



Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

April, 2017

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

In April 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 April. According to the source of human rights support Center (HRSC), approximately 10 people were killed extra-judicially in April 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, HRSC report demonstrates that a total of 57 females were alleged to be raped in April 2017. Among of them, around 22 were below the age of 16 and 07 was killed after rape. About 04 women were subjected to be gang raped. A total of 19 women were killed for dowry and roughly 24 were sexually harassed. Approximately, 33 women were killed in the family feud. On the other hand, Around 50 people were killed in the violent attack. Accounts of 15 people have been abducted. Furthermore, around 11 people were killed in political violence. At least 06 people were killed in a public lynching. Remarkably, around 05 children were killed and 34 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.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.

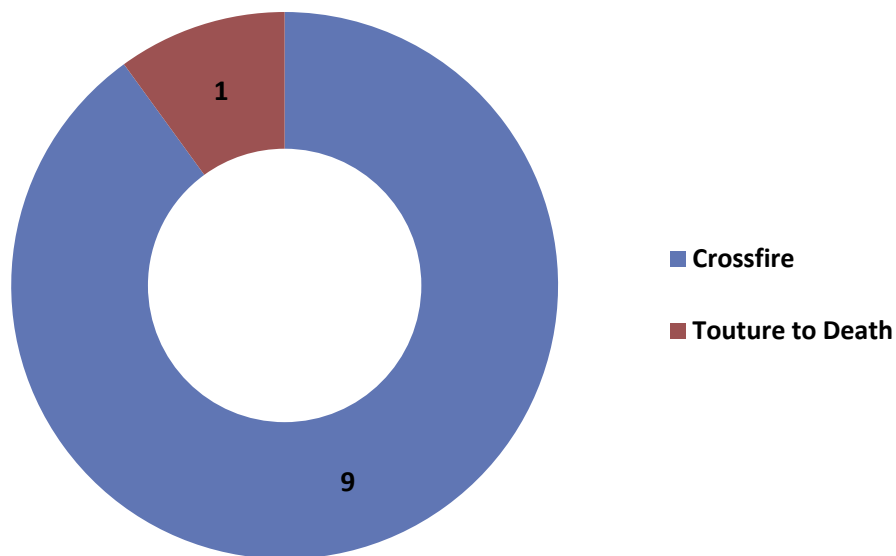


Figure 01: Scenario of Encounter killing in April 2017

The given pie chart provides information about the extra- judicial killing scenario in April 2017: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 10 persons were alleged killed in extra judicially. Out of them, 09 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’ and one torture to death. 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 April 12, 2017 Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have found the body of a listed criminal following a gunfight with robbers in Sirajganj's Kamarkhand upazila. Abdul Halim, 55, of Pachbaria village is also accused in five to six cases over issues including robbery and murder, says a press release signed by Rab-12 Commander Maj Safayet Ahmed. The body was sent to the Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.⁴

On April 13, 2017, two suspected criminals were killed in a reported gunfight between their cohorts and police on Malsadah-Hariadah road in Gangni upazila. The deceased were identified as Shipon Hossain, son of Madar Ali and Alamgir Hossain, son of Aber Ali of the upazila. Tipped off, a team of police conducted a drive in the area when a gang of criminals was going to collect extortion from a brick kiln around 3:00 am. Victim's Families- Mustahara Begum, Shipon's mother, said her son was a labourer at the brick kilns. Shipon left Wednesday noon to attend a wedding at Uzirpur and had been missing since. “We even went to Kumaridanga police camp looking for Shipon,” the mother said. Alamgir's family said he left after receiving a phone call from Shipon around 5:30 am on Thursday and had been missing since.⁵

On Apr 17, 2017, a man in his thirties was killed and two others were injured in a reported gunfight with the members of Detective Branch at Bhasantek in Dhaka. Police said deceased Mohammad Sohel was a fugitive since he had been accused in a murder case. Sohel's family members alleged that suspected criminal “DSP Babu” called him out from his home on 12 April to talk about the gun attack on Chiku. Sohel phoned his sister Minara Akter early Friday to inform her that he was in the custody of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.⁶

On April 20, 2017, an alleged robber was killed and one of his close aides sustained injuries in a 'gunfight' at Deuli village in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore. The deceased, Younus Hossain, 40, was the son of Mokbul Hossain of Monipur village in Ashashuni upazila of Satkhira. The gunfight took place on Keshabpur-Sagardari Road between two rival groups of robbers around 3:25 am that left Younus dead and another injured, Officer-in-Charge Shahidul Islam of Keshabpur Police Station said.⁷

⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/criminal-killed-gunfight-rab-1390579>

⁵ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1145501>

⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1149111/গোয়েন্দা>

⁷ <https://www.dailyinqilab.com/article/75960/কেশবপুরে>

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.⁸In 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”.⁹Violence 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 April 2017. HRSS provides the following data has been taken from 12 prominent daily newspapers in Bangladesh.

