



Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

July, 2017

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

In July 2017, Human rights violation is being continued as similar as to the previous month in Bangladesh. In this month, the most significant human rights issues were a violent attack, domestic violence, and abduction. But the worst situations were in the case of rape, gang rape, and child rape. Especially, extra-judicial killing has been observed as more severe in July.

According to the source of human rights support Society (HRSS), Approximately 17 people were killed extra-judicially in July 2017. 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. Moreover, HRSS report demonstrates that a total of 80 females were alleged to be raped in July 2017. Among of them, around 26 were below the age of 16 and 07 was killed after rape. About 09 women were subjected to be gang raped.

A total of 22 women were killed for dowry and roughly 37 were sexually harassed. Approximately, 38 women were killed in the family feud. On the other hand, Around 51 people were killed in the violent attack. Accounts of 16 people have been abducted. Furthermore, around 06 people were killed in political violence. At least 06 people were killed in a public lynching. Remarkably, around 10 children were killed and 11 were critically injured in a total of nearly 22 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 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.

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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.¹ Bangladesh 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 RAB² 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.³ The 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.

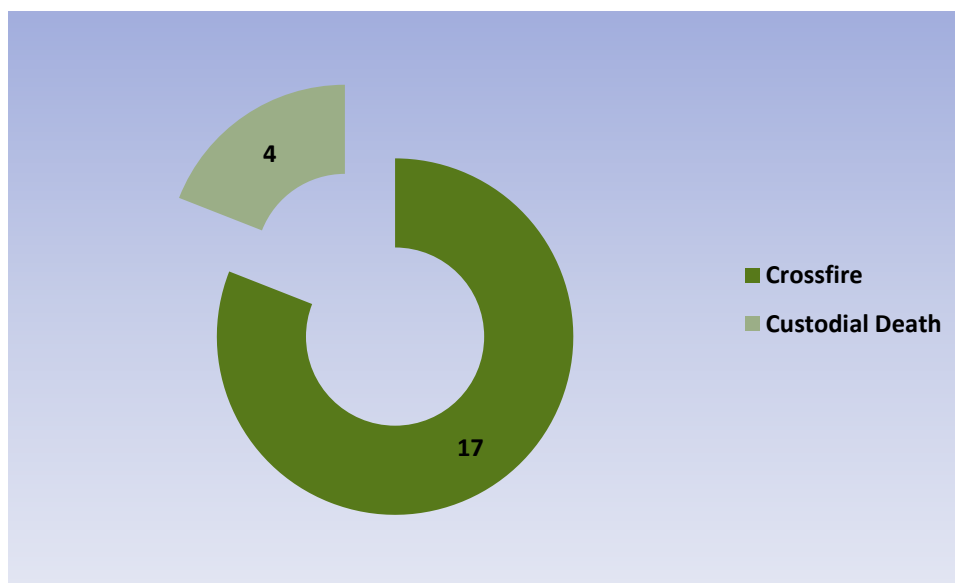


Figure 01: Scenario of Encounter killing in July 2017

The given pie chart provides information about the extra- judicial killing scenario in July 2017: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 21 persons were alleged killed in extra judicially. Out of them, 17 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, and almost 04 died in the custody. Some important cases are mentioned below:

¹ <http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.

² <http://www.lawteacher.net>

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

On July 01, 2017An alleged robber was killed in a gunfight with police and members of his gang at Madrasa road of Chuknagar under Dumuria upazila of Khulna. The dead man was identified as 35-year-old Rabiul alias Badsha, son of Jaffar Sheikh from village Malotia under Dumuria upazila of the Khulna. According to police, he was the leader of a band of robbers.⁴

On July 11, 2017An alleged highway robber was killed in a 'gunfight' with police in Jhalakathi Sadar. The deceased was Nazmul Sheikh, 35, son of Hannan Sheikh of Chinguria village in Bagerhat's Morrelganj upazila, jhalakathi. The body was sent to the hospital's morgue for autopsy.⁵

On Jul 11,2017The Rapid Action Battalion claimed a robber was killed and another one injured in a gunfight with them at Lemua in Feni sadar. Two robbers Foysal, 25, and Nur Hossain Selim, 23 received bullet-wounds during the gunfight, he said. Both of them were taken to Feni General Hospital where on duty physicians declared Foysal dead, the RAB official said. The body was sent to the hospital's morgue for autopsy.⁶

An alleged mugger was shot dead while another injured in a “gunfight” with Rapid Action Battalion in the capital's Lalbagh area. Alamgir, 35, who was shot in the face, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said DMCH police. With leg injuries, Abdul Barek, 40, was being treated at the hospital, said Sub-inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost.⁷

On Jul 17,2017Two people were killed in a reported gunfight between police and miscreants in railway station area in Khulna Sadar. The deceased are Babu Alias Guddu Babu, 35, of village Jandalia under Kathalia in Jhalakati and Md Al Mahmud, 24, of village Telikhali under Bhandaria in Pirojpur. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for atouspy.⁸

On July 19, 2017An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in Pologround area of Chittagong city. The deceased is Abul Kalam alias Lengra Kalam 25. A team of Rab-7 raided Pologround area around 3:00am, acting on a tip-off that some arms dealers were trading firearms there, said Mimitanur Rahman, assistant director of Rab-7. Victim's family, however, said Kalam went outside his rented house in Baizid area, saying he was going to work. But he did not return home at night.⁹

⁴ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/07/01/118902.html>

⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/robber-killed-gunfight-cops-1431820>

⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1248296/>

⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/mugger-killed-gunfight-rab-1433032>

⁸ <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/07/17/52365/৯>

⁹ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/news/2017/07/20/521495>

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.¹⁰ 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”.¹¹ 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 2017. HRSS provides the following data has been taken from 12 prominent daily newspapers in Bangladesh.

