

# Annual **HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN**

Bangladesh Situation 2017



**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)**

[www.hrssbd.org](http://www.hrssbd.org)

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Bangladesh Situation  
2017



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Bangladesh Situation 2017**

HRSS

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**Published by**

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Published in July 2018

**Price:** TK 200  
US\$ 10

ISSN-2413-5445



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# Acknowledgments

States are the most responsible authorities to protect the rights of citizens with the help of law enforcement agencies so that people can enjoy their rights. The government is the legitimate custodian and savior of the civil rights of all its citizens. According to social scientists, when a state fails to ensure the protection of human rights of its citizens, it is considered as failed state. The United Nations possesses the authority to monitor the actions of member States for the protection and promotion of human rights around the globe. Bangladesh, as a member of the United Nations and signatory to a large number of international human rights treaties and conventions, has an obligation to ensure the rights of its people. Moreover, a number of universally declared human rights have been guaranteed in Part-III of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. But it appears from the statistics gathered by the HRSS that Bangladesh, in 2017, flagrantly violated or ignored the moral and legal rights of its citizens. In this year, amongst others, the freedom of expression was denied and the freedom of the press was significantly squeezed by taking resort to unprecedented tools and techniques. This year the constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of assembly and association witnessed a sharp decline. Further, the overall human rights situation significantly deteriorated. Restrictions on the activities of political parties and civil societies, impunity to the excesses of the security forces, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, abduction, violence against women, indiscriminate arrest and assault on opposition political leaders and activists, intimidation and extortion are considered as a primary reason for such disastrous situation. This shocking condition of human rights in Bangladesh motivates HRSS to raise awareness both home and abroad. It regularly monitors human rights situation in Bangladesh. HRSS is going to publish "Annual Human Rights Bulletin 2017", focusing significant human rights violations of Bangladesh. We hope that the contents of this bulletin will help the people understand overall human rights situation in the country. We further expect that both Government and Non-Government stakeholders working for human rights would be acquainted with the updated human rights conditions and take necessary steps to stop repeated wrongdoings. HRSS believes that this bulletin will help mass people, civil society organizations, and international communities by providing them a concrete and evidential exposure to the ongoing degrading treatment of citizens.

We are grateful to all our colleagues for their remarkable contribution in the publication of this bulletin and to the news reporters whose courageous reporting have provided the basis for this bulletin. I specifically express my gratitude to the members of the executive committee who, for this publication, undertook all pains. I strongly believe that your considered feedback would help us to ensure a quality publication and encourage us to continue the relentless effort in this regard.

**Md. Nazmul Hasan**  
Executive Director  
Human Rights Support Society



# Executive Summary

The objective of the 'Annual Human Rights Bulletin' was not just to document the incidents of human rights violations but to raise awareness about human rights violations, including alerting the state agencies about the necessity to protect and defend human rights. Human Rights Support Society has published this bulletin based on reports of incidents of human rights violations and atrocities received through our district representatives as well as the news reports of twelve prominent national dailies. According to the annual statistics of HRSS from January to December 2017, the present human rights condition in Bangladesh has deteriorated being marked by absence of social equality, democracy and the growth of a gradually suppressive political class. The rights to freedom of expression are constantly violated while human rights activists and journalist are facing systematic oppression by the state actor. The application of draconian laws against journalists, human rights activists, online activists, and bloggers has become a common phenomenon. Suppression of dissenting voices has become a regular practice due to a culture of impunity, lack of accountability and destructive justice delivery mechanisms. Restrictions on the political parties and civil societies, impunity to the security forces, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, violence against women, arbitrary arrest and assault on opposition political leaders and activists, intimidation and extortion reveal a very glooming picture of the overall human rights situation in Bangladesh.

Based on the sources of HRSS, at least 212 persons were killed extra-judicially in 2017. Out of them, 155 people were killed in the name of 'crossfire/gunfights', 20 were tortured to death, 14 were shot to death and 23 died in custody. The deaths occurred during raids, arrests as well as during the operations conducted by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs). The government regrettably describes these deaths as "crossfire/gunfights/encounter killings". Occurrences of

enforced disappearances also continued during the year 2017. Unfortunately, most of the cases of enforced disappearances involve the security forces such as RAB, DB, and Police. According to HRSS monitoring, a total 62 persons have been disappeared by the law enforcement agencies in different incidents.

Moreover, the HRSS bulletin finds that a total of 832, females have been raped. Of them, 464 were identified as adults and alarmingly 368 were children under the age of 16. A total of 351 women were killed in family feuds (including, domestic violence) while 145 women were killed due to dowry-related violence. It has also been reported that a total of 495 were abducted by non-state actors in different areas of the country, among them 304 were male, 113 were female, 78 were children, and as many as 105 were killed after the abduction. At least 71 people were killed in political violence and around 65 people were killed through lynching.

HRSS noticed that through 2017, about 165 violent incidents were committed against children following which 93 lost their life and 178 were critically injured. As a result of violent attacks, a total of 766 unarmed civilian suffered, of them, 528 were killed, and 511 seriously injured and roughly 77 were hit by bullets. HRSS also estimated a total of 39 incidents of attacks on minority communities throughout the country. Due to the Government's submissive foreign policy with India and Myanmar, the number of unexpected incidents significantly increased in the border area. Bangladeshi citizens have been the victims of suspected killings, subjected to torture, and other forms of inhumane and degrading treatments. A total of nearly 80 incidents has been reported resulting in loss of lives of as many as 31 Bangladeshi citizens with 38 injured, and nearly 81 arrested by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Police (BGP). This shocking condition of human rights in Bangladesh motivates HRSS to work hard to raise awareness both home and abroad.

For the most part that this bulletin will help the people, civil society as well as an international community by providing them with a concrete and evidential exposure to the current dreadful and degrading human rights situation of Bangladesh. ■



# Table of Contents

04	List of Figures	08
05	Acronyms	09
06	Extra-Judicial Killing	10
07	Enforced Disappearance	17
08	Violence Against Women	23
09	Attack on Journalists	38
10	Attack on Minority	45
11	Political Violence	49
12	Border Killing	53
13	Violence Against Children	57
14	Violent Attack	61
15	Abduction	64
16	Public Lynching	69
17	Recovery of Dead Body	72
18	Torture by Law Enforcement Agencies	75
19	Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh	77
20	Yearly Human Rights Bulletin at a Glance	84
21	Human Rights Bulletin Yearly Comparison	85
22	Conclusion	86
23	Recommendation	87
24	Annexure : Yearly Statistics 2017	88

# List of Figures

<b>SL</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
01	Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing	11
02	Monthly Comparison of Extra-Judicial Killing	12
03	Victims of Extra-Judicial killing based on Region	13
04	Actors of Extra-Judicial Killing in 2017	13
05	Statistics of Enforced disappearance by LEA	18
06	Monthly Comparison of Enforced Disappearance	18
07	Figure 6: Violence against Women	24
08	Statics of Female Victims of Rape	25
09	Monthly Comparison of rape from Jan to Dec '17	25
10	Statistics of Dowry Related Violence	29
11	Monthly Comparison of killed for dowry in 2017	29
12	Attacks Using Acid on Women and Girls	31
13	Statistics of family feud	32
14	Monthly Comparison of killing from Jan to Dec'17	33
15	Statistics of Sexual Harassment	34
16	Monthly Comparison of Sexual Harassment	34
17	Attack on Journalist	38
18	Statistics of Attacks on Minority	45
19	Statistics of Political Violence	49
20	Monthly Comparison of Killing from Jan to Dec '17	50
21	Violence in Border by BSF between Jan and Dec '17	54
22	Monthly comparison of a total killed in border By BSF in 2017	54
23	Violence in Border by BGP in 2017	54
24	Statistics of Violence against Children	57
25	Monthly Comparison of killing from Jan to Dec '17	58
26	Statistics of Violent Attacks	61
27	killed in Violent Attack from Jan to Dec '17	61
28	Statistics of Abduction in 2017	64
29	Categorization of Abduction in 2017	65
30	Statistics of Public Lynching Jan to Dec '17	69
31	Monthly Comparison of Public Lynching	70
32	Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body	72
33	Monthly Statistics of the Number of Dead Bodies Found in 2017	73
34	Inhuman Torture by LEA in 2017	75

# Acronyms

BNHRC	: National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh
BAL	: Bangladesh Awami League
BCL	: Bangladesh Chhatra League
BNP	: Bangladesh Nationalist Party
BJC	: Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal
BJI	: Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami
BICS	: Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir
CAT	: Convention against Torture & other cruel, inhuman or degradation treatment....
CAT	: Committee against Torture
CSW	: Committee on the Status of Women
CHR	: Committee on Human Rights
CERD	: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CRC	: Committee on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDAW	: Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFNHRI	: Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
CRC	: Convention on the Rights of the Child
DB	: Detective Branch
DMC	: Dhaka Medical College
DU	: Dhaka University
GA	: General Assembly
GOB	: Government of Bangladesh
HRSS	: Human Rights Support Society
HRC	: Human Rights committee
HRC	: Human Rights Council
ICCPR	: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ	: International Court Of Justice
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SR	: Special rapporteur
SP	: Special Procedures
RMG	: Ready Made Garments
RAB	: Rapid Action Battalion
UN	: United Nations
UDHR	: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNCHR	: United Nations Commission on Human Rights
UNHCHR	: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UPR	: Universal Periodic Review
UNO	: Upazilla Nirbahi Officer
TNO	: Thana Nirbahi Officer
UP	: Union Parishad
VAW	: Violence against Women
VAC	: Violence against Children



# Extra Judicial Killing

**A**n extra judicial killing is the killing of a person by government agencies without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.<sup>1</sup> According to Section 3(a) of the United States Torture Victim Protection Act: extrajudicial killing is a deliberate killing not authorized by a previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples. Such term, however, does not include any such killing that, under international law, is lawfully carried out under the authority of a foreign nation.<sup>2</sup>

*According to the sources of HRSS, at least 212 persons were killed extra judicially from January to December 2017. The deaths occurred during raids, arrests as well as during the operations conducted by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs). The government description of these cases follows roughly the same pattern: “after the arrest of infamous terrorist ‘X’ leads were found to an illegal arms location. And during a crack-down at this arms location, other terrorists attacked and in that crossfire terrorist ‘X’ was killed.” Such ‘crackdowns’ always take place in the early morning and invariably, neighborhoods in and around the location of ‘crossfire’ are unable later to confirm having heard any gunshots. There is grave concern that such incidents of “crossfire” are in fact deliberate killing.*

It should be noted that the State is bound to ensure enforcement of fundamental right to life and liberty of its citizens under Articles 31 and 32 of the Constitution, which is also an international treaty obligation.<sup>3</sup> Such actions of the law enforcement agency deprived the citizens of their fundamental right to life and right to free, fair and impartial trial.



Family of Masudul Haq Pintu. Ex UP member of Ashekpur Union, Bogura. He was killed by police beaten. 22 August 2017, Jugantor

We studied the cases of extra-judicial killings by the LEA (hereinafter referred to as ‘the LEA’). This bulletin seeks to precisely understand the nature and extent of human rights violations caused by extra-judicial killing from January to December 2017. Relevant cases of extra-judicial killing have been discussed and analyzed below:

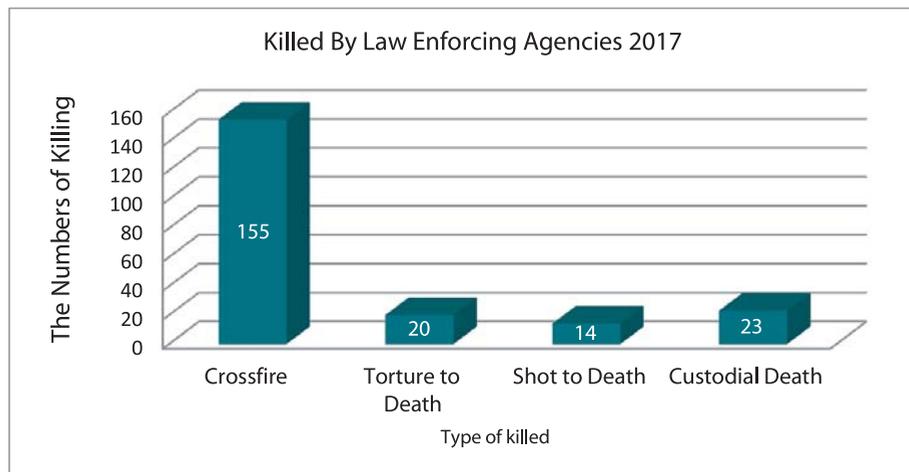


Figure 1: Statistics of Extra -Judicial Killing in 2017<sup>4</sup>

The chart depicts information about the number of extra-judicial executions by law enforcement agency over a period of twelve months between January and December 2017. According to the given data compiled by Human Rights Support Society’s research desk, in 2017 almost 212 extra-judicial killings took place, compared to 244<sup>5</sup> in 2016. In 2017 a total of 212 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed. Of them, 155 were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, 20 were tortured to Death, 14 were shot to death, and 23 died in the custody.

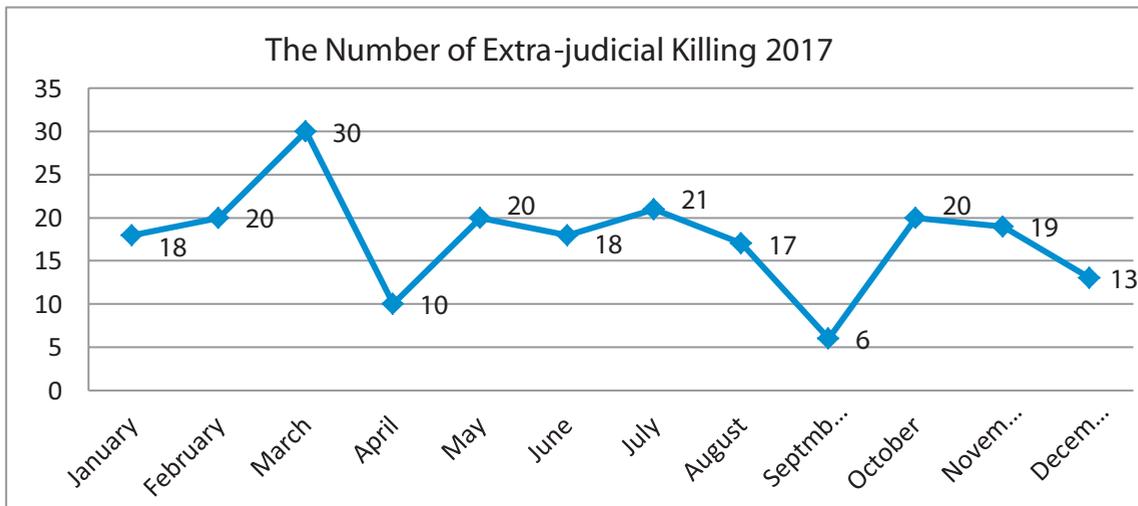


Figure 2: Monthly Comparison of Extra-Judicial Killing

The above graph illustrates information about the extra-judicial killing in 2017. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 212 persons were allegedly killed extra-judicially. On an average, almost 18 people were killed each month. 18 were killed extra-judicially in January while this number increased significantly in Feb. In March, the numbers of encounters were surprisingly higher reaching up to 30.

Table: January to December 2017		
Victims of Extrajudicial Killing Under the Bangladesh Awami League Government by Region		
Region	Extrajudicial Killing	Number of Incidents
Dhaka	41	38
Chittagong	53	50
Rajshahi	31	27
Sylhet	07	07
Khulna	60	54
Rangpur	11	08
Mymensingh	06	06
Barisal	03	03
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>193</b>

Figure 3 Victims of Extra-Judicial killing based on Region

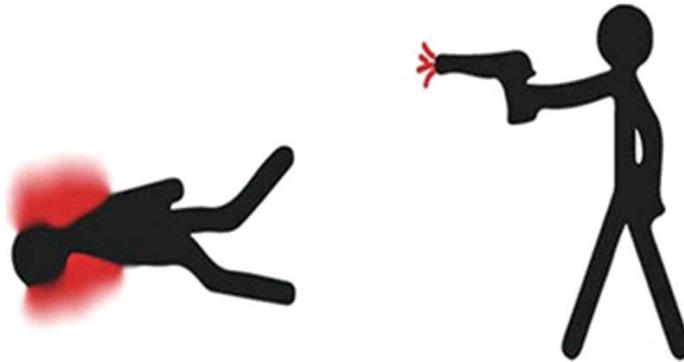
Several types of extra-judicial killing were reported in a different division of Bangladesh in 2017. The law enforcement agencies were charged for their participation and involvement in the various human rights violations committed against the civilian people including political killing and custodial death. Charges of murder, frustrated and attempted murder, torture and physical injuries, illegal arrest and detention and other civil and political rights violations were filed by the HRSS, including families of those who were extra-judicially killed during the incidents, as well as the victims who were illegally arrested and detained by the police. The

table exhibits the statistics about extra-judicial killing in a different division of Bangladesh over a period of a year from Jan to Dec 2017. Total 212 people have been killed by LEA in a different city of them about 90% in main four cities such as Dhaka 41, Chittagong 53, Rajshahi 31, and Khulna 60. On the other hand, almost 10% of persons were killed by security forces in others four rest of the division in Bangladesh, for instance, Rangpur 11, Sylhet 07 Mymensingh 06 and Barisal 03.

Kinds	Police	RAB	Police & RAB	DB Police	Join Force	Coast Guard	BGB	Army	Total
Crossfire	97	37	0	18	02	0	0	01	155
Shot To Death	10	02	0	02	0	0	0	0	14
Torture To Death	15	01	0	03	01	0	0	0	20
Custodial Death	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>212</b>

Figure 04: Actors of Extra-Judicial Killing in 2017

The above table provides information about the incidences of extra-judicial killings conducted by the members of the LEA in 2017. The Statistics denotes that most of the citizens were extra-judicially killed by the Police although they are supposed to protect the safety and security of the people. The number of people killed by the RAB is alarmingly high. Legally the members of RAB are duty bound to hand over the alleged criminal to the concerned Police Station for the further judicial process.