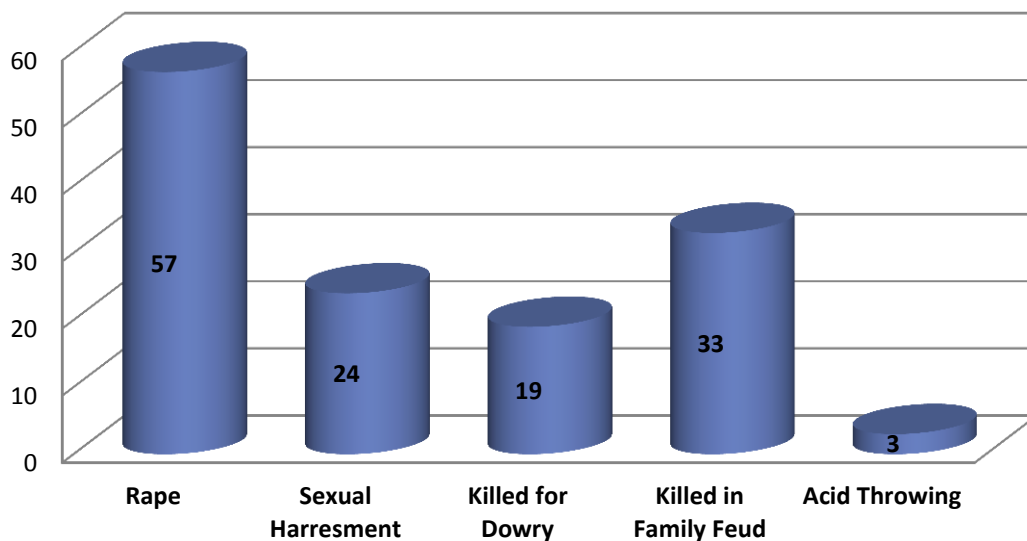


Figure 02: Violence against Women in April '17

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 April 2017 are detailed:

⁸ (UN General Assembly, 2006)

⁹ (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 53 were victims of single rape and 04 were subjected to gang rape and 22 were children below the age of 16 (including single & gang rape). On the other hand, 07 female was killed after being raped and almost 06 incidents have been attempted to rape.

Killed in Family Feud

- In April 2017 About 33 women were killed in the family feud and 03 females have been injured. Out of them, 36 were an incidents of Family Feud.



Dowry Related Violence

- Approximately 28 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported in April 2017. About 19 were killed and 09 women were physically abused over dowry demands.

Sexual Haressment

- According to information collected by HRSS, a total of 24 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in April 2017. Among them, 19 were assaulted and 05 were stalked.



Acide Violence

- Almost 03 female became victims of acid violence and critically injured in April 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 April 05, 2017 a physically challenged woman aged about 30 was raped by a middle-aged man at Jogoirhat village in Rajapur upazila Jhalakathi. "Siddik Howlader took my physically challenged daughter to a house nearby while she was collecting dry leaves at a wood garden beside her home," said the victim's father, adding that the culprit raped her there and threatened her not to disclose the incident to her parents.¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/physically-challenged-woman-raped-1386868>

On April 09, 2017A woman was tortured by her husband and in-laws allegedly for dowry in Rajapur upazila Jhalakathi. The victim, Mansura Akhtar Emily, 23, is undergoing treatment at Rajapur Health Complex. Victim's father Abu Taleb said Emily's husband Lokman Akon and his parents often tortured his daughter for dowry since their marriage.¹¹

On April 13, 2017A housewife was killed by her husband and in-laws allegedly for dowry in Sarishabari upazila of the Jamalpur district. The deceased, Rabeya Begum, 20, was the wife of Farid Uddin of Mulbari village in the upazila, also the mother of a seven-month-old baby boy.¹²

On April 16, 2017A kabiraj (herbal medicine practitioner) allegedly raped a woman after she went to him for treatment in Bagmara upazila of Rajshahi. Following the incident, Saidur Rahman Dewan, 45, of Gopalpur village, fled the area after being chased by an angry mob.¹³

On Apr 20, 2017, a woman and her young daughter suffered burn injuries in an acid attack by miscreants at village Tarafsadulla of Sadullapur upazila in Gaibandha. Farhad Imrul Kayes, officer-in-charge of Sadullapur police station, said miscreants threw acid on Rashid Begum, 47, wife of Badsha Mia, and their daughter Shumi, 23, as they came out of their house around 11:00 pm, leaving them critically injured. He said they were admitted to Palashbari Upazila Health Complex.¹⁴

On April 22, 2017, Failing to bear the harassment by a stalker, a college girl allegedly committed suicide in Joypurhat while a speech-impaired girl killed herself after allegedly being gang-raped in Naogaon. Police said Munisha Begum, 17, daughter of Menhaz Ali of Uthrail village in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat, also a student of degree first-year at Nandail Degree College, took her life by hanging from the ceiling in her bedroom after having dinner around 10:00 pm.¹⁵

On Apr 22,2017A schoolgirl was raped by a young man at Biswaspara in Jaipurhat. Ashraful Islam, officer-in-charge of Panchbibi police station, said Sweet, son of Mosharraf Hossain, of Purbo Ramchandrapur village in Panchbibi, took the girl of the same village, to a house, drugged her over there and violated her.¹⁶

On April 25, 2017A garment worker was stabbed in the leg allegedly by her former boyfriend at Chandgaon Sanwara in Chittagong city. Sharmin Akter Reshmi, 22, was in a rickshaw when suddenly Rubel, a chauffeur, intercepted the vehicle and stabbed her before fleeing the scene, said Chandgaon Police.¹⁷

¹¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-tortured-1388713>

¹² <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-murdered-dowry-1390984>

¹³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/rajshahi-kabiraj-rapes-woman-1392097>

¹⁴ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=62361&cat=1/>

¹⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/stalking-victim-kills-herself-1394908>

¹⁶ [http://www.newagebd.net/article/14199/schoolgirl-raped-in-joipurhat](http://www.newagebd.net/article/14199/schoolgirl-raped-in-joipurhat#sthash.Nh0gqezd.dpuf)

¹⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1157873>

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 April 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 April 2017.