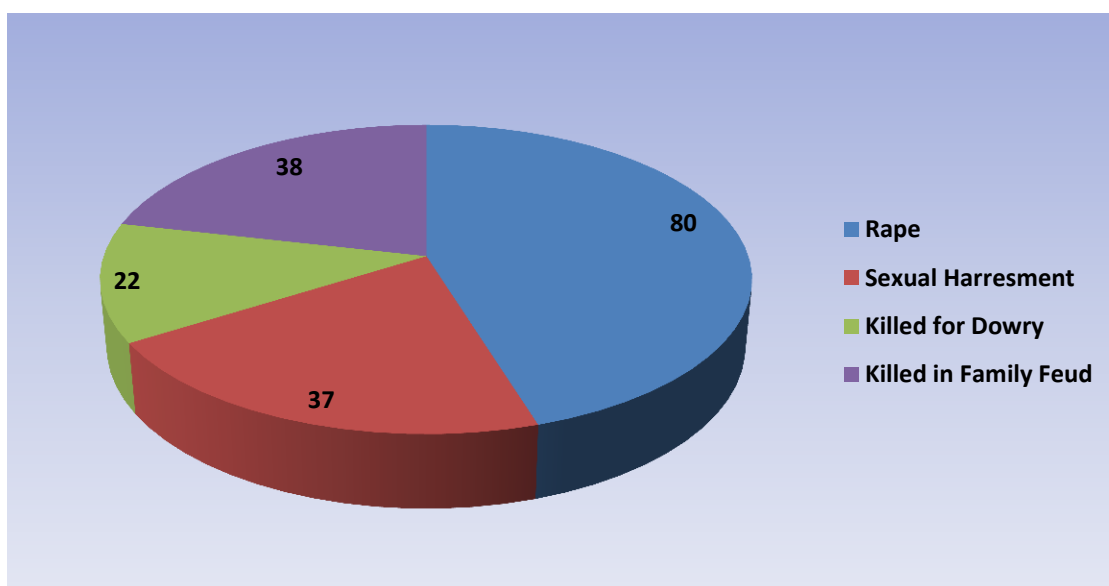


Figure 02: Violence against Women in July '17

HRSS identifies the whole situation of a 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, physical and mental abuse. According to the HRSS, the supplied graph illustrates about information of violence against women in July 2017 are detailed:

¹⁰ (UN General Assembly, 2006)

¹¹ (General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993)

• A Total Number Of 80 Females Were Raped. Among Of Them 71 Were Victims Of Single Rape And 09 Were Subjected To Gang Rape And 26 Were Children Below The Age Of 16 (Including Single & Gang Rape). On The Other Hand, 07 Female Was Killed After Being Raped And Almost 04 Incidents Have Been Attempted To Rape.

Rape

• In July 2017 About 38 Women Were Killed In The Family Feud And 13 Females Have Been Injured. Out Of Them, 51 Were An Incidents Of Family Feud.

Killed In Family Feud

• Approximately 33 Incidents Of Dowry-related Violence Were Reported In July 2017. About 22 Were Killed And 11 Women Were Physically Abused Over Dowry Demands.

Dowry Related Violence

• According To Information Collected By HRSS, A Total Of 37 Girls And Women Were Reportedly Victims Of Sexual Harassment In July 2017. Among Them, 25 Were Assaulted And 13 Were Stalked.

Sexual Haressment

Some important cases are cited: On July 01, 2017A woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry in Pirgachha upazila of Rangpur. Locals caught and handed over the husband, Mizanur Rahman, 30, to police. Mizanur along with his cousin Shahidul beat up Minara Begum, 23, of village Mohishmuri, until she fainted. Later, they suffocated her with a rope and finally hanged her from a ceiling fan, said locals, adding that Shahidul managed to flee.¹²

¹² <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/woman-killed-dowry-rangpur-1426720>

On July 05, 2017A college student sued a young man for raping her at his house in the capital's Banani. In the case filed with Banani Police Station, the 21-year-old girl said she met the accused, Bahauddin Ivan, 28, on Facebook around 11 months ago, and they later started dating. "Ivan called me around 9:00pm on 04 july."¹³

On July 07, 2017A female model was allegedly raped in Savar's Sobhanbagh area. The 25-year-old victim filed a case with Savar Police Station against three persons. Police said Liton Mondal, a former source of police, brought two female models, including the victim, to Savar from the capital on 06 July, offering them a handsome amount for performing at musical programmes. Along with an accomplice, Liton, now involved in drug peddling, took them to a room on the first floor of a six-storey building in Sobhanbagh around 9:00pm. Liton raped one of the models at a room around 3:00am. The other model was confined to another room while Liton's accomplice stood guard outside.¹⁴

On July 08, 2017 Villagers in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur allegedly tortured a woman and cut off her hair moments after she had narrowly escaped being raped by a stalker. The victim, a mother of two, filed a case accusing 18 people. The 27-year-old Hindu woman hails from Mostafapur village under Damadarpur union of Badarganj upazila in Rangpur.¹⁵

On Jul 11,2017A man allegedly stabbed his wife and four-month-old granddaughter in Nathpara area of Lohagara upazila in Chittagong. The deceased were identified as Pushpa Bala, 65, wife of Pethan Shil, and his granddaughter Sangita Shil.Mohammad Shahjahan, officer-in-charge of Lohagara police station, said Pethan Shil stabbed his wife, granddaughter and daughter-in-law Moni Bala Shil around 9:30pm over family feud, leaving the duo dead on the spot and Moni Bala critically injured.¹⁶

On Jul 16, 2017 Detectives arrested president of Banaripara upazila unit Bangladesh Chhatra League from Kalibari Road of Barisal over raping a housewife. The arrestee was identified as Sumon Hossain Mollah. Victim's husband, hailing from Chittagong, a resident of Soliyabakpur area, also a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, filed a case accusing Sumon and his associate Mamun and two other unnamed people.¹⁷

On July 17, 2017 Police arrested a man for allegedly cutting his wife's hair after torturing her as her parents refused to give him dowry. The arrestee is Hasanuzzaman Monu, 28, of Haridebpur village in Rangpur Sadar upazila. The victim is Roksana Begum, 22, daughter of Rafiqul Islam of Kashaipara village.¹⁸

13 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/capital/2017/07/06/119437.html>

14 <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/07/07/51392/স>

15 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/woman-resists-rape-tortured-1430341>

16 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/19600/man-kills-wife-granddaughter-in-chittagong>

17 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/19963/banaripara-bcl-president-held-for-rape>

18 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1257186/>

Violent Attack

The attack against civilians is considered a serious violation of international humanitarian law,” the human rights. 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. During the July 2017, Bangladesh has experienced a series of violent attacks by extremists. The victims have included besides atheists, secular bloggers, liberals and foreigners many Buddhists, Christians, and Hindus. HRSS try to detect and divulged all kinds of violent attack in July 2017