Some of the cases of Extra-judicial death by law enforcement agencies are given below: On October 29, 2017 a man was beaten to death in police custody in Rangpur, alleged his family members. The victim, Sohel Rana alias Russell, 26, was the son of Ruhul Amin of Haldibari village under Kaunia upazila. He died around 10:00am at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH). But Sohana Moni, elder sister of Sohel Rana, said law enforcers picked up her brother from their house in Haldibari around 10:00pm on Oct. 28. The police also demanded Tk 1.5 lakh for his release, she added. They killed him as the family refused to give the money, she alleged. “We demand punishment of the police officials responsible for my husband's death,” said Runi Begum, Sohel's wife.<sup>6</sup>

On Oct 08, 2017 a man was allegedly beaten to death by police during a raid in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat. The deceased was identified as Saidur Rahman, 38, son of Kazem Ali from Kalai upazila, said additional superintendent of police of Joypurhat. According to the family members, a team of police from Kalai Police Station raided the home of Saidur Rahman at Harunza village around 5.30am to arrest his brother. Saidur Rahman had an altercation with the police over the arrest. The law enforcers, in retaliation, allegedly beat him up with batons inside the house. Saidur fell to the ground and went into unconscious. The police team took him to Kalai upazila Health Complex where he was declared dead.<sup>7</sup>

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 Chiknagul Kohaigor in Jaintapur upazila.<sup>8</sup>

On 1 Dec 2017, a Shibir leader was killed in a 'shootout' with members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB-7) at Panchlaish area. The victim was identified as Mahim Uddin alias Mahin, son of late Abul Kashem of Bayezid Bostami area. Later, he was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the on-duty doctors declared him dead, said the RAB officer.<sup>9</sup>

On April 13, 2017, two suspected criminals were killed in a reported gunfight with 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. Victim's Families- Mustahara Begum, Shipon's mother, said her son was a laborer at the brick kilns. Shipon left on April 12, 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 April 13 and had been missing since.<sup>10</sup>

On Jun 06, 2017 a man was killed in a reported gunfight with police at Nurpur village in Meherpur Sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Firatul Islam, 48, son of Ayub Ali, a resident of Pirojpur village in the upazila.<sup>11</sup>

On Sep 16, 2017, a madrassah superintendent reportedly died of police torture in Satkhira. The family of victim Saidur Rahman complained that the 48-year-old person succumbed to the injuries he suffered during tortures in police custody. Victim's nephew Muttasim Billah said Saidur was picked up by the law enforcers from his house at Kathonda village in Satkhira at about 1:00 am on 15 Sept. They started beating him and dragged him in a vehicle to take him to a police station. They took Saidur to a local doctor's chamber at Kathonda Bazar, which is halfway to the police station, as he fell seriously ill from the torture, said Muttasim Billah. He also complained that the police members demanded Tk one lakh for his release. The victim's wife Sajeda Khatun said she saw torture marks on her husband's body while she visited him at Satkhira Sadar Police Station's lock-up later in the day. She said her husband had also told her about the tortures.<sup>12</sup>

On Feb 22, 2017, two people were killed in a 'gunfight' with detective branch of police at Fatulla in Narayanganj. The dead were Mukhter Hossain alias Killer Mukhter and his cohort Md Manik alias Kala Manik, both aged between 25 and 30, said Narayanganj detective branch of police officer-in-charge Ahmedul Islam.<sup>13</sup>

On Sept 18, 2017, Expatriate Majharul Islam 30 was brutally killed by a Rab company commander, 20/25 unnamed personnel of his team and eight locals on September 8, said his family after suing. Majharul's wife Shamima Akter Swapna in a case filed with a Naogaon court accused Sayeed Abdullah Al Murad, company commander of the Rab-5 camp of Joypurhat. The case statement also named Kanshopara Union Parishad Chairman Saidur Rahman Mollah, and locals Shahidul Islam, Zahrool Islam, Abdul Mazid, Abdus Sattar, Razzak Hossain, Rafiqul Islam and Selim Uddin. Majharul Islam was being lived on farming and never stood accused in any criminal case, died hours after Rab members arrested him on 8 Sept. Some plainclothes officials led by the Rab company commander started beating up Majharul after detaining him near his house, Claimed his wife's Swapna in her case. Minutes later, they took him inside the house and hit him with sticks and rods locking him in the bedroom. The plainclothesmen, some of them wearing lungi and t-shirts and some with long

hairs, also dragged him through the village roads and beat him openly terrorizing the areas, she said.<sup>14</sup>



On Nov 28, 2017, an alleged member of an outlaw group was killed in what police claimed was a shootout. The incident took place between the police and his armed cohorts at Baninagar Khowghat area under Mizanpur Union of Rajbari Sadar Upazila in Rajbari around 3:30 am. The deceased was identified as Abbas Sorder, 48, of Kamarkhali village under Sujanagar Upazila in Pabna.<sup>15</sup>

On Jun 08, 2017 a suspected leader of Purba Banglar Communist Party, Mohammad Olut, 38, son of Jharu Mandal of village Khaskarra under Alamdanga in Chuadanga, was killed in a reported gunfight between his cohorts and members of Rapid Action Battalion at Khaskarra Bazar.<sup>16</sup>

On Jul 11, 2017, the RAB claimed a robber was killed and another one injured in a gunfight with them at Lemua in Feni sadar. Two robbers Foysal, 25, and Nur Hossain Selim, 23 received bullet-wounds during the gunfight, he said. Both of them were taken to Feni General Hospital where on-duty physicians declared Foysal dead, the RAB official said.<sup>17</sup>

On Jan 09, 2017 a criminal was killed in a “gunfight” with the Detective Branch (DB) of police at Noljani in Gazipur. Badu Monir, 30, a resident of Tin-Shed colony area in BARC, was declared dead at Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital, said, detectives.<sup>18</sup>

On Feb 07, 2017 a youth was found dead on the banks of the Titas River in Brahmanbaria town. His body bore several bullet marks, said police. According to the law enforcers, the youth, Al Amin, 28, was a drug dealer. He was killed in a “gunfight between two rival groups of drug peddlers”. His wife, Tanzina Akter, however, rejected the claim and accused the police of killing Al Amin, son of late Zillur Rahman.<sup>19</sup>

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.<sup>20</sup>

On Mar 15, 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.<sup>21</sup>

On Jan 20, 2017, a suspected ringleader of a pirate gang was killed in a reported gunfight with RAB at Sonagazi in Feni. The deceased was identified as Abul Kalam, 45, the ringleader of 'Kalam Bahini', said Squadron Leader Shafayet Jamil Fahim, Feni camp commander, RAB-7.<sup>22</sup>

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

2 Congressional Record, V. 147, Pt. 6, May 9, 2001 to May 21 2001, United States Government Printing Office, October 2005, p. 7897, GGKEY:2126SDPKSFJ

3 In 1998, Bangladesh ratified the convention against inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CAT) and in 2000, international covenant on civil and political rights (ICCPR).

4 HRSS Research Desk

5 Annual human rights bulletin 2016, HRSS

6 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/man-dies-police-custody-1483612>

7 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-killed-joypurhat-police-raid-bangladesh-1473763>

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

9 <http://www.observerbdt.com/details.php?id=108894>

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

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

12 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/24237/teacher-dies-of-police-torture-family>

13 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1087336>

14 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh>

15 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1375336/>

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

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

21 <https://www.dailyinqilab.com/article/69410/>

22 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/01/20/100497.html>



# Enforced Disappearance

**E**nforced disappearance comprises of abductions, carried out by agents of the State or organized groups of individuals who act with overt or tacit government support, in which the victim “disappears”. Authorities neither accept responsibility for the dead, nor account for the whereabouts of the victim.<sup>23</sup> The events of disappearance have already triggered the gravest hurdle in our national life by polluting political and administrative culture of Bangladesh. Abduction, and murder are a common and daily phenomenon in Bangladesh. Petitions of habeas corpus or other legal mechanisms designated to safeguard the liberty and integrity of citizens remain ineffective. Enforced disappearance constitutes a grave threat to the right to life and violates fundamental human rights. Recently, the Government of Bangladesh has ratified the Convention against Torture but is yet to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of all People from Enforced Disappearance. According to HRSS report, many political activists have been forcefully disappeared in 2017 by the law enforcement agencies. After their arrest, which was denied, their bullet-riddled dead bodies have been found in distant locations.



Figure 5 : Statistics of Enforced disappearance by LEA

'Human Rights Support Society' (HRSS) finds that from Jan to Dec 2017 a total 62 people have been disappeared by law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 17 were found dead, 16 returned home, 11 were brought before the court and nobody knows what happened to the rest 18 persons.

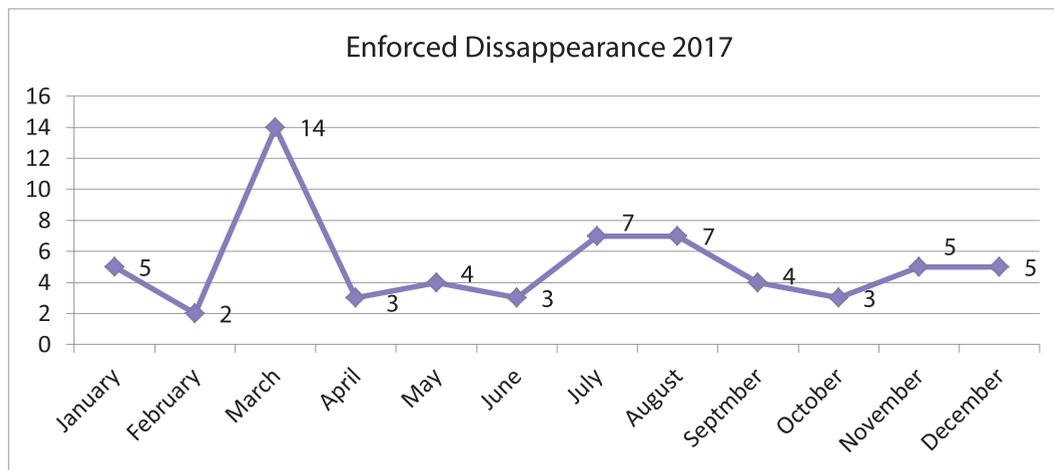


Figure 6: Monthly Comparison of Enforced Disappearance from Jan to dec'17

*Selected cases are stated below:* On Nov 13, 2017, a woman filed a case with a magistrate court in Jessore accusing 16 cops, including 7 officials, of being involved in the enforced disappearance of her only son in early April from Jessore district town. The cops were posted to Jessore Kotwali police station when the alleged offense was committed, according to the case statement filed with senior judicial magistrate Shahinur Rahman by Hira Khatun, wife of Tauhidul Islam Khokon of Shankarpur in Jessore town. In the complaint, the plaintiff stated that her only son Md Syeed disappeared after the cops picked up him and she suspected that Syeed had been killed by the cops as she did not pay Tk 2 lakh demanded by the police personnel, said her lawyer Ajit Kumar Das, lawyer of the complainant. 'The case was filed to tarnish the image of the police,' he claimed. Taking cognizance of the case, the court ordered the police bureau of investigation to submit a report after an investigation into the case. Hira named sub-inspectors HM Shahidul Islam, Amir Hossain and Hasanur



Rahman, assistant sub-inspectors Rajon Gazi, Selim Hossain, Biplob Hossain and Selim Ahmed and constables Arifuzzaman, Rafiqul Islam, Md Ramjan, Habibur Rahman, Abu Bakar, Mizan Sheikh, Mahbubur Rahman, Rajibul Islam and Khokon Hossain as accused in the case. The plaintiff stated that getting a phone call she went to Jessore Paura Park at about noon on April 5, 2017, and witnessed that her son along with his friend Shaonwas being picked up by some cops on a police van. One of the cops told her to go to Kotwali as she wanted to know why her son was picked up. She then went to the police station but she was not allowed to enter. The police later demanded Tk 2 lakh for the release of Syeed. She later came to know from newspaper reports that her son fled from the police. The family was yet to know the whereabouts of Syeed.<sup>24</sup>

**Nurul Alam Nuru (Picked up, then found murdered-Ctg. JCD leader's family point's finger at law enforcement agency**



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 11:30 pm on 29, March 2017. On March 30, 2017, some locals noticed a body on the

## Went Missing, Then Returned

				
<b>Mubashar Hasan</b>	<b>Aniruddha Kumar Roy</b> Businessman	<b>Utpal Das</b> Journalist Online News Portal	<b>Shamim Ahmed</b> Banker	<b>Rokonuzzaman</b> Sharishabari Municipality Mayor
<b>‘The captors used to argue with each other whether to kill me or free me’</b>	Abducted from Gulshan on <b>Aug 27</b> Returned home on <b>Nov 16</b>	Picked up from Dhanmondi on <b>Oct 10</b> Found in Narayanganj <b>Nov 16</b>	Missing From Paltan on <b>Aug 23</b> Found in Motijheel on <b>Aug 28</b>	Missing From Uttara on <b>Sept 25</b> Found in Sreemangal on <b>Sept 27</b>

Source : The Daily Star

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.”<sup>25</sup>

On Dec 09, 2017 two people were killed after disappearance by DB police in the capital's Badda. The families of the deceased - Al Amin, 34, and Saddam, 25 alleged that they were picked by some people, who claimed themselves to be detectives, several days ago. Shaikh Nazmul Alam, Family of Saddam alleged that some people, identifying themselves as detectives, picked up Saddam, a resident of city's Rampura, from his father-in-law's house in Comilla on December 26. Al Amin's family alleged that law enforcers picked him up from Tongi on December 2. Both the families claimed that the two were innocent. According to the families, Al Amin used to sell toys, while Saddam used to sell mosquito coils and candles. Al Amin's wife Khadiza Begum told that his husband used to stay in the capital's Abdullahpur. “Had he killed anyone, he would not have stayed at home,” she said. Ruma, an aunty of Saddam, said they went to the DB office on Minto Road in search of her nephew on information that he was picked up by detectives. But police denied picking him up. “If he was not picked up by police, then who did it?” she said.<sup>26</sup>

On Nov 01, 2017 a bullet-wounded body has been recovered from Baterdighirpar area of Balaishpur in Lakshimpur Sadar. The deceased was identified as Masum Billah alias Laden Masum, son of Hafiz Ullah, a resident of Abirnagar under Sadar upazila. Chandraganj police officer-in-charge Md Moktar Hossain said Masum was killed during the gunfight between two gangs of criminals. On the other hand, a family of the deceased claimed Masum was killed by police firing. Law enforcers arrested Masum at Gulistan in Dhaka on Nov 29, they said. He was implicated in cases as Masum was involved with the politics of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, youth body of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, the family claimed.<sup>27</sup>

On September 26, 2017 An Awami League activist was killed in a so-called “gunfight” between police and his cohorts in an isolated char area in Kushtia. Family members said victim Miraz Hasan Teny, 26, had been arrested on Sept. 11 from Charpara village in Mirpur upazila of the kushtia. The victim was a close associate of Kamarul Arefin, AL general secretary of Mirpur upazila and also chairman of the upazila, police and family members said.<sup>28</sup>

On August 24, 2017 A union level Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader was killed in “shootout” incident by law enforcement agency, two days after he was picked up from his residence at Begumganj upazila in the Noakhali. Md Alam, 35, son of Abul Quashem of Dhitpur village, was the joint convenor of Alaipur union unit Jubo Dal. His wife Pushpa Begum claimed that police killed him after arresting him because of his affiliation with BNP politics and cooked up the story of “shootout”. Victim's wife Pushpa Begum, however, said a group of plainclothes men picked up her husband On 22 Aug morning. Pushpa said she and other family members went to Begumganj police station, detective offices at Noakhali and Laxmipur districts and Rab camp at Laxmipur in search for Alam but law enforcers denied picking him up. On 22 Aug night, she held a press conference at Chowmohani Press Club, seeking help from the administration for her husband's safe return.<sup>29</sup>

On December 23, 2017, Bangladesh Kalyan Party Secretary-General MM Aminur Rahman, who went missing around four months ago, is now shown arrested in an explosives case filed in 2015. Aminur had gone traceless after he came out of the office of Kalyan Party in Paltan to go to his home in Savar around 10:00 pm on August 27, said his relatives and leaders of the party, an ally of BNP. Aminur's family members filed a general diary with Paltan Police Station on August 30. Police had been looking for him since then, they said. Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, chairman of Kalyan Party, told that Aminur was abducted to by LEA “thwart the progress of the party”.<sup>30</sup>

**The DB officials who have been detained for allegedly kidnapping a local businessman in Cox's Bazar**



On Oct. 25, 2017, seven officials of the police's DB have been suspended for allegedly kidnapping a local businessman and collecting Tk17 lakh in ransom money in Cox's Bazar. They were caught at Teknaf by army personnel at one of their check posts at Shaplapur on the Teknaf-Cox's Bazar Marine Drive Road. The Tk17 lakh ransom money was recovered from them during the stop and search, following which the seven policemen were detained, said Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of the DB district unit. The detainees were identified as Sub-Inspectors Moniruzzaman, Abul Kalam Azad and Firoz Ahmad, Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASI) Mostafa and Alauddin, Constables Mostafa Azam and Al Amin. After the suspension, they were sent to Cox's Bazar Police Lines later, said OC Monirul. OC Monirul said the family of businessman Abdul Gafur had lodged a complaint On Oct. 25, claiming he was picked up by DB officers and they were demanding ransom. Gafur said he was whisked away from outside a restaurant in Cox's Bazar town by men identifying themselves as DB officials. He alleged that the abductors had tortured him for hours and later threatened to kill him. The policemen had demanded Tk1 crore as ransom at first, but later agreed to release him against Tk17 lakh, Gafur said. He was set free in the early hours of On Oct. 25 after his family paid the money. Gafur's brother Moniruzzaman, councilor of Teknaf Municipality, said they had informed the army about the matter after the abductors threatened to kill him and demanded ransom. "After my brother was released, the army has recovered the money as well." He demanded stern punishment of the DB officials involved in the kidnapping.<sup>31</sup>

**ABN Group Managing Director Syed Sadat Ahmed has been abducted from Banani in Dhaka, his family says.**



On Dec 30, 2017 Syed Sadat Ahmed, central executive committee member of the BNP and the managing director of ABN Group, who had allegedly been missing for around four months, was shown arrested by DB Police in a case filed in 2015 with Ramna Police Station in connection with carrying out subversive activities, Deputy Commissioner of DB (South) Md Shahidullah told. Syed Sadat Ahmed was picked up by LEA from the Banani Flyover area around 3:00 pm on August 22, his family says. He was forced out of his car and into a microbus under the Banani overpass, according to his father Col (retd) Syed Sahabuddin Ahmed. Sadat Ahmed was driving his car with his son Mehedi Zaman and a caretaker, his father said. "A microbus blocked their way under Banani overpass at 3 pm." Some plainclothes men got out of the microbus and forced Sadat inside their vehicle," his father said.<sup>32</sup>

23 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx>  
 24 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/28353/16-cops-sued-for-enforced-disappearance>  
 25 <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/03/30/281127#sthash.JTKmMHXh.dpuf>  
 26 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/banani-murder-two-suspects-shot-dead-1502347>  
 27 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/27487/murder-accused-killed-in-lakshmipur-gunfight>  
 28 <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/17094603/>  
 29 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/juba-dal-leader-killed-shootout-1453864>  
 30 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/missing-kalyan-party-leader-now-custody-1509415>  
 31 <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2017/10/25/db-suspended-kidnap-coxs-bazar/>  
 32 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1397966/> & Information collected by HRSS research desk.