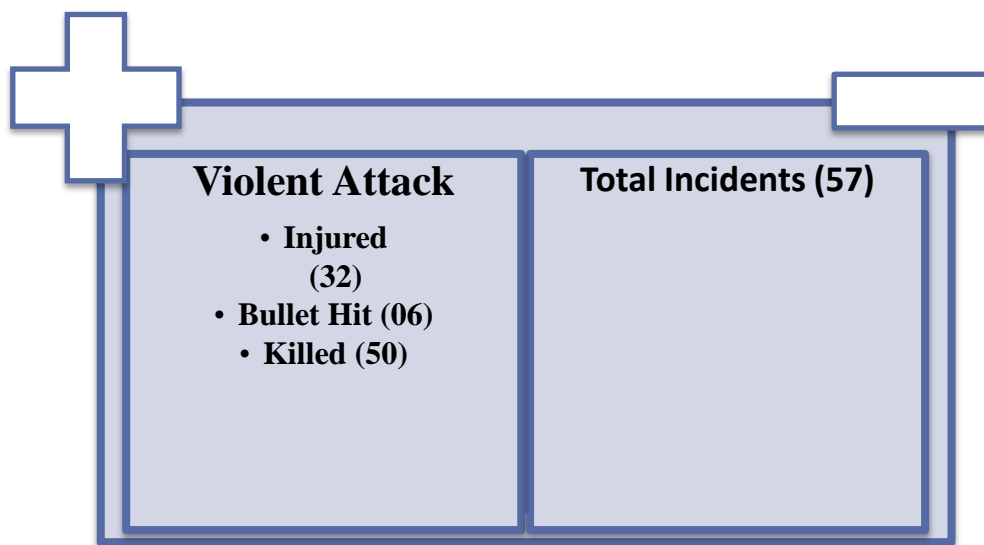


Figure 03: Statistics of Violent Attacks in April '17

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on an armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in April 2017, a total 57 incidents of violent attack have happened and 50 were killed in these attacks, 32 were seriously injured and around 06 persons have been bullet hit.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On Apr 01, 2017 unidentified assailants stabbed a local Awami League leader to death in Patwary Haat area of Lakshmipur sadar. The deceased was identified as Faruk Hossain, joint general secretary of Uttar Hamchhadi union unit Awami League. He was also a Union parishad member of ward number 2 under the union. Police and relatives said the miscreants attacked Faruk while he was returning home around 11:00 pm. They stabbed Faruk indiscriminately leaving him injured critically.¹⁸

¹⁸ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=59753&cat=1>

On Apr 01, 2017 unidentified assailants stabbed a local Awami League activist to death at Srinagar in Munshiganj. The deceased was identified as Alek Bepari, 40, an activist of Srinagar union unit of the ruling Awami League. Saiful Islam, Shrinagar circle additional police super, said unknown miscreants swooped on Alek Bepari near his house at village Sholamoti and stabbed him indiscriminately.¹⁹

On April 10, 2017A youth was stabbed to death at Agrabad Moulavi Para in Chittagong city. Saddam Hossain, 26, a butcher, went out of his house around 6:30 am after receiving a phone call, said Helal Uddin, sub-inspector of Double Mooring Station, quoting family members. Locals informed his family that he was lying on road with multiple stab injuries in the chest, abdomen, and hands, added the police officer.²⁰

On April 10, 2017A student of City University was killed while his classmate is on life support after being shot at the university gates in Khagan of Savar on the outskirts of the capital. Sifat, 22, a final-year textiles student of Muktagachha in Mymensingh, died on being hit by a bullet to the right chest while Bashudeb Pal was hit in the back by two.²¹

On Apr 14, 2017, a bus driver was killed in a knife attack allegedly by a young man at Purba Chandona in Gazipur city. Police said the young man, Joy, attacked bus driver Sujan Bhandhari, a resident of Purba Chanodna, as he came out of his home, and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.²²

On Apr 17, 2017, A University student was hacked to death by miscreants at Machuakhali village in Cox's Bazar sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Ziauddin, 20, a fourth-year student at Cox's Bazar International University. He was the son of Nurul Anwar of the Machuakhali village, police officials said.²³

On April 22, 2017Unidentified criminals stabbed a local BNP leader to death at Jagannathpur village in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga. The deceased, Shawkat Ali Farazi, 42, was president of ward no 6 of Kalidaspur union unit of BNP.²⁴

On April 24, 2017A Jubo Dal leader was beaten to death in the capital's Sakura Restaurant and Bar by its staff. However, the family of the deceased, Jony Ali, 35, a joint convener of ward no. 21 Juba Dal unit of Dhaka claimed that he was murdered in a planned way by his rivals.²⁵

¹⁹ <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/258902/>

²⁰ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=61057&cat=9>

²¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/private-univ-student-shot-dead-savar-1389559>

²² <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/04/15/110917.html>

²³ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/13652/university-student-hacked-to-death-in-coxs-bazar#sthash.x6muqpHs.dpuf>

²⁴ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1153951/>

²⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/jubo-dal-man-beaten-dead-sakura-bar-1396165>

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 April 2017 in Bangladesh,

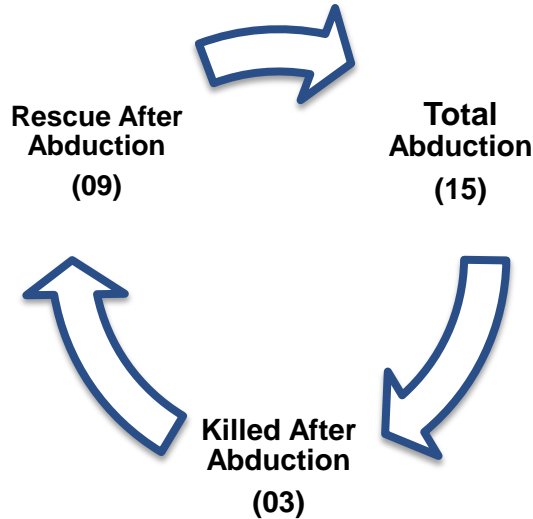


Figure 04: Statistics of Abduction in April '17

According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 15 people have been abducted, among of them, 03 were killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 09 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