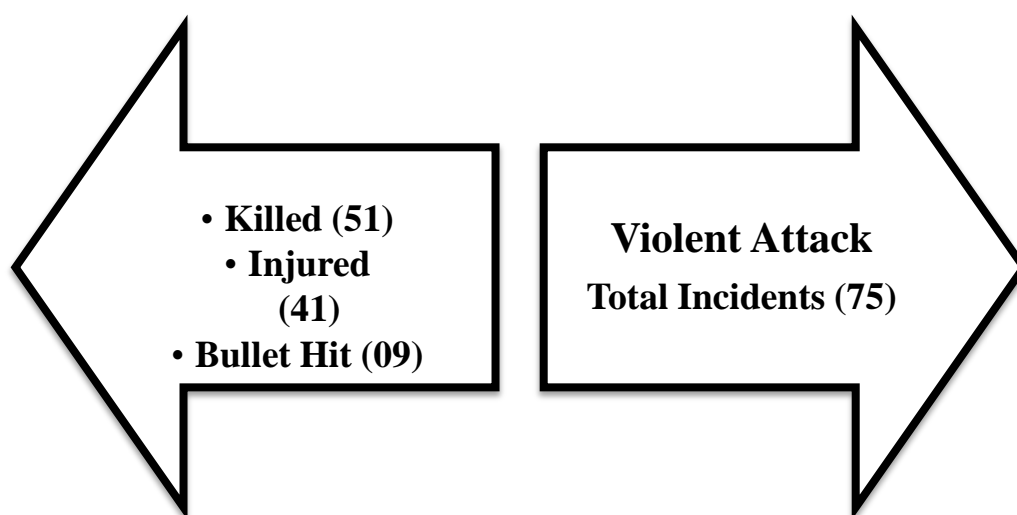


Figure 03: Statistics of Violent Attacks in July '17

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on an armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in July 2017, a total 75 incidents of violent attack have happened and 51 were killed in these attacks, 41 were seriously injured and around 09 persons have been bullet hit.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On July 01, 2017 A battery-run auto-rickshaw driver was hacked to death at Choto Kumira village in Sadar upazila of Bogra. Mamun Mia, 22, of Binaybandighi in Khetlal upazila, went out with his vehicle on Thursday evening and did not return to his garage in Bogra town Palsha, said police, quoting the garage owner. However, the vehicle was not found on the murder spot.¹⁹

On July 01, 2017 Unidentified assailants stabbed a 20-year-old scrap-collector to death in Dhaka's Sutrapur area. In a critical condition, Jalal was taken to Dhaka Medical College

¹⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/driver-hacked-death-bogra-1426615>

Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. His body bore stab marks in the abdomen, said Sub-inspector Bacchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH Police Outpost.²⁰

On Jul 01, 2017 unidentified miscreants hacked a trader to death and escaped with his bag full of money at Dolakhola intersection of Monirampur upazila in Jessore. Local said like every day the owners of ‘Messrs Pal Brothers’ Parimal Pal and his two brothers Ratan Pal and Kartik Pal, sons of Mahadeb Chandra Pal of Dolakhola were returning home after closing their shop around 10:00pm. When they reached near their residence at Dolakhola intersection, two miscreants swooped on them with sharp weapons.²¹

On Jul 07, 2017 Unidentified miscreants stabbed a man to death in Amtola area of Khulna city. The deceased was identified as Harun-or-Rashid, 28, son of late Khan Abu Hasnat. A gang of miscreants picked Harun up from Chhanda Bazar area around 1:30am, said Mamtazul Haque, officer-in-charge of Sonadanga police station. They stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.²²

On July 11, 2017 A man was killed by miscreants in Joragate area of Khulna city. The deceased Saidul Islam, 25, a tea stall owner, was standing near his stall when three miscreants arrived on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and stabbed him indiscriminately and fled, said Sumon Ranjon Sarker, senior assistant police commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police.²³

On July 16, 2017 A college boy was killed and his brother sustained critical injuries in an attack allegedly by a moneylender and his men in Gabtoli upazila, bogra. The deceased, Sohag Chandra Sarkar, 17, son of Amulya Chandra Sarkar of Chawk Katuli village in the upazila, was a student of Bogra Polytechnic Institute.²⁴

On July 19, 2017 A cable operator was hacked to death by unidentified criminals at Diapara village in Abhoynagar upazila of Jessore. The deceased was Mikael Mollah, 42 son of Amin Mollah. Mikael was killed when he was returning home from his office at Abhoynagar. Officer-in-Charge of Abhoynagar Police Station Anisur Rahman said the body bore marks of stab injuries.²⁵

²⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/youth-stabbed-death-dhaka-1426744>

²¹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/18877/trader-hacked-to-death-in-jessore>

²² <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1243876/>

²³ <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/07/11/307136>

²⁴ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=74165&cat=9>

²⁵ <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/281632/>

Border Killing

Every state of the civilized world is very serious about maintaining the standard of human rights. But BSF has been violating human rights with freedom in the border area by torturing, abducting, beating, stoning etc.; by doing so they gradually are degrading the friendly relation between Bangladesh and India. BSF disregards human rights in the border area and they have shown utmost cruelty in this regard. Members of the BSF also illegally enter Bangladesh territory and attack people residing along the border, shoot and kidnap Bangladeshis. 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 law and human rights.