# Violence against Women

**V**AW means “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”.<sup>33</sup> It’s a common and insidious phenomenon in Bangladesh. The nature of violence commonly committed involve physical and psychological torture, sexual harassment, assault, rape, dowry-related violence, coerced suicide and murder, acid throwing and family feud related violence. It remains one of the major social problems in contemporary Bangladesh. Inhuman attacks on women have become common and widespread across the country. The majority of women are victimized domestically by their husbands, in-laws and other family members. HRSS team tried to find out different categories and reasons of domestic violence against women in Bangladesh. The rate of reported violent acts against women has risen steadily and at an alarming rate, especially in 2017.



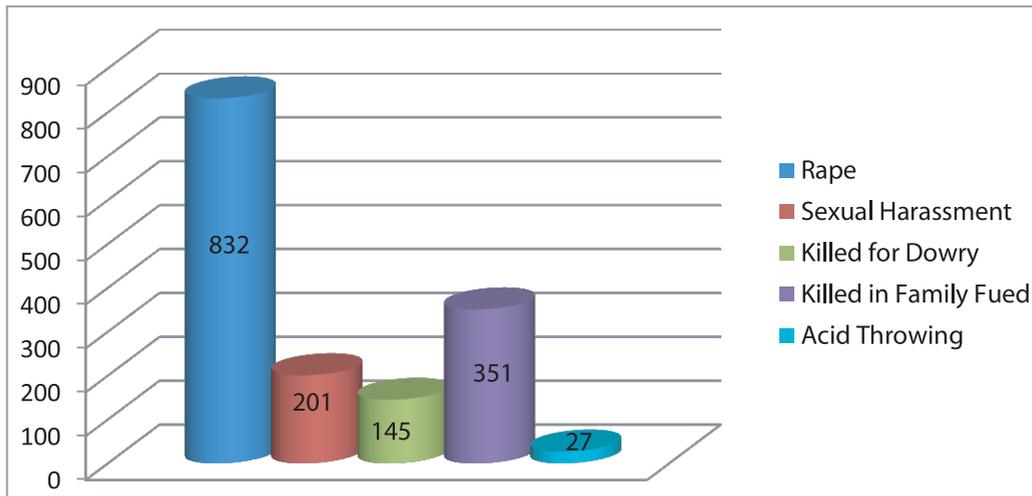


Figure 7: Violence against Women

Increasing rape incidents including various forms of violence against women and children had taken place in 2017. In most cases, women and children became victims of abduction, eve-teasing, torture for dowry, rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid throwing and physical and mental abuse. The most common manifestations of violence against women in Bangladesh between Jan and Dec'17 are detailed below:

## Rape

Rape is one of the severest forms of violence against women. In Bangladesh rape has increased steeply from Jan to dec'17. The increasing rate of rape is an alarming phenomenon and it depicts the vulnerable condition of women in the society. It is heinous offense. Section 376 of the Penal Code, 1860 states: "Whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment for life". It may be mentioned that sometimes rape is followed by murder, particularly when gang rape takes place.



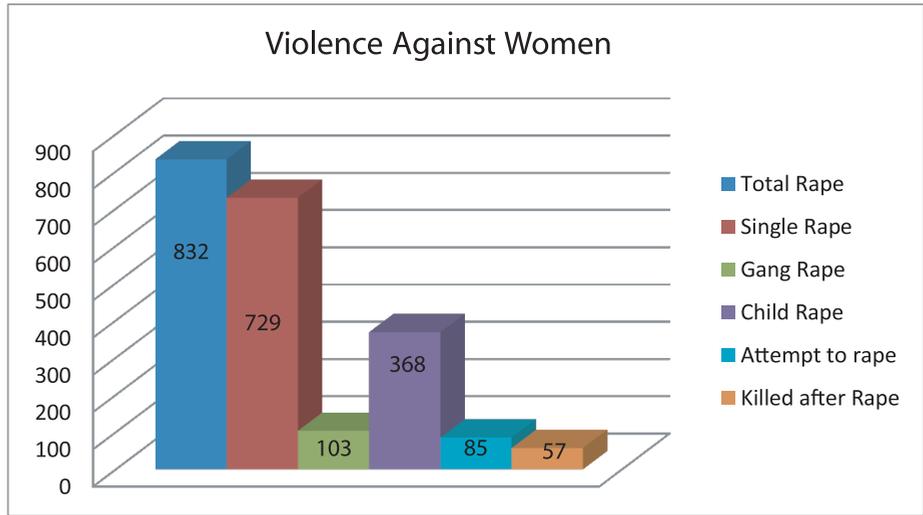


Figure 8: Statics of Female Victims of Rape

According to the source of Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the graph provides information about 'Rape' from Jan to Dec '17; a total number of 832 females were allegedly raped. Of them, about 729 were victims of single rape and nearly 103 were subjected to gang rape, around 368 were children below the age of 16 (including single and gang rape), Approximately 57 were killed after being raped. On the other hand, around 85 incidents have been attempted to rape.

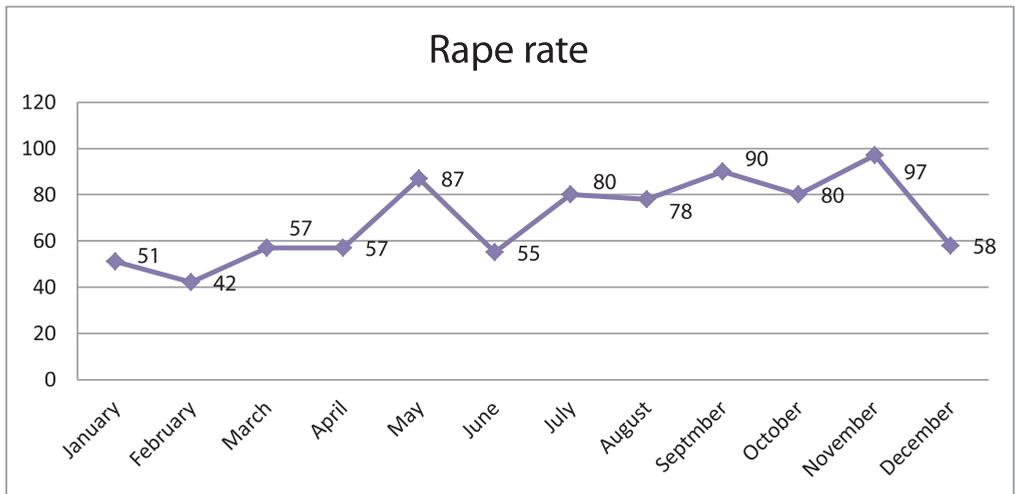


Figure 9: Monthly Comparison of rape from Jan to Dec '17

Reported cases of rape in 2017 are stated below: On Jan 04, 2017 a teenage schoolgirl was gang-raped by her friend and his two other acquaintances in Kalabagan area of the town. The victim, a tenth-grade student at a school in a village nearby, came to visit her friend in Pabna town to celebrate the New Year's Day, said Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, quoting family members of the victim. Her 16-year-old friend took her to his friend's house in Kalabagan area where the three teenage boys committed the crime, he added.<sup>34</sup>



On Jan 08, 2017 a woman, abandoned by her husband, was raped allegedly by a former union parishad (UP) chairman at Sonakandi village in Gouripur upazila. Quoting victim's family members, police said Dulal Ahmed, former chairman of Sohanati UP, along with six to seven associates allegedly picked up the victim, also the mother of one child, from her house on January'17. They later took the woman to Dulal's house and forcibly violated her overnight, Officer-in-Charge Delwar Ahmed of Gouripur Police Station said.<sup>35</sup>

On Jan 29, 2017, a 14-year-old schoolgirl was allegedly raped by a youth in the capital's Mirpur. The victim, a 10th grader and a resident of Mohammadpur, alleged that one Prince, 25, whom she met through Facebook, raped her at a residence after she had gone to meet him in Mirpur 1, said Sub-inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost.<sup>36</sup>

On Feb 02, 2017 a seven-year-old schoolgirl was raped allegedly by a college boy at Goshkhathi village in Nazirpur upazila of the Pirojpur. The victim is a Class II student of a local primary school in the village. The girl's father alleged that Amitab Sarkar, 19, an HSC first-year student of Goshkathi College, picked up his daughter when she was returning home from watching TV at a nearby house at night. He took her to a nearby bush and raped her.<sup>37</sup>

On March 01, 2017, a 12-year-old speech and hearing impaired girl was raped allegedly by her elderly neighbor at Kashiabari village in Aditmari upazila of the Lalmonirhat. Parents of the victim said locals could not take the girl to the 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.<sup>38</sup>

On March 12, 2017, a union parishad member was accused of raping a schoolgirl in Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan upazila. Kamal Mollah, a member of Baluchar Union Parishad, asked a woman, who is a neighbor, 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.<sup>39</sup>

On May 05, 2017, a 13-year 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.<sup>40</sup>

On Jul 07, 2017, a female model was allegedly raped in Savar's Sobhanbagh area. The 25-year-old victim filed a case with Savar Police Station against three persons. Police said Liton Mondal, a former source of police, brought two female models, including the victim, to Savar from the capital on 06 July, offering them a handsome amount for performing at musical programmes. Along with an accomplice, Liton, now involved in drug peddling, took them to a room on the first floor of a six-storey building in Sobhanbagh around 9:00pm. Liton raped one of the models in a room around 3:00am. The other model was confined to another room while Liton's accomplice stood guard outside.<sup>41</sup>

On Jul 16, 2017, Detectives arrested the president of Banaripara upazila unit Bangladesh Chhatra League from Kalibari Road of Barisal over raping a housewife. The arrestee was identified as Sumon Hossain Mollah. Victim's husband, hailing from Chittagong, a resident of Soliyabakpur area, also a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, filed a case accusing Sumon and his associate Mamun and two other unnamed people.<sup>42</sup>

On Sep 01, 2017 a college girl lodged a case with Shajahanpur police in Bogra against an Awami League leader for allegedly raping her for over a year. The complainant said that Morshedul Bari, president of Bhatra union Awami League and also chairman of Bhatra union parishad under Nandigram upazila had raped her at different hideouts in Cox's Bazar, Rajshahi, and Bogra for a year, on the promise of marriage and at times by threatening to harm her family.<sup>43</sup>

On October 06, 2017, a union parishad chairman, who was sued for raping and torturing a woman at his office in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila, is yet to be arrested. The woman is a mother of a two-and-a-half-year-old child. She alleged that police were not arresting prime accused Mozammel Hossain, chairman of Charbata Union Parishad, though he was moving freely. The victim alleged that the chairman's men repeatedly told her old parents to withdraw the case and threatened them with life and to drive them out of their village if they didn't do so. Her elder sister claimed that the men also offered them Tk 3 lakh to settle the issue.<sup>44</sup>

On Oct 28, 2017 the family of an 11-year old rape victim demanded justice in a case filed over the rape incident in Sherpur. Father of the victim alleged that the criminals involved are trying to release themselves from the case. As part of their ill attempt, they managed the doctors of Sherpur General Hospital for providing false report mentioning that no rape evidence was found in the medical test, alleged the victim's father. He also said that they have refused the report provided by the medical board of Sherpur hospital and appealed before the court for conducting second medical test at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital or elsewhere. Shuvro Saha, sub-inspector of Sherpur Sadar Police Station, also investigation officer of the case, said that he has prayed to the court for conducting a DNA test of samples including victim's clothes. He also said that the court in Sherpur placed one-day remand to the prime accused Jasim Uddin. The court also set for hearing on a petition filed for

conducting medical test again. The grade III girl was raped allegedly by Jashim at village Dashkahniya in Charsherpur union under Sadar upazila on October 6. Victim's family members said that Jasim Uddin, a resident of the same village who is a father of two children, chased the girl while she was returning from a local market in the afternoon and he forcibly took her in a paddy field. He later raped the girl. After being rescued by locals, the victim was taken to her house first. As her condition deteriorated, she was then admitted to Sherpur Sadar Hospital.<sup>45</sup>

On December 19, 2017 criminals raped four women of a family while robbing a house in Karnaphuli upazila of Chittagong. The victims filed a case accusing four unknown people under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Karnaphuli Police Station on 17 Dec. Police arrested two suspects in Karnaphuli area. They are Md Sumon alias Abu, 23, a mason, of Shahmirpur village in Karnaphuli, and Md Ismail, of Patiya upazila, said police. "One of the victims has already identified Abu, saying that he was there during the incident," said Jahedul Islam, assistant commissioner (Karnaphuli zone) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police. Quoting her, the police official said at gunpoint, the robbers raped the women, aged between 20 and 25, after looting their house. Of the four, three are wives of three Dubai expatriate siblings and the other is their husbands' sister, who came to visit her brother's house, said Jahed.<sup>46</sup>

## Dowry-Related Violence

Dowry-related violence is one of the most brutal forms violence committed against women, particularly in rural areas of Bangladesh. In Bangladeshi law, dowry has been given an extended meaning, and includes demands made before or after as consideration for the marriage.<sup>47</sup> The demand for dowry is punishable with imprisonment and /or fine according to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980. Sections 11(a), (b) and (c) of the Prevention of Repression against Women and Children Act 2000 (Amended in 2003) provides various punishments against perpetrators for committing dowry-related crimes. In spite of the existing laws, dowry-related violence increased sharply from Jan to Dec '17.



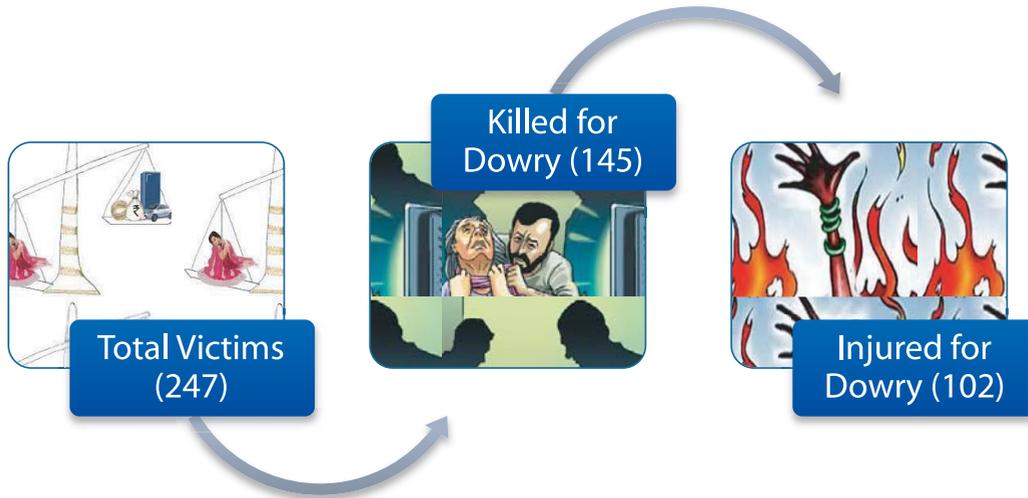


Figure 10: Statistics of Dowry Related Violence

The graph shows that a total 247 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported from Jan to Dec'17. Out of them, about 145 were killed, and 102 women were physically abused over dowry demands as victims of dowry-related violence.

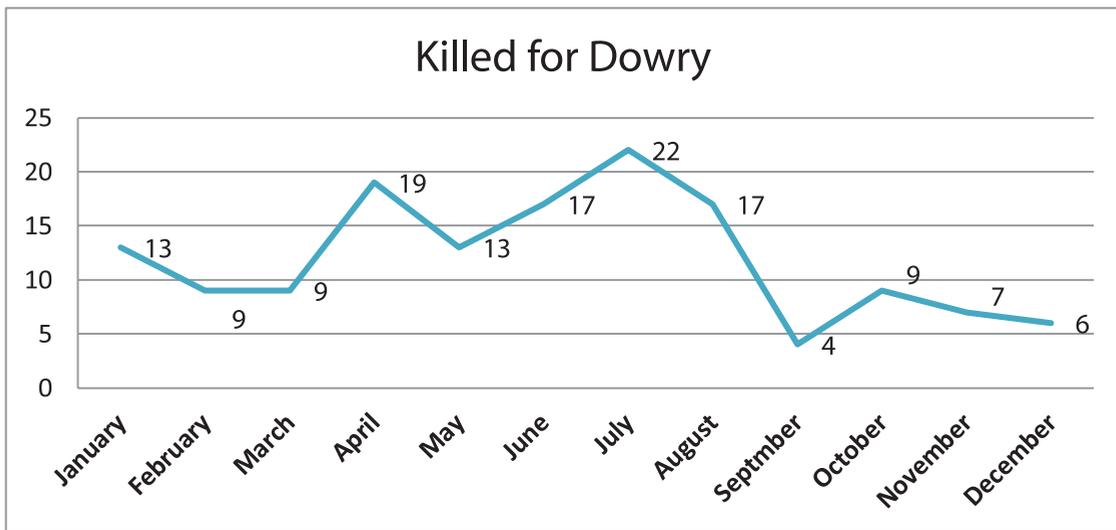


Figure 11: Monthly Comparison of killed for dowry in 2017

Some important incidents are given below: On March 07, 2017 a girl was 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.<sup>48</sup>

On April 13, 2017, a 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.<sup>49</sup>

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.<sup>50</sup>

On May 23, 2017, a 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 Rezwana Mia of Debipur village in Nawabganj upazila.<sup>51</sup>

On Jun 11, 2017, a housewife was allegedly beaten to death at Matinagar in Comilla sadar upazila for dowry. The victim was identified as Tania AktarTumpa, 20, mother of a child and wife of Juwel Mia. Tumpa's family members alleged that her husband along with his step-mother, father and two brothers used to torture her for dowry. All of them were involved in Tumpa's killing, they claimed.<sup>52</sup>

On July 01, 2017, a woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry in Pirgachha upazila of Rangpur. Locals caught and handed over the husband, Mizanur Rahman, 30, to police. Mizanur along with his cousin Shahidul beat up Minara Begum, 23, of village Mohishmuri, until she fainted. Later, they suffocated her with a rope and finally hanged her from a ceiling fan, said locals, adding that Shahidul managed to flee.<sup>53</sup>

On July 17, 2017, the Police arrested a man for allegedly cutting his wife's hair after torturing her as her parents refused to give him dowry. The arrestee is Hasanuzzaman Monu, 28, of Haridebpur village in Rangpur Sadar upazila. The victim is Roksana Begum, 22, daughter of Rafiqul Islam of Kashaipara village.<sup>54</sup>

On November 03, 2017, a pregnant housewife was strangled for dowry at Udaypur village in Kamarkhand upazila of Sirajganj, police said. Abdul Hamid, the husband of the victim, Rukshana Khatun, 30, was arrested on a charge of killing his wife. Officer-in-Charge Abu Obaida of Kamarkhand police, quoting the victim's family members, said Rukshana was often tortured by her in-laws for dowry. She was taken to arbitration several times for not meeting their demands, they alleged.<sup>55</sup>

On December 04, 2017, a college student was killed allegedly by her dowry-greedy husband at Katpatti of Jhalakathi town. The deceased, Suraiya Yasmin, 21, a degree student of Government Jhalakathi College, was the wife of Mainul Islam Akon Himu of Katpatti area in Jhalakathi Sadar. Police arrested Himu and he has confessed to killing his wife, said Md Tajul Islam, an officer in charge of Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station.<sup>56</sup>

On 27 December 2017, a Khulna University (KU) teacher was accused of torturing his wife physically and mentally for dowry. Jannat Ara Ferdous, the wife of Md Wahiduzzaman, an assistant professor of the KU Mathematics department, raised the allegation at a press conference at Khulna Press Club. Jannat, also a fourth-year student of Philosophy department of Jessore Govt MM College, said after their marriage on March 27, 2015, she and her husband started living in the rented house of Nirala Residential Area of Khulna city. However, they entered into a marital discord when Wahiduzzaman demanded Tk 10 lakh as dowry from her parents, she claimed. "He used to torture me mentally and physically for dowry," she said.<sup>57</sup>

## Acid Violence

Acid violence is a severe crime which has been occurring throughout Bangladesh, being committed mostly against women and girls. Section 4 of the Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2002 prescribes death penalty or rigorous imprisonment for life including a fine of taka not more than one lakh if anybody causes death or makes an attempt to cause death to any child or woman by using any burning substance. Despite such stringent legal provisions, women are recurrently facing acid violence. The law made it punishable offence to use, buy, produce, sell, import or transport acid without a license; however, a majority of the acid attacks on women occur due to the refusal of the proposal of love, marriage or sex scandals or over land disputes.