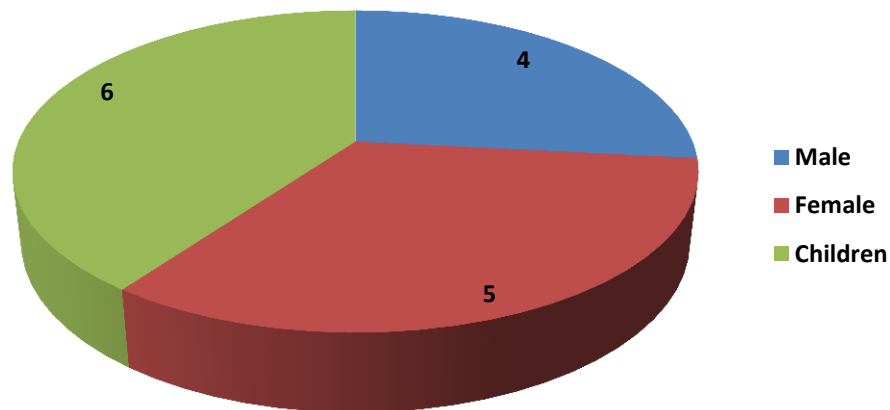


Figure 05: Categorization of Abduction

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in April 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 15 people were abducted, among of them, 04 were male, and around 05 were female and nearly 06 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On Apr 27, 2017, the throat-slitted body of a three-year-old boy was found at village Munshigaon of Ranisankail upazila in Thakurgaon. Police recovered the body of Abdul Fafi Tosha, son of Masud Rana of the village, from a pile of straw in the morning and sent it to the local hospital morgue, said Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of the Ranisankail police station. Tosha was picked up by some miscreants near his house on 26 April. Later, the kidnappers demanded Tk five lakh as ransom from victim's father over the mobile phone. Being failed to realize the ransom money, the kidnappers might have killed the boy and dumped there, said the police official.²⁶



Sumaiya with parents: Tears of joy and smile were dazzling on the face of Zakir Hossain and her wife. They were kissing their five-year-old child Sumaiya holding tight into their warm arms. It was a reunion of the baby and her parents after long-long twenty-four days of worries, frustrations, and anxiety. It was an indescribable feeling of happiness that flooded the couple when they meet their abducted daughter

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On April 27, 2017, Sumaiya, the five-year-old minor who was kidnapped from Dhaka's Kamrangirchar 24 days ago has finally been rescued from a home in Dhaka's Jurain, Informed Lalbagh Division Deputy Police Commissioner Mohammad Ibrahim Khan. The five-year-old girl had gone missing near her home in Kamrangirchar's Borogram around 5 pm on April 02.²⁷

On April 02, 2017 Police rescued a girl, 12 days after she went missing from Rajbari on April 19. The victim is a student of Class X of Baghat High School. One person was arrested in connection with the incident. He is Choian Saha, 24, son of Ratan Saha of Batanga village in Baliakandi upazila of Rajbari.²⁸

On April 05, 2017 Police recovered a decomposed body of a nine-year-old boy from Savar and arrested his paternal uncle on a charge of abduction and murder of the boy 23 days back. Fourth-grader Mahin, only son of rickshaw puller Mohiuddin, was abducted on April 12 on way home from his school in Monipur area of Mirpur, said investigation officer of the case sub-inspector Matiur Rahman of Mirpur Police Station.²⁹

²⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/14489/abducted-minor-boy-found-dead-in-thakurgaon-four-held#sthash.zuzmG1sy.dpuf>

²⁷ <http://www.clickitfaq.com/kidnapped-5-year-old-sumaiya-returns-home-after-24-days/>

²⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/missing-girl-rescued-after-12-days-1385263>

²⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/uncle-kills-boy-after-abduction-1387021>

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.³⁰

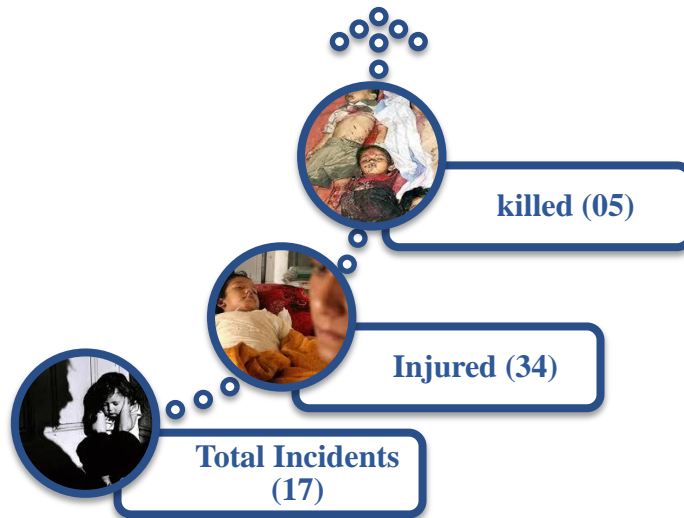


Figure 06: Violence against children in April '17

According to HRSS report, the graph presented information regarding the violence against children in April 2017, around 05 children’s were killed and almost 34 children’s have been critically injured in a total of nearly 17 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On April 15, 2017, a schoolboy was beaten to death allegedly by his mother in Baksiganj upazila of the Jamalpur. The deceased, Isha Sarkar, 13, son of Mashiur Rahman Maznu of Surjanagar Pashchimpara village, was a Class VII student of Surjanagar Government Primary School. Isha was rushed to Bakshiganj upazila health complex where on-duty doctors declared him dead, the OC said.³¹

