



Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

May, 2017

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

In May 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 May.

According to the source of human rights support Society (HRSS), Approximately 20 people were killed extra-judicially in May 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 87 females were alleged to be raped in May 2017. Among of them, around 27 were below the age of 16 and 08 was killed after rape. About 12 women were subjected to be gang raped. A total of 13 women were killed for dowry and roughly 15 were sexually harassed. Approximately, 36 women were killed in the family feud. On the other hand, Around 35 people were killed in the violent attack. Accounts of 33 people have been abducted. Furthermore, around 15 people were killed in political violence. At least 02 people were killed in a public lynching. Remarkably, around 07 children were killed and 46 were critically injured in a total of nearly 12 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.¹Bangladesh 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.³The 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.

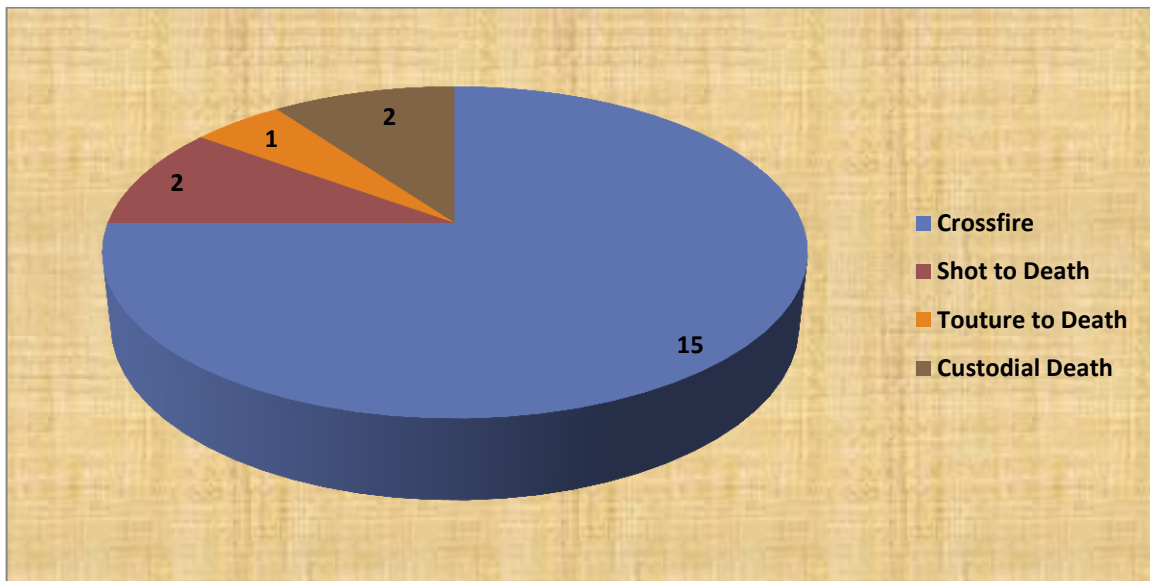


Figure 01: Scenario of Encounter killing in May 2017

The given pie chart provides information about the extra-judicial killing scenario in May 2017: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 20 persons were alleged killed in extra judicially. Out of them, 15 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, one torture to death, almost two shot to death and 02 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 May 09, 2017 Two suspected robbers were killed in a “gunfight” between two gangs on Nuru Mia Bypass Road in Piyerpur area under Sadar upazila. The deceased were identified as Pavel Munshi, 24, son of Abdul Karim of Shovarampur village, and Md Sabuj, 25, son of Arshaf Uddin Tara of Goalchamot area in Sadar upazila.⁴

On May 17, 2017 An alleged robber has killed in a 'gunfight' with police in Gangni upazila of Meherpur. Deceased Lalon, 39, was a member of an inter-district robber gang, said Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Gangni Police Station. Police recovered one locally-made rifle, two crude bombs, one machete and a saw from the spot.⁵

On May 18, 2017, a man in his thirties was shot and killed during a reported gunfight with police at Duttapara area in Lakshmipur sadar, claimed police. Deceased Mohammad Russel was a resident of Choyani Takba village under Chatkhil upazila of Noakhali, police confirmed.⁶

On May 19, 2017 An alleged robber was killed in what police claimed was a gunfight in Paschim Tutpara area of Khulna city. The deceased was identified as Raju Ahmed, 27, son of Siddiquir Rahman. He was accused in five cases including robbery and murder.⁷

On May 20, 2017 A suspected robber was killed in a “gunfight” with police at Dattopara in Lakshmipur Sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Russell, 30, son of Abdul Karim of Chhayani Togba village of Chatkhil upazila in Noakhali.⁸

On May 18, 2017, a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of ruling Awami League, was found hanging in police custody at Jaintapur police station in Sylhet. The deceased was identified as Nazrul Islam Babu, 32, son of Abdul Jalil, of village Chiknagur Kohaigor in Jaintapur upazila.⁹

On May 20, 2017, a suspected robber was killed in a reported gunfight with police in Paschim Tutpara area of Khulna city. The deceased was identified as Raju Ahmed, 27, son of Siddiquir Rahman. He was accused in five cases including robbery and murder.¹⁰

On May 24, 2017 An alleged robber was killed in what police claims were a gunfight in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh. The deceased, Ashrafuddin Dhol, 28, of Ragaichati village in Mymensingh's Gafargoan upazila was detained from Kishoreganj around 9:00 pm on May 23, said Additional Superintendent of Mymensingh police (South) Mohammad Noor-e-Alam.¹¹

⁴ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=64778&cat=1/২৬>

⁵ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=65890>

⁶ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/05/19/114344.html>

⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1186451/>

⁸ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1185676>

⁹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=66109&cat=3/৩৫>

¹⁰ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/15951/robber-killed-in-khulna-gunfight#sthash.szcZ44cE.dpuf>

¹¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/robber-killed-gunfight-1410547>

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.¹²In 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”.¹³Violence 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 May 2017. HRSS provides the following data has been taken from 12 prominent daily newspapers in Bangladesh.