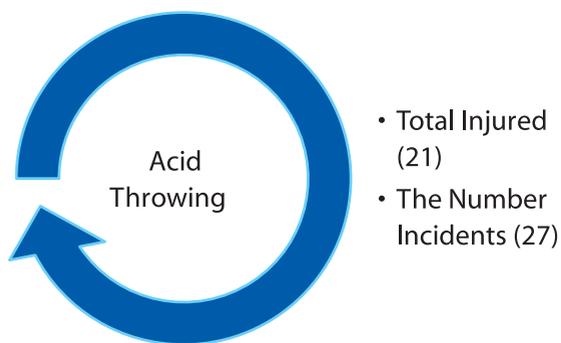


Figure 12 : Attacks Using Acid on Women and Girls

*The chart shows the scenario of using acid on women and girls. About 21 incidents of acid violence were reported from Jan to Dec'17, of them almost 27 women/girls were injured after throwing acid.*

Some important cases are cited below: On January 25, 2017, a girl who sustained acid burns was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). The victim is Rina Akhter, 18, daughter of Arab Ali of Mondolergati village in Kalmakanda upazila of Netrakona district. Sohagh Mia, 25, son of Kala



Chand of adjacent Baniapara village, used to tease the girl for long. He gave marriage proposal to the girl several times but the girl and her family refused, which made him angry, said Officer-in-Charge of Kalmakanda Police Station Abu Bakkar Siddique, quoting the girl's family members. Sohagh, a rickshaw puller, threw acid on Rina's face when she was in her house.<sup>58</sup>

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.<sup>59</sup>

On September 20, 2017, the man, who is alleged to have thrown acid on his wife in Chittagong city on September 14, was arrested by RAB-7 in Kafco Centre Bazar of Anwara upazila. Anwar Hossain, 28, threw acid on Sadia Sultana Liza, 24, employee of a beauty parlour, in front of Hridom Shopping Centre as she refused to give him money for his drug addiction, said victim's family.<sup>60</sup>

## Family Feud Related Violence (Domestic Violence)

Family feud (or Domestic Violence) includes incidents of willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, murder, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one against another partner. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of family feud is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other. However, some data on family feud related violence are given below from Jan to Dec'17:

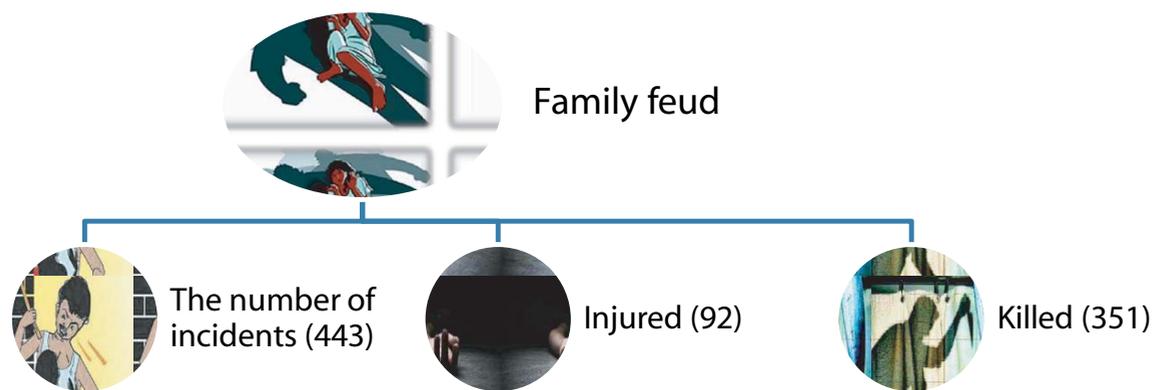


Figure 13 : Statistics of family feud

*The chart provides information collected by Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) which shows about 391 women were killed in the family feud, 92 females have been injured in reportedly 443 were incidents of the family feud from Jan to Dec'17.*

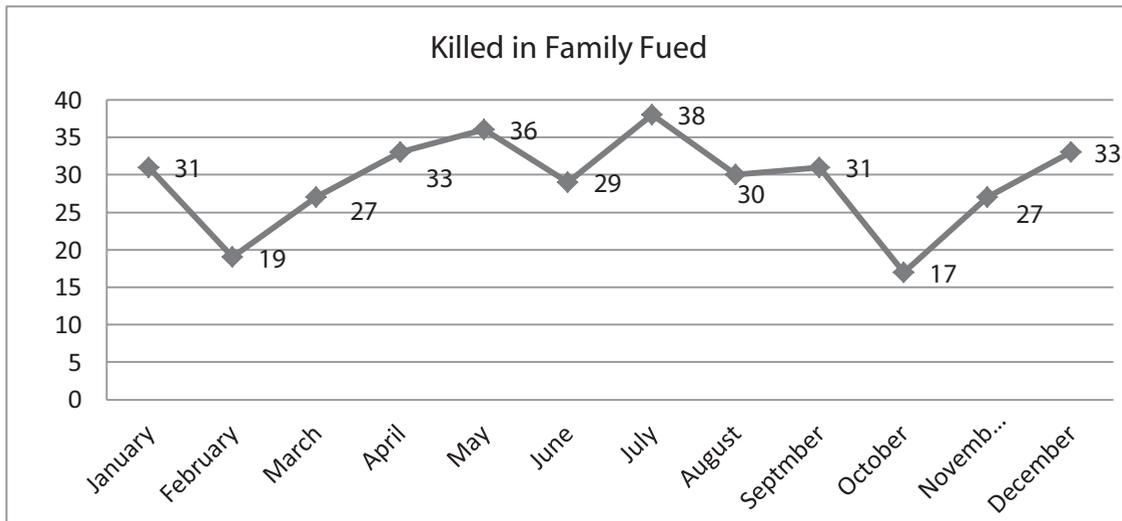


Figure 14 : Monthly Comparison of killing from Jan to Dec'17

Some important incidents are stated below: On January 29, 2017, a woman was allegedly killed by her husband in Munshipara area of Khulna Sadar. The deceased Sultana khatun Dulali, 24, had been living with her mother in e area as her second husband Nurul Haq, 48, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station.<sup>61</sup>

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.<sup>62</sup>

On March 03, 2017, a 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.<sup>63</sup>

On May 05, 2017, a 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.<sup>64</sup>

On Jun 08, 2017 a 35-year old housewife reportedly died in a Dhaka hospital, hours after she was taken to the hospital with fatal wounds. Shammi Akhter was badly injured when her husband, Titu Mia, beat and tried to strangle her by pressing her throat with a piece of scarf during an argument over his second marriage without taking concern from Shammi, said police quoting neighbours of the couple living in a rented house at Kalyanpur in Dhaka.<sup>65</sup>

On Jul 11,2017, a man allegedly stabbed his wife and four-month-old granddaughter in Nathpara area of Lohagara upazila in Chittagong. The deceased were identified as Pushpa Bala, 65, wife of Pethan Shil, and his granddaughter Sangita Shil.Mohammad Shahjahan, officer-in-charge of Lohagara police station, said Pethan Shil stabbed his wife, granddaughter and daughter-in-law Moni Bala Shil around 9:30pm over family feud, leaving the duo dead on the spot and Moni Bala critically injured.<sup>66</sup>

## Sexual Harassment

Harassment is any improper and unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation to another person. It may take the form of words, gestures or actions which tend to annoy, alarm, abuse, demean, intimidate, belittle, humiliate or embarrass another or which create an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.<sup>67</sup> It's also considered as gender discrimination and human rights violation against women. In Bangladesh, women are in vulnerable condition. Our society is governed by patriarchal attitudes. Gender discrimination leading to gender violence is deeply embedded in our social structure. Most Bangladeshi social institutions permit, even encourage, the demonstration of unequal power relations between the sexes. According to the Human Rights Support Society report, in Bangladesh, 201 females were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from Jan to Dec '17.



According to information gathered by HRSS, a total of 201 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from Jan to Dec '17. Of them, 130 were assaulted and 71 were stalked.

A number of vital cases are stated below: On Feb 12, 2017, at least five Dakhil examinees, three of them girls, were injured in an attack by stalkers in the Berir Matha area under Lakshmipur sadar upazila. The injured Rokonuzzaman, Tarek, Nilu Akhter, Sorna and Shumi, students of Nabiganj Islamia Dakhil Madrassah, received medical attention.<sup>68</sup>

On Feb 20, 2017, the Jagannath University authorities suspended a teacher following an allegation of sexual harassment of a female

Figure 15: Statistics of Sexual Harassment

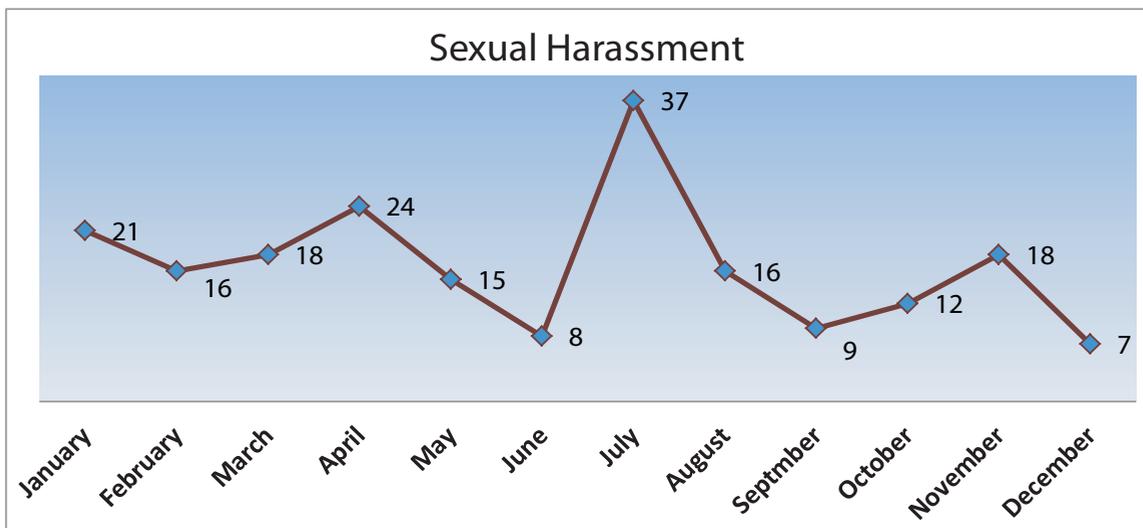


Figure 16 : Monthly Comparison of Sexual Harassment from Jan to Dec '17



student of the University, says an education ministry press release. The authorities formed a probe committee following the education minister's order.<sup>69</sup>

On Apr 25, 2017, a garments 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.<sup>70</sup>

On October 28, 2017, a female student of Nawabeki College in Shyamnagar of Satkhira district died by suicide after falling victim to a gang of stalkers. Joyshree Chakraborty, 17, killed herself at her Boyarsing village home under Shyamnagar upazila on October 25. Joyshree was the youngest daughter of Makhon Chakraborty. The victim's elder brother, Kajol Chakraborty, said Joyshree was a class XI student of the college. Shekhor Mondal, the 22-year old son of rice trader Ranjan Mondal of the neighbouring Barokupote village, had been stalking the girl on her way to college and back for some time. According to Kajol Chakraborty, it took a physical turn on the day of the incident. Shekhor, along with three to four accomplices, obstructed Joyshree's path when she was returning home from college. Kajol said Shekhor and his accomplices reached Karmaker Para, the area of the incident, on their motorcycles at 11:00 in the morning. At the time, the location was almost deserted. They then snatched her scarf. At one stage, the miscreants assaulted her physically and cut off her hair with a pair of scissors. Joyshree's cries led to local people gathering on the scene and that is when the criminals fled.<sup>71</sup>

On Aug 03, 2017 two local leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of ruling Awami League, were expelled from the organization over an incident of sexual harassment at Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj. The expelled leaders were Sohel Rana Shanto, 26, vice-president of Sirajganj district unit Chhatra League, and Ashraful Islam Don, 32, its president of Natuarpara union unit. The harassed victim, a resident of Bogra, filed a case against 10 people citing six names with Kazipur police station.<sup>72</sup>



**An injured student is being taken to an ambulance on Institute of Health Technology campus in Rajshahi. At least five female students were assaulted by Chhatra League leaders of the institute. Photo: Collected**

On September 23, 2017, a gang of stalkers beat up a Class X girl on her way to school at Londa village in Kalapara upazila under the Patuakhali, leaving her unconscious. A gang led by Rahat, son of Jasim Khan of the village, had been disturbing the girl on the way to her school, and even gave her bad proposal, said school sources and police.<sup>73</sup>

On Aug 03, 2017, two local leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of ruling Awami League, were expelled from the organization over an incident of sexual harassment at Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj. The expelled leaders were Sohel Rana Shanto, 26, vice-president of Sirajganj district unit Chhatra League, and Ashraful Islam Don, 32, its president of Natuarpara union unit. The harassed victim, a resident of Bogra, filed a case against 10 people citing six names with Kazipur police station.<sup>74</sup>

On November 09, 2017, locals accused a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader of Bhedarganj upazila of sexually harassing six women, secretly filming the acts to blackmail them and then sharing the footage on the internet. One of the women, being subjected to ignominy, had left the area; two had stopped going to college while the in-laws of another woman made her leave her husband's house. The accused is Arif Hossain Hawladar, 22, who was the general secretary of Narayanpur BCL. Residents of Narayanpur said Arif, filmed a neighbor's wife taking a shower with a hidden camera. He later threatened the woman with sharing the clips online and assaulted her sexually. Arif again secretly filmed the acts and continued to blackmail her, they added. The clips started spreading on November 15 and were shared on social media many times in the following days.<sup>75</sup>

On November 16, 2017, the Institute of Forest and Environmental Science of Chittagong University (CU) formed a fact-finding committee following an allegation of sexual harassment against one of its teacher. The three-member committee is headed by Prof Gias Uddin Ahmed, said the institute's Director Prof Md Danesh Miah. It has been asked to submit the report as early as possible. He said one of the institute's students filed the complaint a few days ago.

“So far, we have got three such complaints against the teacher,” he said. The teacher decided to refrain from all academic activities till submission of the report, Prof Danesh added.<sup>76</sup>

On December 06, 2017, the Institute of Health Technology in Rajshahi has been closed for an indefinite period after Chhatra League leader’s assaulted female students leaving at least five of them injured. Of the victims, three were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. But they left the hospital in a hurry fearing further attacks, said a number of students, requesting not to be named. At least five women were pushed to the ground, dragged and assaulted in front of police and Principal Sirajul Islam, they added. A group of BCL men led by Jahidul Islam, president of the institute unit of the pro-Awami League student body, attacked the women when they were going to their dorm accompanied by the principal around 11:30am, they alleged.<sup>77</sup>

- 33 General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993..
- 34 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1051687/>
- 35 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-raped-former-chairman-1342276>
- 36 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1070315/>
- 37 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/schoolgirl-raped-pirojpur-1355188>
- 38 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/challenged-girl-raped-elderly-man-1369417>
- 39 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=57327&cat=10>
- 40 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/14963/teenage-apparel-worker-raped-in-capital#sthash.5tFz8x2J.dpuf>
- 41 <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/07/07/51392/>.
- 42 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/19963/banaripara-bcl-president-held-for-rape>
- 43 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/23212/al-leader-accused-of-raping-college-girl-for-a-year>
- 44 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/rape-noakhali-accused-chairman-still-large-1472800>
- 45 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/27191/minor-rape-victim-seeks-justice-in-sherpur>
- 46 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1389846/>
- 47 The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000
- 48 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/girl-hacked-death-husband-1372417>
- 49 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/housewife-murdered-dowry-1390984>
- 50 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/15485/man-tortures-wife-to-death-in-narsingdi#sthash.UnRg2AdX.dpuf><http://www.newagebd.net/article/15485/man-tortures-wife-to-death-in-narsingdi>
- 51 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-killed-dowry-1409821>
- 52 <http://www.theindependentbd.com/post/98907>
- 53 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/woman-killed-dowry-rangpur-1426720>
- 54 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1257186/>
- 55 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/pregnent-woman-strangled-dowry-1486465>
- 56 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/college-girl-killed-dowry-1500307>
- 57 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1395331/>
- 58 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/acid-thrown-girl-1350862>
- 59 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=62361&cat=1/>
- 60 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/woman-burnt-acid-attack-husband-1465345>
- 61 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=51309&cat=9/>
- 62 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10293/housewife-baby-girl-killed-in-gaibandha>
- 63 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1096645/>
- 64 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/man-kills-wife-mirpur-1401286>
- 65 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/17383/husband-tortures-wife-to-death#sthash.ll0qTnR2.dpuf><http://www.newagebd.net/article/17383/husband-tortures-wife-to-death>
- 66 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/19600/man-kills-wife-granddaughter-in-chittagong>
- 67 <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/uncoordinated/antiharassment.html>
- 68 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/9052/5-injured-as-stalkers-attack-dakhil-examinees>
- 69 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1085783/>.
- 70 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1157873/>
- 71 <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/country/2017/10/27/275764>
- 72 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/21242/two-bcl-leaders-expelled-over-sexual-harassment-in-sirajganj>
- 73 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/stalkers-beat-girl-unconscious-1466794>
- 74 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/21242/two-bcl-leaders-expelled-over-sexual-harassment-in-sirajganj>
- 75 <http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-first-page/article/17112084/>
- 76 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/cu-teacher-accused-sexual-harassment-1492471>
- 77 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/bcl-rampage-rajshahi-1501363>



# Attack on Journalists

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, states that: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek to receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.<sup>78</sup> Journalists are facing an “unprecedented” wave of attacks in Bangladesh. Regrettably, individuals are not always able to criticise the government publicly without the fear of reprisal and the government often attempts to impede criticism by shutting down a number of electronic and print media in view of their critical reports against the government. The numbers of attacks on journalists, according to Human Rights Support Society report is increasing day by day. The chart below provides information about the total number of attack on a journalist.