On April 26, 2017A madrasa student was brutally tortured and then threatened by a teacher in Bheramara upazila of the Kushtia with more punishment if he did not keep the matter secret. And all this took place just because of the victim, eight-year-old Al Amin Hossain Sabbir, ate a biscuit in class at Golapnagar Hamidia Islamia Madrassa. Al Amin told her that Ali Hossain, an assistant teacher of the Institute, saw him eating a biscuit and took him to an empty classroom where he beat up the boy with a wooden stick tying his hands from behind.³²

³⁰ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27.
³¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/mother-kills-son-playing-cricket-sun-1391530>
³² <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/madrasa-boy-beaten-eating-class-1397044>

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.³³ After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th April 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.

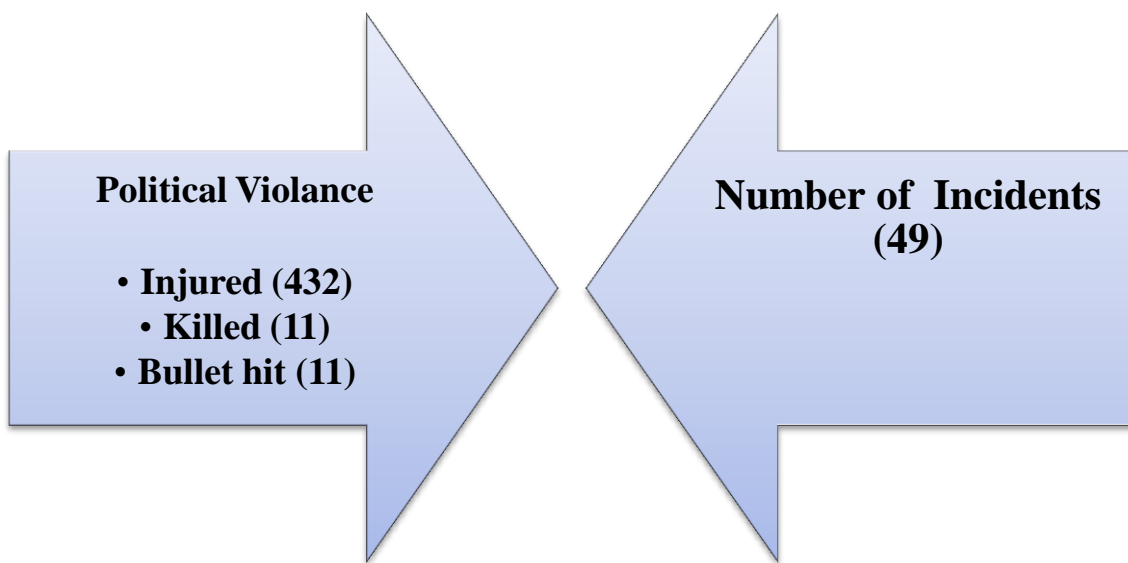


Figure 07: Statistics of Political Violence in April '17

The figure presents information about the political violence in April 2017. According to Human Rights Support Centre (HRSS) information, a total of 11 people have been killed, almost 432 injured and 11 bullet 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 April 08, 2017 Some Bangladesh Chhatra League activists allegedly beat up an outsider suspecting him "a snatcher" at Chittagong University, said police. Witnesses said some 10-12 BCL activists loyal to CU BCL President Alamgir Tipu beat one Pabel Mahmud. Police later took Pabel to CU Medical Centre. Inspector Akhteruzzaman, in-charge of CU police outpost, said the BCL men thought that Pabel was the person who tried to stab a BCL man the night before.³⁴

³³ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2017,

³⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-beatoutsider-cu-1388410>

On Apr 20, 2017 At least 12 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student associate of ruling Awami League were injured in infighting between rival groups over occupying seats in Salimullah Muslim Hall on Dhaka University campus. The injured took primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.³⁵

On April 11, 2017 A Jubo League leader was shot dead in Rajarbagan area of Satkhira town. His father, who was a local Awami League leader, was killed in the same way in 2013. Three people were arrested in connection with the killing of Jubo League leader Kabirul. The arrestees are Yakub Ali, 50, Iqbal Hossain, 42, and Imam Hossain, 32, of Sadar upazila.³⁶

On April 18, 2017 Two Awami League activists were killed and at least 10 others injured in a clash between two groups of ruling party men in Comilla's Muradnagar upazila. Faruk, 34, and Saidul, 24, were hacked to death around 10:30 pm, said Shah Abid Hossain, superintendent of Comilla police. SM Badiuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Muradnagar Police Station, said the dead were AL activists. Locals and police said the two AL groups clashed in Rahimpur village over establishing supremacy.³⁷

On April 20, 2017 A man was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over establishing supremacy at Khalia village in Gopalganj Sadar upazila. Police said Sapanul Alam Tika, the newly elected chairman of Jalalabad Union, and his rival Mitul had long been at loggerheads over establishing supremacy.³⁸

On April 25, 2017 A local Jubo League activist succumbed to his stab injuries at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH). Son of Abdur Razzak of Lahuri village in Pirojpur's Indurkani upazila, Rasel Sheikh, 35, was a ward level Jubo League activist, said Abdur Razzak, president of the party's upazila unit. He worked for a construction contractor in Masimpur area of Pirojpur town.³⁹

³⁵ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1153011>

³⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1142876/স্ব>

³⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1150306>

³⁸ <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/04/21/45287>

³⁹ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1158261/>

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.

