



Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

June, 2017

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

In June 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 June. According to the source of human rights support Society (HRSS), Approximately 18 people were killed extra-judicially in June 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 55 females were alleged to be raped in June 2017. Among of them, around 13 were below the age of 16 and 03 was killed after rape. About 07 women were subjected to be gang raped. A total of 17 women were killed for dowry and roughly 08 were sexually harassed. Approximately, 29 women were killed in the family feud. On the other hand, Around 57 people were killed in the violent attack. Accounts of 10 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 06 were critically injured in a total of nearly 14 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.

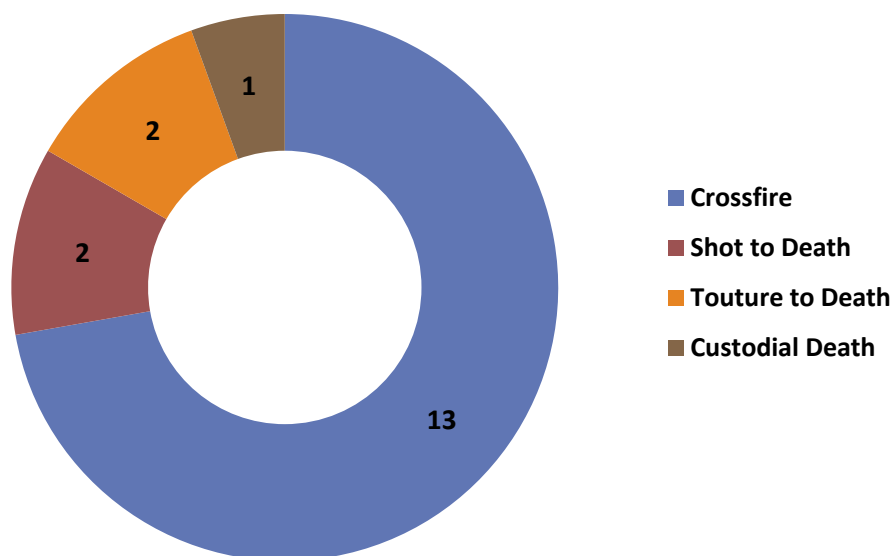


Figure 01: Scenario of Encounter killing in June 2017

The given pie chart provides information about the extra- judicial killing scenario in June 2017: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 18 persons were alleged killed in extra judicially. Out of them, 13 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, around 02 tortures to death, almost 02 shot to death and one 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 Jun 06,2017A man was killed in a reported gunfight with police at Nurpur village in Meherpur Sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Firatul Islam, 48, son of Ayub Ali, a resident of Pirojpur village in the upazila.⁴

On June 07, 2017A man was killed in what police claim was a "gunfight" between them and him and his cohorts in Brahmanbaria's Chandidar area around midnight. Police also claim that Ibrahim Mia, 35, son of late Shomraz Mia of Latuamora village, died after his associates mistakenly shot him.⁵

On Jun 08, 2017 In Naogaon, two suspected suspected robbers were killed and two of their cohorts injured in a 'gunfight between' their associates and police at Choubaria Haat of Manda. The dead are Sujan Mia, 42, of Darikharbana in Rajshahi city and Mozammel Haq, 35, of Kheshba under Nachol in Chapainawabganj. Police said that two robbers were caught in the line of fire during the gunfight and died on the spot while two others sustained bullet injuries, he said.⁶

On Jun 08, 2017 a suspected leader of Purba Banglar Communist Party, Mohamamd Olut, 38, son of Jharu Mandal of village Khaskarra under Alamdanga in Chuadanga, was killed in a reported gunfight between his cohorts and members of Rapid Action Battalion at Khaskarra Bazar.⁷

On Jun 15,2017An alleged drug peddler was killed and five police personnel were injured in a reported gunfight between a gang of drug peddlers and law enforcers at Pakshi of Ishwardi in Pabna. The deceased was identified as Alia Bhulo, 40, a top drug peddler and a resident of Fateh Mohammadpur Biharibazar area in Ishwardi, said assistant police superintendent Jahurul Haque.⁸

On June 19 In Brahmanbaria, an alleged robber was killed in a 'gunfight' between his cohorts and police in Sarail upazila. The deceased, Selim Mia, 32, was son of Tajul Islam of Malihata village. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Sarail Police Station Rupok Kumar Saha said Selim was arrested while he along with his cohorts was preparing to commit robbery at Bertola village.⁹

On June 19 In Jessore, alleged drug peddler Sabbir Hossain, 25, who fled from police custody, was killed in a 'gunfight' between two groups of drug peddlers in Bagharpara upazila. Being informed that two groups of drug peddlers were engaged in a gunfight in Ayapur area, police went there to disperse them, said Police Station. Sabbir came in the line of fire while trying to flee and died on the spot, added the OC.¹⁰

⁴ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1207236>

⁵ <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/06/07/48958/>

⁶ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=69058&cat=9/>

⁷ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=69059&cat=9>

⁸ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1221231/>

⁹ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1223536/>

¹⁰ - See more at: <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/country/2017/06/19/241294#sthash.vy6HQ5UH.dpuf>