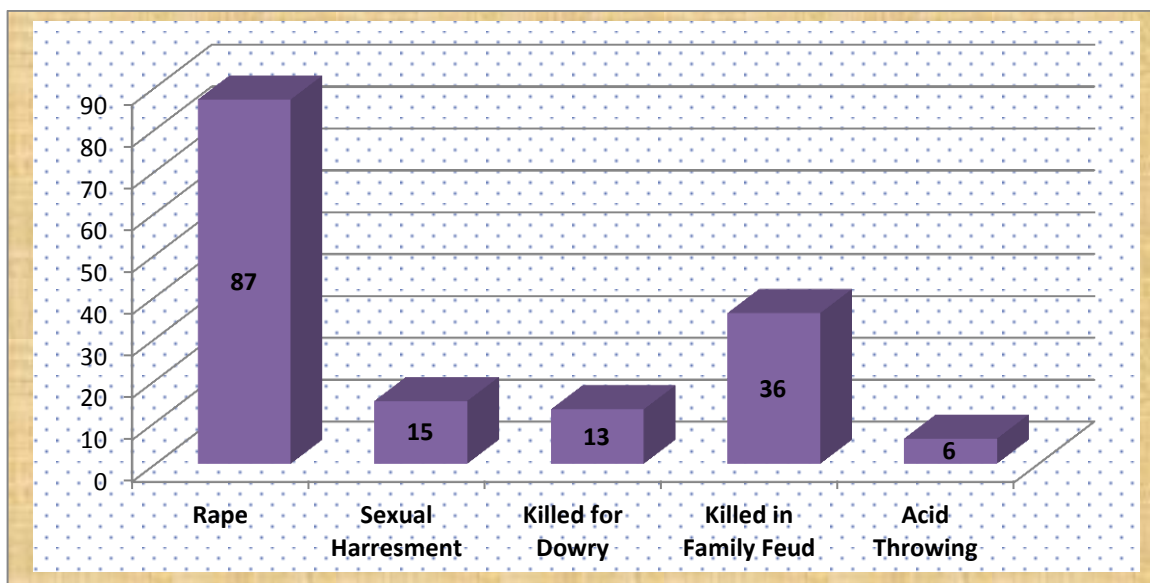


Figure 02: Violence against Women in May ’17

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 May 2017 are detailed:

¹² (UN General Assembly, 2006)

¹³ (General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993)



Rape

- A total number of 87 females were raped. Among of them 75 were victims of single rape and 12 were subjected to gang rape and 27 were children below the age of 16 (including single & gang rape). On the other hand, 08 female was killed after being raped and almost 09 incidents have been attempted to rape.



Killed in Family Feud

- In May 2017 About 36 women were killed in the family feud and 04 females have been injured. Out of them, 40 were an incidents of Family Feud.



Dowry Related Violence

- Approximately 19 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported in May 2017. About 13 were killed and 06 women were physically abused over dowry demands.



Sexual Haressment

- According to information collected by HRSS, a total of 15 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in May 2017. Among them, 14 were assaulted and 05 were stalked.



Acide Violence

- Almost 06 female became victims of acid violence and critically injured in May 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 May 05, 2017 13-yr old apparel worker was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as she became sick after she was allegedly raped by a youth at Shah Ali of Mirpur in Dhaka. The victim's mother told that a youth, Ashik, a worker of the same apparel factory at a market at Shah Ali, raped her daughter in the factory on May 3 while she was on duty at night. She said that she took her daughter to the hospital as she fell seriously sick.¹⁴

¹⁴ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/14963/teenage-apparel-worker-raped-in-capital#sthash.5tFz8x2J.dpuf>

On May 05, 2017A woman was hacked to death allegedly by her husband at Kalapani in the capital's Mirpur. Helena Akhter, 30, was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 5:00 pm, said OC Dadan Fakir of Pallabi Police Station.¹⁵

On May 05, 2017A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by eight youths in a classroom of Purbo Jurain Adarsha High School in the capital. The incident took place in the early hours of May 29, according to a case filed by the victim on May 1. Court sources said one of the accused, Swapan, 35, security guards of the school, was arrested soon after the case was filed with Kadamtali Police Station.¹⁶

On May 10, 2017A Bangladesh Chhatra League leader and two subordinates of a municipality mayor were arrested at Kotchandpur in Jhenaidah in connection with reported rape of two girls. The arrested are Kotchandpur upazila BCL president Sheikh Shahin, and the municipal mayor Jahidul Islam Jiray's bodyguards Krishna Kumar and Raju Ahmed. Police and local people said the trio and two others picked up and raped two girls waiting for trains at Kotchandpur railway station to return home on May 09. The girls from neighboring Kaliganj upazila went to Kotchandpur to visit their relatives. The five persons collared the girls, forcefully took them to a nearby bush and raped for hours, said the police.¹⁷

On May 12, 2017A man hacked a youth as the latter caught him red handed while he was apparently trying to rape the youth's niece in Sadar upazila of Pirojpur. The man, Mamun Howlader, 25, was later handed over to police after villagers beat him up, said locals. He touched the 12-year-old girl while she was changing her clothes in a fenced area beside a pond after having a bath in it near her house, said a cousin of the youth.¹⁸

