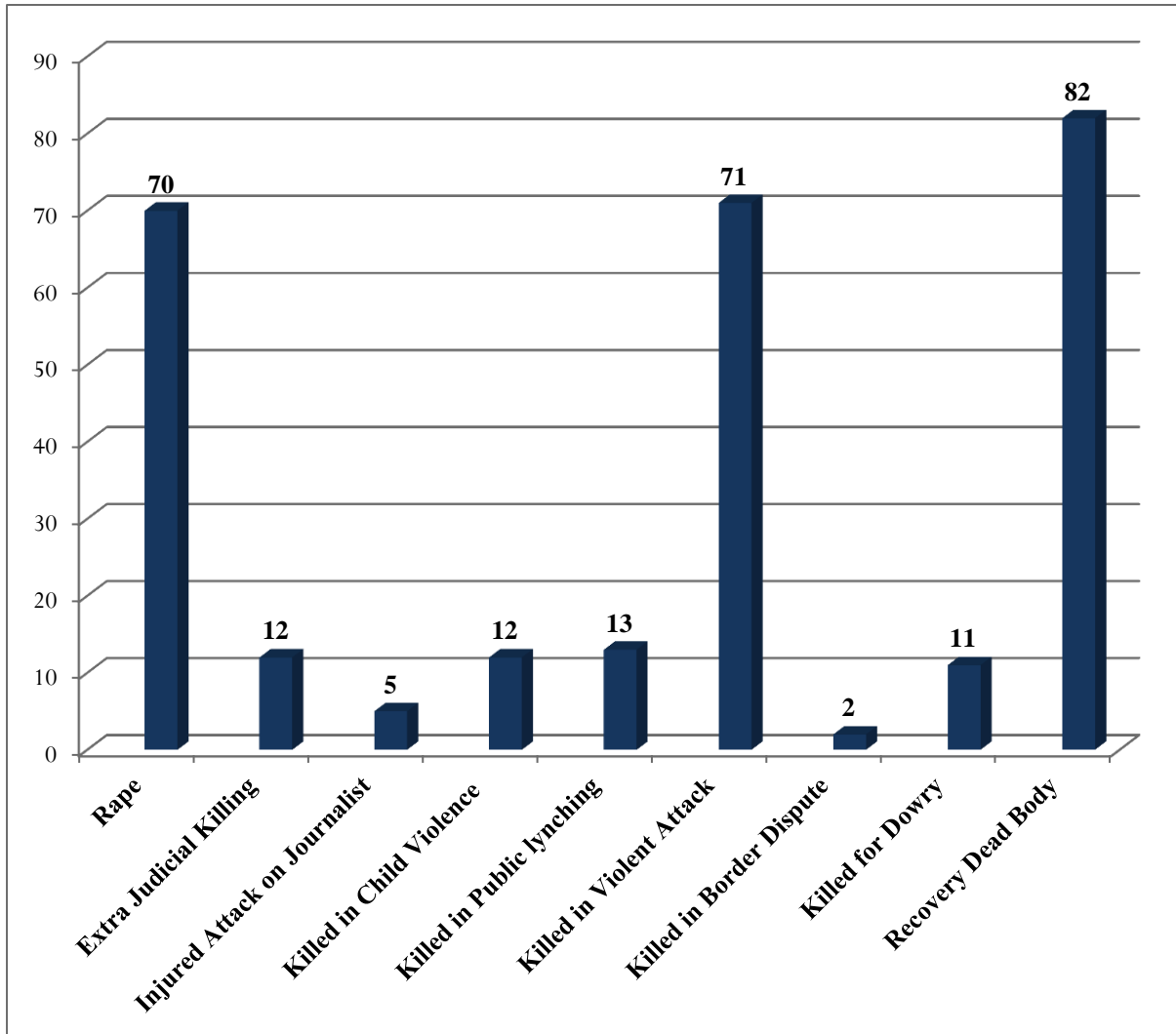


Figure 16: At a Glance March 2016

# CONCLUSION

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To put it in a nutshell, it can be said that the representation of Bangladesh's regarding to the human rights related problems in March 2016 was pitiful as in maximum cases that the country was unable to meet the be regulation of UN treaties. In some extent police and other security forces have failed to ensure their responsibilities as a protector and caretaker of the citizens' interest. In addition, higher unemployment rate, massive corruption in the administration, lack of democratic values and transgresses have intensified this situation more complicated and pathetic.

There was no action of law enforcement agency other than rescuing the dead body of abducted people. Sometimes, it signs surrounding the incidence such as crossfire and enforced disappearance indicated that the member of the law enforcer's agency was directly or indirectly involved in abduction and killing. The incidence regarding torture, oppression, and arbitrary arrest by law enforcement agencies were increased in such a way seems to be banal matter in Bangladesh. The government authority, civil servants, and law enforcing agencies have legitimized power and randomly abusing of power as well as committing torture over the common people for articulating their self-desire as well as securing the vested interest of the ruling party which is totally unexpected. The government was found not taking any effective measures to improve the situation rather blaming oppositions to avoid their responsibilities.

Domestic violence, rape, extra-judicial killings & custodial deaths were also proving the gradual decay of human rights situation in Bangladesh in March 2016. Political turmoil between rival political parties even among groups of ruling party was found to be notably increased. Without allegation, many innocent citizens were facing different forms of suppression, discrimination and exploitation by different vested quarters even by LEA. The harassment of general people by LEA was mainly due to the snatch of money and sometimes these reports were brought to light in different daily newspapers. But the matter of regret that the tendency of government was to avoid cleverly all sorts of responsibility.

The law and order situation will be declined day by day. In that situations government will be unable to ensure the basic and fundamental rights of the citizens. Then entire human rights situation in 2016 was not satisfactory rather in maximum cases deteriorated very severely which would bring uprising among the common people and lead to undisciplined, unstable underdeveloped Bangladesh.

In this conditions, Human Rights Support Center (HRSC) call to every conscious citizen, journalists, political person, national and international human rights organizations & UN agencies to be more vocal against these sorts of deplorable human rights situations in our country.

## RECOMMENDATION

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- ❖ The Government should take immediately all necessary steps to stop violence against women especially in the case of rape, gang rape, and child rape issues. Criminal of such incidents must be fetched before the law.
- ❖ The Government needs to establish a special and independent agency as an approach to investigate the real scenario behind the violation of human rights such as extra-judicial killings. The judicial investigation needs to carry out in every case of regarding the involvement of law enforcement agency.
- ❖ The state should explain all incidents of enforced disappearance, killings, torture, and abduction which are allegedly perpetrated by law enforcement agencies. We believe that victims of disappearance should be handed back to their families.
- ❖ The authority should ensure the judiciary process in a right way as it where the victim can get justice. The state should ensure the judiciary system in such a way that convict must be punished regardless the member of LEA, ruling party members even the person involve in judgment. Compensation should be provided to the victim's families and give proper security of their normal life.
- ❖ The respective authority should carry out dialogue with BSF (Indian border security force) and find out the proper way to reduce the killing in the border by BSF. Government adequate compensation for the families of the victims and trial and punishment for the offenders.
- ❖ The government should be flexible in the matter of freedom of expression. All types of print and electronic media should be enjoyed fearless opportunity from the government to express their news even against the government.
- ❖ Political violence should be stopped with continuing dialogue with all political parties. The Government should take unbiased and effective legal action against criminal acts.
- ❖ The state should respect all national and international human rights rules, regulations and treaties to protect human rights. Also follows the instruction of United Nation Human Rights Mechanism System which is working for human rights.