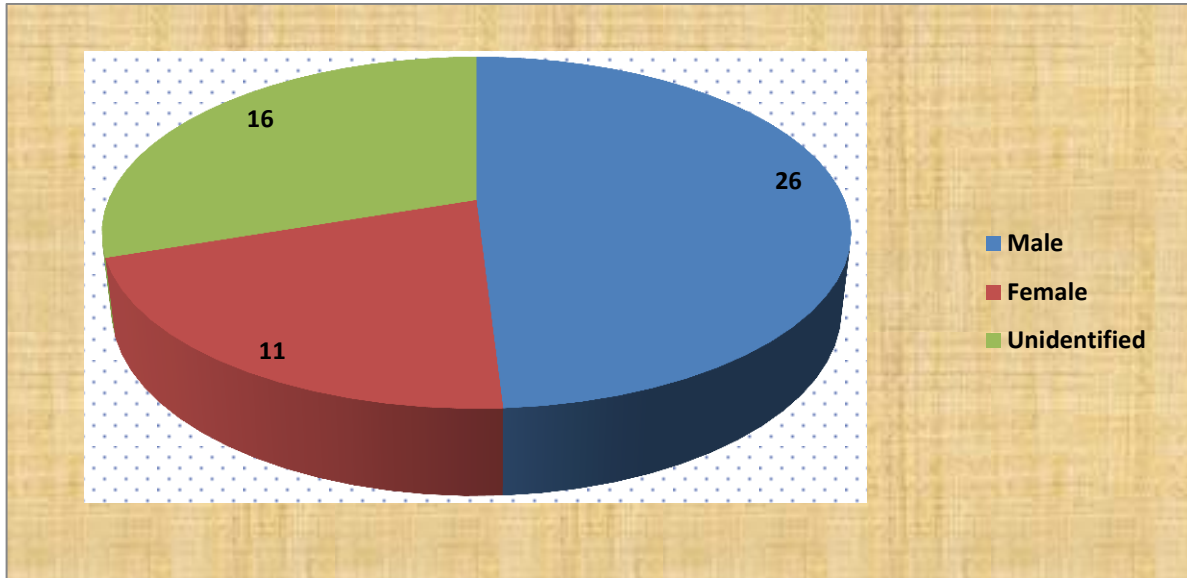


Figure 08: Recovery of Dead Body in April '17

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in April 2017, a total of 53 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 26 bodies were male and 11 bodies were female and 16 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On April 04, 2017 Police recovered the body of a schoolboy from Bujtala Model High School area under Benapole Port Police station. The victim was Pervez Hossain, 12, son of Taijel Hossain of Kagojpukur village. He was a talented student of Class V11 in Bujtala Model High School. Police and victim's mother Parvin Begum said Pervez returned from school and went out of the house on a bicycle to play in a nearby playground in Kagojpukur area. Locals informed police the next day that they found Parvez's body near his school.⁴⁰

On April 07, 2017A youth was found dead at her girlfriend's house in Chapainawabganj's Gomostapur upazila, said police. The deceased, Masud Rana, 22, of Bosnitola village, was an honours first-year student of Adina Government College in Shibganj.⁴¹

⁴⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/schoolboy-found-killed-benapole-1386625>

⁴¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/youth-found-dead-girlfriends-house-1387942>

On Apr 08,2017collage girl was strangled to death by miscreants at village Sutipara of Dhamrai in Dhaka. The deceased was identified as Jobeda Khatun, 18, a first-year student of Manikganj Khandakar Delwar Hossain College and daughter of Joynal Abedin of the village. Police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital for an autopsy.⁴²

On Apr 09,2017Police recovered the hanging bodies of a couple from an apartment at Hangorpara in Cox's Bazar municipality. Officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar model police station Aslam Hossain said Abdus Sukkur, 25, and his wife Hasina Aktar, 22, had been living on the top floor of a five-storey building at Hangorpara.⁴³

On April 13, 2017A battery-run easy-bike driver was found dead in Raninagar upazila of the Dinajpur. The deceased was Motiar Hossain, 40, son of Dulu Sardar of Ataikula village. Police and family sources said Motiar went out of the home with his easy-bike On April 12 and did not return home. Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the area the following day.⁴⁴

On April 16, 2017, the slit-throat and bullet hit the body of a local Awami League activist was found in Tomroddi Ghat area in Hatia, three days after he went missing from Bhairab Bazar,. The deceased is identified as Bahar Uddin Sardar, 40 of Shullukia village in Char King Union Parishad of Hatia, Noakhali. Bahar's body was found floating on the Shurjomukhi canal of the Meghna river early in the morning.⁴⁵

On April 26, 2017, the throat-slit body of a farmer was found at a bamboo cluster in Chandamari village of Panchagarh's Tentulia upazila, Thakurgaon. The deceased was Tohidul Islam, 47, son of Mohim Uddin of the village. Family sources said Tohidul went out of his house On April 26 nights and since then he did not return home. Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the area in the morning and sent it to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.⁴⁶

On April 27, 2017The body of a man was found floating in the Madhumati river at Char Jajira area under Kashiani upazila of the Faridpur. The deceased, Md Delwar Hossain, 59, was an assistant engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) in Narail. He lived in Dhaka with his family. He hailed from Comilla.⁴⁷

⁴² <http://www.newagebd.net/article/13106/college-girl-found-dead#sthash.lrz96PuY.dpuf><http://www.newagebd.net/article/13106/college-girl-found-dead>

⁴³ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/13197/couple-found-dead-in-coxs-bazar#sthash.q94RkiYG.dpuf>

⁴⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/driver-found-dead-1390981>

⁴⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bullet-hit-body-al-man-found-1392103>

⁴⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1159656>

⁴⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/engineer-found-dead-1397749>

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.