On May 12, 2017, a housewife was tortured to death allegedly by his husband at village Baluakandi of Raipura upazila in Narsingdi over dowry. The deceased was identified as Sharmin Begum, 23, wife of Muktar Hossain, 30. Amirul Sikder, sub-inspector of Raipura police station, said that Muktar used to torture his wife Sharmin over dowry since after marriage.¹⁹

On May 23, 2017A housewife has allegedly murdered for dowry in Nawabganj upazila of the Dinajpur. The deceased was Sabina Begum, 23, daughter of Saiful Islam of South Basudevpur village under Phulbari upazila, and wife of Rezwan Mia of Debipur village in Nawabganj upazila.²⁰

¹⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/man-kills-wife-mirpur-1401286>

¹⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1169091>

¹⁷ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/15371/jhenaidah-bcl-leader-2-others-held-over-rape-allegations#sthash.WOgvnGYF.dpuf>

¹⁸ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1177836>

¹⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/15485/man-tortures-wife-to-death-in-narsingdi#sthash.UnRg2AdX.dpuf>

²⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-killed-dowry-1409821>

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 May 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 May 2017.

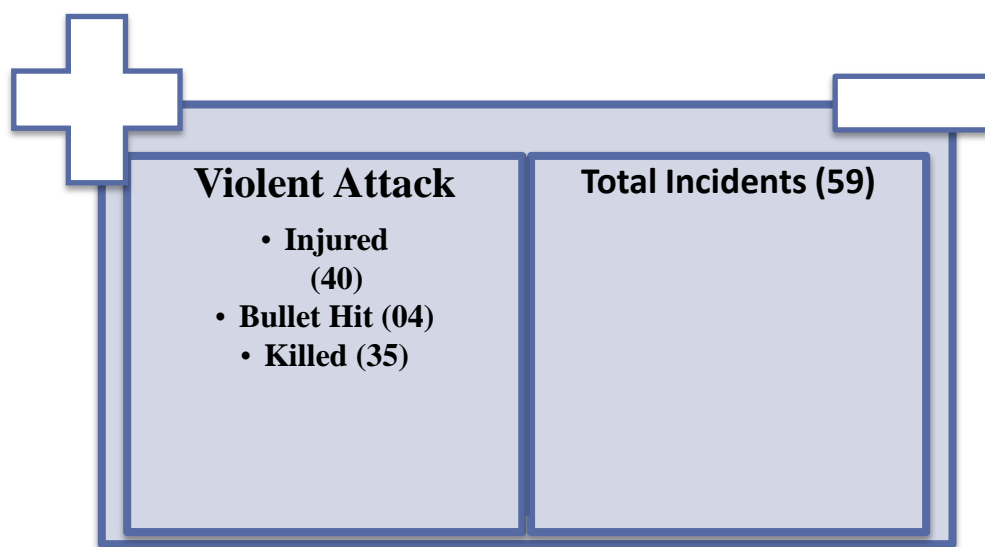


Figure 03: Statistics of Violent Attacks in May '17

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on an armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in May 2017, a total 59 incidents of violent attack have happened and 35 were killed in these attacks, 40 were seriously injured and around 04 persons have been bullet hit.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On May 03, 2017 Muggers stabbed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver to death and injured a passenger in Narayanganj's Araihasar upazila Narayanganj. The deceased was Dalim Mia, 30, of the upazila. Shah Ali, 30, a fish trader, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Muggers waylaid the Dhaka-bound auto-rickshaw in Jhaugora area and made the attack, said police.²¹

On May 06, 2017 A worker of Mymensingh Jute Mills was killed allegedly by his co-workers in Char Kalibari village under Mymensingh Sadar. The deceased Sheikh Shahan, 20, of Netrakona

²¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/muggers-kill-auto-rickshaw-driver-1400239>

had an altercation with his co-workers Mamun and Manik while working in the mill, said Monsur Ahammad, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station.²²

On May 07, 2017 Miscreants hacked an activist of Juba League, youth front of ruling Awami League, to death at village Dakkhin Olinagar of Mirsarai upazila in Chittagong. The deceased was identified as Golam Mostofa, 45, of the village. Family members spotted the body of Mostofa, also a poultry farm businessman, lying at their yard around 4:00 am, said Md Mahbubur Rahman, senior assistant superintendent of police, Sitakunda circle.²³

On May 11, 2017 A ruling Awami League activist was hacked to death and three others including a union parishad member were injured in an attack at Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah. The Deceased Ohidul Islam, 30, son of Golap Sheikh of Dulalmundia village in the upazila, was the cultural affairs secretary of Swechhasebak League's Kaliganj unit.²⁴

On May 11, 2017 A man and his son were shot dead and two others injured in an attack by their rival group over the previous enmity at Tholipara in Khagrachari sadar. The deceased were identified as Chiranjit Tripura, 55, and his son Karna Tripura, 30. Ali Ahmed Khan, the superintendent of Khagrachari police, said a group of people numbering 30 to 40, led by local union parishad member Kalibandhu Tripura, swooped on the house of Chiranjit around 7:30 pm and picked up Chiranjit and his son. They took them to another place and shot and stabbed them indiscriminately, leaving Chiranjit dead on the spot and his son injured.²⁵

On May 18, 2017 A Union parishad (UP) member was killed by unidentified miscreants in Fatehpur union of Hathazari upazila in Chittagong. Deceased Md Lokman, 35, was the member of ward-8 and the union unit general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), said Kamal, president of the unit. Police said miscreants indiscriminately stabbed Lokman near his house in Helal Chowdhurypara around 1:30 am while he was returning home.²⁶