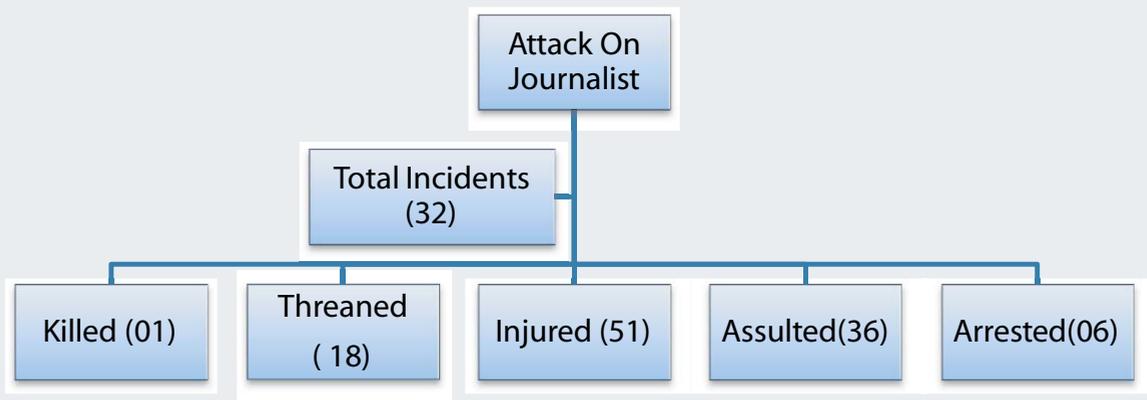


Figure 17 : Attack on Journalist

*The situation of freedom of expression's under threat in Bangladesh. The rights to freedom of expression are constantly violated while human rights activists and journalist are facing systematic oppression under the state actor. The declaration of draconian laws against the journalist, human rights defenders, online activists, and bloggers are extensive. Suppression of uncooperative voice has become a regular practice due to a culture of impunity, lack of accountability and destructive justice delivery mechanisms. The following issues are major concerns for freedom of opinion and expression in Bangladesh.*

*The graph illustrates an attack on journalists. According to human rights support society's documented statistics, a journalist was killed, about 51 were injured, nearly 18 were threatened, 06 arrested and 36 were assaulted from 73 incidents in 2017. Selected cases are as described below:*



In 2017, the cabinet of Bangladesh has declared a draft of the “Digital Security Act”, which amends parts of the “Information and Communication Technology Act 2006”, including the controversial section 57, which was criticized for stifling freedom of expression. The nature of crime and the provision of punishment for “digital spying” stated in section-32 of the proposed law will indignantly freedom of speech and the fundamental spirit of democracy, it will also create an environment that

may stifle press freedom, allowing to the proposed law, if anyone collects and keeps secret information of any government office in his or her computer or digital and electronic devices, it would be tantamount to digital or computer spying. And the person will face harsh punishment a maximum of 14 years in jail or a fine of up to 2.5 million Taka or both. If that person commits a crime again, he or she will face life imprisonment or a maximum fine of 10 million Taka or both. The law also stipulates, anyone spreading negative propaganda against the Liberation War or the Father of the Nation will risk being sentenced up to 14-year’ jail or a fine up to 05 million Taka or both. In this context, the right to freedom of expression is particularly under the barrier in an embryonic condition of fear and uncertainty. Due to this draconian law the writers, bloggers, journalist, newspapers, TV channels, social media users will be affected by Digital Security Act. Legal experts of the country have already remarked that this Act is a draconian law. There is no need for formulation of a new law in the name of Digital Security Act, as the existing laws are sufficient to ensure the state security. This law will harshly limit freedom of expression of citizens, which is contrary to the constitution.<sup>79</sup>

On Jan 06, 2017 Bangladesh Chhatra League men allegedly beat up a journalist at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur. Sajib Hossain, 22, a BRUR correspondent of jagobdnews.org and a public administration student of the university, took treatment at a local hospital after he was hit with tree branches, he said. The BCL activists also threatened him with dire

consequences if the incident is published, he added. Witnesses said the attack was carried out after Sajib reached the campus when the BCL men of the university unit were with admission seekers. Police detained Maruf Bhuiyan, assistant general secretary of the unit; Al-Amin, organizing secretary; and Partha Pramanik, an activist, on the spot, said Ershad Ali, in-charge of BRUR police outpost.<sup>80</sup>

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 vandalized a few.<sup>81</sup>

On March 25, 2017, a 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.<sup>82</sup>



**Journalist Abdul Hakim Shimul was killed during an intra-party clash of ruling Awami League at Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj, the daily's Shahzadpur correspondent on 02 Feb 17**

On Feb 02, 2017 a journalist of Samakal died, hours after he along with two others received bullet wounds during an intra-party clash of ruling Awami League at Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj. Abdul Hakim Shimul, the daily's Shahzadpur correspondent, died on way to a Dhaka hospital from Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra, said Rezaul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shahzadpur police station. Three people including Abdul Hakim, who were on duty on the spot, were bullet-wounded while 12 others injured in a clash between two rival groups of the ruling party at Monirampur of Shazadpur, he said.<sup>83</sup>

On June 22, 2017, some unidentified people attacked journalists at a press conference arranged by a faction of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The incident took place at the Pirojpur unit office of the party at Post Office Road in the town. Around ten journalists were confined inside the office at that time. Journalists present there said they went to the BNP office as district leader barrister M Sarwar Hossain called a press conference there against the district unit president and general secretary. Around 50 people suddenly attacked them with iron pipes and sticks in the presence of police. They saved themselves by locking the door of the office. Sarwar claimed that youths from the ruling party attacked the journalists under the influence of some BNP men.<sup>84</sup>

On December 17, 2017, some of the staff of Dhaka University (DU) registrar office allegedly assaulted the campus correspondent of the Daily Ittefaq. Kabirul Islam Kanon, also a third-

year student of mass communication and journalism department, later made a written complaint to Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman. According to it, he went to the building in the morning to verify an allegation against the officials of coming late to work. He said while he was filming the empty office rooms around 11:00am, a group of staff attacked him. The office hour starts at 9:00am. They also snatched his phone and hurled abusive words claiming that they were BCL activists, Kabir alleged. He identified the attackers as section officers Nizam Uddin and Ahsanul Kabir, and personal secretary to the registrar Sheikh Giyas Uddin.<sup>85</sup>

On December 11, 2017, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists allegedly ransacked the office of Rajshahi Government College Reporters' Unity and beat up three journalists for not hanging the portraits of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the office. A group of BCL men led by the college unit BCL Organising Secretary Ratan Ali led the attack at 11:30am, and ransacked the furniture of the office located at room no 103 of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Building on the campus, said the journalists. They then beat up the unity's General Secretary Mim Obaidullah, a reporter of local daily Sunshine; Office Secretary Babar Mahmud, a sub-editor of Padmatimes24.com; and Executive Member Mofazzal Hossain, a reporter of Barendraexpress.com. The journalists complained that the BCL men also forced them out of the office and put it under lock and key.<sup>86</sup>

On 07 April 2017, supporters of Awami League-backed UP chairman candidate Badol Talukdar tied journalist named Md Sohedul 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.<sup>87</sup>



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

On November 29, 2017, four journalists were beaten up allegedly by some Jubo League men, led by the son of Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sherif, in Pabna's Ishwardi. They were gathering information about the preparation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit there. The victims are Saikat Afroz, 35, Pabna correspondent of Somoy TV, Rizvi Joy, ATN News correspondent of the district, Partho Hasan, Pabna correspondent of DBC News, and ATN News cameraman Milon Hossain, 25. The four were admitted to Pabna General Hospital. Of them, Saikat and Rizvi are undergoing treatment there.<sup>88</sup>

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,



A journalist shows his injuries received during the police action, picture from daily star

Anamika, Sajedur, Riman and Didar. The injured were admitted to a local hospital. Earlier, on May 26, two JU students Nazmul Hasan Rana, 24, of the 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 of the main entrance and Joy Bangla Gate separately around noon.<sup>89</sup>

On July 05, 2017, a journalist was assaulted allegedly by the son of Jhalakathi municipality mayor. The victim, Manik Acharjo, Jhalakathi correspondent of Asian TV and the daily Janata, is also a lawyer of Jhalakathi court, said Akkas Shikder, secretary of Jhalakathi Press Club. "I reached

Kumarpatti of Jhalakathi Sadar on the way to court when Liton Talukder, son of the mayor, hit me with his motorbike from behind. As I fell down, he kicked and slapped me," said Manik. He was admitted to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor informed that he is out of danger.<sup>90</sup>

On July 03, 2017 a case was filed against a journalist of Chittagong under section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act. The journalist is Tofiqul Islam Babor, senior staff reporter of The Daily Samakal of Chittagong bureau. The case was filed with Rangunia Police station by Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury Milton, Islampur Union Parishad Chairman of Rangunia upazila and local Awami League leader known as a follower of Dr. Hasan Mahmud, publication secretary of Bangladesh Awami League. The Samakal published news titled "Khuner Mamlar Asamira Hasan Muahmuder Cadre" on July 22, 2017, after the attack on the motorcade of BNP's general secretary Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir. According to the case statement the newspaper published a report, which was inaccurate and had misinformation on Dr. Hasan Mahmud and UP Chairman Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury Milton, said Imtiaz Md Ahsanul Quader Bhuiyan, officer-in-Charge (OC) of Rangunia Police Station. The case was filed under ICT Act as the news also published on Samakal's online version, said the OC. On July 18, a group of miscreants carrying stones sticks and sharp weapons attacked the motorcade of Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir at Ichhakhali Bazar area while the BNP leaders were going to landslide affected Rangamati to distribute relief.<sup>91</sup>

On July 14, 2017, local Jubo League men allegedly assaulted a journalist of Bangla daily Prothom Alo while he was covering news of vote rigging at a polling center during the by-election of Paharpur union parishad (UP) in Bijoy Nagar upazila of the Brahmanbaria. Locals and witnesses said supporters of AL-backed chairman candidate Abul Kalam Azad led by Kawsar Bhuiyan, joint secretary of Bijoy Nagar upazila unit of Jubo League, stormed into



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

Shezamura Humayun Kabir Government Primary School polling center around 10:00am and started stuffing ballot boxes. "At one stage of vote rigging, Kawsar and his men swooped on me as I was covering the incident from a close distance," said Shahadat Hossain, Brahmanbaria correspondent of Prothom Alo, who was injured by the attackers. Shahadat said as he entered the polling center Jubo League leader Kawsar asked him to leave the place immediately when suddenly Kawsar's uncle Kalam Mia, who was inside booth number 5, came out and started beating him and drove him out.<sup>92</sup>

On Jul 09, 2017, leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League beat up a journalist at Rajshahi University campus while he was taking photographs of Chhatra League's vandalism on a bus at the university's main entrance. The injured journalist, Arafat Hossain, is a second-year student of mass communication and journalism department of the university and also the Rajshahi University Correspondent of The Daily Star. He is now undergoing treatment at ward 8 at Rajshahi Medical Collage Hospital.<sup>93</sup>

On December 07, 2017, accusing Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman of treason by "making derogatory comments" on Bangabandhu and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, an



Awami League leader of Natore has filed a case seeking Tk 1,000 crore in damages. Lawyer Malek Sheikh, organizing secretary of Natore AL, lodged the case with Natore Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court. After a hearing, the court ordered Natore Sadar Police Station to investigate the matter. The plaintiff said Mahmudur, while speaking at a seminar at the Jatiya Press Club on December 1, made defamatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and their family. He said Mahmudur insulted and lied about Bangabandhu's family, termed Bangladesh a "colony of India", and claimed that the present government was illegal. The complainant said the acting Amar Desh editor insulted Bangabandhu's ideals and offended the prime minister and her family.<sup>94</sup>

On Aug 01, 2017 Khulna journalist Abdul Latif Morol, who was arrested under section 57 for a Facebook post over the death of a goat, secured a bail. Khulna senior judicial magistrate Nusrat Jabin passed the bail order a day after the journalist was arrested. Latif, the Dumuria upazila correspondent of Khulna's local daily Prabaho, was arrested under Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act after Subrata Faujdar, Dumuria correspondent of Jessore-based local daily Spandan, filed a case stating that the reputation of state minister for fisheries and livestock Narayan Chandra Chand had been harmed by a Facebook post of Latif. State minister for fisheries and livestock Narayan Chandra Chand distributed poultry and goats among some poor people of Dumuria on 29 July. The goat given to a certain Zulfiqar Ali died that night and this was reported in the local newspapers. The case was filed after Latif shared the news on his Facebook.<sup>95</sup>

On October 28, 2017 the convoy of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, heading towards Cox's Bazar for her visit to Rohingya refugee camps, came under attack at Mohammad Ali Bazar near Feni district town. At least 45 people were injured and some 30 vehicles damaged in the incident. When the cars were crossing the area around 4:45pm, a group of 40 to 50 youths with iron rods, sticks and brick chips swooped on the convoy, reported this correspondent, who was with the motorcade. Chanting "Joy Bangla" slogans, they broke glasses of cars, including that of Channel i, DBC, Ekattor, Baishakhi, Ekushey TV channels and The Daily Star and Prothom Alo, and beat up dozens of BNP leaders and activists. Nearly 15 journalists were also assaulted even after they disclosed their professional identities.

On Oct 01, 2017 Sadar upazila Awami League general secretary Abul Kashem, also upazila parishad chairman of Uttar Joypur, and his followers assaulted Lakshmipur Kantha editor Rafiqul Islam for publishing corruption news against him. In a separate incident, a local goon, Suman, filed a 'false' case against district correspondent of Dainik Khobor Ismail Hossain Jobu. Former general secretary of the press club Md Kausar and other local journalists from different print media and electronic media demanded proper investigation and stern steps against the culprits.<sup>96</sup>

78 <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

79 Data collection from different national daily of Bangladesh

80 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-beat-journo-rokeya-university-1341628>

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

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

83 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/8354/journalist-killed-in-intra-al-clash-in-sirajganj#sthash.MAsbX3Pw.dpuf>

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

85 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/du-registrar-office-staff-assault-journo-1506610>

86 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-beat-three-journalists-ransack-reporters-unity>

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

88 <http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-last-page/article/17115887/>

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

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

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

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

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

94 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/amar-desh-editor-sued-treason-1502095>

95 <http://en.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/news/155239/Khulna-journalist-gets-bail-in-Act-57-case>

96 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/25237/protest-held-against-attack-on-journalists>

# Attack on Minorities

Attacks against religious and ethnic minorities, by individual and transnational extremist groups, had increased in Bangladesh in 2017. Although the government has taken steps to investigate, arrest, and prosecute perpetrators, threats and violence have heightened the sense of fear among Bangladeshi citizens of all religious groups. On the other hand, the party in power was allegedly tangled in most of the cases based on several national dailies. According to 'The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights' declaration, "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language".<sup>97</sup> It also states that "the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or another opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or another status."<sup>98</sup>

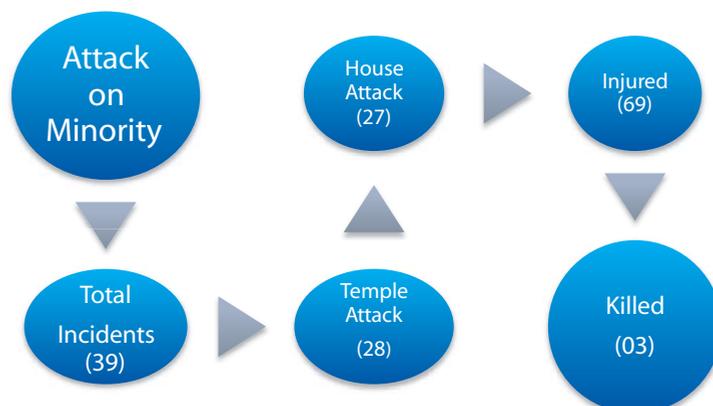


Figure 18: Statistics of Attacks on Minority

The above graph provides information about the incidences of attacks on the minority. It shows that at least 03 men were killed, 27 houses and 28 temples were partially or fully destroyed and 69 minority members were injured in a total of 39 incidents.