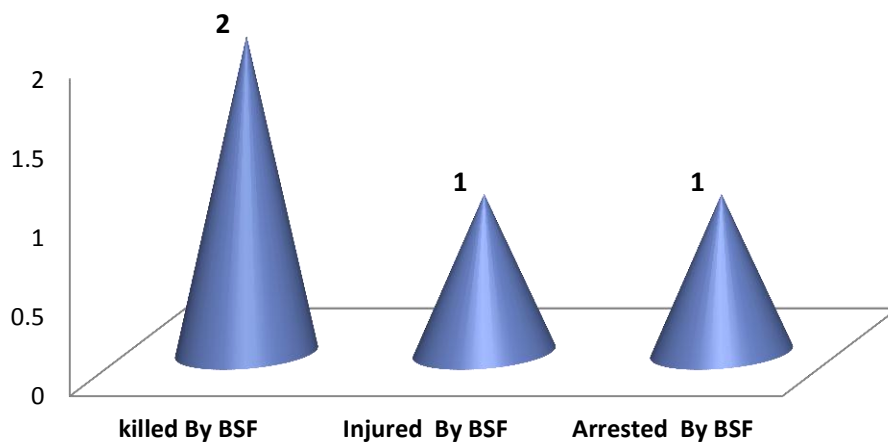


Figure 09: Statistics of Border Violence

The given chart gives data on the border dispute. According to HRSS in April 2017, almost 02 Bangladeshis citizen was killed, 01 injured and 01 Bangladeshis citizen were arrested by BSF.

Some important cases are mentioned below; 03 Apr 2017 A Bangladeshi national was picked up by members of BSF from Bongerbari border point in Patgram upazila, Lalmonirhat. The BSF members from Arun camp picked up Mahir Uddin, 40, son of Abbas Ali, a resident of Sarkerpara village of the upazila, while a group of cattle traders, including Arun, was crossing the border along with cattle.⁴⁸

On Apr 23,2017A Bangladeshi youth was shot dead by members of Indian Border Security Force at Gilabari border point in Bholahat of Chapainawabganj. Rashed Ali, the commanding officer of BGB-59 battalion, said the BSF troops from Adampur camp opened fire on some cattle traders as they got close to border pillar No 201/9, killing Saidul Islam, 28, a resident of Shikari village, on the spot.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/04/02/281950#sthash.mwPuEovk.dpuf>

⁴⁹ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=62914&cat=9>

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.⁵⁰ 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 April 2017. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly.

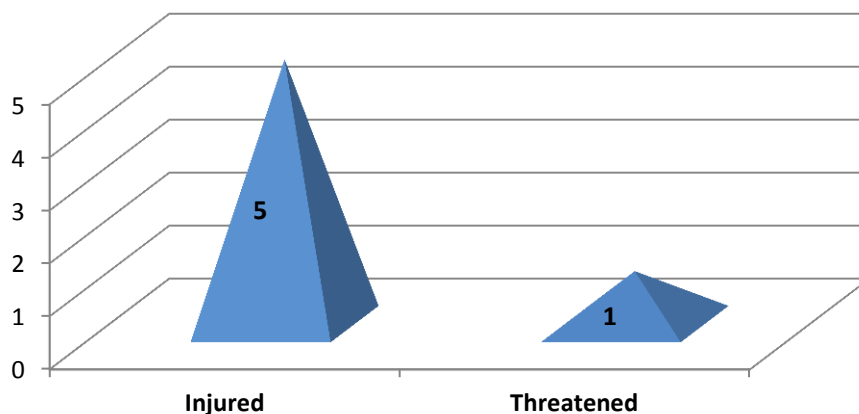


Figure 10: Attacks on Journalist

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 April, According to HRSS’s documented statistics, around 05 were injured and 01 threatened. Selected cases are as described here:



Named Md Sohidul Islam -Journalist was tortured tied to tree, later arrested and sued

On 07 April 2017, supporters of Awami League-backed UP chairman candidate Badol Talukdar tied journalist named Md Sohidul Islam to a tree and beat him up mercilessly while he was on duty at West Enayet nagar during the election campaign. Police instead of protecting the victim arrested him adding insult to his injury. Two days later, the High Court ordered the government to form a high-level committee to probe the incident. The court also issued a suo moto rule asking the officials concerned to explain as to why it shall not order to take actions against the perpetrators of the incident.⁵¹

⁵⁰ UDHR-1948, article 19

⁵¹ <https://www.jagonews24.com/country/news/247993>

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.