On May 25, 2017 Unidentified assailants shot Khulna district BNP organizing secretary Sardar Alauddin Mithuat at his office adjacent to his house at Damodor village under Phultala upazila in Khulna. Mithu, 45, was the former chairman of Phultala upazila parishad. Khulna superintendent of police SM Shafullah said that five people by two motorcycles came to his office and shot him dead at about 10:00 pm.²⁷

²² <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/worker-killed-fellows-1401277>

²³ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=64633&cat=1>

²⁴ <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/05/12/46929/>

²⁵ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/15420/man-son-shot-dead-in-khagrachari#sthash.JIQYIHgv.dpuf>

²⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/15420/man-son-shot-dead-in-khagrachari>

²⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/member-killed-ctg-1407457>

²⁷ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/16346/khulna-bnp-leader-killed#sthash.FybMyHUH.dpuf>

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 May 2017 in Bangladesh,

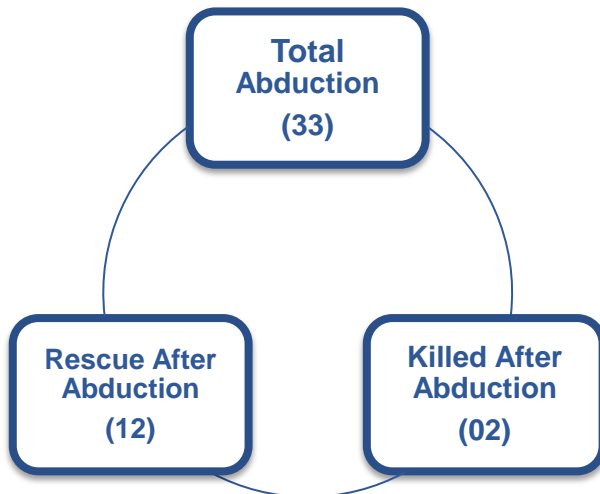


Figure 04: Statistics of Abduction in May '17

According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 33 people have been abducted, among of them, 02 were killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 12 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

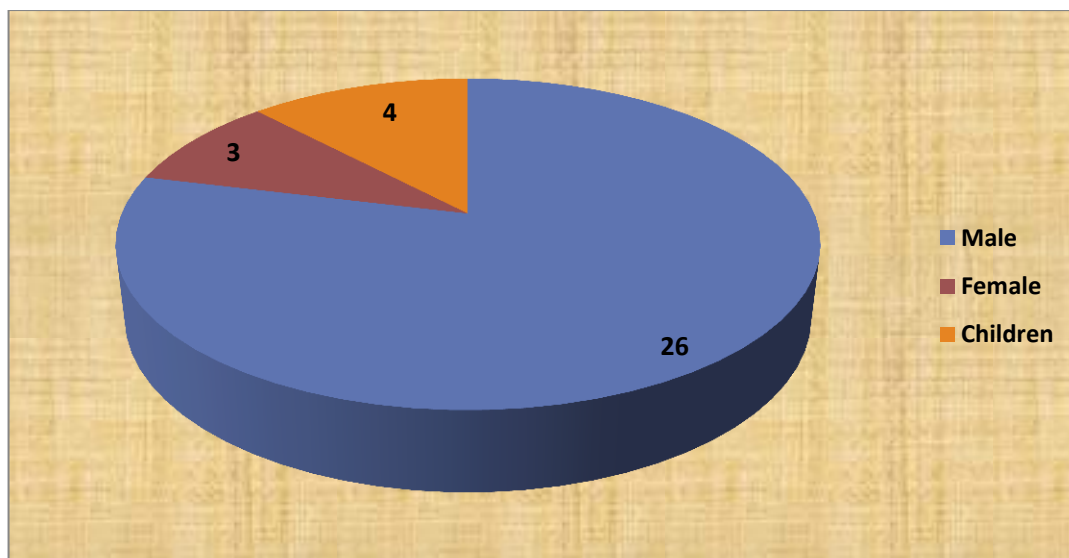


Figure 05: Categorization of Abduction

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in May 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 33 people were abducted, among of them, 26 were male, and around 03 were female and nearly 04 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On May 02, 2017 An eighteen-year-old college girl, who was abducted from Arpangachhia village in Barguna's Amtali upazila on May 19, is yet to be rescued. The victim's father Nizam Uddin filed a case with Amtali Police Station accusing nine people including Rusel Talukdar of the village, on May 21. The victim is a BA first-year student of Amtali Government Degree College Earlier, victim's family members, relatives and local people took out a number of protest processions and formed human chains at Arpangachhia demanding the arrest of the culprits and rescue of the girl. According to the case statement, Rusel, also nephew of local UP Chairman Nurul Haq Talukdar, and his eight to nine associates picked up the girl while she was returning home from Payra riverside area along with her sister and sister's husband on May 19.²⁸

On May 03, 2017 the alleged abductor who demanded ransom for the release of a boy was arrested on 02 may from Hareram village in Kaliganj upazila of the Lalmonirhat. Shubho Das, 14, son of Mantu Ram Das of Hareram village, has been missing since May 22 after he had a quarrel with his father. Police launched a drive to rescue the boy and arrested Abdul Malek, an alleged member of the gang. Police said the victim's father lodged a case with Kaliganj Police Station the same day. Police said Shubho's parents and relatives have been searching for him since then. The abductors called Shubho's father over mobile phone on May 24 and demanded Tk 1, 10,000 from him for the release of his son.²⁹

On May 08, 2017 A minor boy, who was abducted from Manikganj on Saturday, was rescued from Sirajganj's Tarash upazila. Detective Branch (DB) of Police also arrested Md Moazzem Hossain, 40, of Sakoadighi village in the upazila for his alleged involvement in the abduction Victim Badhan Hossain, 8, son of Aslam Hossain hails from Ijdia village in Harirampur upazila of Manikganj.³⁰