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

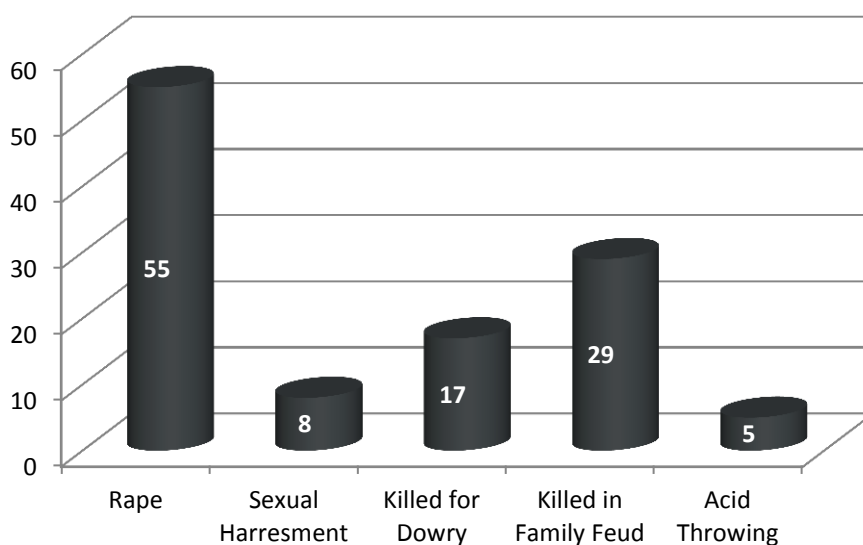


Figure 02: Violence against Women in June '17

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 June 2017 are detailed:

¹¹ (UN General Assembly, 2006)

¹² (General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993)

Rape

- A total number of 55 females were raped. Among of them 42 were victims of single rape and 07 were subjected to gang rape and 13 were children below the age of 16 (including single & gang rape). On the other hand, 03 female was killed after being raped and almost 07 incidents have been attempted to rape.

Killed in Family Feud

- In june 2017 About 29 women were killed in the family feud and 13 females have been injured. Out of them, 42 were an incidents of Family Feud.

Dowry Related Violence

- Approximately 26 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported in june 2017. About 17 were killed and 09 women were physically abused over dowry demands.

Sexual Haressment

- According to information collected by HRSS, a total of 08 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in june 2017. Among them, 5 were assaulted and 03 were stalked.

Acide Violence

- Almost 05 female became victims of acid violence and critically injured in june 2017. A majority of the acid attacks on women occurs due to the refusal of the proposal of love, marriage or sex advances or over land disputes or failure of affairs or not withdrawal case.

Some important cases are cited: On June 06, 2017A newly married woman was allegedly tortured to death for dowry by her husband and his family members in Hakimpur upazila of the Dinajpur. The woman was identified as Umme Kulsum, 20, daughter of Aftab Hossain of Birampur upazila and wife of Sajjad Hossain, 26, son of Abdul Latif of Hakimpur upazila. Aftab said their marriage was held in March. Sajjad and his parents demanded Tk 1, 00,000 as dowry, but he could not give the money, so they used to torture Kulsum over the issue, Aftab alleged.¹³

¹³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/newlywed-tortured-death-dowry-1416472>

On Jun 08,2017A 35-year old housewife reportedly died in a Dhaka hospital, hours after she was taken to the hospital with fatal wounds. Shammi Akhter was badly injured when her husband, Titu Mia, beat and tried to strangle her by pressing her throat with a piece of scarf during an argument over his second marriage without taking concern from Shammi, said police quoting neighbours of the couple living in a rented house at Kalyanpur in Dhaka.¹⁴



Fifteen-year-old Smrity Akter was tortured allegedly by her step-uncle as she refused to agree to under-age marriage.¹⁵

On June 10, 2017A 15-year-old schoolgirl, who was brutally tortured allegedly by her step uncle for refusing to get married to an elderly man, is now undergoing treatment at Manikganj Sadar Hospital. The victim, Smrity Akter, daughter of expatriate Hujuneun Kabir of Baniajuri village in Ghior upazila of the Manikganj district, is a Class IX student at Joynagar High School in Sadar upazila.¹⁶

On Jun 11,2017A housewife was allegedly beaten to death at Matinagar in Comilla sadar upazila for dowry. The victim was identified as Tania Aktar Tumpa, 20, mother of a child and wife of Juwel Mia. The victim's body was found hanging from a rope by her in-laws, said local people. Tumpa's family members alleged that her husband along with his step-mother, father and two brothers used to torture her for dowry. All of them were involved in Tumpa's killing, they claimed.¹⁷

On June 17, 2017 Model-turned-film actor Tanvir Tonu has been arrested from his Mirpur residence on rape charges. The arrest happened after a case was filed against him under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on June 6, confirmed Inspector (Operation) of Rupnagar Police Station Mokammel Hossain. The 'raped' woman claimed that Tonu called her at his home and then raped her when she went there to handover her passport.¹⁸

¹⁴ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/17383/husband-tortures-wife-to-death#sthash.II0qTnR2.dpuf><http://www.newagebd.net/article/17383/husband-tortures-wife-to-death>

¹⁵ picture source, daily star

¹⁶ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/schoolgirl-tortured-refusal-marriage-1418392>

¹⁷ <http://www.theindependentbd.com/post/98907>

¹⁸ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1220861/ক>

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 June 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 June 2017.

