



Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

March, 2017

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

In March 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 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 and enforced disappearance has been observed as more severe form in March.

According to the source of human rights support center (HRSC), approximately 30 people were killed extra-judicially in March 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. The occurrences of enforced disappearances were also continued in March 2017. Unfortunately, most of the cases of enforced disappearances are accused against the security forces such as RAB, DB, and Police. According to HRSS monitoring, a total 09 persons have been disappeared by the law enforcement agency in different incidents with alleged ties to security personnel during the reporting time.

Moreover, HRSC report demonstrates that a total of 57 females were alleged to be raped in March 2017. Among of them, around 28 were below the age of 16 and 01 was killed after rape. About 03 women were subjected to be gang raped. A total of 09 women were killed for dowry and roughly 18 were sexually harassed. Approximately, 27 women were killed in the family feud.

On the other hand, Around 61 people were killed in the violent attack. Accounts of 30 people have been abducted. Furthermore, around 06 people were killed in political violence. At least 09 people were killed in a public lynching. Remarkably, around 10 children were killed and 18 were critically injured in a total of nearly 17 incidents.

However, we hope that this report will help mass people, civil society as well as international communities to realize the current dreadful and degrading human rights situation in Bangladesh. We 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.

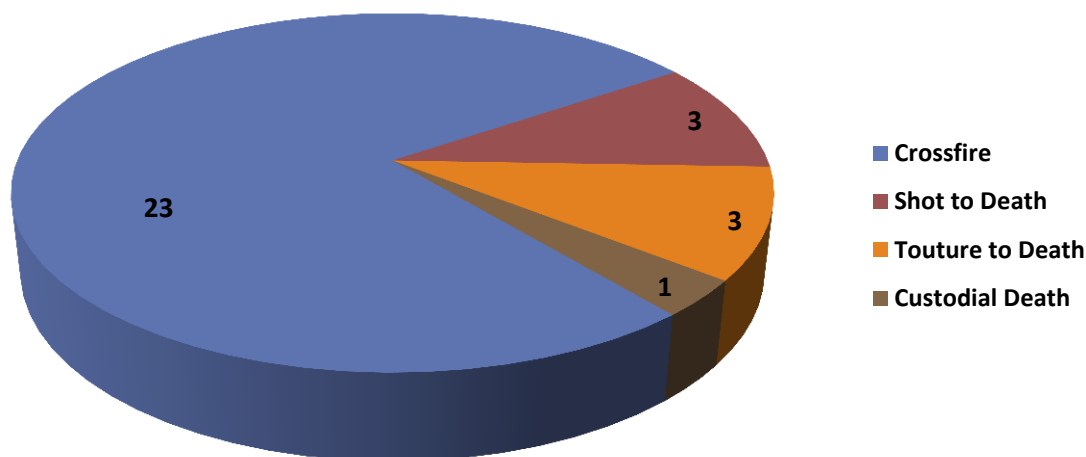


Figure 01: Scenario of Encounter killing in March 2017

The given pie chart provides information about the extra-judicial killing scenario in March 2017: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 30 persons were alleged kill extra-judicially. Out of them, 23 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, 03 shot to death, almost 03 tortures to death and 01 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 Mar 01, 2017 a suspected forest robber was killed in a gunfight between a robber gang and members of Rapid Action Battalion at Sukhpararchar under Sharankhola range in east Sunderbans. The deceased, Billal Mir alias Kana Billal, was second in command of ‘Samsu Bahini’, a gang of robbers of Sunderbans. The body was sent to a local hospital morgue for autopsy.⁴

On Mar 02, 2017 Police claimed an arms peddler was killed in a gunfight with them at Maheshkhali upazila in Cox’s Bazar. The deceased was identified as Khuilla Mia, 35, of village Majherdeil in the upazila. After ending the gunfight, police searched the area and found the bullet-hit body of Khuilla Mia, the police officer-in-charge added.⁵

On Mar 07, 2017 a suspected robber was killed and two policemen suffered bullet wounds in a 'gunfight' with detectives at Loribagh in Burichang of Comilla. Sub-inspector Shah Kamal Akond of Detective Branch of the Comilla said the deceased Mostafa, 33, was a member of a gang of robbers.⁶

On March 12, 2017A leader of a faction of the Purba Banglar Communist Party and his associate were killed in a reported gunfight with police at village Rahimabad of Tala upazila in Satkhira. The deceased were identified as Bidyut Kumar Bachhar, 45, ringleader of Bidyut Bahini in PBCP, a resident of village Maguradanga, and his associate Sheikh Talha, 26, of village Shujanshaha in the upazila. The bodies were sent to Satkhira General Hospital morgue for autopsies.⁷

On 15 March, 2017 four suspected criminals were killed in a reported gunfight with police at Nurpur intersection in Sadar upazila in Meherpur. The deceased were identified as Saddam Hossain, 25, Ramesh, 24, Sohag, 27, and Kanon, 25, residents of Sonapur village. Meanwhile, six policemen, including assistant police superintendent (ASP) Ahsan Habib, were injured in the incident.⁸

On Mar 16, 2017 a suspected robber was killed in a reported gunfight between his cohorts and Detective Branch of police at village Adabaria of Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia. The deceased was identified only as Selim, 40. DB police sent Selim to Kushtia General Hospital where on-duty physicians declared him dead.⁹

On Mar 17, 2017 a suspected robber was killed in a reported gunfight with police at village Hazipur of Kasba upazila in Brahmanbaria. Police arrested Zahirul Islam alias Kala Zahir at village Kamalpur and then conducted a drive there with him to capture his cohorts as well, said Mohiuddin Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Kasba police station.¹⁰

⁴ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10295/robber-killed-in-sunderbans>