On May 22, 2017 A schoolboy who was abducted allegedly by a domestic help in Ghatail upazila on May 18 for ransom is yet to be rescued. The boy is Asadur Rahman Saikat, 9, a student of Class IV of Chantara Government Primary School at Chantara village. Victim's father Hanif Uddin filed an abduction case with Ghatail Police Station against former house help Arif Rabbani of Muktagachha in Mymensingh.³¹

²⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/abducted-barguna-college-girl-still-traceless-1399492>

²⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/boy-abducted-lalmonirhat-1400380>

³⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/abducted-boy-returns-parents-1403326>

³¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/kid-abducted-1409356>

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.³²

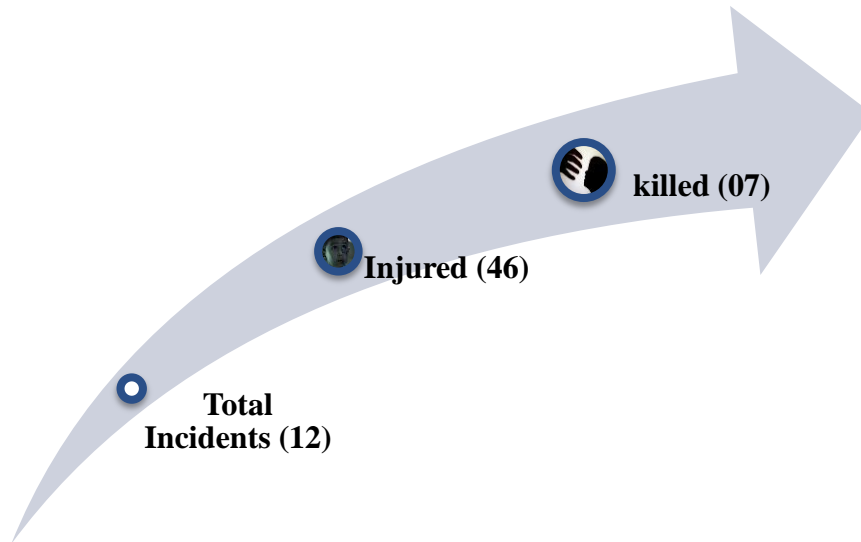


Figure 06: Violence against children in May '17

According to HRSS report, the graph presented information regarding the violence against children in May 2017, around 07 children's were killed and almost 46 children's have been critically injured in a total of nearly 12 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On May 11, 2017A man and his son were beaten to death after a group of attackers swooped on their home with sticks in Thalipara area of Khagrachhari Sadar upazila. The dead are Chironjit Tripura, 55, and Korna Tripura, 30. Chironjit's wife Bhavo Laxmi Tripura and Korna's wife Bijali Tripura were also injured.³³

On May 25, 2017A woman was killed allegedly by her mentally sick son in Dakkhin Jultului area of the faridpur town. The victim was Fatema Parvin, 52, wife of Nazrul Islam of the area. She was the mother of two daughters and a son. Nazrul said “My son Abdus Hadi, 22, is mentally ill. I was staying in Dhaka when the incident happened.”³⁴

³² Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27.

³³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/father-son-beaten-death-1404466>

³⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-killed-mentally-sick-son-1411054>

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.³⁵After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th May 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.

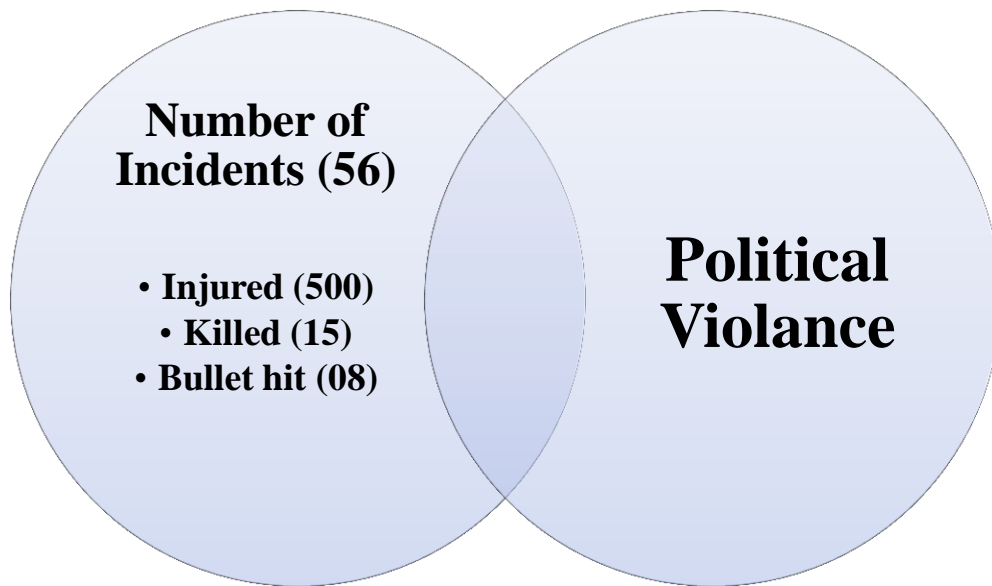


Figure 07: Statistics of Political Violence in May '17

The figure presents information about the political violence in May 2017. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 15 people have been killed, almost 500 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 May 02,2017Fifteen local BNP leaders and activists were injured in a clash during a delegates' conference at poura community centre here, forcing the organizers to postpone the meeting. The clash took place between two groups – one led by district BNP President Mashiur Rahman and another led by central committee Human Rights Affairs Secretary Advocate Asaduzzaman as the leaders of Shailakupa upazila new committee were not invited to the conference.³⁶