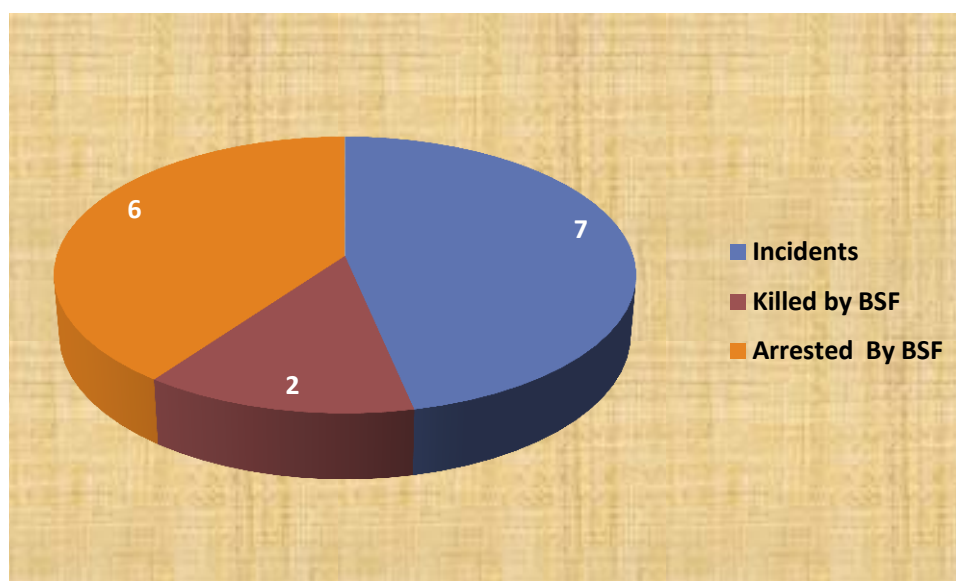


Figure 09: Statistics of Border Violence

The given chart gives data on the border dispute. According to HRSS in July 2017, almost 02 Bangladeshis citizen was killed, and 06 Bangladeshis citizen were arrested by BSF.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On July 10, 2017 Border Security Force (BSF) of India picked up a Bangladesh national from Atapara border under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat. The victim is Al Amin, 32, son of Fakhurul Islam of Raninagar village in Bhola.²⁶

On Jul 21, 2017 The Indian Border Security Force picked up a Bangladeshi national from Hapania border point of Sapahar upazila in Naogaon. The victim is Shahidul Islam, 28, son of Zaher Ali of Prosha upazila went to the bordering area. The BSF men from Kedaripara camp caught Shahidul and picked him up while he was reportedly trying to cross the border.²⁷

²⁶ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bsf-picks-one-joypurhat-1430671>

²⁷ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=85397>

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.²⁸ After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th July 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.

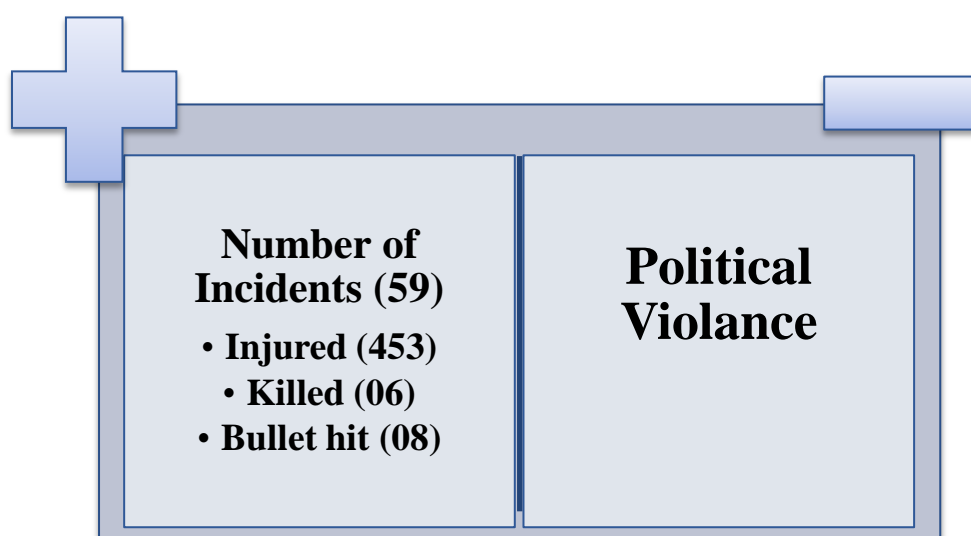


Figure 07: Statistics of Political Violence in July '17

The figure presents information about the political violence in July 2017. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 06 people has been killed, almost 453 injured and 08 bullets hit due to politically 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 22, 2017 Two Bangladesh Chhatra League activists beat up a student at Jahangirnagar University. Sadekul Islam Timon, a first year student of drama and dramatics, was attacked in a room of AFM Kamal Uddin Hall.²⁹

On July 08, 2017A Jubo League activist was killed allegedly by his fellow activist in Amtala area of Khulna city. The deceased is Harunur Rashid Sumon, 35, of Sholmari under Rupsha upazila in Khulna.³⁰

²⁸ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2017,

²⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-activists-beat-student-ju-1437418>

³⁰ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/news/2017/07/09/516888>



Khaled Ahmed Litu, - A factional clash of Chhatra League has claimed yet another life- ³¹

On July 17, 2017 BCL activist Khaled Ahmed Litu was shot dead in a classroom of Beanibazar Government College in Sylhet, around an hour after two factions of the student front clashed on campus over establishing supremacy. The 23-year-old was a supporter of Pavel Mahmud, hospitality affairs secretary of Sylhet district BCL, said the unit's General Secretary Rayhan Chowdhury.³²

On Jul 13, 2017 At least 25 rooms of Sylhet MC College hostel was vandalized afternoon as infighting between Bangladesh Chhatra League factions in Sylhet MC College descend into a violent clash. College authorities asked the students to vacate the hall by 6:00pm, said the college principal Nitai Chandra Chanda.³³

On July 17, 2017 one person was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash over establishing supremacy at Sray Bish Roshi Najimuddin Kandi village in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur. The deceased was identified as Ayub Ali, 50, son of Sohor Ali Matobber of the village. Local said there was a longstanding dispute between Ilias Matobber, member ward No 2 of Madhober Char Union Parishad, and Altaf Matobber of the same area over establishing supremacy.³⁴

On July 23, 2017 At least 20 people, including two policemen, were injured in a clash between two factions of BNP in the town. Police arrested 11 people during the incident. Police and witnesses said the newly formed committee of Tangail district unit of BNP organised a member collection and renewal programme. National standing committee member of the party Nazrul Islam Khan and vice chairman Maj Gen (rtd) Mahmudul Hasan were supposed to attend the programme as the chief guest and special guest respectively. However, just before the programme started, leaders and activists of a faction carried out an attack and foiled the programme.³⁵

³¹ Picture source- the daily star

³² <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/07/17/52386/>

³³ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/19687/mc-college-hostel-vandalised>

³⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/one-dies-madaripur-clash-1434676>

³⁵ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=75593&cat=9/>

Violence against Children

The violation of child rights is a common problem in Bangladesh. It occurs within the family, at home, and at schools, children July face sexual abuse or harassment. In schools, children July get beaten if they fail to perform or face humiliating and degrading punishments for minor errors or infractions. The incidents of violence against children, including killing, trafficking, abduction, and rape, have increased across the country in recent times amid slack.³⁶