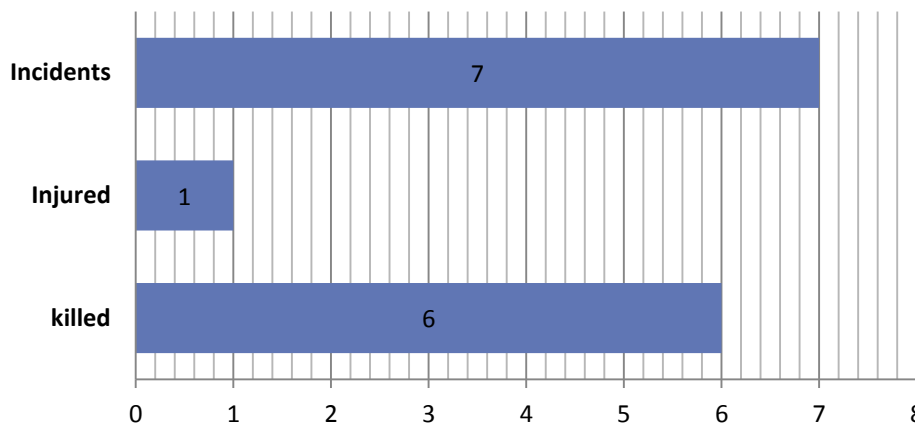


Figure 11: Statistics of Public Lynching in April '17

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases in April '2017. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, nearly 06 people were killed and one injured in a total of 07 incidents of the public lynching.

Some important cases are given below: On April 03, 2017A man was beaten to death allegedly by his friends in Chapainawabganj town. The deceased, Yousuf Ali, 40, who used to live in Railbagan area in town, was a hawker by profession.⁵²

On April 11, 2017An alleged robber was killed in a mass beating in Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila. The deceased, Mamun Miah, 32, was the son of Rahiz Miah of Kamalpur village under Kaiyampur union in the upazila. People of Mondobag village caught Mamun around 9:00 pm while he was roving in the area to commit robbery, said Officer-in-Charge Mohiuddin Ahmed of Kasba Police Station. The villagers then gave him a good beating, killing him on the spot, the OC said.⁵³

⁵² <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=60225&cat=9/>

⁵³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/robber-beaten-dead-bbaria-1389775>

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

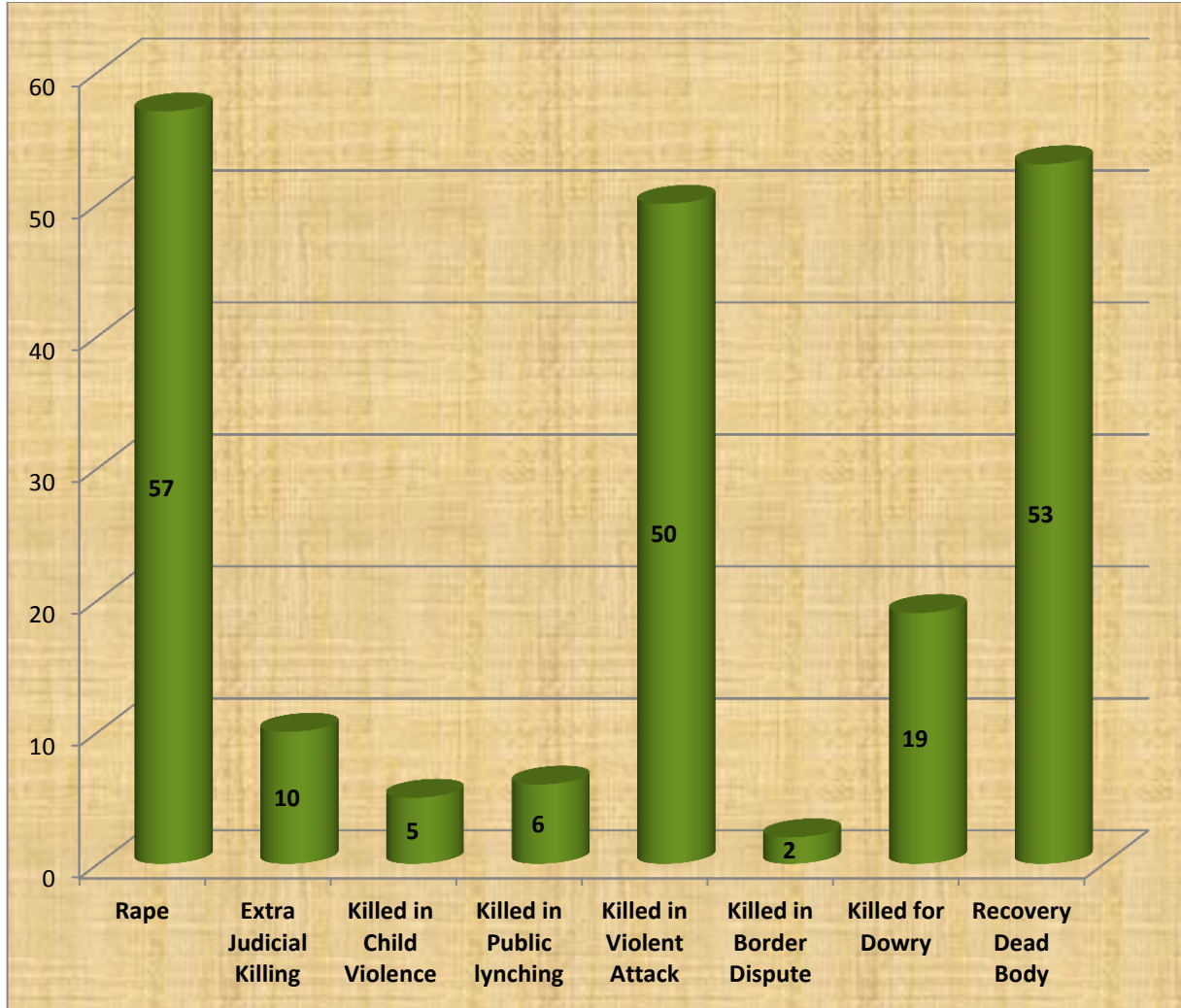


Figure 13: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in April 2017

Conclusion

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