³⁵ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2017,

³⁶ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/05/03/112613.html>

On May 08, 2017 At least two persons were killed and 20 others injured in a clash between two groups of villagers in Bansgari char area of Raipura in Narsingdi over establishing supremacy. At least 30 to 35 houses were set on fire during the clash. Narsingdi additional superintendent of police Shafiur Rahman confirmed the death of two persons in the clash.³⁷

On May 08, 2017 A 16-year-old boy, who was the president of Chhatra League in his school, was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals in Ukhia of Cox's Bazar. Unknown assailants attacked Mujibur Rahman Jabu, a class-X student of Palongkhali High School in Farirbil area, with a knife in the school playground around 7:45 pm and fled. The boy was killed on the spot, say locals and witnesses.³⁸

On May 14, 2017 Criminals beat dead a Class IX student at Hazipara in Matidali area of the bogra district town. The victim, Mashuk Ferdous, 16, was the son of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) central committee member advocate Amdadul Haque of Hazipara of Matidali area of Bogra, and a student of Class IX of SOS Hermann Gmeiner School and College in the town.³⁹

on May 17, 2017 A Juba League leader was killed while his two followers were injured in Swandip Upazila of Chittagong allegedly by some fellow party activists over establishing supremacy in the area. Joint Convener of Swandip municipality Unit Md Bablu, 32, son of Md Borta, was accused in six cases and was the second accused in the double murder committed in a cattle market on September 21, 2015, said police.⁴⁰

On May 25, 2017 A man was killed and at least 12 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over establishing supremacy in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila. The deceased, Jamal Miah, 50, was the son of Himmat Ali of Dubla village in the upazila.⁴¹

³⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/two-killed-20-injured-narsingdi-clash-1402837>

³⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/bcl-infighting-school-student-knifed-death-1402801>

³⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/jsd-leaders-son-beaten-dead-1405261>

⁴⁰ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/15758/juba-league-leader-killed-in-sandwip#sthash.tTOVIPCv.dpuf>

⁴¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-dies-bbaria-clash-1411051>

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.

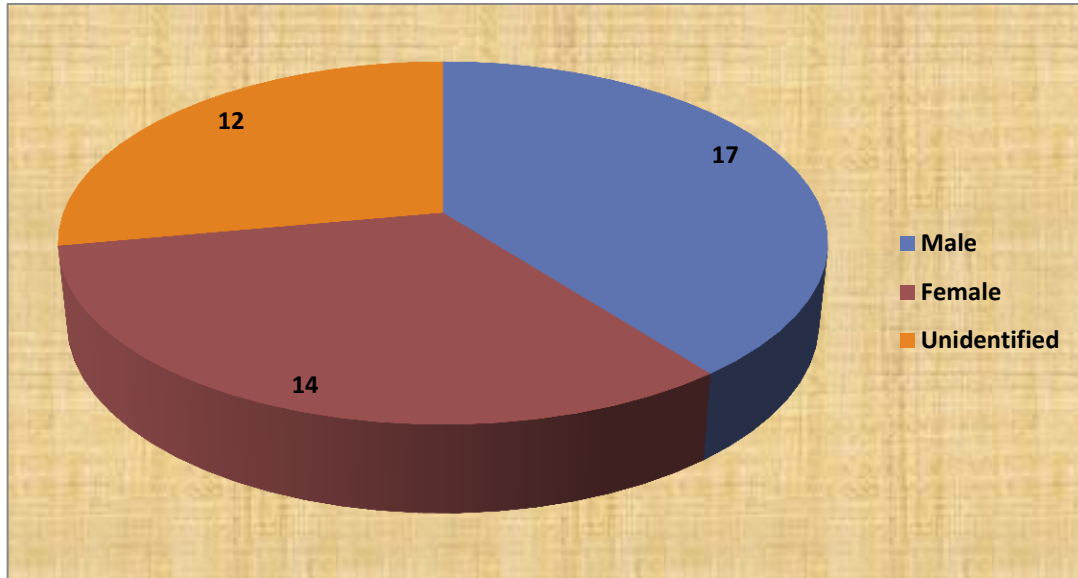


Figure 08: Recovery of Dead Body in May '17

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in May 2017, a total of 43 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 17 bodies were male and 14 bodies were female and 14 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On May 01, 2017 Nykkhongchhari upazila Awami League (AL) General Secretary was found hanging in a residential hotel of Cox's Bazar. Police recovered the body of Ismail Mehedi, 45; from Palonki Hotel around 1:00 pm. Ismail's family members claimed that his body was hung from a ceiling fan after he was murdered. He was killed due to the internal feud of the upazila AL, they said.⁴²

On May 09, 2017A Jubo League leader's body was found floating in a canal in Fatikchhari upazila of Chittagong after he had gone missing. The body was stuffed inside a sack. Mohammad Enam, 36, President of Abdullahpur union unit of the youth wing of Awami League, did not return home after he went to a nearby market around 6:30 pm on May 07, said his wife Shahana Akhter Jannat.⁴³

⁴² <http://www.newagebd.net/article/14662/bandarban-al-leader-found-dead-in-coxs-bazar#sthash.0hxYUg0V.dpuf>

⁴³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/ctg-jubo-league-leaders-floating-body-found-sack-1403482>

On May 14, 2017 Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman, aged around 45, from Akber Shah Police Station area of Chittagong city. Locals spotted the body on a road in the morning and informed the police. The woman might have been run over by any vehicle in the morning, said Sub-Inspector of Akber Shah Police Station Kamruzzaman.⁴⁴