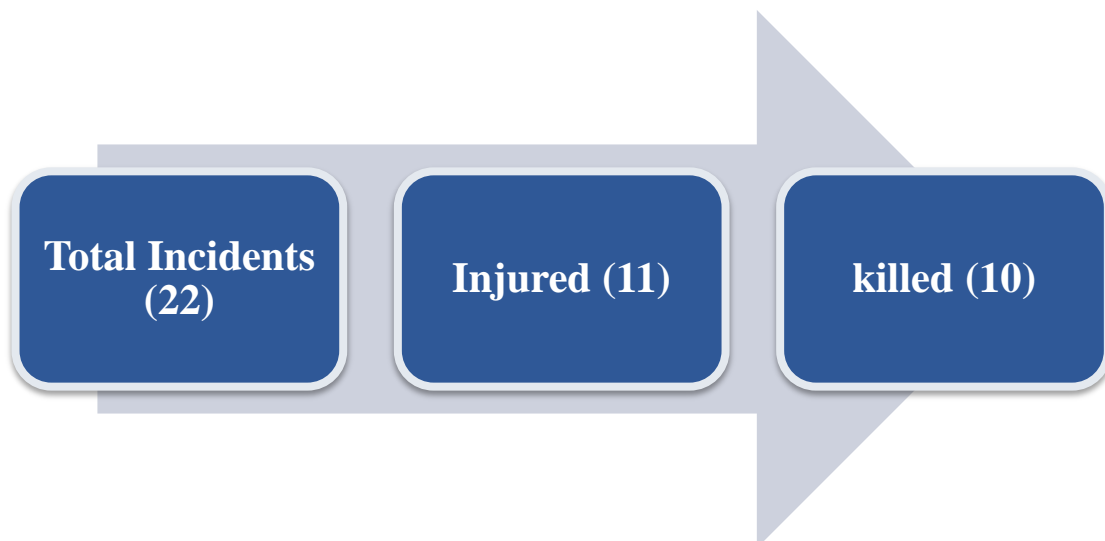


Figure 06: Violence against children in July '17

According to HRSS report, the graph presented information regarding the violence against children in July 2017, around 10 children's were killed and almost 11 children's have been critically injured in a total of nearly 22 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On July 01, 2017 A man was killed allegedly by his son over a trifling matter at Baropur Southpara in Bogra Sadar upazila, bogra. Quoting the family, police said Nannu Mia, 60, rebuked his son Tota Mia, 20, for eating food that was cooked for guests. At one stage, Tota bashed his father in the head with an iron rod and fled away.³⁷

On July 20, 17 A men allegedly killed his son and then killed him following family dispute at Garhnupur village under Kaharol upazila here. The deceased were identified as Zinat Ali, 30, son of late Rustam Ali of the village, and his son Munna Mia, 8. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kaharol Police Station Monsur Ali said, after his second marriage, Zinat got frustrated over regular family feuds. Following this, he killed his son and killed himself by hanging with a rope.³⁸

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

³⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/son-kills-man-lalmonirhat-1426603>

³⁸ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=24745>

On July 01, 2017 A man was killed allegedly by his father over a family feud in Kanainagar village of Sadar upazila of Bhola. The deceased, Khalid-bin-Walid, a soldier of Jessore army cantonment, went home three days before Eid, said family sources. He and his father, Nur Islam, a retired employee of Water Development Board in Bhola, had a quarrel as Nur Islam often tortured Khalid's mother Nur Jahan, they said. At one stage, Nur Islam hacked Khalid, killing him instantly; Bhola Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mir Khairul Kabir quoted eyewitnesses as saying.³⁹



Sabina Yasmin (11), who, was brutally tortured by the housewife in Pohlibi area.

On July 02, 17 a housemaid were brutally tortured by housewife in pollabi, Dhaka. The victim is Sabina Yasmin (11). She was now undergoing treatment at One Stop Crisis Center of Dhaka Medical College Hospital at critical juncture. The child said that he joined the house at Mirpur DOHS under Pallabi Police 6 months ago. From then on, the housewife beat him strangely.⁴⁰

³⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/man-kills-son-over-family-feud-1426729>

⁴⁰ <http://www.jugantor.com/online/national/2017/07/03/50983/>

Attack on Journalist

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.”⁴¹ In Bangladesh, attacks on journalists are very frequent incidents; assaulting, threatening and disrupting in their professional duties have become very mundane matter. Freedom of expression was seen to limited in every aspect in Bangladesh July 2017. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly.

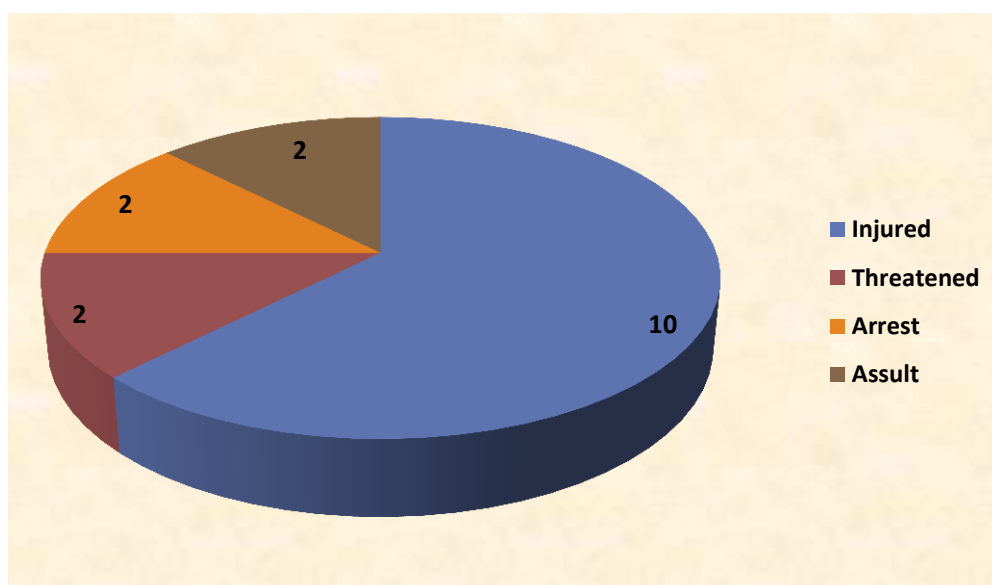


Figure 10: Attacks on Journalist

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 July, According to HRSS's documented statistics, around 10 were injured, 02 assault, 02 threatened and 02 arrested.