⁵ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/03/03/106351.html>

⁶ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/03/08/106897.html>

⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1106380/>

⁸ <https://www.dailyinqilab.com/article/69410/সেহরপুরে>

⁹ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1111564/কু>

¹⁰ <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/03/18/42416/>

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

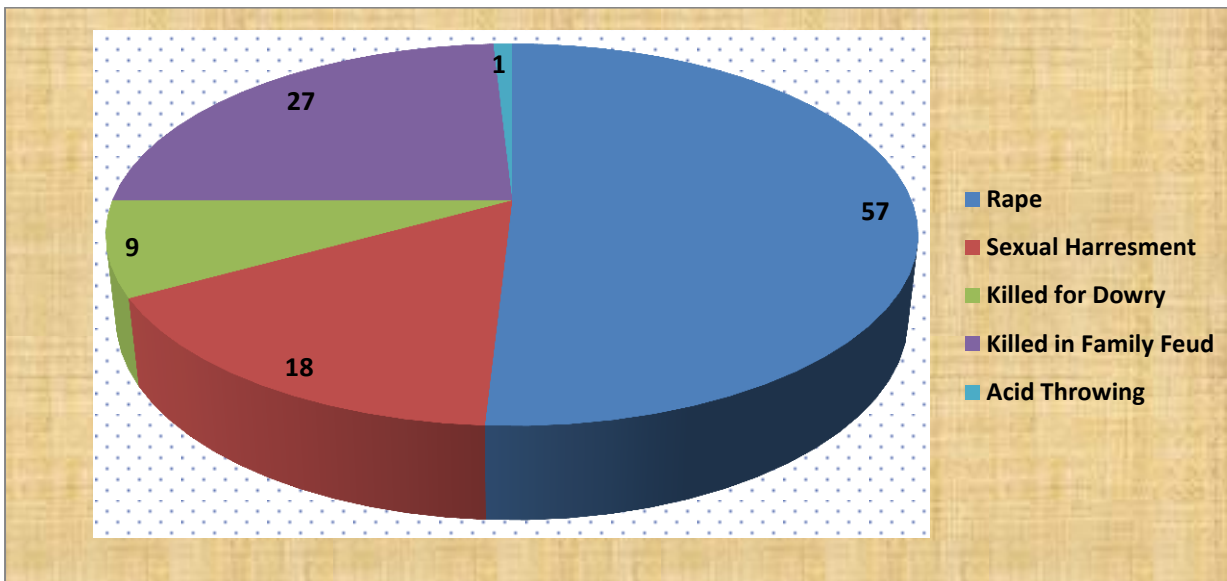


Figure 02: Violence against Women in March '17

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 March 2017 are detailed:

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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 57 females were raped. Among of them 54 were victims of single rape and 03 were subjected to gang rape and 28 were children below the age of 16 (including single & gang rape).
- On the other hand, one female was killed after being raped and almost 11 incidents have been attempted to rape.

Killed in Family Feud

- In february 2017 About 27 women were killed in the family feud and 05 females have been injured. Out of them, 32 were an incidents of Family Feud.

Dowry Related Violence

- Approximately 22 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported in february 2017. About 09 were killed and 13 women were physically abused over dowry demands.

Sexual Haressment

- According to information collected by HRSS, a total of 18 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in february 2017. Among them, 12 were assaulted and 06 were stalked.

Acide Violence

- Almost one female became victims of acid violence and critically injured in February 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 impotant cases are cited: On March 01, 2017A 12-year-old speech and hearing impaired girl was raped allegedly by her elderly neighbour at Kashiabari village in Aditmari upazila of the Lalmonirhat. Parents of the victim said locals could not take the girl to hospital for treatment as the alleged rapist's men obstructed them. Local people said Suruzzman Mia, 62; alias Chunnu Mia took the girl to a tobacco field beside their homestead and raped her.¹³

¹³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/challenged-girl-raped-elderly-man-1369417>

On Mar 01, 2017 a housewife and her four-month-old baby were strangled to death allegedly by her husband over a family feud at village Khamarballomjar in Gaibandha Sadar upazila. Quoting locals, Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said Samiul had an altercation with his wife Nazma Begum, 25, over a family problem.¹⁴

On March 02, 2017A young woman was hacked to death allegedly by her husband following a family feud at Gangail village in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj. Al Amin, 25, husband of the victim, was arrested in this connection, said Sajedul Islam Palash, officer-in-charge of Madhabpur Police Station. The deceased is Jharna Begum, 19, daughter of late Farid Mia of the village.¹⁵

On March 03, 2017A woman was killed allegedly by her former husband in Boilor area of Trishal upazila in Mymensingh. Quoting her family members, Md Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station, said Fatema Khatun, 24, of Boilor village and Sumon Miah, a rickshaw van-puller, got married two years ago.¹⁶

On March 07, 2017A girl has been hacked to death allegedly by her husband over dowry in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila. Sumi Begum's death was from excessive bleeding and blunt force trauma to the head, neck and right hand, Juri Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jamal Uddin quoted an autopsy report of Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital as saying.¹⁷

On March 12, 2017A housewife was allegedly murdered in her in-law's house at Sadar upazila of the Pirojpur. The deceased was Ruma Akter Meem, 22, wife of Raju Karigor, 25, of Deborkathi village in the upazila.¹⁸

On March 12, 2017A union parishad member has been accused of raping a schoolgirl in Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan upazila. Kamal Mollah, a member of Baluchar Union Parishad, asked a woman, who is a neighbour, to collect a VGF (vulnerable group feeding) card from his house. When the woman and her daughter, a class VI student, went to his house, he sent the mother away with another woman called Panna Akhter, according to a case filed with Sirajdikhan Police Station. Kamal then fed the girl some sedatives and raped her when she fell unconscious, said the case statement.¹⁹

On March 23, 2017A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Borhanpur village under Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj. The deceased was identified as Safia Akhter Shilpi, 25, daughter of Sundor Ali of Afzalpur village in the upazila.²⁰

¹⁴ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10293/housewife-baby-girl-killed-in-gaibandha>

¹⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-hacked-death-1369924>

¹⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1096645/নারী>

¹⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/girl-hacked-death-husband-1372417>

¹⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-killed-laws-house-1374871>

¹⁹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=57327&cat=10>

²⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-murdered-dowry-1380463>

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 March 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 March 2017.