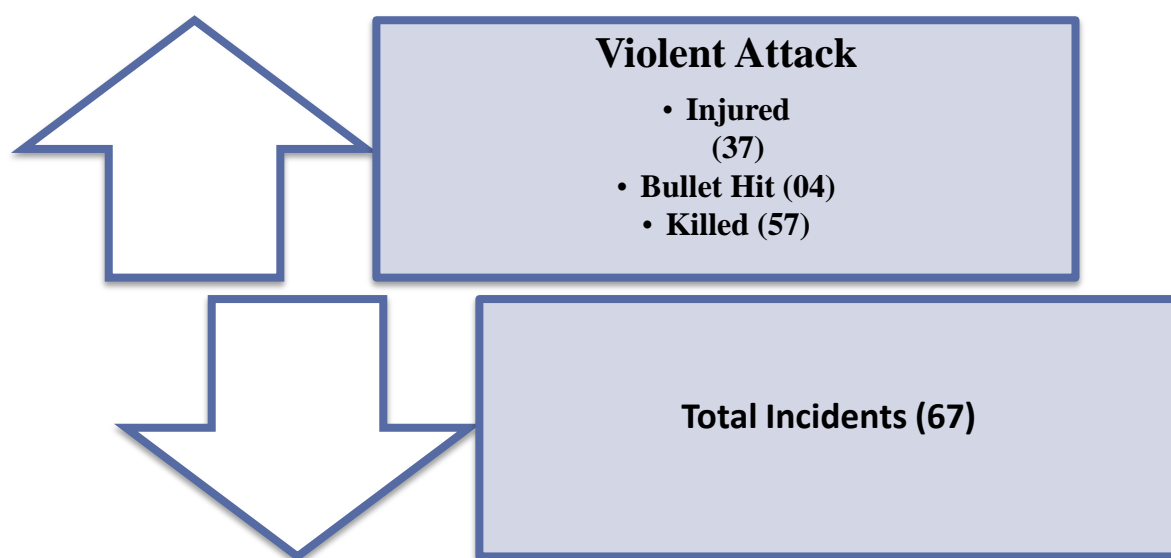


Figure 03: Statistics of Violent Attacks in June '17

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on an armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in June 2017, a total 67 incidents of violent attack have happened and 57 were killed in these attacks, 37 were seriously injured and around 04 persons have been bullet hit.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On June 01, 2017A trader was hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Dumki upazila of the Patuakhali. The deceased, Forkan Mollah, 30, son of Abdul Barek Mollah of Pashchim Angaria village, was a small trader at Dumki Bazar. Locals spotted Forkan's body near a brick field, said Dibakar Chandra Das, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dumki Police Station.¹⁹

¹⁹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=67964&cat=9/9>

On June 01, 2017 Unknown assailants stabbed a freedom fighter to death in the capital's Jatrabari area. Jahangir Alam Sarder, 65, a freedom fighter commander of Comilla, worked as a managing director of a security company, said Jatrabari Police Station OC Anisur Rahman.²⁰

On Jun 01, 2017 a man was hacked to death by some unidentified miscreants in Masum Bazar area of Pabna town. The deceased was identified as Mollah Masud, 40, son of Zakir Hossain, a resident of the area. Officer-in-charge of sadar police station Abdur Razzak said as a sequel to previous enmity, some miscreants engaged with altercation with Masud at 9:00pm in Masum Bazar area.²¹

On, Jun 10, 2017 A madrassah teacher was chopped to death by miscreants at village Khanpur of Baghmara upazila in Rajshahi. The deceased was identified as Abul Kalam, 35, a physical education teacher of Khanpur Dakhil Madrassah and son of Moyez Uddin of the village.²²

On Jun 17, 2017 unidentified miscreants killed a young man and dumped his body in a field at village Chargoalpara of Sripur in Magura. Identity of the deceased could not be known immediately. Officer-in-charge of Sripur police station Rezaul Islam said local people spotted the body of the young man aged around 25 in the field this morning and informed police. The body bore several wound marks and was sent to Magura General Hospital for autopsy.²³

On Jun 15, 2017 A garment worker was hacked to death by some identified miscreants in Kattoli area of Chittagong city. The deceased was identified as Md Arif, 22, from Rupsa upazila in Khulna and also a worker of FB Fashion, a garment factory, in the area.²⁴

On Jun 21, 2017 a highway police assistant superintendent was found dead in a wayside bush in the capital's Roopnagar after he went out for duty. Most of the valuables and belongings of victim Mizanur Rahman Talukder of Highway police (Savar circle), who was in official pants but in a civil shirt, were with the body, causing confusion over the motive of the killing. The body, however, was sent to Dhaka Medical College for post-mortem examination. The family was not in a condition to talk to media but police investigators said they family initially could not believe that the officer could be killed in this way.²⁵

On Jun 23, 2017 A battery-run easy bike driver was chopped to death by miscreants at Bibir Bazar in Comilla sadar. Police said a group of miscreants swooped on Akkas, 55, a resident of Pathuria para in the upazila, and chopped him with sharp weapons indiscriminately when he was taking his auto-rickshaw to Bibir Bazar area for repairing, leaving him dead on the spot.²⁶

²⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/freedom-fighter-stabbed-dead-1414465>

²¹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=68029&cat=1>

²² <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1211601>

²³ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/17966/youth-killed-in-magura#sthash.NHjRn25j.dpuf>

²⁴ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1220206>

²⁵ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1226981>

²⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/18494/man-hacked-dead-in-comilla>

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 June 2017 in Bangladesh,

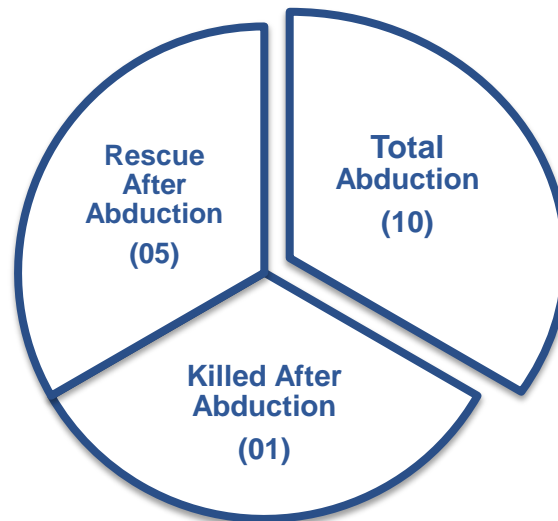


Figure 04: Statistics of Abduction in June '17

According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 10 people have been abducted, among of them, one killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 05 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction and nobody knows what happened to the rest 04 persons.