Selected cases are as described here: On July 03, 2017 a case was filed against a journalist of Chittagong under section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act. The journalist is Tofiqul Islam Babor, senior staff reporter of The Daily Samakal of Chittagong bureau. The case was filed with Rangunia Police station by Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury Milton, Islampur Union Parishad Chairman of Rangunia upazila and local Awami League leader known as follower of Dr Hasan Mahmud, publication secretary of Bangladesh Awami League. The Samakal published news titled “Khuner Mamlar Asamira Hasan Muahmuder Cadre” on July 22, 2017 after the attack on motorcade of BNP’s general secretary Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir. According to the case statement the newspaper published a report, which was inaccurate and had misinformation on Dr Hasan Mahmud and UP Chairman Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury Milton, said Imtiaz Md Ahsanul Quader Bhuiyan, officer-in-Charge (OC) of Rangunia Police Station. The

⁴¹ UDHR-1948, article 19

case was filed under ICT Act as the news also published on Samakal's online version, said the OC. On July 18, a group of miscreants carrying stones sticks and sharp weapons attacked the motorcade of Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir at Ichhakali Bazar area while the BNP leaders were going to landslide affected Rangamati to distribute relief.⁴²

On July 05, 2017A journalist was assaulted allegedly by the son of Jhalakathi municipality mayor. The victim, Manik Acharjo, Jhalakathi correspondent of Asian TV and the daily Janata, is also a lawyer of Jhalakathi court, said Akkas Shikder, secretary of Jhalakathi Press Club. "I reached Kumarpatti of Jhalakathi Sadar on the way to court when Liton Talukder, son of the mayor, hit me with his motorbike from behind. As I fell down, he kicked and slapped me," said Manik. He was admitted to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor informed that he is out of danger.⁴³

On July 14, 2017 Local Jubo League men allegedly assaulted a journalist of Bangla daily Prothom Alo while he was covering news of vote rigging at a polling centre during the by-election of Paharpur union parishad (UP) in Bijohnagar upazila of the Brahmanbaria. Locals and witnesses said supporters of AL-backed chairman candidate Abul Kalam Azad led by Kawsar Bhuiyan, joint secretary of Bijohnagar upazila unit of Jubo League, stormed into Shezamura Humayun Kabir Government Primary School polling centre around 10:00am and started stuffing ballot boxes. "At one stage of vote rigging, Kawsar and his men swooped on me as I was covering the incident from a close distance," said Shahadat Hossain, Brahmanbaria correspondent of Prothom Alo, who was injured by the attackers. Shahadat said as he entered the polling centre Jubo League leader Kawsar asked him to leave the place immediately when suddenly Kawsar's uncle Kalam Mia, who was inside booth number 5, came out and started beating him and drove him out.⁴⁴

⁴² <http://www.theindependentbd.com/home/printnews/102124>

⁴³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/newsman-assaulted-mayors-son-1428784>

⁴⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/jubo-league-men-assault-prothom-alo-journalist-1432777>



RU correspondent of The Daily Star, at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital hours after the journalist was beaten up by some Chhatra League men near the campus.

On Jul 09, 2017 Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League beat up a journalist at Rajshahi University campus while he was taking photographs of Chhatra Leagues's vandalism on a bus at the university's main entrance. The injured journalist, Arafat Hossain, is a second year student of mass communication and journalism department of the university and also the Rajshahi University Correspondent of The Daily Star. He is now undergoing treatment at ward 8 at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1245516/>

Abduction

Abduction, Kidnapping, killing after the abduction 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 HRSS report is increasing day by day. The supplied chart describes information about the abduction cases in July 2017 in Bangladesh,

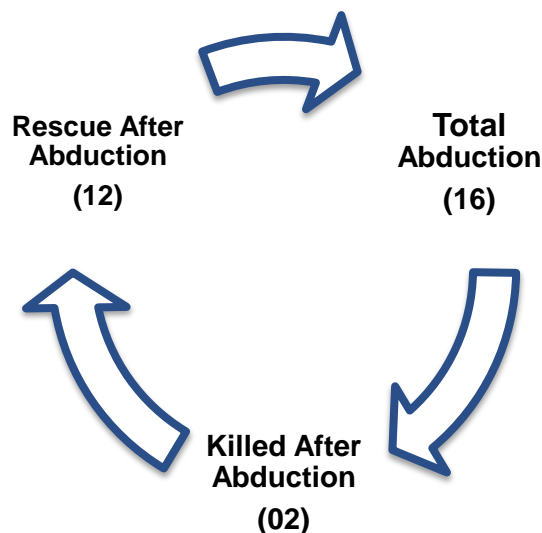


Figure 04: Statistics of Abduction in July '17

According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 16 people have been abducted, among of them, 02 killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 12 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction and nobody knows what happened to the rest 04 persons.