**Fire to Santal Homes by law enforcement agency: A police sub-inspector and a constable who set fire to Santal homes in Gaibandha in November'16 have finally been identified. Picture- Al-Jazeera.**

Some significant cases are stated below: On Jan 04, 2017 Miscreants vandalized 20 idols in three temples in Jamai Bazar Dhumuria area of Tungipara in Gopalganj. Locals said the miscreants swooped on 'Durga Temple', 'Hari temple' and 'Radhagobindha temple' and damaged 20 idols. Mahamudul Haque, officer-in-charge of Tungipara police station, said the incident might have been taken place following enmity over setting up a shop in the area.<sup>99</sup>

On Jan 26, 2017, a woman of Santal community was found murdered in Ghoraghat upazila of the Dinajpur district. The deceased was Shefali Hembram, 34, daughter of late Tukra Hembram of Raghunathpur village. Police recovered the body and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for an autopsy. Police said criminals strangled her to death.<sup>100</sup>

On March 09, 2017 a police sub-inspector and a constable who set fire to Santal homes in Gaibandha in November'16 have finally been identified. They are SI Mahbubur Rahman of Detective Branch and Constable Sajjad Hossain of Gaibandha Police Lines. The two have already been suspended and departmental proceedings against them are underway, the police said in two reports submitted before the High Court. Several other people were also involved in the November 6 arson attack, but they could not be identified yet. They too will face legal action if they can be identified in future, the reports said. Doha-based TV Al Jazeera was first to air a video, apparently shot on a mobile phone, showing police members' involvement. The footage, broadcast on December 11, shows a man in a pink T-shirt trying to set a Santal shanty on fire in front of some armed policemen. Later, a policeman in uniform and another man in a half-sleeve shirt and black pants join the first man. Soon, the shanty catches fire. The video went viral and local media ran reports based on the footage.<sup>101</sup>

On June 22, 2017, Miscreants damaged two idols of Hindu gods after breaking into Joshaitola Temple in Hindupara village under Tanore upazila of Rajshahi. Villagers in the morning found



**Locals set fire on houses at Thakurpara, a Hindu-dominated village, in Rangpur Sadar during a clash with police on Nov 10, 2017. – Prothom Alo**

two idols of Sree Krishna and Josaimata were displaced and broken, said Sagar Chandra Adhikari, temple committee president. He said local Hindus are having a feud and legal battle with a man in the area over a piece of khas land beside the temple.<sup>102</sup>

On June 30, 2017, Miscreants damaged five idols of Hindu god and goddess at a house at Chapair village in Kaliakoir upazila. Local people said unidentified miscreants entered the house of Shanti Gopal Pal, an idol-maker, in the dead of night and vandalized five idols. When Shanti Gopal entered the room on Jun 30 mornings he found five idols damaged.<sup>103</sup>

On Aug 24, 2017, burglars took away gold and silver ornaments from statues in Joykali Mandir (temple) of the pabna headquarters. President of the temple committee Binoy Jyoti Kundu said the thieves entered the temple through the back gate around 4:10pm and looted three tolas of gold and 75 tolas of silver from the statues. Officer-in-Charge of Pabna Police Station Abdur Razzak said they are trying to arrest the criminals following the CC camera footage.<sup>104</sup>

On Aug 25, 2017, unidentified attackers vandalized idols of Kali at a Kali temple Phultala cremation ground in Dinajpur town. They also damaged under construction of the idol of Durga at Masimpur Raipara Durga Mandap. Police have arrested one Bappi Shahriar, 32, in connection with the attack. He is the son of late Moslemuddin of Kasba Hamzapur of the town.<sup>105</sup>

Selected cases are as described here: Oct 30,2017A temple was vandalized allegedly by a local Awami League leader and his followers at Shilpara in Shivalaya upazila of Manikganj. Locals said that around 70 to 80 men, led by district unit treasurer of ruling Awami League Rahim Khan and his nephew Alal Hossain, launched an attack on the temple and began

tearing it down around 4:00am. President of the Shilpara Temple Committee Surjay Shil alleged that Rahim Khan had been trying to occupy the site of the temple for a long time. On information, police rushed to the spot and the attackers fled the scene, said officer-in-charge of Shivalaya police station Md Monirul Islam. A case was filed against eight people, including Abdur Rahim Khan, his nephew Alal Hossain, also chairman of Shibalaya union parishad, and another 50 to 60 people in connection with the incident, added the OC.<sup>106</sup>

On Nov 10, 2017 two men were killed and 60 others, were injured in a clash between local Muslims and police protesting at a Facebook post allegedly 'defaming' Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) at village Thakurpara of Paglapir area in Rangpur Sadar . The deceased were identified as Habibur Rahman, 27 and hamidul Islam a resident of village Khaleya. The local administration imposed Section 144 in Paglapir and its adjacent areas to calm the situation. Police detained five persons and filed a case against unnamed 1,000 people with Kotwali police station over the matter, said Moktarul Islam, officer-in-charge (operations) of the police station. Locals and police said Titu Roy, a resident of Thakurpara, a Hindu-dominated village, allegedly uploaded an image and posted a status on his Facebook account defaming the Prophet (PBUH) some days back. Protesting at the status, Muslim devotees formed a human chain at Paglapir Bazar on Rangpur-Dinajpur Highway after Jumma prayer. Locals from other villages also joined the human chain. The agitated devotees later headed towards Thakurpara and police intercepted them on the way. Being barred, they went berserk, vandalised 10 to 15 Hindu houses, set fire on five houses and a warehouse in the village. Police charged batons, fired about hundred rounds of rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse the mob. Chase and counter-chase took place, leaving at least 60 people, including police personnel injured. Habibur Rahman and hamidulislam also got injured by law enforcement agency during the clash, died on the way to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital.<sup>107</sup>

- 98 ibid
- 99 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/01/06/98571.html>
- 100 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1067205/>
- 101 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/arson-attack-santal-homes-probe-identifies-2-cops-1373662>
- 102 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/miscreants-damage-idols-rajshahi-1424362>
- 103 <http://www.theindependentbd.com/post/101521>
- 104 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/burglars-loot-gold-pabna-temple-1453708>
- 105 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/22829/temples-damaged-in-dinajpur>
- 106 <http://www.rtvonline.com/crime/25092/>
- 107 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=91380>

# Political Violence

**P**olitical violence is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. The present government assumed power through a controversial election in 2014 and has been playing oppressive role against opposition. No democratic party is allowed to conduct constitutionally guaranteed political activities in any corner of the country. This is clear sign of immature political culture.<sup>108</sup> Since there is a little political space for oppositions, most of the reported violence includes intra-party clashes over political dominance, collecting subscription, land grabbing etc. The leaders and activist of opposite political parties are being killed and tortured by the leaders and activists of the ruling party from Jan to Dec '17.

Political Violence			
<b>Number of Incidents</b> (443)	<b>Injured</b> (3931)	<b>Bullet hit</b> (132)	<b>Killed</b> (71)

Figure 19 : Statistics of Political Violence

*The Figures are presented above explain the situation of political violence from Jan to Dec '17. According to HRSS, a total of 71 people were killed, 132 were bullet hit, and almost 3931 people were injured due to clash over political interests. Most of the political violence occurred among the groups of the ruling party over political dominance or tender.*

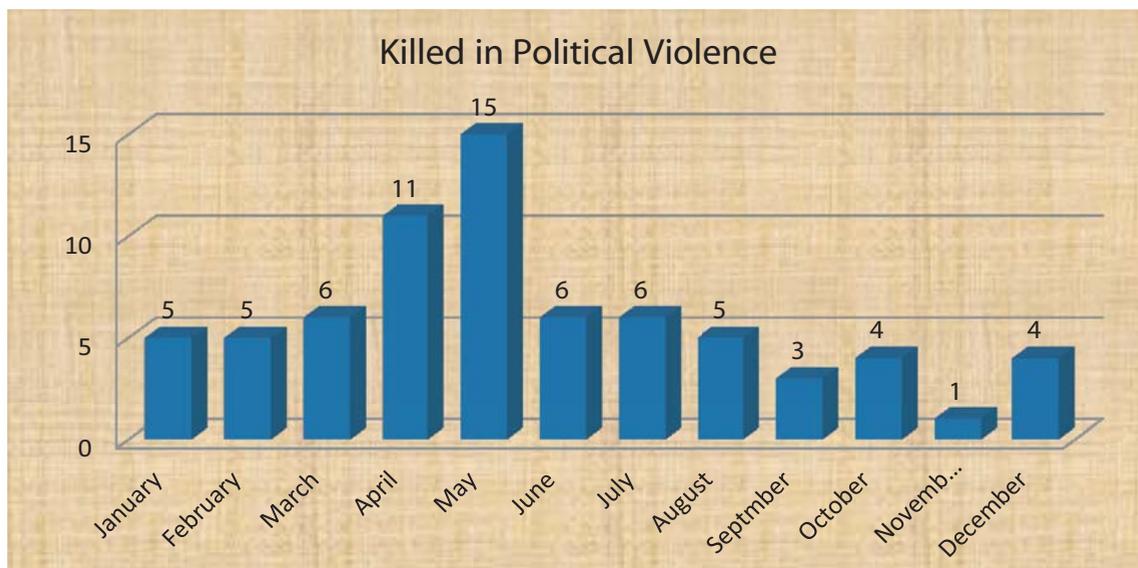


Figure 20 : Monthly Comparison of Killing from Jan to Dec '17

**Selected cases are as follows:**

On Jan 05, 2017, at least 20 people including journalists were injured when the activists of Awami League and its front organizations reportedly attacked the BNP men in the Barisal city. The BNP men “came under attack” when they were holding a meeting at its office marking the third anniversary of January 5 national elections, that the party has dubbed “democracy killing day”. “A group of Awami League and Chhatra League activists attacked us when we were holding the meeting,” said Mojibor Rahaman Sarwar, secretary of the Barisal city unit of BNP.<sup>109</sup>

On February 07, 2017, a Rajshahi University (RU) student was beaten up allegedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) RU unit activists as he refused to join a programme of BCL on the campus. Shilu Hossain, a masters' student of mass communication and journalism and resident of Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Hall.<sup>110</sup>

On Apr 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.<sup>111</sup>

On Jun 09, 2017, a young man was shot to death and two others received bullet injuries in a clash between two factions of Awami League (AL) in Charamsura area of Sadar upazila of Munshiganj over establishing supremacy. The deceased was identified as Masud Dhali. Yunus Ali, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said.<sup>112</sup>

On July 22, 2017, two Bangladesh Chhatra League activists beat up a student at Jahangirnagar University. Sadekul Islam Timon, a first year student of drama and dramatics, was attacked in a room of AFM Kamal Uddin Hall.<sup>113</sup>



**Khaled Ahmed Litu, - A factional clash of Chhatra League has claimed yet another life**<sup>114</sup>

On July 17, 2017, BCL activist Khaled Ahmed Litu was shot dead in a classroom of Beanibazar Government College in Sylhet, around an hour after two factions of the student front clashed on campus over establishing supremacy. The 23-year-old was a supporter of Pavel Mahmud, hospitality affairs secretary of Sylhet district BCL, said the unit's General Secretary Rayhan Chowdhury.<sup>115</sup>

On Aug 19, 2017, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Sylhet city unit beat up a teacher of Britania Women's College in front of the college in Taltola area. Asad Chowdhury, a teacher of the philosophy dept. Witnesses said six to eight BCL activists led by Sylhet city unit Organizing Secretary Sajal Das attacked Asad around 2:00pm.<sup>116</sup>

On Oct 01, 2017 an attack on a private hospital by the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League left at least five people injured at Ramganj in Laskshmipur. The list of the injured include at least three patients said Mizanur Rahman, manager of Prantik Hospital owned by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Ramganj branch secretary Mizanur Rahman Bhuyan, The manager complained that BCL activists led by Ramganj upazila BCL president Faisal Mal and general secretary Mehedi Hasan Shuvo reached the hospital riding 15 to 20 motorcycles Oct 01, 2017 night and vandalised the hospital. He said BCL leaders were demanding a large amount of money as extortion and the attack on them was the outcome of denial to provide the money.<sup>117</sup>

On October 16, 2017 the six BCL activists, who were wounded in factional clash in Chittagong Government College, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Three of them are the students of Haji Mohammed Mohsin College. Police and college sources said there had been a longstanding conflict between two groups one led by Mahmudul Karim and the other by Jubo League activist Nur Mostofa Tinu over establishing domination on the campus.<sup>118</sup>

**Police baton-charge a Chhatra League activist during a clash between two factions of the pro-Awami League student body it's adjacent to the Chittagong Government College on October 16, 2017.**





**A scene of the intra-party clash of Awami League activists on Court Road in Khagrachhari town On Nov 01, 2017 Photo: Star**

On November 04, 2017, a local Jubo League leader was beaten allegedly by some BNP men at Durgapur village in Aditmari upazila, Lalmonirhat. A case was filed in this connection, said OC Hareshwar Roy of Aditmari Police Station. The victim is Afzal Hossain Nannu, 43, publicity secretary of Durgapur union unit of Jubo League.<sup>119</sup>

On December 07, 2017 two students died of their injuries at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, around half an hour after they were hacked allegedly by some rival Chhatra League men on Moulvibazar Government High School ground. The dead, Shahbab Rahman, 23, was from Hospital Road in Moulvibazar town and Mahi Ahmed, 18, was from Durlobpur village in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila. Shahbab was a student of Moulvibazar Government College and Mahi was an SSC candidate of the school.<sup>120</sup>

On Dec 15, 2017, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of ruling Awami League, allegedly carried out an attack on the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed student body, while placing floral wreath on the Chittagong University campus. Chhatra Dal alleged that at least three of their supporters were injured in the attack that took place around 9:00am as they went to place floral wreath at the Martyrs Monument, marking the 47th Victory Day.<sup>121</sup>

108 Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2015,

109 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/20-hurt-al-men-attack-barisal-bnp-office-1340842>

110 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/ru-bcl-men-beat-student-1358056>

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

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

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

114 Picture source- the daily star

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

116 <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-beat-teacher-sylhet-1451308>

117 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/25235/bcl-leader-leads-attack-on-hospital-owned-by-jcd-leader>

118 <https://www.jugantor.com/last-page/2017/10/17/164017/>

119 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/jubo-league-leader-beaten-bnp-men-1486405>

120 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/rivals-kill-2-students-moulvibazar-1501807>

121 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1388496/>

# Border Killings

**B**angladesh, Myanmar and India, three neighboring countries are located in the South and South East corner of Asia. There are various issues of conflict among these three countries; among these the issues over border dispute is considered as prime, because of killing of Bangladeshi nationals by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP). BSF has been constantly violating the right to free movement of Bangladeshi Nationals living near the borderline. The killing of Bangladeshi citizens by BSF at the Bangladesh-India frontiers is rising at an alarming rate. Report shows that BSF members are involved in frequent killing, torturing, abducting, beating, stoning etc. to the people for silly reasons. Such activities degrade friendly relation between Bangladesh and India gradually. Collected data also show that very often members of the BSF members enter into Bangladesh territory without legal permission and attack Bangladeshi people residing along the border.



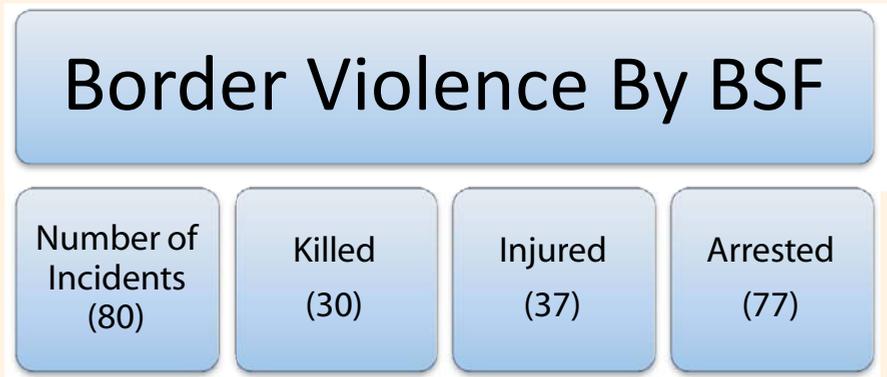


Figure 21 : Violence in Border by BSF between Jan and Dec '17

The given chart provides data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS between Jan and Dec '17, roughly 30 Bangladeshi citizen were killed, 37 injured, and 77 arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) from 80 incidents.



Figure 22 : Monthly comparison of a total killed in border By BSF in 2017

Border Violence By BGB (Myanmar Border Guard Police)	Number of Incidents (03)
	One Killed
	One Injured
	Arrested(04)

Figure 23 : Violence in Border by BGP in 2017

*The given bar chart gives data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS, roughly 04 Bangladeshis citizen were arrested one injured and one killed by Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) in a total 03 incidents.*

Some important cases are mentioned below: On Jan 07, 2017 a Bangladeshi national, was tortured to death by members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Chakulia border in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga. The deceased was identified as Bakul Mandal, 38, son of late Soda Ali Mandal of Phulbari village of the upazila.<sup>122</sup>

On Feb 10, 2017 Members of Indian Border Security Force shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader and injured another near Datbhanga border in Kurigram's Roumari upazila. The deceased is Tulu Mia, 60, son of late Asmat Ali of Kauarchar village in the upazila. The injured is Shifat Hossain, 35, son of Mozahar Ali of Dharmapur village in the same upazila.<sup>123</sup>

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.<sup>124</sup>

**These Rohingya women and children have been left in India's Angrail area on the Ichamati River opposite to Putkhali border near Benapole as Indian Border Security Force tried to push them into Bangladesh territory while BGB foiled the attempt. Pic: DStar**



On Apr 23, 2017 a Bangladeshi youth was shot dead by members of Indian Border Security Force at Gilabari border point in Bholahat of Chapainawabganj. The deceased is Saidul Islam, 28, a resident of Shikari village, on the spot.<sup>125</sup>

On Jun 20, 2017 Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot two Bangladeshi teenagers dead at Hashkhali area in India. The boys Sohel hossen, 21, and Harun-or-Rashid, 22, of Maheshpur upazila of the Jhenidah were about to cross the border with cattle when BSF personnel fired at them.<sup>126</sup>

On Sept 24, 2017 a Bangladeshi young man was tortured to death by members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Dabri border area in Hariपुर upazila, Thakurgaon. The deceased was identified as Abdur Razzak, 22, son of Abdus Sobhan, a resident of Sarkerbosti in Baliadangi Upazila.<sup>127</sup>

On October 15, 2017 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) foiled the Indian Border Security Force's (BSF) attempt to push in about 50 Rohingya women and children into Bangladesh through Putkhali border in Benapole. BGB members have been put on high alert and their patrol along the bordering areas has been increased to prevent any attempt by BSF to push the Rohingya people into Bangladesh, said Lt Col Tariqul Hakim, commander of BGB-21 Battalion in Khulna. The Rohingya women and children, who were gathered by BSF for push-in into the Bangladesh territory, have been staying in the jungles on Angrail border in India since early morning on Saturday, BGB and local sources said. With hardly any provision for food, they are in an inhuman condition. The BSF is gathering many Rohingya women and children on different bordering areas of India, BGB sources said.<sup>128</sup>

On Nov 28, 2017 the Border Security Force of India shot dead a man along Boro border in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, said BGB officials in Dinajpur. The victim was identified as Mozaffar Hossain, 32, son of Abu Taher, of Ator village under the upazila, Dinajpur.<sup>129</sup>

On Dec 19, 2017 a Bangladeshi cattle trader was allegedly tortured to death by Indian Border Security Force personnel. Fellow cattle traders rescued him in critical condition at Bangladesh-India border near Mastarbari border point in Patgram of Lalmonirhat, said Manik Hossain, a member of the Jongra union parishad in Patgram. Rashidul died while he was being taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, Manik said. Rashidul is the son of one Taslim Uddin of Mominpur under Jongra union.<sup>130</sup>

122 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/bangladeshi-killed-bsf-chuadanga-1342018>

123 <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/248537/>

124 <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/03/21/278937#sthash.NSLXszHx.dpuf>

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

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

127 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/youth-tortured-dead-bsf-thakurgaon-1467466>

128 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bsf-bid-push-50-rohingyas-1476856>

129 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=94081&cat=9/>

130 <http://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/priyo-desh/2017/12/21/579969>

# Violence against Children

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter “Convention”) establishes standards for the protection of girls from physical and psychological violence at home, in the community and at the hands of State officials. The Convention uses both feminine and masculine pronouns in its provisions and it stresses in Article 2(1) that: “State parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child’s.”<sup>131</sup>

Bangladesh has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (September 2, 1990). Despite having such existing legal framework, the violation of child rights is a common problem in Bangladesh. It occurs within the family, at home, and at schools where children may face sexual abuse or harassment. Girls in particular face the threat of child marriage. In schools, children might be 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. The rights of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development”.<sup>132</sup>

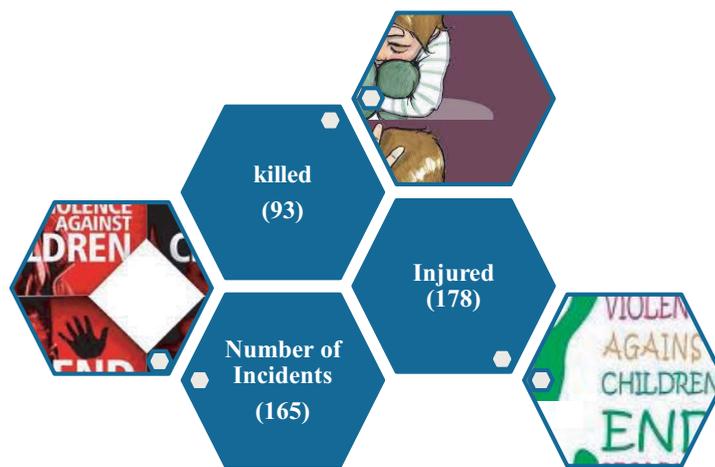


Figure 24: Statistics of Violence against Children

According to human rights support society's report, the graph presented below regarding violence against children from Jan to dec'17, shows that around 93 children were killed and 178 children's have been critically injured in a total 165 incidents.