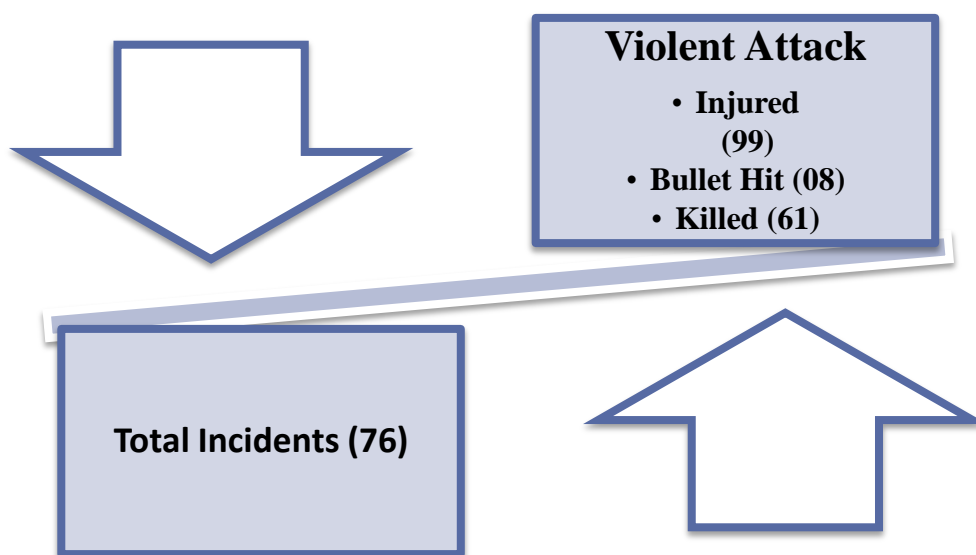


Figure 03: statistics of Violent Attacks in March '17

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in March 2017, a total 76 incidents of violent attack have happened and 61 were killed in these attacks, 99 were seriously injured and around 08 persons have been bullet hit.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On March 01, 2017 A Rajshahi University (RU) student was stabbed and robbed of his possessions at the main gate of the university. A mugger stabbed Shahidul Islam, a third-year finance student, with a knife before making away with his cell phone and wallet, said his friends. Milon was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.²¹

On Mar 01, 2017 a young man was stabbed to death by miscreants at Mirpur Section-12 in the capital. The victim was identified as Saiful Islam, 20, son of Shamsur Rahman, hailing from

²¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/ru-student-stabbed-mugger-1368964>

Mymensingh district. Victim's father Shamsur Rahman said two unknown youths stabbed Saiful repeatedly in the area at 8:30pm.²²

On March 05, 2017 unidentified miscreants shot dead a ward unit president of ruling Awami League in Noakhali Sadar upazila, allegedly over internal feud of the party and land dispute. Abul Hashem, president of AL Ward No 4 unit under Andarchar union, was shot around midnight.²³

On March 08, 2017 Miscreants hacked a farmer to death at Bhandaria upazila in the Pirojpur. The deceased is Jalal Howlader, 45, son of Abdul Kader Howlader of Uttar Poykkhali village in the upazila. Meanwhile, police arrested main accused Imran Hossain, 22, son of Jahangir Hossain the same night from his house at Sardarpara in the upazila, said Md Kamruzzaman Talukder, Officer-in-charge (OC) of Bhandaria Police Station.²⁴

On March 09, 2017 a youth was shot and hacked to death at Lengra Bazar area in Sadar upazila of Mymensingh district. The victim was identified as Hasan Ali, 26, son of Hazrat Ali of Golgonda area.²⁵

On March 13, 2017A “pir” and his female attendant were stabbed and shot dead at his shrine in Doula village of Dinajpur. The motive behind the murders could not be known immediately. However, Dinajpur Superintendent of Police Hamidul Alam said conflicts over religious views might have driven the killings.²⁶

On March 22, 2017A day labourer was hacked to death in Paikpara area of Santhia upazila of Pabna district. Police arrested accused Abdus Salam, 50, of the area, said Officer-in-Charge Md Nasir Uddin of Santhia Police Station. The victim was Ataur Rahman, 55, of Bagbaria village in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj.²⁷

On March 24, 2017A union-level Jubo League leader was hacked to death and two others injured in an alleged rival group attack in Pabna’s Pakshi area. The deceased was Md Sajahan Ali, 42, son of late Mohammed Ali, is the vice president of Jubo League unit no. 6 of Pakshey. The injured ward AL President Ashraful Islam, 45, and his fellow Abul Hossain, 35, are undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.²⁸

On March 27, 2017A grocer was hacked to death by some miscreants at Etahata in Gazipur city. Saifur Rahman Alamgir, 40, son of Ali Akber Master, was returning home from his shop when some miscreants hacked him indiscriminately. Locals took him to Gazipur Shahid Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital where he died, said deceased's family.²⁹

²² <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10290/youth-stabbed-dead-in-city>

²³ <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/country/2017/03/05/212811#sthash.dG2Cnym3.dpuf>

²⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/farmer-hacked-death-pirojpur-1372930>

²⁵ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/03/09/107148.html>

²⁶ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/03/14/107650.html>

²⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1116925>

²⁸ <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/03/24/279618#sthash.M73zNI4A.dpuf>

²⁹ <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/03/27/43206/৯৭>

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 March 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 30 people were abducted, among of them, 04 were killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 19 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

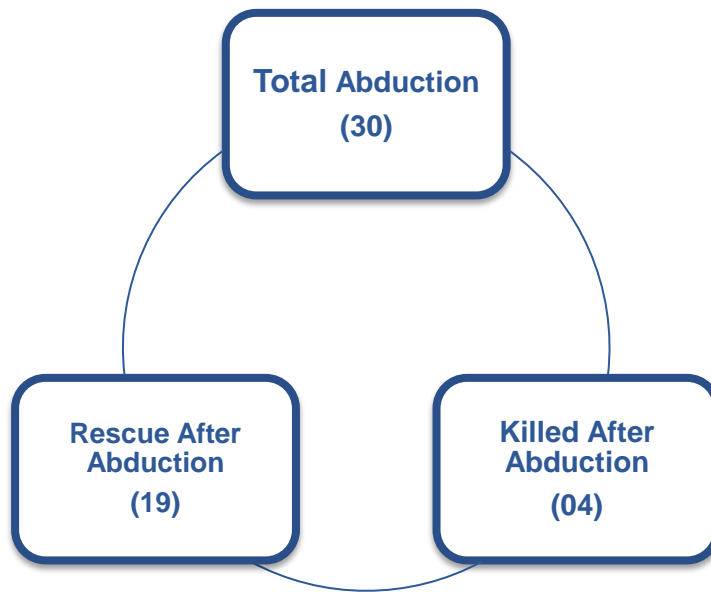
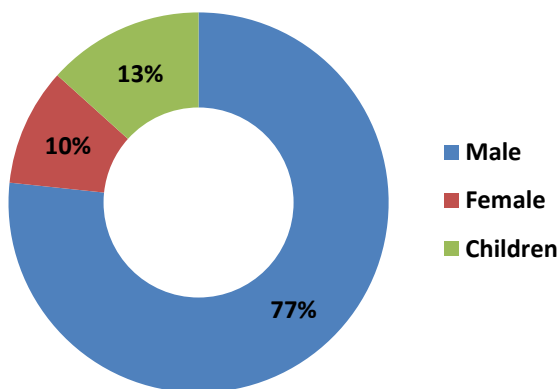