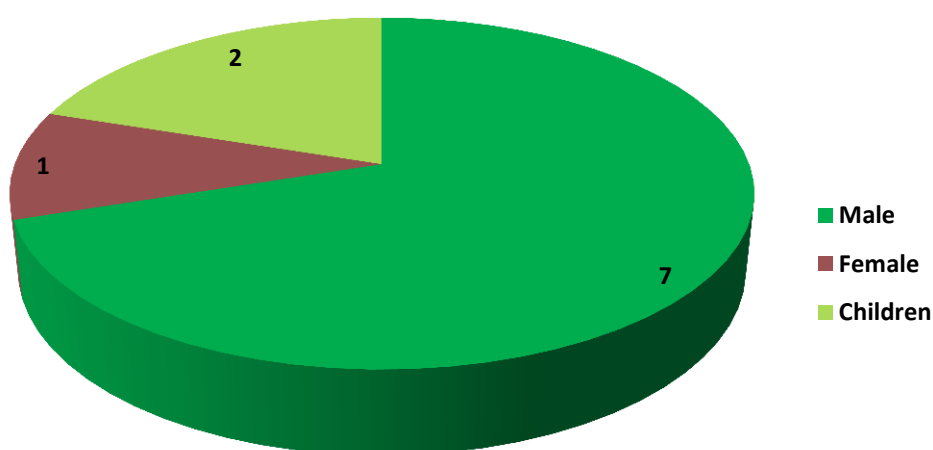


Figure 05: Categorization of Abduction

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in June 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 10 people were abducted, among of them, 07 were male, and around one was female and nearly 02 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On June 21, 2017 two kids were saved from abduction attempt in Jhenidah and Meherpur. Locals caught Shafiuddin, 46, son of late Imdad Mondol of Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia, while he was kidnapping a kid at Chandpara village under Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah on June 21. The rescued is Sajani Khatun, 5, daughter of Jahangir Hossain of the village. A woman abducted Sadia Khatun, 7, daughter of Yeasin Ali of Nawapara village in Gangni upazila of Meherpur about 6:45pm on June 20. Hearing announcement, locals became watchful and the abductor left the girl at Bahatapara DC Eco Park. The girl was rescued at 7:30pm," said Anwar Hossain, OC of Gangni Police Station.²⁷

On Jun 28, 2017 Sea robbers kidnapped four fishermen along with two trawlers near Moktar canal of the River Meghna in Manpura area. Local people said a that gang of sea robbers of notorious Kalam Bahini swooped on two trawlers and looted valuables while the fishermen were catching fish at Moktar Canal point at about 5:00am. They also kidnapped four fishermen - Kamal, Bayejid, Baten and Neju from the two trawlers, said Oliullah Kajol, chairman of South Sakuchia union.²⁸

²⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/2-kids-saved-abduction-bid-1423774>

²⁸ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/18650/4-fishermen-kidnapped-in-bhola>

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 June face sexual abuse or harassment. In schools, children June 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.²⁹

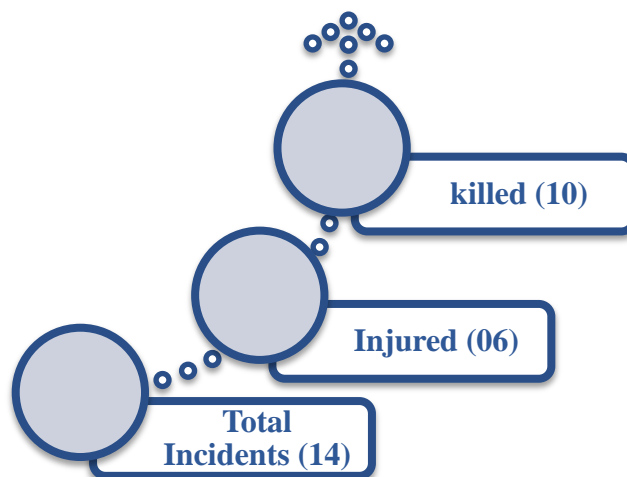


Figure 06: Violence against children in June '17

According to HRSS report, the graph presented information regarding the violence against children in June 2017, around 10 children's were killed and almost 06 children's have been critically injured in a total of nearly 14 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On June 03, 2017A woman and her nine-month-old daughter were murdered allegedly by her husband at Pashchim Joynagar village in Daulatkhan upazila of Bhola. The victims were identified as Shahnaz Begum, 30, wife of Billal Hossain, a truck driver of the village, and their daughter Mohona. Locals said Billal, his wife Shahnaz and daughter Mohona slept in their house while their only son Mehedi, 6, was in Billal's mother's house. At about 2:00am Billal hacked his wife to death and set fire to his house. Hearing the hue and cry, neighbours brought the fire under control.³⁰

On June 05, 2017A 14-year-old schoolboy, who sustained critical head injury in an attack allegedly by their relatives over a family feud in Gabtoli upazila, died at Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital (SZMCH). The deceased, Abdus Salam, son of Futu Mollah, 48, of Doripara village in the upazila, was a Class VIII student at Kolakopa Atapjan Memorial High School.³¹

²⁹ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27.

³⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-held-killing-wife-daughter-1415155>

³¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/schoolboy-killed-over-family-feud-1416091>

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.³² After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th June 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.

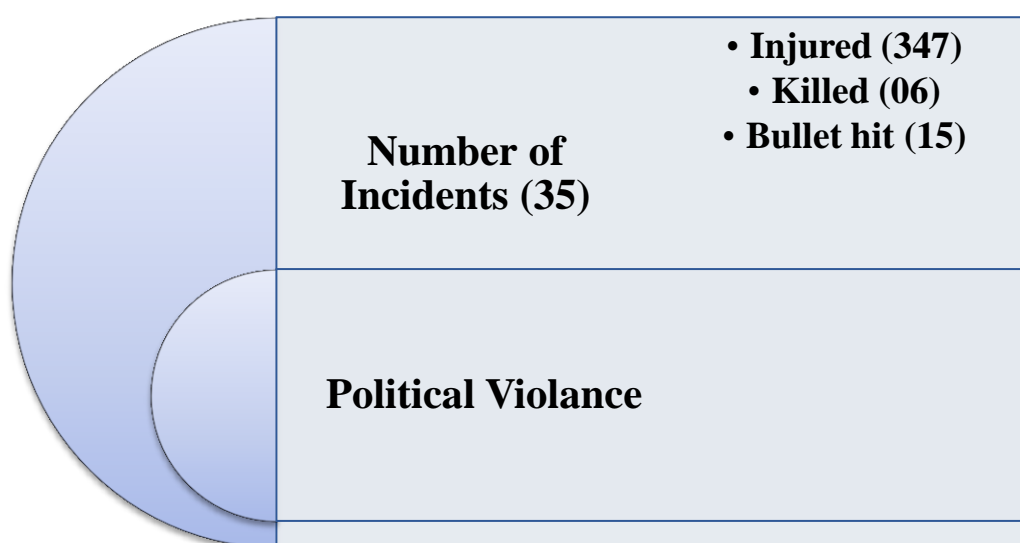


Figure 07: Statistics of Political Violence in June '17

The figure presents information about the political violence in June 2017. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 06 people has been killed, almost 347 injured and 15 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 June 01, 2017 A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists stabbed a restaurant worker over altercation in Sylhet's Tilagarh area, said police. The critically injured man, Rana Miah, 25, was rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.³³

On June 09, 2017 A young man was shot to death and two others received bullet injuries in a clash between two factions of Awami League (AL) in Charamsura area of Sadar upazila of Munshiganj over establishing supremacy. The deceased was identified as Masud Dhali. Yunus

³² Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2017,

³³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-activists-stab-restaurant-worker-sylhet-1413610>

Ali, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said that there had been a dispute between two Awami League leaders Apsu, former union parishad chairman of Charkewar union and Jibon, the incumbent chairman of the union.³⁴

On June 17, 2017A ruling Awami League activist was killed and 10 others were injured in a factional clash in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia. The dead, Sahabuddin Sahin, 30, son of Sahar Ali, was an AL activist of Mirpur upazila unit who used to run a garment shop at Amla Bazar.³⁵

On Jun 24,2017A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League Ramgati of Lakshmipur, who was reportedly chopped by robbers, succumbed to his injuries on Sunday. The deceased is Nazrul Islam, general secretary of BCL Char Abdullahpur Union unit, and son of Nur Islam of Char Gazaria area in Ramgati upazila.³⁶

On June 29, 2017At least two people were killed, 35 others injured and at least 30 houses were ransacked as the villagers clashed over a dispute over divorce of a woman in Kamarkhand upazila of Sirajganj. The victims are Md Faridul Islam, 25, son of Danez Ali of Paikosha village, and Shipon Hossain, 18, son of Jahangir Hossain of Bagbari village. Faridul died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital about 10:00pm while Shipon succumbed to his injuries at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra in the evening. The victims were injured critically during the clash, police said. Meanwhile, the rival villagers launched a fresh attack on each other at night to retaliate as news of the deaths spread, leaving at least 30 houses vandalised at both villages.³⁷

³⁴ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1213211>

³⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/al-factional-clash-leaves-1-dead-1422214>

³⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/18560/robbers-hack-bcl-leader-to-death-in-lakshmipur>

³⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/two-killed-35-injured-sirajganj-clash-1426051>

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.