On May 14, 2017, the body of an unidentified girl aged around 18 was found beside a road at Mohisber village in Nasirnagar upazila of the Briarahmanba. On receiving information, the police recovered the body of the unidentified girl at around 9:00 am. Officer-in-Charge of Nasirnagar Police Station Md Abu Zafar said no injury marks were found on her body in the initial examination. The body was sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.⁴⁵

On May 20, 2017 Police recovered the body of a six-year-old boy with his thorat-slit from a bush inside Shishu Kalyan Technical Centre-2 in Idrakpur area of Fatullah upazila of Narayanganj. Police sent the body clad in red tee-shirt and jeans to Narayanganj General Hospital for an autopsy. They suspected that the boy was killed somewhere else and later dumped there.⁴⁶

On May 26, 2017 Police recovered the body of an unidentified man from the River Turag in Aminbazar area of Savar in Dhaka. Savar model police officer-in-charge SM Kamruzzaman said that they recovered the body in the morning being informed by local people.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/womans-body-found-ctg-road-1405321>

⁴⁵ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=73484>

⁴⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1187241/কতলাই>

⁴⁷ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/16422/man-found-dead>

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.”⁴⁸ 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 May 2017. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly.

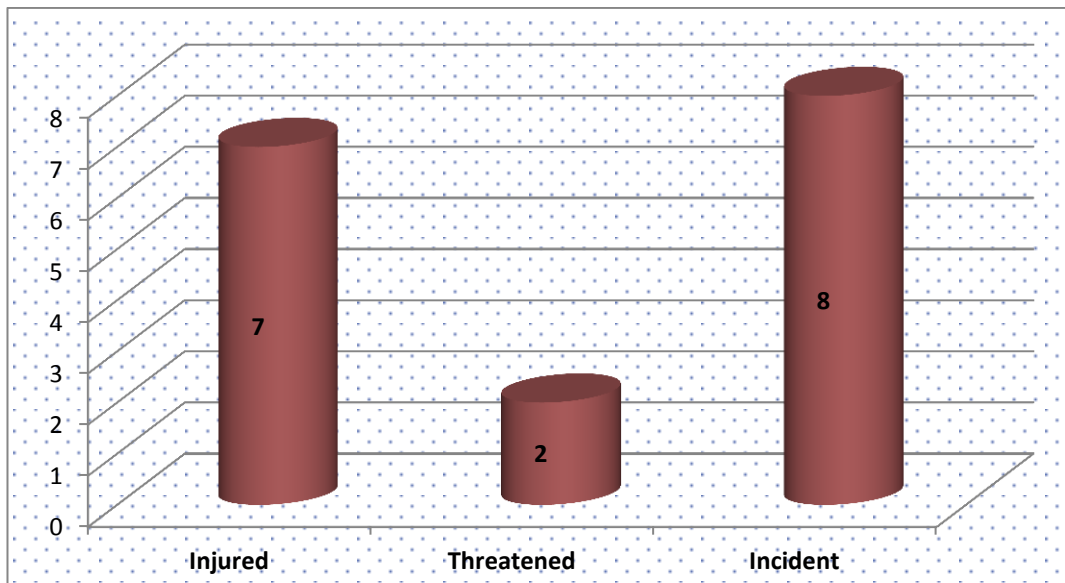


Figure 10: Attacks on Journalist

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 May, According to HRSS’s documented statistics, around 07 were injured and 02 threatened. Selected cases are as described here:



A journalist shows his injuries received during the police action.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ UDHR-1948, article 19

⁴⁹ daily star, on May 28

On May 28, 2017, at least 10 persons, including students, a JU official, and two journalists, were injured when police and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of JU tried to disperse them in three separate incidents after the students blocked the highway. The injured are Hafizur Rahman and Abu Sayem, JU correspondents of Jagonews24.com and Daily Destiny; Sudipta Shaheen, chief security officer at JU; and students -- Jui, Ayon, Bhaishakhi, Anamika, Sajedur, Rimam and Didar. The injured were admitted to a local hospital. Earlier, on May 26, two JU students -- Nazmul Hasan Rana, 24, of marketing department, and Arafat, 24, of microbiology, were killed as a bus rammed a human-haulier carrying them on Dhaka-Aricha highway in C&B bus stand area of Savar around 5:00 am. Rana died on the spot while Arafat succumbed to his injuries at Savar Enam Medical College Hospital. Following the incident, hundreds of students blocked the highway in front the main entrance and Joy Bangla Gate separately around noon.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/ju-student-protest-faces-police-bcl-attacks-1411846>

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.