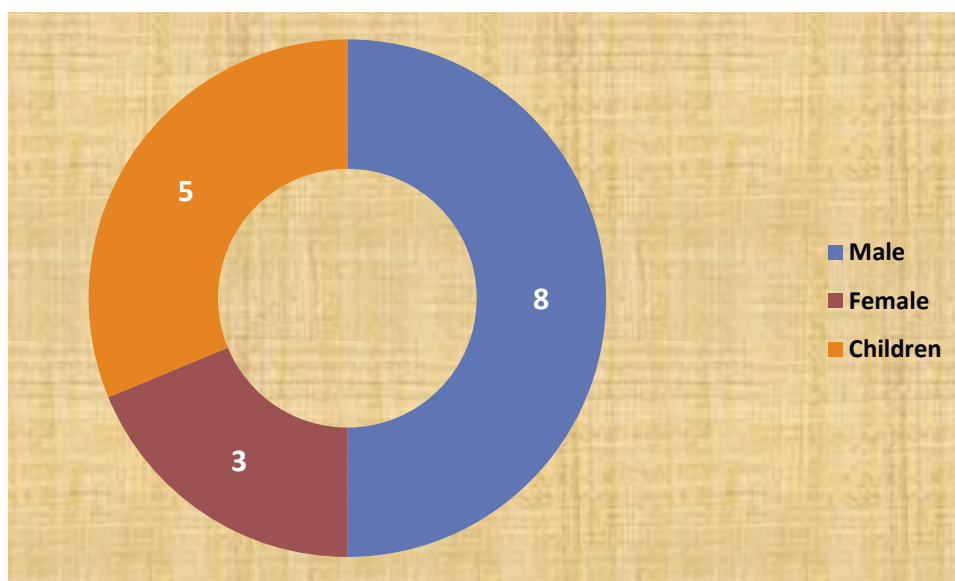


Figure 05: Categorization of Abduction

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in July 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 08 people were abducted, among of them, 03 were male, and around one was female and nearly 05 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On July 20, 2017A 10-year-old schoolgirl was allegedly raped after abduction by a youth in Narayanganj. Police arrested the youth Rabbi Mia, 18, of Matlab in Chandpur. A resident of Genda of Savar, Rabbi used to work at a local RMG factory. Victim's father filed a rape case with Savar Model Police Station. According to the case statement, the girl was abducted from Savar by Rabbi and his two friends while she was returning home from school on July 15. Rabbi took her to a house in Narayanganj and raped her after confining her for four days. The family informed police of the abduction the same day.⁴⁶



Figure 1, Farhad Mazhar being escorted by law enforcement officers in Jessore upon being found.

On July, 03, 17 A Bangladesh government critics who alleges he was the latest in a wave of activists and opposition figures to be abducted says he will not be silenced by the ordeal and will continue to campaign against human rights abuses. Farhad Mazhar, a poet and social activist, claims he was forced into a minibus by three men while walking near his home in Dhaka last week. He was found about 16 hours later in a town more than 120 miles (200km) from the Bangladesh capital.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/girl-raped-after-abduction-1436350>

⁴⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/12/bangladeshs-disappeared-rights-activist-found-on-bus-speaks-out>

Recovery of Dead Body

Security of life is the foremost right of all others human rights. In Bangladesh, due to worsening law and order situation recovery of the dead body from different places 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.

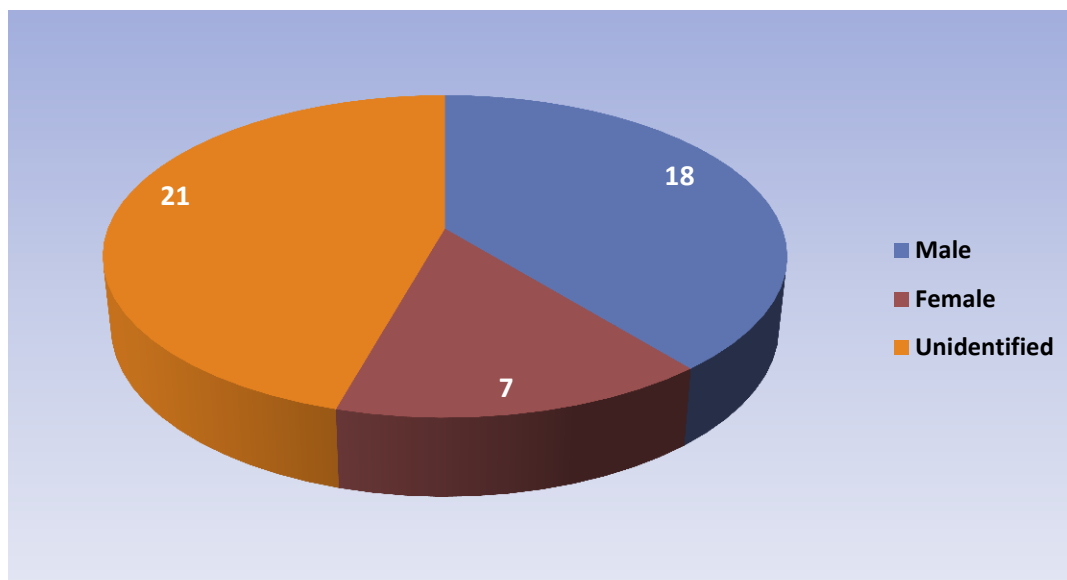


Figure 08: Recovery of Dead Body in July '17

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in July 2017, a total of 46 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 18 bodies were male and 07 bodies were female and 21 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On July 06, 2017 Police recovered the body of an unidentified man, aged around 40, in Borodighirpar area of Hathazari upazila of Chittagong. Officer-in-Charge of Hathazari Police Station Belal Udin Md Jahangir said locals first saw the body, hanging from a tree, and informed police. No injury marks were found on the body, said the OC, adding, they sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.⁴⁸

On July 12, 2017A man was found dead in a pond near his house in Chakfirani village under Lohagara upazila of Chittagong. The deceased Anwar Hussain, 40, might have drowned in the pond, said Sub-inspector of Lohagara Police Station Litan Chandra Singha. They found a bottle of wine beside the pond and suspected that Anwar was drunk at that time, said Litan.⁴⁹

On July 17, 2017The hanging body of a local Awami League leader was found inside a storehouse in Fulbari Dakkhinpara area of Shariakandi upazila, bogra. The deceased was Rezaul

⁴⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/unidentified-body-found-ctg-1429279>

⁴⁹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=73795&cat=9>

Karim Dulal, 52, joint secretary of the upazila unit AL, and also a spice and rice husking businessman of the area.⁵⁰

On Jul 19, 2017 Police recovered the body of an unidentified girl from the field of Kushtia Government College in Sadar upazila, kushthia. The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately. Kushtia Model police officer-in-charge Nasir Uddin said local people spotted the body, aged about 28, in the field and informed police.⁵¹

On July 21, 2017An unidentified man was found dead with bullet injury in the neck in Kanchanpur Eidgah area of Chuknagar in Dumuria upazila of Khulna. Sukumar Biswas, officer -in- charge of Dumuria Police Station, told that after being informed by locals, they recovered the body clad in a half sleeve shirt and a jeans pant from the border area of Satkhira and Khulna. The deceased, aged around 32 years, was dumped on that spot after being murdered somewhere else, suspected police.⁵²

Public Lynching

Lynching is the practice of murder by extrajudicial action. It is an unlawful 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 group. 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. HRSS believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases in July '2017. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, nearly 06 people were killed and 06 injured in a total of 09 incidents of the public lynching.