Figure 04: Statistics of Abduction in March '17

Figure 05: Categorization of Abduction



The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in March 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 30 people were abducted, among of them, 23 were male, and around 03 were female and nearly 04 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On March 01, 2017 According to Rab-2 media cell, on March 26, a woman named Ruksana Begum filed a complaint mentioning that someone went to her house to inform that some people of East Agargaon abducted her husband Md Emon and demanded Tk 1.50 lakh as ransom. Rab officials arrested Rubel at East Agargaon intersection who was supposed to collect the ransom.³⁰

On March 01, 2017 Police rescued a boy, 10 days after he was abducted by his neighbour from in Batali Hill area of Chittagong city. One Anwar Hossain, 32, and his two wives Farzana Begum, 23, and Bithi Akter, 22, were arrested in this connection, said police. On March 19, Anwar asked the boy Sharif Hossain, a third grader and son of Shah Alam, to go with him to purchase a television when he was playing in front of his house, said police.³¹

On March 04, 2017 an eight year old boy was allegedly abducted and murdered for a ransom of Tk three lakh in Kalai Upazila in Joypurhat. The body of Tauhid Shamim Shuvo was recovered around 150 yards away from his residence in Munshipara village at around 6:00am, less than one day after his abduction. The victim, only son of timber trader Abdul Gafur alias Tota , went missing at around 10:30 am on 03,march,17 after he left home to play with a top. He was a second year student at the local Kakoli Shishu Niketon School.³²

On March 25, 2017 A Chittagong University student was allegedly abducted by miscreants from Chittagong city. The victim Tarikul Islam Rony, 24, of Jamalpur, -- is a master's student of management and has been staying in Chowdhury Hat area of Hathazari upazila. Some miscreants beat one Nurullah Tarikul's friend in Gate No-1 area in the afternoon to know the whereabouts of Tarikul. Later, in the evening Tarikul was abducted, said Al-Amin, another friend of Tarikul.³³

³⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/nine-abductors-held-victim-rescued-1369003>

³¹ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1094629/অপহরণের>

³² <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/03/04/274637#sthash.cgVPIKsO.dpuf>

³³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/cu-student-abducted-1381486>

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 may face sexual abuse or harassment. In schools, children may 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.³⁴

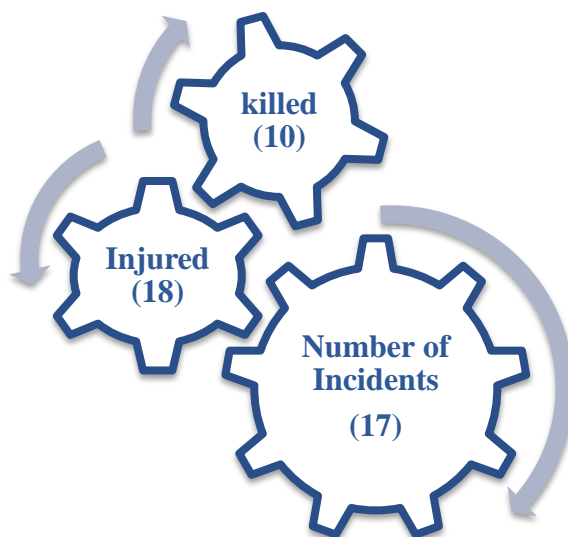


Figure 06: Violence against children in March '17

According to HRSS report, the graph presented information regarding the violence against children in March 2017, around 10 children's were killed and almost 18 children's have been critically injured in a total of nearly 17 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On Mar 27, 2017 a two-month old boy was slaughtered allegedly by his mother at Digda village in Kapasia of Gazipur. Family sources said Shahinur slaughtered his son Mihsan Sadit ng when her husband Shariful Haque went out of the house for Fazr prayers. Hearing scream of their daughter Maliha, the other members of the family went to the spot and found the baby boy's slaughtered body, said Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Kapasia police station.³⁵

On Mar 01, 2017 a housewife and her four-month-old baby were strangulated to death allegedly by her husband over a family feud at village Khamarballomjar in Gaibandha Sadar upazila. Neighbours found Nazma and their baby dead at Samiul's house and informed police.³⁶

On March 13, 2017 a woman tried to kill herself after allegedly killing her four-year-old daughter in Islampur upazila of the Jamalpur district. The deceased is Amena, daughter of Aminur Islam and Khukumoni of Dakpara village.³⁷

³⁴ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27.

³⁵ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/12174/minor-boy-killed-by-mother-in-gazipur#sthash.PTrwQewt.dpuf>

³⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10293/housewife-baby-girl-killed-in-gaibandha>

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.³⁸After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th March 2014 by controversial election, political violence is still continued. But due to limited space for opposition parties, now political violence are mostly intra-factional clashes of ruling party over the issues of supremacy, tender, and possession of power, collecting subscription, grabbing land etc. The activist of opposite political parties is being tortured, killed by the activist of ruling parties in every corner of the country.