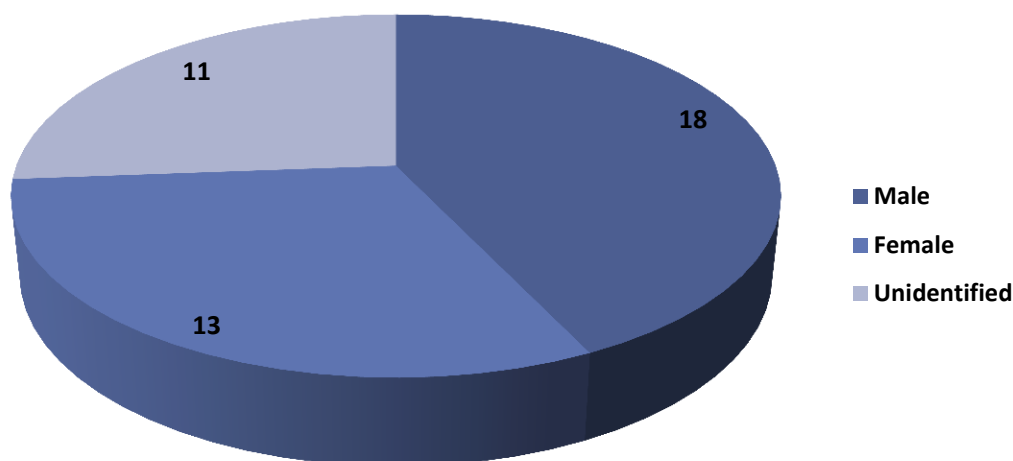


Figure 08: Recovery of Dead Body in June '17

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in June 2017, a total of 42 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 18 bodies were male and 13 bodies were female and 11 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On Jun 01, 2017 Police recovered a decomposed body of a housewife from a septic tank at Upashaharpara in Jhenaidah town, three days after her disappearance. Locals spotted the body of Anwara Begum, 45, wife of Abdur Rahim in the area, dumped at the septic tank of the house of one Khairul Master, a neighbour of the deceased, and informed police this morning, said Jhenaidah sadar police officer-in-charge Harendranath Sarker.³⁸

On June 01, 2017 A mother committed suicide after killing her two-year-old girl with the same rope she later hanged herself with in Bochaganj upazila of Dinajpur. Police recovered the bodies of Jotika Rani Roy, 22, wife of Sanatan Roy of village Gosai, and their daughter Astami Rani Roy which were hanging on the two edges of the rope from a rafter of their house.³⁹

³⁸ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/16891/missing-housewife-found-dead-in-jhenaidah-septic-tank#sthash.cm6MEsPp.dpuf>

³⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/mother-daughter-found-dead-1414798>

On June 09, 2017 Police recovered the body of a youth from the Benapole port bypass road. Sheikh Milon Hossain, 25, son of Sheikh Joinal Hossain, of Boroachra village, went out of his home and did not return, said police quoting his family. Police sent Sheikh's body to Jessore Medical College morgue for an autopsy.⁴⁰

On June 15, 2017 Police recovered the body of a nine-year-old girl, who was traceless, from a commercial building in Badurtala area of Chittagong city. The deceased Salma Akter daughter of Md Solaiman of the area in the city was a class-two student of Atatul Cadet Madrasa in Bahaddarhat. Salma went missing after she left home for her father's workplace, Jamuna Paribahan's ticket counter at Bahaddarhat Intersection, said her family members. Victim's father lodged a general diary with Panchlaish Police Station.⁴¹

On June 18, 2017 The body of a 24-year-old young man was found in a pond in Hakimpur upazila of the district, three days after he went missing. The deceased, Ali Akbar, was son of Hanif Mondal of Fakirpara village in the upazila. Victim's family members said Akbar went out of his house on June 16 and did not return home. Locals spotted Akbar's body floating in a pond in the bordering village around 10:30am and informed the police.⁴²

⁴⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/youth-found-dead-benapole-1417939>

⁴¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/ctg-missing-girl-found-dead-1420717>

⁴² <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=70589&cat=9/খিলি>

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.”⁴³ 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 June 2017. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly.

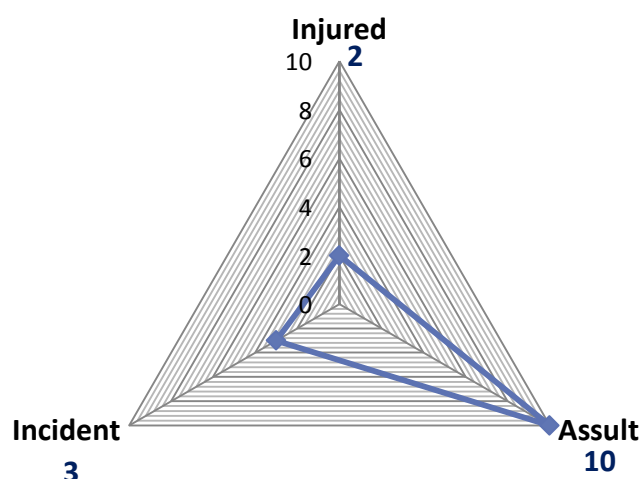


Figure 10: Attacks on Journalist

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 June, According to HRSS's documented statistics, around 10 were injured and 10 assault. Selected cases are as described here:

On June 22, 2017 some unidentified people attacked journalists at a press conference arranged by a faction of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The incident took place at the Pirojpur unit office of the party at Post Office Road in the town. Around ten journalists were confined inside the office at that time. Journalists present there said they went to the BNP office as district leader barrister M Sarwar Hossain called a press conference there against the district unit president and general secretary. Around 50 people suddenly attacked them with iron pipes and sticks in the presence of police. They saved themselves by locking the door of the office. Sarwar claimed that youths from the ruling party attacked the journalists under the influence of some BNP men.⁴⁴

⁴³ UDHR-1948, article 19

⁴⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/attack-journos-bnp-office-1424104>

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.