⁵⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bogra-al-man-found-dead-storehouse-1434670>

⁵¹ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1257556/>

⁵² <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/07/21/121148.html>

At a glance Human Right Situation of Bangladesh (July '17)

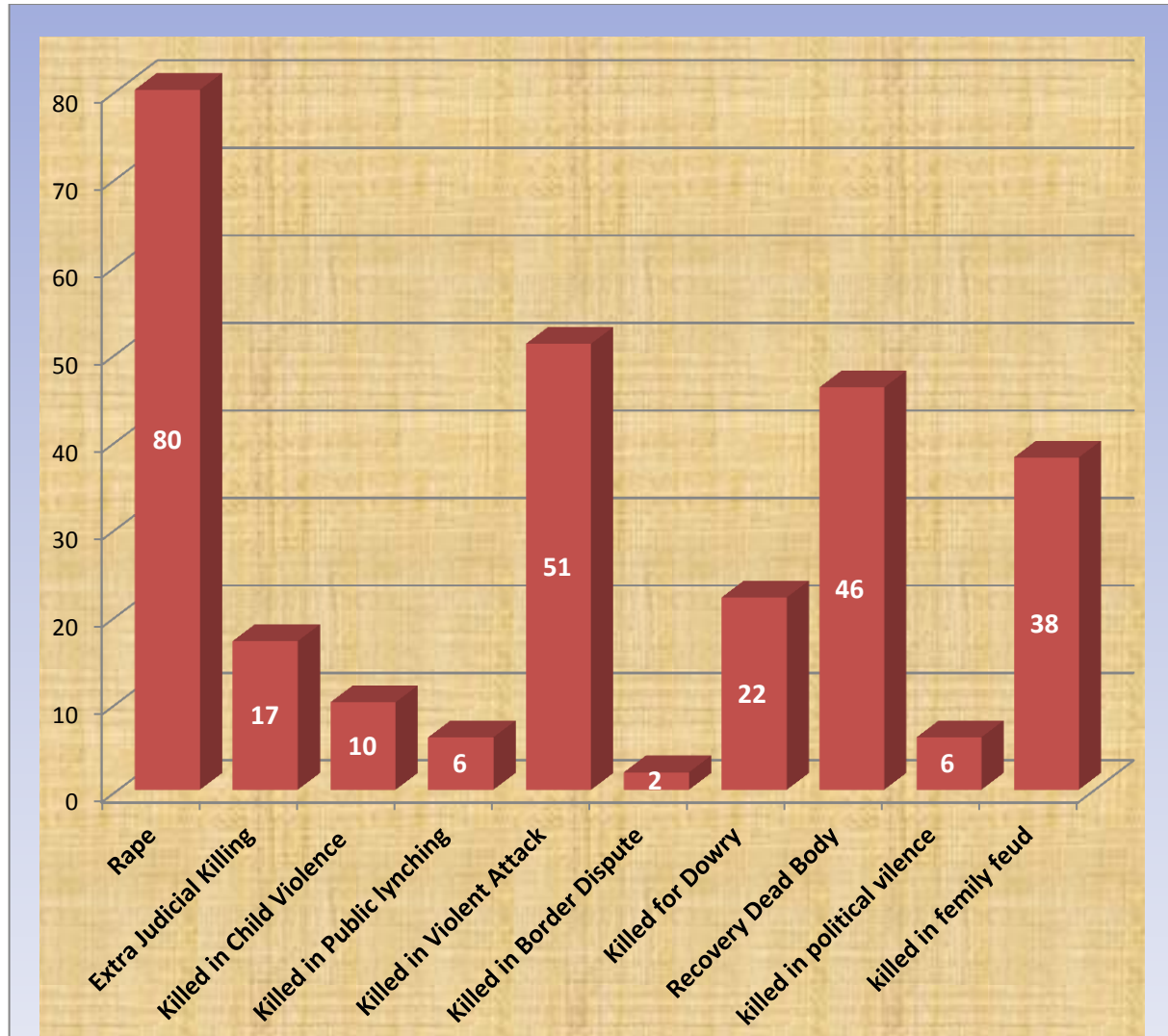


Figure 13: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in July 2017

Conclusion

As a final point, it is observed that the human rights situation in Bangladesh was shocking during the July 2017. This is because of the failure of the public administration to protect the life and property of the common people. The political turmoil in Bangladesh threatens the freedom of expression, assembly and of association and a huge number of human rights violations are taking places, such as extrajudicial killings, torture, targeted killings, and arbitrary arrests among others. Domestic violence and rape have become significant features of the deterioration of human rights conditions in July 2017. Although UDHR and Constitution of Bangladesh (Article no. 27-44) strictly defend all forms of human rights, it's a matter of deep sorrow that they have been denied by most incumbents of the Government.

The members of the opposition political parties mainly Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami, dissenting voices, and the young people make up the majority of victims of human rights violations. The existing government came to the power through controversial elections in January 2014 which were boycotted by all major political parties, and as a result, political confrontations have increased. The government has become more repressive in order to keep power at any cost. The rule of law is non-existent. Therefore there is a huge political vacuum which allows for political extremism to grow. At the same time, the government wants to project itself as the only custodian of “secularism” and therefore seeks to project the mainstream political opponents and the anti-government youth as “extremist” so that it can use deadly actions to silence them.

It might be estimated that if human rights situation gradually deteriorates as it happens during the year 2017 then the whole country would be undisciplined, anarchic, unstable as well as disordered. Upon such alarming circumstances, HRSS calls to every conscious citizen and non-state actors to be more vocal against these sorts of deplorable human rights situations in the country. HRSS 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 government must ensure the accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies and needs to form a special independent agency or judiciary investigation team to inquiry every incident of extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance and abduction.
- ❖ Ensure fair and neutral justice to the Minorities from the Judiciary and Administrative Authority. Reconstruct all damaged temples and places of worship that were the subject matter of violence and loathing, and bring to an end any prospect attacks on places of worships irrespective of trust and religion.
- ❖ Violence against women is both structural and cultural. So, actions should be taken to create a culture of violence at all spheres, and appropriate measures need 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 opposition and their ideas.
- ❖ Arbitrary arrests of persons with different political ideologies 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 Bangladesh government should establish an independent and impartial commission of inquiry into serious violations of international human rights law by the BSF. The government should invite both Indian and Bangladeshi nationals to submit evidence and bring complaints to such a commission. The inquiry should be time bound and transparent and should have the ability to provide protection to witnesses.
- ❖ Meetings and Assemblies should not be obstructed. The government should allow oppositions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to observe their processions, seminars and public meetings.