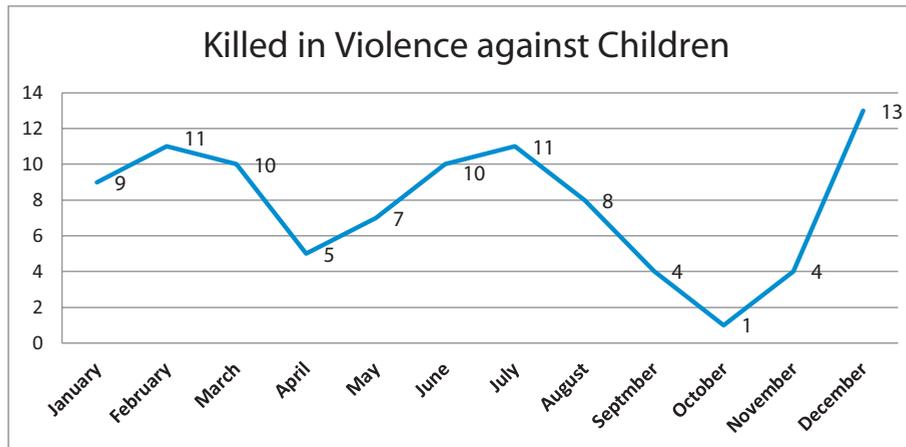


Figure 25 : Monthly Comparison of killing from Jan to Dec '17

Some important cases are stated below:

On Jan 30, 2017, a schoolboy was stabbed to death in the capital's Jatrabari. The victim, Ridwan, 11, was a seventh-grader of Narinda High School. The incident happened around 3:30 pm when Al Amin, a local youth, stabbed Ridwan outside his house in Golapbagh area, Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, told. The victim was rushed to a local hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, the OC said.<sup>133</sup>



A "transport worker" cutting the hair of 12-year-old Nazmul Haque with his right arm tied. Another person films the torture on the child. Picture- prothomaalo



On Feb 02, 2017 a schoolboy was hacked to death by unidentified miscreants at village Sholabaria of Santhia upazila in Pabna. The victim was identified as Ovi, 13, a class VII student of Ataikula High School, and son of Imran Hossain Babu, a resident of the village. Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Ataikula police station, said local people spotted the body of Ovi lying near his house and informed police.<sup>134</sup>

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.<sup>135</sup>

On February 21, 2017 a 12-year-old boy working as a bus helper suffered torture and degrading treatment for several hours in Rajshahi's Puthia upazila at the hands of other staff who accused him of damaging wires of an onboard CD player. Despite voicing his innocence, Nazmul Haque of Baroipara village was beaten, tufts of his hair cut and face smeared in burned engine oil, all the while tied to a truck, said police and witnesses.<sup>136</sup>

On Apr 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.<sup>137</sup>

On Apr 26, 2017, a 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.<sup>138</sup>



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

On Jun 03, 2017, a woman and her nine-month-old daughter were murdered allegedly by her husband at Pashchim Joynagar village in Daulatkhan upazila of Bhola. The victims were identified as Shahnaz Begum, 30, wife of Billal Hossain, a truck driver of the village, and their daughter Mohona.<sup>139</sup>

On July 02, 17 a housemaid were brutally tortured by housewife in pollabi, Dhaka. The victim is Sabina Yasmin (11). She was now undergoing treatment at One Stop Crisis Center of Dhaka Medical College Hospital at critical juncture. The child said that he joined the house at Mirpur DOHS under Pallabi Police 6 months ago. From then on, the housewife beat him strangely.<sup>140</sup>

On Nov 01,2017, a four-year-old boy was tortured brutally on allegation of stealing a mobile phone set at village Char Bamani of Raipur in Lakshmipur. The victim, Piyash,

was admitted to Lakshmipur General Hospital around 10:00pm and later was shifted to Noakhali General Hospital as his condition was deteriorated. He bore injuries on his skull, face and eyes, the physician said. On November 27 on allegation that she had stolen a mobile phone set in Narsingdi. Md Sohel Rana, father of Piyash, said Rakib Hossain, 22, son of Touhidul Islam, of the village, lost his mobile phone set and called Piyash over suspicion. Rakib took him behind Char Bamani Kindergarten and beat up Piyash, Sohel said. He also tortured Piyash by putting him into a sack, he said.<sup>141</sup>

On 4 Dec, 2017 an eight-year-old girl was allegedly tortured and strangled to death in Uttarpara area of Shreepur upazila. The deceased was identified as Mousumi Aktar, daughter of Quoddus Mia. On information, police recovered the body from their house with wound marks on neck and her private parts.<sup>142</sup>

131 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

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

133 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/schoolboy-killed-city-1353730>

134 [http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=51909&cat=1/.](http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=51909&cat=1/)

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

136 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/12-yr-old-boy-tortured-over-trivial-matter-1365049>

137 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/mother-kills-son-playing-cricket-sun-1391530>

138 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/madrassa-boy-beaten-eating-class-1397044>

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

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

141 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/27494/minor-boy-tortured-over-theft-allegation-in-lakshmipur>

142 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=109176>

# Violent Attack

‘Attack’ is a general terms and applies to the beginning of hostilities, especially those definitely planned. Attacks against civilians are an increasing concern in Bangladesh. There has been a wave of violent attacks against civilian people, politicians, atheists, secular bloggers, academics, gay rights activists, foreigners, and members of religious minorities throughout the year. The state is obliged to protect the citizens from all kinds ‘of criminal attack. ‘The obligation of protection’ requires the state to prevent violations of rights of citizens by third parties. This obligation also implies that the 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 attacks, the number of incidents is gradually increasing day by day. "Between Jan and Dec 2017, Bangladesh has experienced a series of violent attacks by extremists. HRSS tried to track all kinds of violent attack which took place in 2017.



**Violent  
Attack**

- Injured (511)
- Bullet Hit (77)
- Killed (528)
- Total Incidents (766)

Figure 26: Statistics of Violent Attacks

The chart provides information about the violent attacks on armless civilians has been summarized above. Statistics shows, a total of 766 incidents of violent attack happened and 528 were killed in those attacks, 511 were seriously injured and around 77 were hit by a bullet.

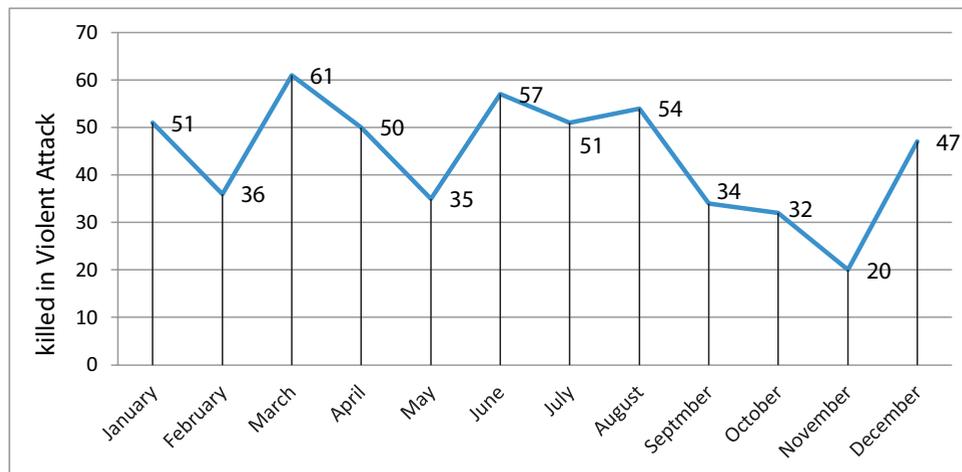


Figure 27: killed in Violent Attack from Jan to Dec '17

Some of the incidences have been stated below: On January 12, 2017, unidentified criminals shot dead a college teacher in Badlibari area under Labour upazila of the Natore district. The deceased was Mosharraf Hossain, 50, a lecturer of Maharkaya Degree Collage in the upazila, and son of Mohammad Ali of Peergachha under Bagha upazila in Rajshahi.<sup>143</sup>

On Jan 17, 2017, a union parishad (UP) member has hacked mercilessly in Mathbaria upazila of the Pirojpur district. The victim is Kaiyum, a member of ward No-4 of Baro Machua union. Police said Kaiyum was going to his village home from Mathbaria upazila headquarters on Monday night when some men hacked him with sharp weapons in Dakkhin Bandar area in the upazila and fled the scene.<sup>144</sup>

On February 03, 2017 a union level Jubo League leader was killed in a bomb and gun attack in Khulna's Phultala upazila. Deceased Jony Mollah, 30, was the vice-president of Sadar Union Jubo League, a pro-Awami League youth organization, in the upazila.<sup>145</sup>

On February 05, 2017 a local leader of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal was shot to death by miscreants at Amirpur in Batiaghata upazila. The deceased was identified as Nazrul Islam, general secretary of Amirpur union unit of Jubo Dal and son of M Hashim.<sup>146</sup>

On February 08, 2017, a former member of Kulkandi Union Parishad (UP) was shot dead by a gang of unidentified criminals in Islampur upazila of the Jamalpur. The deceased was identified as Samed Ali, 55, son of Shayeb Ali of Jigatola village of the UP in the upazila.<sup>147</sup>

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.<sup>148</sup>

On March 24, 2017, a 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.<sup>149</sup>

On April 10, 2017, a 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.<sup>150</sup>

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.<sup>151</sup>

On April 24, 2017, a 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.<sup>152</sup>

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.<sup>153</sup>

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.<sup>154</sup>

On Jun 01, 2017 unknown assailants stabbed a freedom fighter to death in the capital's Jatrabari area. Jahangir Alam Sarder, 65, a freedom fighter commander of Comilla, worked as a managing director of a security company, said Jatrabari Police Station OC Anisur Rahman.<sup>155</sup>

On Jun 21, 2017, a highway police assistant superintendent was found dead in a wayside bush in the capital's Roopnagar after he went out for duty. Most of the valuables and belongings of victim Mizanur Rahman Talukder of Highway police (Savar circle), who was in official pants but in a civil shirt, were with the body, causing confusion over the motive of the killing.<sup>156</sup>

On Jul 16, 2017, college boy was killed and his brother sustained critical injuries in an attack allegedly by a moneylender and his men in Gabtoli upazila, bogra. The deceased, Sohag Chandra Sarkar, 17, son of Amulya Chandra Sarkar of Chawk Katuli village in the upazila, was a student of Bogra Polytechnic Institute.<sup>157</sup>

On Aug 28, 2017 unidentified assailants have shot a trader dead in the capital's Shewrapara. Anisur Rahman, 40, a construction material supplier, was shot in his head and hand around 9:00pm on 28 Aug.<sup>158</sup>

On Oct 20, 2017, an activist of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti was shot dead by miscreants in Kamolchhari Christianpara area of Khagrachari Sadar. The deceased was identified as Samayun Chakma, 45.<sup>159</sup>

On Dec 03, 2017, a leader of pro-BNP youth organization Jubo Dal was shot dead by unidentified persons in Chittagong city. The dead, Md Harun, 48, son of late Chittagong BNP leader Dastogir Chowdhury's brother Alamgir Chowdhury, was also an owner of ST Transport in the city's Kadamtali, police said. Local BNP leaders and police sources said Harun was the joint convener of Sadarghat Jubo Dal.<sup>160</sup>

On Dec 15, 2017 unidentified miscreants shot a local leader of a faction of United People's Democratic Front to death in Rangamati Sadar. The deceased was identified as Plotho Chakma, 45, a resident of Kawkhali upazila in the Rangamati.<sup>161</sup>

143 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/college-teacher-shot-dead-1344613>

144 <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/country/2017/01/17/200702>

145 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/02/03/102381.html>

146 <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/02/05/268106>

147 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1077385>

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

149 <http://bangla.samakal.net/2017/03/24/279618#sthash.M73zN14A.dpuf>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

158 <https://www.dailyinqilab.com/article/93910/>

159 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/26607/jss-man-shot-dead-in-khagrachari>

160 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/ctg-jubo-dal-man-shot-dead-1499782>

161 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/30595/updf-leader-shot-dead-in-rangamati>

# Abduction

Abduction means the crime of taking away of a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.<sup>162</sup> Originally the word abduction is applied only to such taking away of women and children, but nowadays in Bangladesh the term is also applied for an adult male. It is explicitly distinguished from kidnapping, which requires an element of force or threat of force that is a grave violation of human rights. Abduction is common in present-day Bangladesh. The number of victims, according to HRSS report is increasing day by day. Between Jan and Dec '17, the occurrences of abduction increased alarmingly all over the country. The graph below provides information about the total number of abduction.

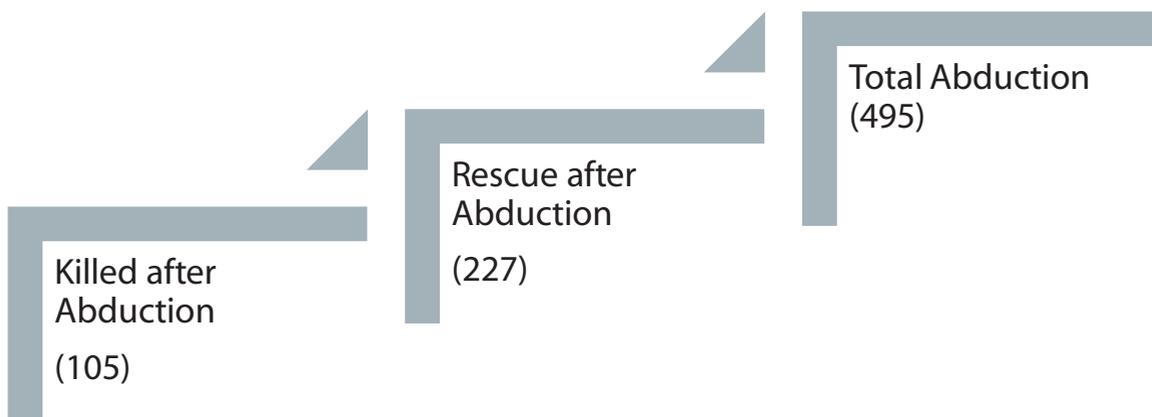


Figure 28 : Statistics of Abduction in 2017

The above chart describes information about abduction cases between Jan and Dec '17 in Bangladesh. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), a total 495 people were abducted and among them, 105 were killed after the abduction, and nearly 227 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

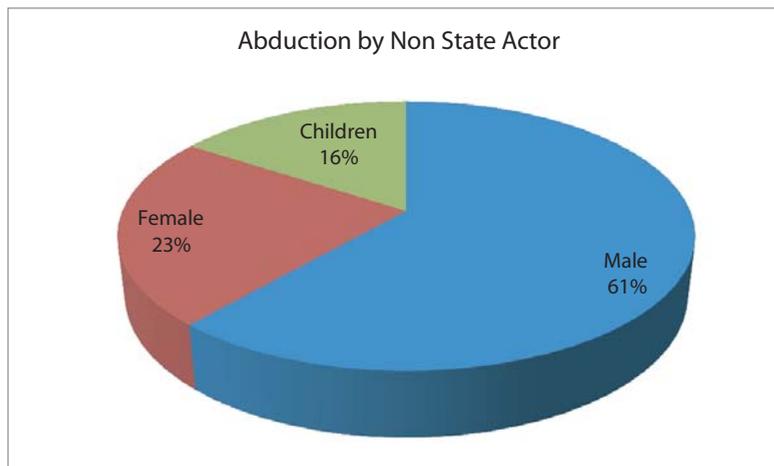


Figure 29 : Categorization of Abduction in 2017

*The above pie chart illustrates information about the abduction. According to information gathered by HRSS from Jan to dec'17, a total of 495 people were abducted in the different area of the country, among them approximately 304 were male, roughly 113 were female and almost 78 were children.*

Selected cases are as follows: On January 01, a 2017, an elderly Hindu man was found dead at Mongolgram village in Faridpur upazila of Pabna, three days after he went missing on Jan 28. The deceased, Anil Kumar, 60, a money lender and son of late Mrinmoy Kumar of the village, was also the owner of vast inherited cultivable land.<sup>163</sup>



Five year old Sumiya was rescued after 24 days of her abduction in kamrangirchar (02 april to 27april)

On January 30, 2017, a teenage girl who was abducted from Ghatail upazila in 2015 was rescued from the Benapole border in Jessore 17 months after her disappearance. Members of RAB rescued her with the help of Indian Border Security Force (BSF), Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB), local police and immigration police. Rab Commander Muhammad Mohiuddin Faruki produced the girl before the journalists, saying that she was trafficked to India after abduction by a gang of human traffickers on August 17 in 2015. Later, she was sold to a brothel in Delhi, Faruki said.<sup>164</sup>

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.<sup>165</sup>

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.<sup>166</sup>

On Apr 27, 2017, the throat-slit body of a three-year-old boy was found at village Munshigaon of Ranisankail upazila in Thakurgaon. Crime squad 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.<sup>167</sup>



**Maroof Zaman, former Bangladesh ambassador to Vietnam, has been missing since the evening of December 4, 2017**

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. 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.<sup>168</sup>

On Jun 28, 2017, pirates kidnapped four fishermen along with two trawlers near Moktar canal of the River Meghna in Manpura area. Local people said that gang of sea robbers of notorious Kalam Bahini swooped on two trawlers and looted valuables while the fishermen were catching fish at Moktar Canal point at about 5:00am. They also kidnapped

four fishermen - Kamal, Bayejid, Baten and Neju from the two trawlers, said Oliullah Kajol, chairman of South Sakuchia union.<sup>169</sup>

On Dec 4, 2017, former diplomat Muhammed Maroof Zaman, who served Qatar and Vietnam as ambassador, went missing while going to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to pick up his daughter. At about 7:45pm, he called home from an unidentified number and informed house helps that some people would come to take his computer. CCTV footage showed that shortly after the phone call, three men went to his house at about 8:05pm. They took his laptop, home computer's CPU, camera, and a smart-phone. A general diary was filed by his daughter on December 5 with the Dhanmondi police station. Police officials said they were still in search of him.<sup>170</sup>