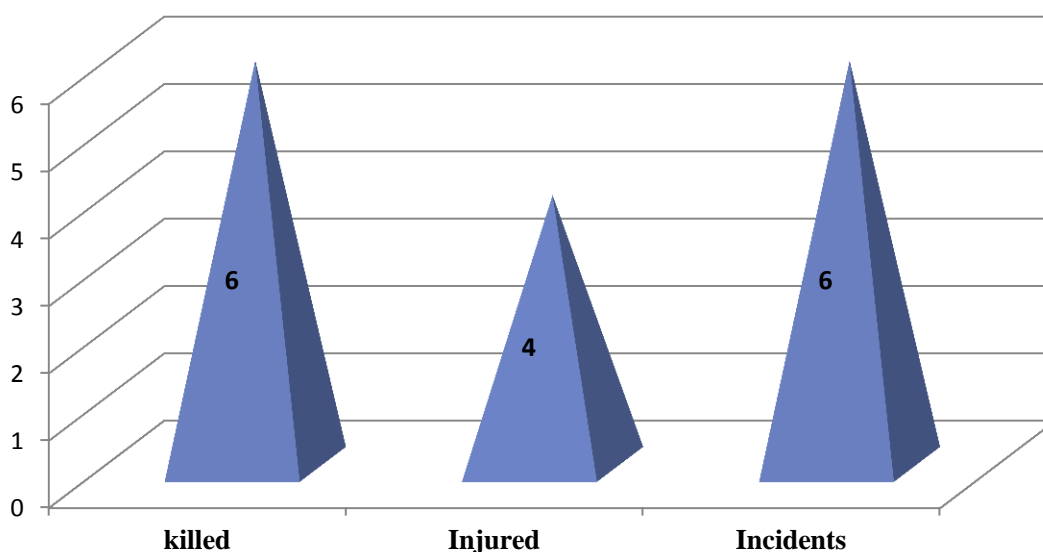


Figure 11: Statistics of Public Lynching in June '17

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases in June '2017. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, nearly 06 people were killed and 04 injured in a total of 06 incidents of the public lynching.

Some important cases are given below: On June 07, 2017A mob beat up four people, including two policemen, suspecting them of being robbers at Nakalia Ghat in Bera upazila of the Pabna. The victims -- Sub-inspector Lal Miah, constable Chunnu and boatmen Khorshed and Noresh are undergoing treatment at Bera Upazila Health Complex.⁴⁵

On June 17, 2017A man died after he was beaten by a mob at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) as he allegedly tried to snatch a mobile phone from a patient. The deceased is Md Nasiruddin, 30, of Padrishibpur village under Bakergonj upazila of the Barisal.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1209451>

⁴⁶ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/news/2017/06/18/510178>

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 another opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or another status.”

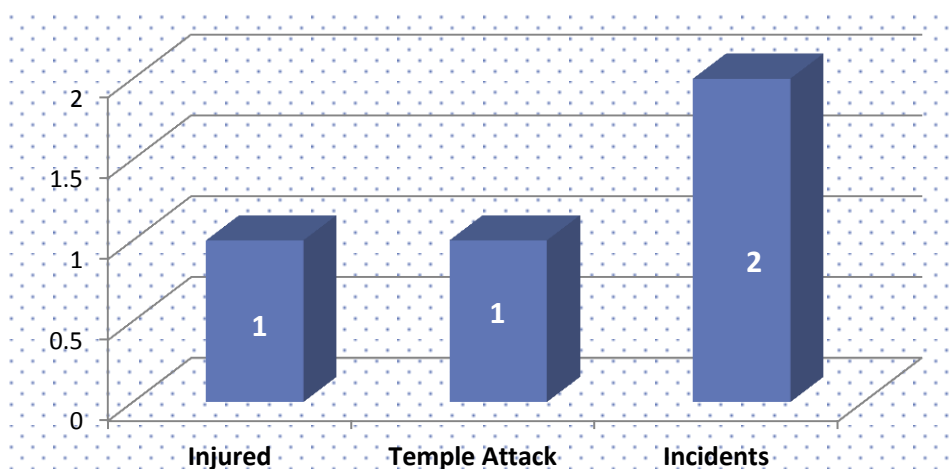


Figure 09: Statistics of attack on minority

The given chart provides information According to HRSS in the month June 2017, almost 02 temples were attacked, and 01 minority member has been injured in a total almost 02 incidents. Selected cases are as described here:

On June 22, 2017 Miscreants damaged two idols of Hindu gods after breaking into Joshaitola Temple in Hindupara village under Tanore upazila of Rajshahi. Villagers in the morning found two idols of Sree Krishna and Josaimata were displaced and broken, said Sagar Chandra Adhikari, temple committee president. He said local Hindus are having a feud and legal battle with a man in the area over a piece of khas land beside the temple for a long time.⁴⁷

On June 30, 2017 Miscreants damaged five idols of Hindu god and goddess at a house at Chapair village in Kaliakoir upazila. Local people said unidentified miscreants entered the house of Shanti Gopal Pal, an idol-maker, in the dead of night and vandalised five idols. When Shanti Gopal entered the room on Jun 30 mornings he found five idols damaged.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/miscreants-damage-idols-rajshahi-1424362>

⁴⁸ <http://www.theindependentbd.com/post/101521>

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.