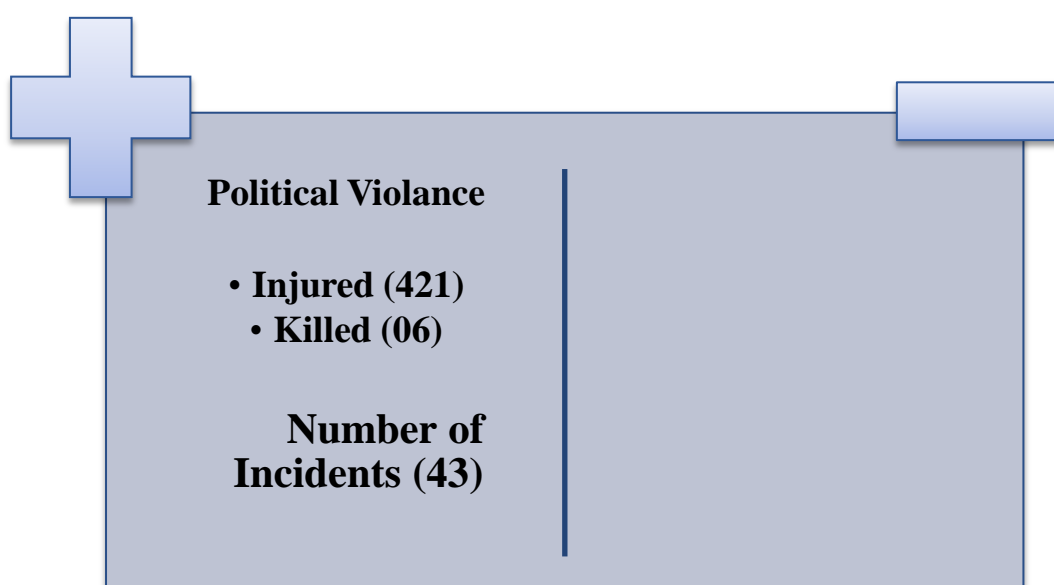


Figure 07: Statistics of Political Violence in March '17

The figure presents information about the political violence in March 2017. According to Human Rights Support Centre (HRSS) information, a total of 06 people were killed, almost 421 injured, due to political related issues. Most of the political violence occurred among the sub-organization of ruling party on the supremacy of power or tender.

Selected cases are as follows: On March 26, 2017 A union-level Chhatra League leader was shot dead allegedly by his rivals over establishing supremacy at Takiabazar of Feni's Sonagazi. The victim, Nur Alam Ripon, 26, was the cultural affairs secretary of Bagadana union unit of the pro-Awami League student body. He was the son of Shafikur Rahman of Alampur village.³⁹

³⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1107325/>

³⁸ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2017,

³⁹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=58970&cat=6/>

On March 02, 2017 three activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured in a factional clash at Chittagong College. The injured were Md Manir, a student of history department; Md Emon, of economics; and Md Sohel, of social Science. Sources said two factions of BCL activists locked in a clash over establishing supremacy on the campus around 1:30pm. They attacked each other with brickbats and sticks.⁴⁰

On March 03, 2017 At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two factions of the ruling Awami League over establishing supremacy in Saltha upazila of Faridpur. The clash ensued after the followers of the upazila unit AL cultural affairs secretary Ashraful Islam allegedly attacked a relative of his rival Md Rafik Matubbor, also vice-president of the upazila unit Sramik League, a pro-AL organisation, in Gotti Bus Stand area around 8:00am. “They also damaged several houses of my supporters, triggering a counter attack around 10:00am,” said Rafik Matubbor.⁴¹

On March 04, 2017 At least 25 people were injured in pre-election clash between the supporters of two chairman candidates in Rangabali upazila of the Patuakhali district. The election to the Rangabali Upazila Parishad is scheduled to be held on March 6. Awami League candidate Mohammad Delwar Hossain, BNP candidate Jahangir Hossain Akon and Islami Shasontantra Andolan candidate Amir Hossain Mollah are contesting for the post of upazila parishad chairman there.⁴²

On March 19, 2017 At least 27 people including seven policemen were injured as two factions of ruling Awami League clashed over establishing supremacy in Jahazmara Bazar in Hatiya upazila. Three of the injured, including AL members Imam Hossain, 35, and Akbar Hossain, 28, received bullets during the clash that occurred around 10:00pm. Police and locals said supporters of former lawmaker Prof Oli Ullah and another former MP Mohammad Ali clashed over establishing supremacy in the area.⁴³

On March 26, 2017 At least 15 activists were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League over celebration of the Independence Day in Sreenagar upazila of the Munshiganj district. Both groups one led by Sukumar Ranjan Ghosh, lawmaker from Munshiganj-1 constituency, and another by Golam Sarwar Kabir, a central AL leader,-- blamed each other for the incident.⁴⁴

⁴⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/3-bcl-men-hurt-factional-clash-1370155>

⁴¹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=55972&cat>

⁴² <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/03/03/41113/৯৯>

⁴³ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1113892/৯৯>

⁴⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/15-injured-al-feud-1381744>

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.