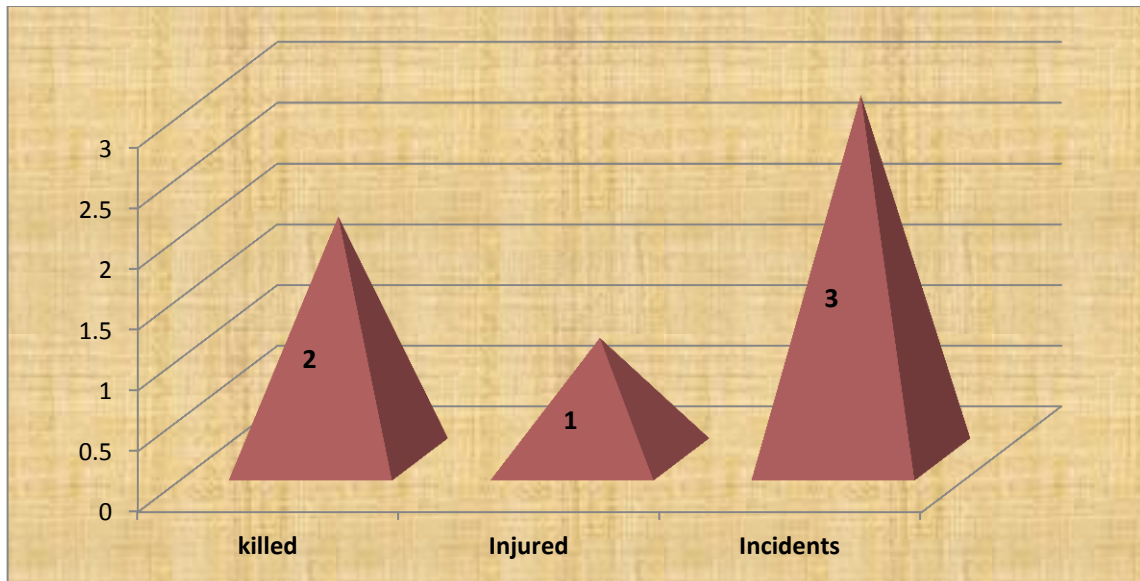


Figure 11: Statistics of Public Lynching in May '17

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases in May '2017. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, nearly 02 people were killed and one injured in a total of 03 incidents of the public lynching.

Some important cases are given below: On May 19, 2017 An angry mob beat a man to death and injured another on suspicion of stealing a battery-run auto-bike at Char Hossanpur village in Gagirtake union of Charvadraton upazila in Faridpur, said police. The deceased was Halal Kha, 30, son of Moslam Kha. Babul Kha, the owner of that auto-bike, said the vehicle was put on charge at a shop in Taladangi village when someone tried to steal that. Charvadraton police sent the body and the injured, Khokon, to the upazila health complex.⁵¹

⁵¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/man-dies-faridpur-mob-beating-1408006>

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

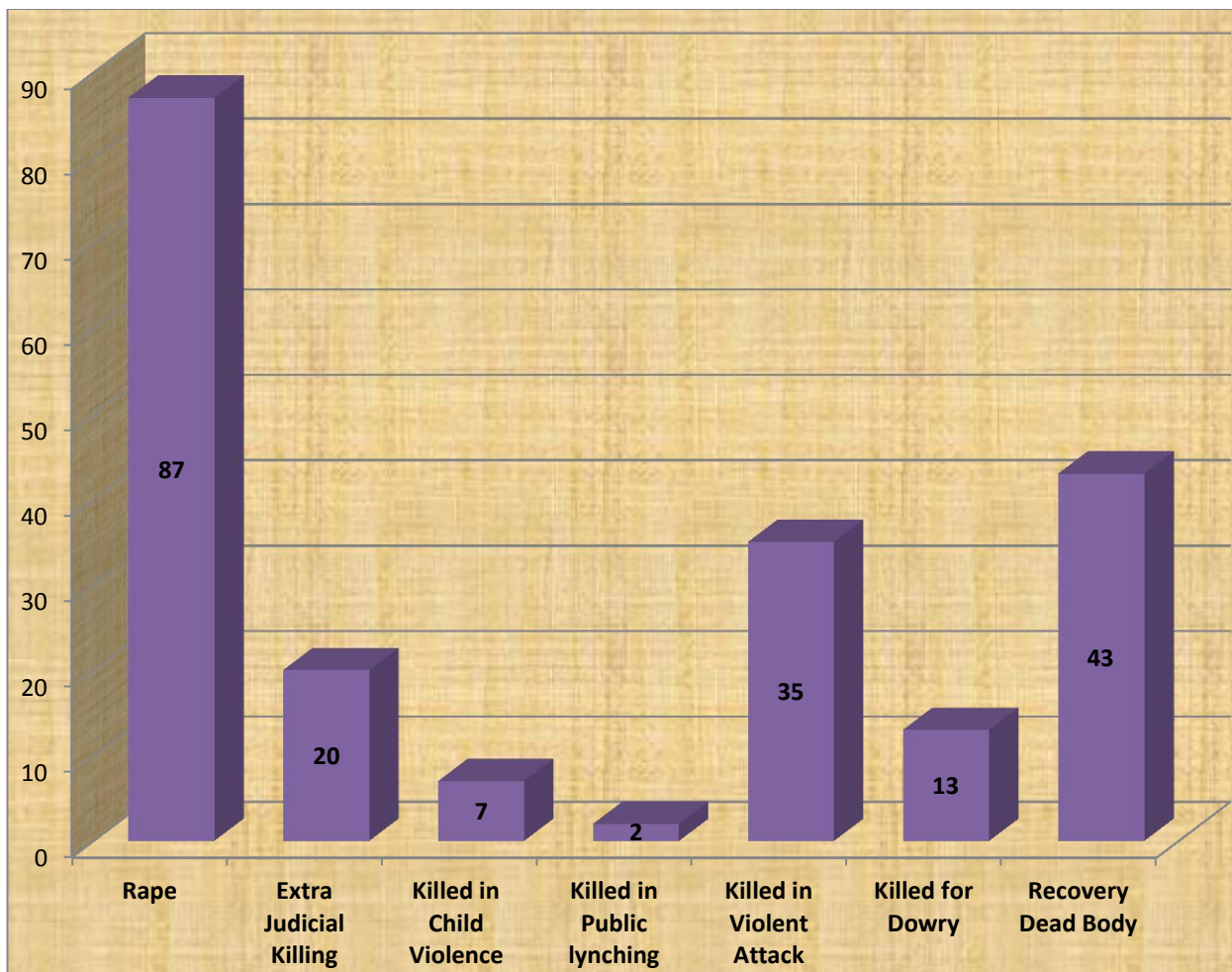


Figure 13: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in May 2017

Conclusion

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