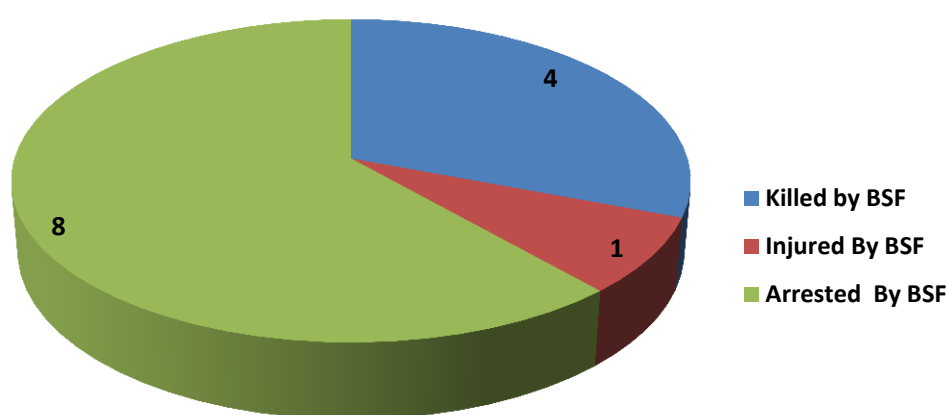


Figure 09: Statistics of Border Violence

The given chart gives data on the border dispute. According to HRSS in June 2017, almost 04 Bangladeshis citizen was killed, 01 injured and around 08 Bangladeshis citizen were arrested by BSF.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On June 12, 2017A Bangladeshi national was reportedly shot to death by Indian Border Security Force along Rokonpur border of Gomostapur in Chapainawabganj. The boy is Shahlal, 22, son of Sirajul of Rokonpur village at the Gomostapur upazila.⁴⁹

On June 20, 2017Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot two Bangladeshi teenagers dead at Hashkhali area in India. The boys Soheli Hossain, 21, and Harun-or-Rashid, 22, of Maheshpur upazila of the Jhenidah were about to cross the border with cattle when BSF personnel fired at them.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/17608/bangladeshi-shot-dead-by-bsf-in-cnawabganj#sthash.b1QPPB6p.dpuf>

⁵⁰ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1225126/>

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

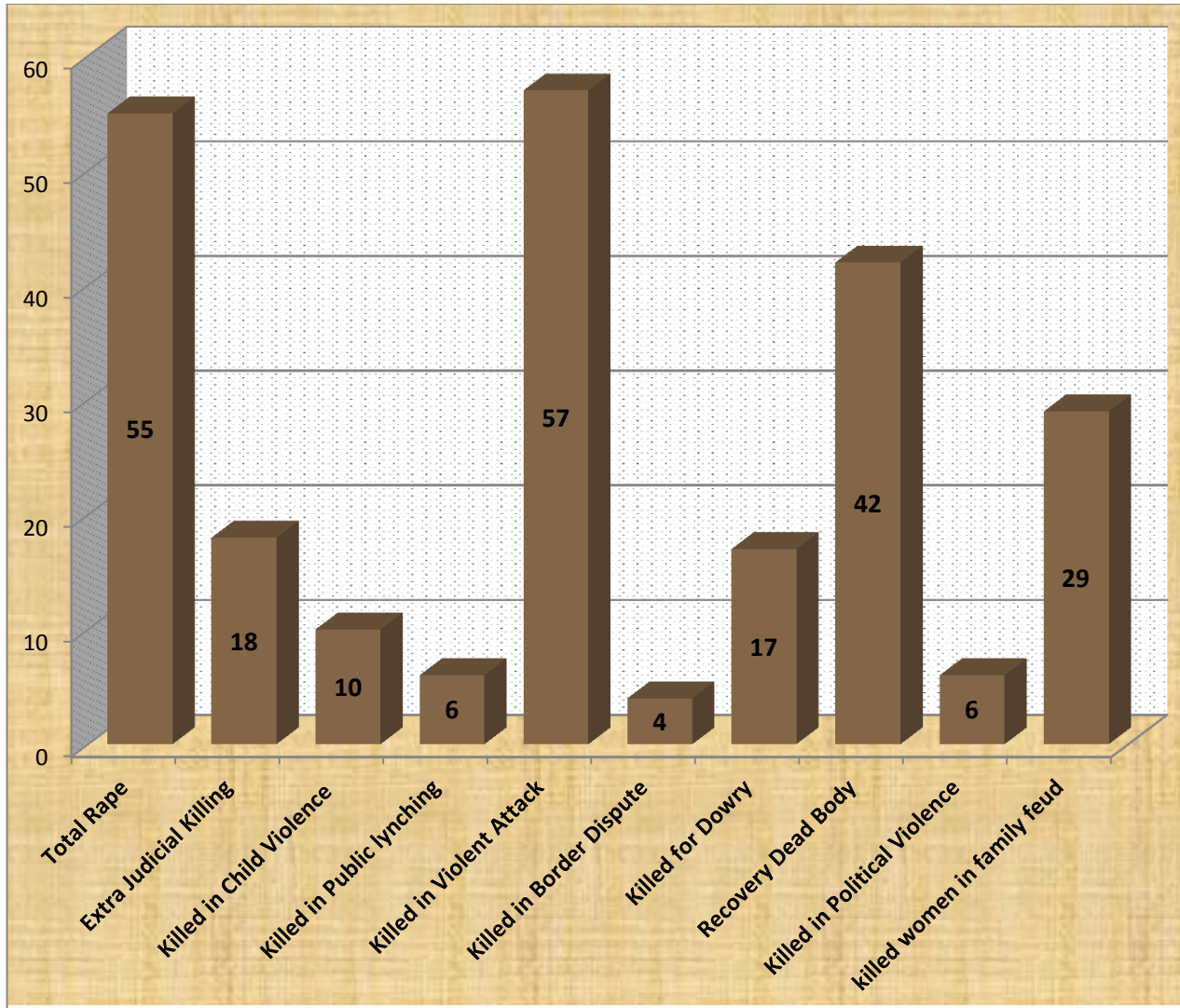


Figure 13: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in June 2017

Conclusion

As a final point, it is observed that the human rights situation in Bangladesh was shocking during the June 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 June 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.