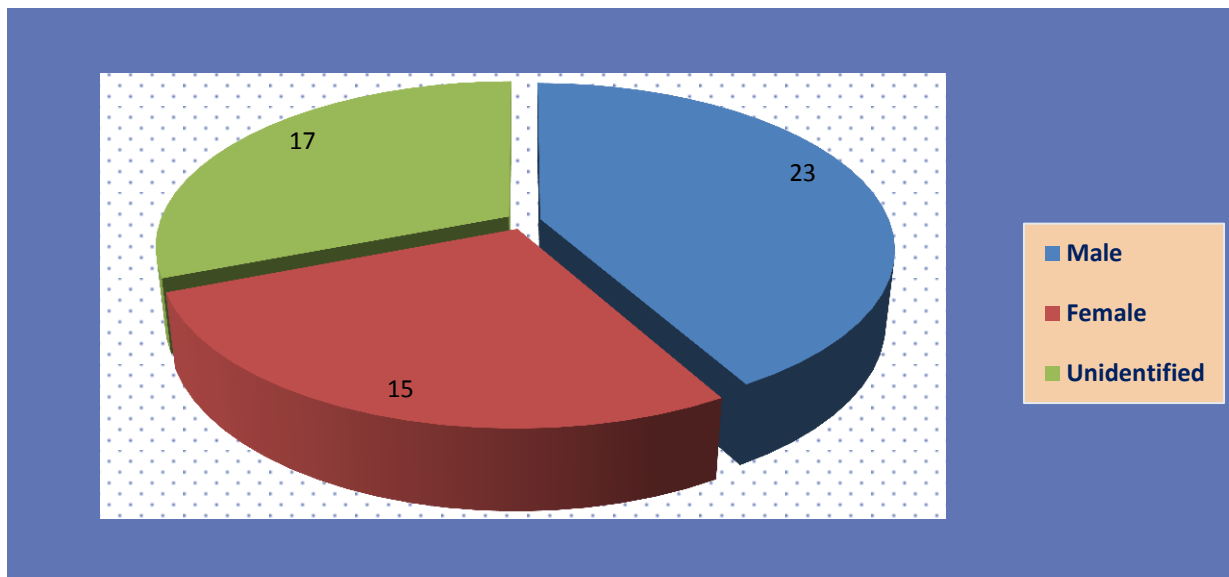


Figure 08: Recovery of Dead Body in March '17

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in March 2017, a total of 55 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 23 bodies were male and 15 bodies were female and 17 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On March 01, 2017 the slit-throat body of a female student of Khagrachhari Government College was found in the town. The victim was Iti Chakma, 18, a second year HSC student of the institution, said Md Sujadullah, sub-inspector of Khagrachhari Police Station.⁴⁵

On March 01, 2017 an unidentified elderly woman aged about 65 was found dead in a rice mill at Mazar Bazar under Ishwarganj upazila of the Mymensingh. Local people found the body lying at the corridor of the rice mill in the morning and informed the police.⁴⁶

On Mar 03, 2017 a minor boy was found dead at Munshipara of Kalai municipality in Jaipurhat, a day after he had gone missing. Nuruzzaman Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Kalai

⁴⁵ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10159/chakma-college-girl-found-throat-slit-in-khagrachhari>

⁴⁶ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/elderly-woman-found-dead-1369405>

police station, said Shuvo Rahman, 7, son of Abdul Gafur of the area, he had gone out for playing. His father then filed a general diary with the police station in this connection.⁴⁷

On March 06, 2017 Police recovered the body of an unidentified female, aged between 18 and 20 years, with injuries on head and face from Bhatiary of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong. The body clad in burqa was lying on a field near Bhatiary Golf Club gate, said police.⁴⁸

On Mar 11, 2017 she was supposed to be there in her mother's lap either at home or hospital, but the ill-fated one-day old baby girl was found in a city dustbin. Police rescued the baby from the dustbin at Shah Ali Beribadh in the city's Mirpur area in the afternoon.⁴⁹

On March 18, 2017 Police recovered the hanging body of a youth from a forest in Eshworpur village of Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur. The deceased, Kiron Chandra Das, 22, of Eshwarpur area was a fisherman. Sub-Inspector of Kaliganj Police Station Rezaul Karim said the body was sent to Shaheed Taj Uddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital for autopsy.⁵⁰

On March 19, 2017 a woman was found dead outside her house at South Vinglabari in Debidwar Comilla. Shah Alam, husband of the deceased, Hazera Begum, 42, claimed that he stayed at his poultry farm in Morichkanda. Police suspected that Hazera was strangled and sent the body with scratch marks of nails to Comilla Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.⁵¹

On 21st March, 2017 a body of a night guard was found from Benipur Haor in Jibonagar upazila of Chudanga district, one day after he remained missing. The deceased was identified as Khalilur Rahman, 42, son of a Matobber of Benipur village. He worked as a night guard of Benipur Haor. Police recovered the body from the spot.⁵²

⁴⁷ <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/country/2017/03/04/212548#sthash.gRCWywty.dpuf>

⁴⁸ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=56404&cat=9/>

⁴⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10973/newborn-found-in-city-dustbin>

⁵⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/youths-body-found-gazipur-1378111>

⁵¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/woman-found-dead-comilla-1378480>

⁵² <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=58280&cat=9>

Border Killing

Every state of the civilized world is very serious about maintaining the standard of human rights. But BSF and BGP 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 among Bangladesh, Myanmar 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.

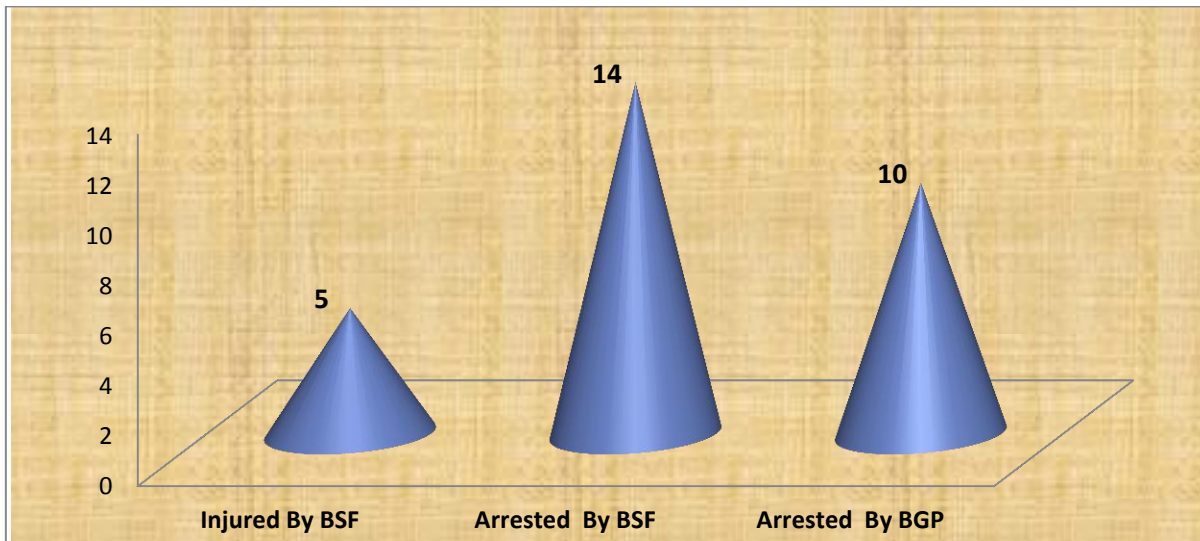


Figure 10: Statistics of Border Violence

The given chart gives data on the border dispute. According to HRSS in March 2017, almost one Bangladeshi citizen was killed, roughly 05 injured and almost 14 arrested by BSF, on the other hand, and about 10 Bangladeshi citizen were arrested by BGP.

Some important cases are mentioned below; on 21 Mar, 2017 A Bangladeshi national was picked up by members of BSF from Burimari border point in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat district. The BSF members from Changrabandha camp picked up Nuruzzaman, 22, son of Hitlar Uddin, a resident of Panishala village of the upazila.⁵³

On March 24, 2017 Border Security Force of India beat up some Bangladeshi passport holders in no man's land on their way to India through Benapole Land Port. Around 1,000 Bangladeshis with passports and visas got back home following the action, said Fazlul Haque, sub-inspector of Benapole Immigration Police.⁵⁴

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⁵³ <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/03/21/278937#sthash.NSLXszHx.dpuf>
⁵⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bsf-beats-bangladeshis-1381012>

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.”⁵⁵ 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 March 2017. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly.

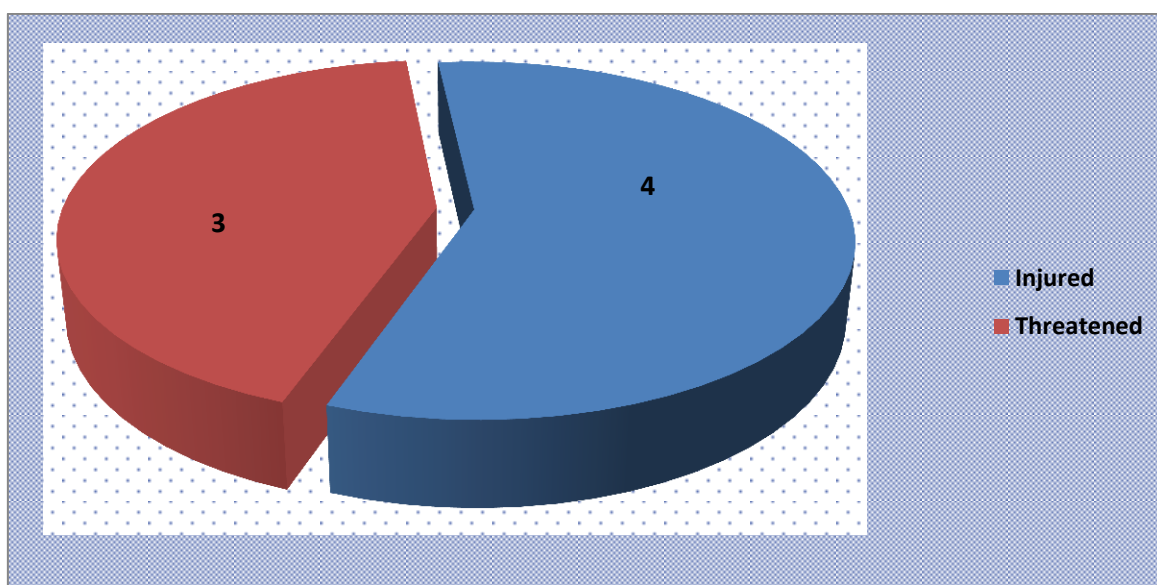


Figure 11: Attacks on Journalist

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 March, According to HRSS’s documented statistics, around 04 were injured and almost 03 threatened. Selected cases are as described here:

On Mar 13, 2017 Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Dhaka University vandalized the provost's office room at Bijay Ekattor Hall as general students tried to resist them from occupying rooms of the hall. The DU correspondent of United News of Bangladesh was injured in the attack. Imran Hossain the UNB correspondent and a fourth-year student of mass communication and journalism department of the university, alleged that a group of BCL activists tried to capture a number of rooms of the dormitory and vandalised a few.⁵⁶

On March 25, 2017A local journalist of a national daily was assaulted allegedly by a gang of hired criminals in front of Jamalpur (Rab) camp at Beltia in the town. The victim, Anwarul Islam Milon of old bus stand area of the town, is Jamalpur correspondent of the daily Manob Zamin.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ UDHR-1948, article 19

⁵⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/11195/bcl-men-attack-du-bijoy-ekattor-hall>

⁵⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/newsman-beaten-hired-goons-1381411>

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.

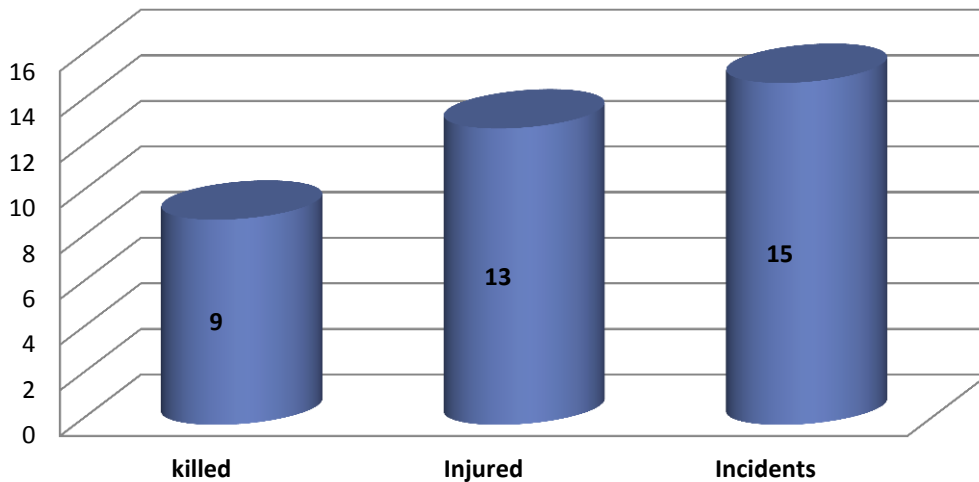


Figure 12: Statistics of Public Lynching in March '17

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases in March '2017. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, one people have been injured; nearly 09 people were killed and almost 13 injured in a total of 15 incidents of the public lynching.

Some important cases are given below: On March 01, 2017A freedom fighter was beaten to death in Satkhira Sadar upazila. The victim was Abul Kalam Azad, 70, a resident of Ghona village in the upazila. Azad's son Tuhin Alam said a group of people beat his father following a money related feud around 7:15pm.⁵⁸

On Mar 13, 2017 a young man was beaten to death allegedly by a stalker at Paschim Sonabaji in Nawabganj of Keraniganj as he reportedly protested the harassment of his niece. The deceased was identified as Bhakta Chandra Sarker, 22.⁵⁹

On Mar 01, 2017 two suspected robbers were beaten to death by a mob in Jagannathpur area of Nabinagar in Brahmanbaria. The dead are identified as Anamul Haque, 42, of Rasulabad village in Nabinagar upazila and Yeasin Mia, 35, of Kajlia village in Brahmanbaria.⁶⁰

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⁵⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/freedom-fighter-beaten-dead-1369036>

⁵⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/11197/stalker-kills-youth-at-nawabganj>

Enforced Disappearance

‘Enforced disappearance’ is a dreadful violation of human rights and an international crime. But in Bangladesh ‘disappearance’ is, nowadays, not a word only; rather a synonym of ‘public outcry’. The events of disappearance have already triggered a gravest hurdle in our national life by polluting political and administrative culture in Bangladesh. Abduction, killing after the abduction, rescuing dead body becomes the common and daily phenomenon in Bangladesh. 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.

According to the information gathered in ‘Human Rights Support Center’ (HRSC), in march, 2017, a total 09 people have disappeared by law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 01 were found as dead, but nobody knows what happened to destiny of rest 08 persons. Several incidents of enforced disappearance have been reported during the violent political situation. Some important cases are given below:



Name: Nurul Alam Nuru (Picked up, then found murdered-Ctg JCD leader's family point's finger at Law enforcers)

On March 30, 2017 a central leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was found murdered on the banks of the Karnaphuli River in Raozan upazila of chittagong district hours after he was picked up allegedly by law enforcers from his home in the port city on 29, march 2017. Nurul Alam Nuru, 40, was shot twice in the head. His hands were tied with rope and there were several injury marks on his body. Family members and local BNP leaders said Nuru, assistant general secretary of JCD, was picked up by 10 people five each in police uniform and plainclothes from his rented home in Chandanpura area around 11:30pm on 29, March 2017. On March 30, 2017, some locals noticed a body on the river banks in Thelar Char area. BNP leader Gias Uddin claimed the family members of the victim identified SI Javed (Sheikh Javed Mia) of Raozan Police Station as one of those who had picked up Nuru. He said Nuru was accused in several political cases, but was not a criminal. “He was murdered because of his political identity.”⁶¹

⁶⁰ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10285/two-robbers-beaten-to-death-in-brahmanbaria>

⁶¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/picked-then-found-murdered-1384138>

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

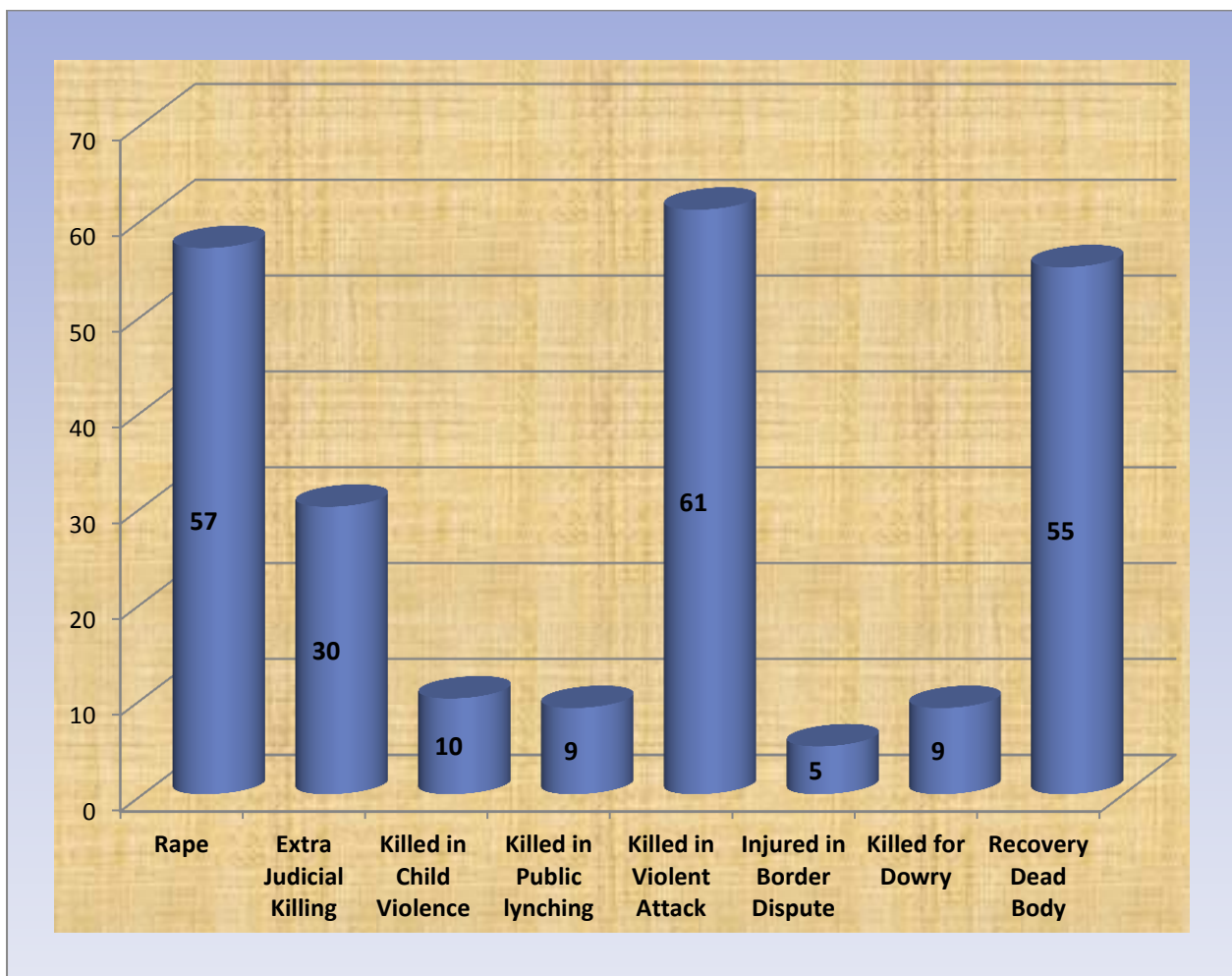


Figure 13: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in March 2017

Conclusion

In summary, it is observed that the human rights situation in Bangladesh was shocking during the March 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 March 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.