On July, 03, 2017, Farhad Mazhar, a poet, and social activist, claimed he was forced into a minibus by three men while walking near his home in Dhaka last week. He was found about 16 hours later in a town more than 120 miles (200km) from the Bangladesh capital.<sup>171</sup>

On October 08, 2017 Police recovered the decomposed body of a Jubo League leader, who had been missing for the last two months, from Birab Khalpar area in Narayanganj's Rupganj. The body of Monir Hossain, 25, organizing secretary of Jubo League's ward-2 unit of Kanchan municipality, was found inside a buried sack. Monir, son of Sirajuddin of Birab Khalpar area, had gone missing on August 9.<sup>172</sup>

On November 10, 2017, a pharmacist for Sanofi-Aventis pharmaceutical company, Jamal disappeared after leaving his home in the capital's South Banasree area. Following the incident, his father, Siddiqur Rahman, filed a General Diary (GD) at Khilgaon police station.<sup>173</sup>



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



Missing journalist Utpal Das found after over two months

On December 19, 2017, Utpal Das, who had been missing since October, was found in Narayanganj. A black microbus dropped him off in front of Shahjalal filling station in Aduria of Bhulta around midnight, said Mostafizur Rahman, additional police superintendent of Narayanganj. Utpal, a senior reporter of purboposhchimbd.news went missing on October 10. His phone was found switched off since he talked to his mother the same day. The incident sparked a huge outcry among journalists, rights activists, and social media users. Utpal's family and Khugesta Nur E Naharin, editor of the portal, filed two general diaries with Motijheel Police Station in this regard. In the general diaries they said Utpal called her mother on October 10 informed her that he was at his office.<sup>174</sup>

162 <https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/abduction/>

163 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/missing-elderly-man-found-dead-1338904>

164 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1070965/>

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

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

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

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

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

170 <http://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/first-page/2017/12/06/574118>

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

172 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/missing-jubo-league-mans-body-found-1473733>

173 <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2017/11/11/2-missing-persons-return-home/>

174 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1390451/>

# Public Lynching

**L**ynching is a premeditated extrajudicial killing by a group. The term is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob in order to punish an alleged transgressor or to intimidate a group. Lynching is the practice of murder by extrajudicial action. It is an extreme form of violence by an informal group. In Bangladesh, an alarming number of people has been killed in different places in public lynching due to lack of respect for law, mistrust of the security forces, people are taking law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice any other way. As a result, the incidents of public lynchings have risen. Human Rights Support Society believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

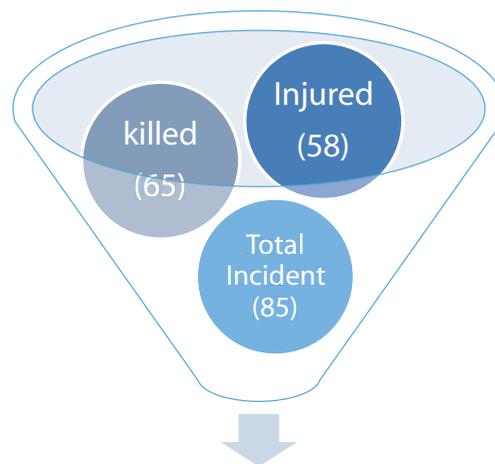


Figure 30 : Statistics of Public Lynching from Jan to Dec'17

*The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases from January to December 2017. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 58 people were injured and nearly 65 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total of 85 incidents.*

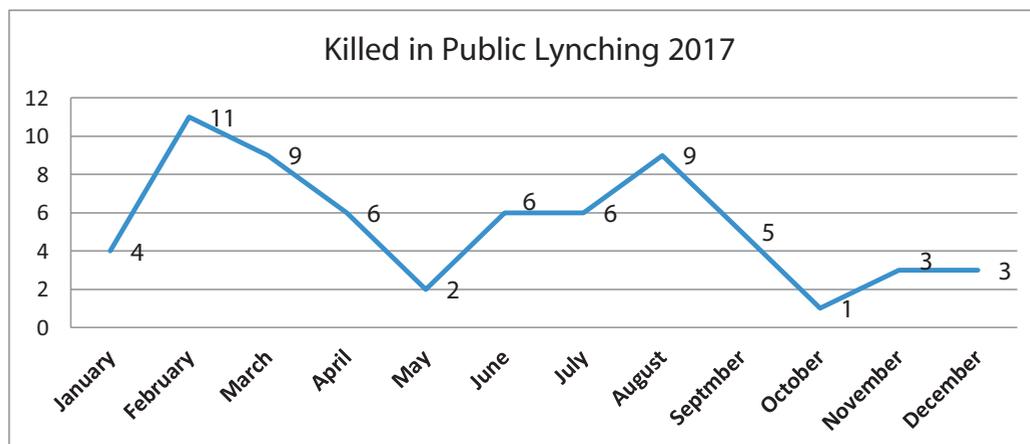


Figure 31 : Monthly Comparison of Public Lynching

Some important cases are given below: On Jan 07, 2017 a man was beaten to death by a mob after he was caught while allegedly stealing a farmer's cow in Char Naobhanga village under Jamalpur municipality. The victim was Nabin, 32, son of Hatem Khan of Dikpara village of Sherpur.<sup>175</sup>

On Jan 24, 2017, a college student died on the way to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital hours after he was beaten severely by some locals at village Khansonatola in Sirajganj. The dead are identified as Asadul Haque Akash, 18, son of Menhaj Uddin of Khansonatola village and student of RS College of Ullapara in the Sirajganj.<sup>176</sup>

On March 01, 2017, a 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.<sup>177</sup>

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.<sup>178</sup>

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.<sup>179</sup>

On April 11, 2017 an 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 Kaiyumpur union in the upazila.<sup>180</sup>

On Aug 09, 2017, four suspected cattle thieves were beaten to death by a mob at village Uttar Kachhapia of Subarnachar upazila in Noakhali. One of the deceased was identified as Hasan, 30, a resident of the village. Nizam Uddin, officer-in-charge of Charjabbar police station, said five people in a pick-up van entered the village in a bid to steal cattle heads around 3:00am. Sensing presence of the intruders, the villagers chased and caught four of them. Later, they gave them a tremendous thrashing, leaving the four dead.<sup>181</sup>

On August 23, 2017, armed robbers killed a man while an alleged robber was beaten to death by villagers during a clash between a robbers' gang and villagers in Fulchhari upazila of the Gaibandha. One of the deceased, Dulal Mia, 35, was a resident of Chowmohan Char village

in the upazila, while the identity of the dead robber could not be known as of the filing of this report around 5:30pm.<sup>182</sup>

On September 26, 2017, Tied to a concrete pole and surrounded by a group of villagers, Sagor Mia looked totally hapless and exhausted. But every time he tried to close his eyes, a man hit him violently with a piece of wood. Some other men, standing nearby, kept hurling abuse at the teenage boy. Sagor repeatedly screamed for help, cried for water and begged for his life. But the group showed no mercy. The torture continued. And at one point, he collapsed and died of his injuries later. The 18-year-old's only "fault" was he allegedly tried to steal a water pump at a hatchery in Char Srirampur village of Mymensingh's Gauripur. And for this, he had to die this cruel death allegedly at the hands of the hatchery owner, Akkas Ali, and some of his employees.<sup>183</sup>



**Tied to a concrete pole, this boy can barely stand on his feet after being brutally tortured allegedly by a hatchery owner and his employees. Photo: Collected**

On November 27, 2017 An angry mob beat two suspected robbers to death in Brahmanbaria's Kasba. Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kasba Police Station, said they were yet to identify the two men. Quoting locals, he said a night guard in Hariyabaha village saw a group of men preparing for a robbery around 10:30pm and alerted the villagers. Within moments, the villagers came out of their houses, caught the two men and beaten them to death. The others managed to flee.<sup>184</sup>

175 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1055061/>  
 176 <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=50710&cat=9>  
 177 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/freedom-fighter-beaten-dead-1369036>  
 178 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/11197/stalker-kills-youth-at-nawabganj>  
 179 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/10285/two-robbers-beaten-to-death-in-brahmanbaria>  
 180 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/robber-beaten-dead-bbaria-1389775>  
 181 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1283941>  
 182 <http://www.jugantor.com/online/country-news/2017/08/23/56144>  
 183 <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/savagery-cold-blood-1468270>  
 184 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1375256/>

# Recovery of Dead Bodies

**T**he right to life is a moral principle based on the belief that a human being has the right to live and, in particular, should not be killed by another human being. Security of life is the most important right of all human beings. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.<sup>185</sup> In Bangladesh, due to different reasons including worsening of law and order situation, unidentified dead bodies are frequently found at different places of the country.

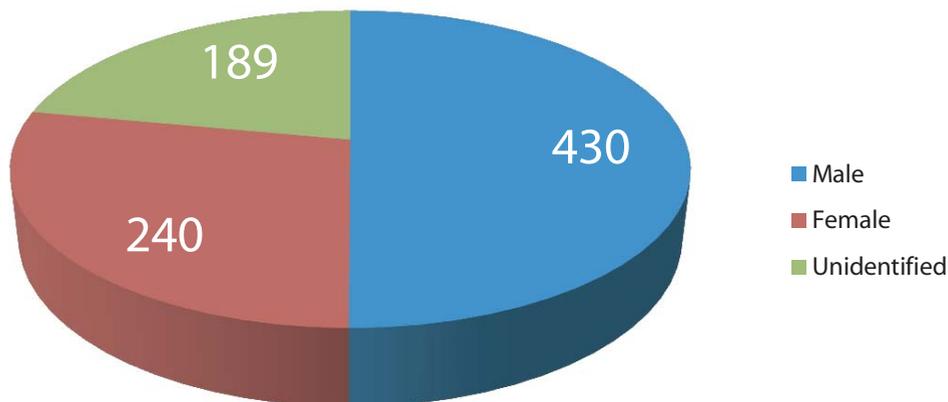


Figure 32 : Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body

*The given pie chart provided information according to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), from Jan to Dec '17, a total of 859 dead bodies were found in different areas of the country, among them 430 bodies were male and 240 bodies were female and 189 bodies were unidentified.*

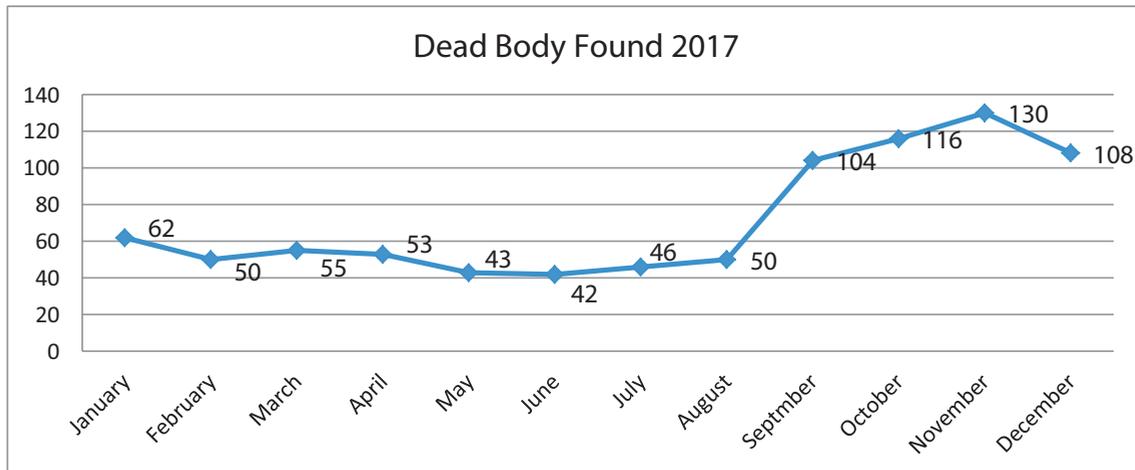


Figure 33 : Monthly Statistics of the Number of Dead Bodies Found in 2017

Selected cases are as follows: On Jan 06, 2017 a local Juba Dal leader was found dead in an under construction building at Lohagara municipal area in Narail. The deceased was identified as Ashraf Mallik, joint general secretary of Lohagara upazila unit Juba Dal.<sup>186</sup>

On Jan 04, 2017, a 15-year-old boy was found dead in a ditch in the capital's Uttarkhan over a month after he had gone missing from the area. The decomposed body of the ninth-grader, Mannan, son of Tofazzal Hossain, was stuffed in a sack, said Uttarkhan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Sirajul Haque.<sup>187</sup>

On Feb 01, 2017 a man was found dead in the old court building premises in Patuakhali town. The deceased was Narayan Karmaker, 50, owner of Monisha Swarna Alonkar at Natun Bazar. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Patukhali Police Station Tariqul Islam said several injury marks were found on Narayan's face.<sup>188</sup>

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.<sup>189</sup>

On Apr 08, 2017 collage 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.<sup>190</sup>

On May 09, 2017, a Juba 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.<sup>191</sup>

On Jun 18, 2017, the body of a 24-year-old young man was found in a pond in Hakimpur upazila of the district, three days after he went missing. The deceased, Ali Akbar, was the son of Hanif Mondal of Fakirpara village in the upazila. Victim's family members said Akbar went out of his house on June 16 and did not return home.<sup>192</sup>

On July 21, 2017, an unidentified man was found dead with a bullet injury in the neck in Kanchanpur Eidgah area of Chuknagar in Dumuria upazila of Khulna. Sukumar Biswas, officer in-charge of Dumuria Police Station, told that after being informed by locals, they recovered the body clad in a half sleeve shirt and a jeans pant from the border area of Satkhira and Khulna. The deceased, aged around 32 years, was dumped on that spot after being murdered somewhere else, suspected police.<sup>193</sup>

On Sep 04, 2017 a local Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader was found dead at village Tushkhali of Mathbaria in Pirojpur. The deceased was identified as Habib Talukder, 58, a resident of village Burir Char and general secretary of ward no 4 of Dhanisafa union unit BNP. Victim's son Rakib said that his father remained missing since Idris Talukder, a local Awami League leader, picked him up from Dhanisafa bazar.<sup>194</sup>

On Oct 08, 2017 the decomposed body of a Jubo League leader has found, who had been missing for the last two months, from Birab Khalpar area in Narayanganj's Rupganj. The body of Monir Hossain, 25, organizing secretary of Jubo League's ward-2 unit of Kanchan municipality, was found inside a buried sack. Monir, son of Sirajuddin of Birab Khalpar area, had gone missing on August 9.<sup>195</sup>

On 09 Dec 2017, the body of a youth was recovered after one day of his disappearance from Kalitola Village in Baliadangi Upazila, Thakurgaon. The victim was identified as Ramjan Ali, 35, son of Rafiqul Islam of the village. Local found the body at a potato field and informed the police, the OC said.<sup>196</sup>

185 <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

186 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/6402/juba-dal-leader-found-dead-in-narail>

187 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1053261/>

188 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1073167>

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

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

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/13106/college-girl-found-dead>

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

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

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

194 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/23372/bnp-leader-found-dead-in-pirojpur>

195 <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/missing-jubo-league-mans-body-found-1473733>

196 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=110256>

# Inhuman Torture by Law Enforcement Agencies

The term "torture" means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental is inflicted intentionally on a person for the purposes of obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.<sup>197</sup> According to Article 5 of the UDHR, no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 14 (2) of the ICCPR provides that everyone charged with a criminal offense shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law. International Convention against Torture (CAT) has also been declared torture as the punishable offense. As a signatory to this convention, Bangladesh is supposed to comply with its provisions.

Bangladesh constitution prohibits torture at any level in custody or interrogation cell. Local and international human rights organizations and the media always report that security forces, especially RAB and police, inflict severe torture, physical and psychological abuses after arrests and during interrogations. Violating all rules and regulations, security forces use cruel methods such as indiscriminate beatings, pouring boil water, removing finger nails and administering electric shocks etc. The scenario of inhuman torture in Bangladesh over the period of 2017 are detailed below:

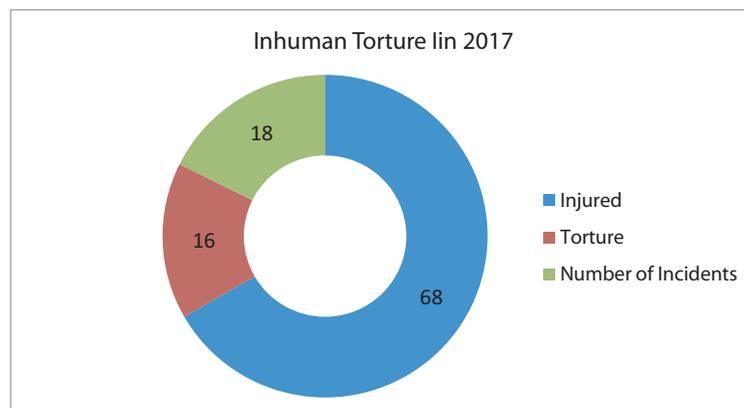


Figure 34 : Inhuman Torture by LEA in 2017

*According to the source of Human Rights Support Society, in the year 2017, a total of 68 people was reportedly injured, almost one shot and about 16 victims of torture by the law enforcement agency. Some cases are as follows:*



Police man handle an activist of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources, Power and Ports; left, and assault ATN News video journalist Abdul Alim; right, at Shahbagh in Dhaka during hartal on January 28, 2017. <sup>198</sup>

On January 28, 2017, more than 50 people, including two journalists, were injured as police attacked pickets, fired teargas shells and rubber bullets, sprayed hot water using water cannon and charged baton during the half-day general strike sponsored by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports for 7-point demands, including, the cancellation of coal-based Rampal power plant near the Sunderbans in the capital. Two journalists of private television channel ATN News cameraperson Abdul Alim and reporter kazi ahsan bin dider were injured as police tortured them while they were performing their professional duty. They were later rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.<sup>199</sup>



197 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx>

198 Photo Source- the daily New Age

199 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1068215/>

# Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh

**T**he Rohingya are a Muslim minority group in Rakhine State, which occupies the western coast of Myanmar. Rakhine State, formerly known as Arakan, is located on the western coast of Myanmar. It borders Bangladesh to the northwest, the Bay of Bengal bounds it to the west, and a mountain range to the east divides Rakhine from the rest of Myanmar. More than one million Rohingya live in Rakhine State, primarily in the northern townships.<sup>200</sup> Rohingyas account for most of the population in the three northernmost townships, Maungdaw, Buthidaung, and Rathedaung.<sup>201</sup>

*Myanmar law enforcement agency is shooting 'indiscriminately' at the Rohingya Minority Group, More than one million refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since August 25, fleeing a military crackdown that followed attacks by Rohingya militants on police posts, what U.N. officials have described as a classic case of ethnic cleansing. Photo-Prothom Alo*





A Rohingya refugee girl carries a baby while walking in a camp in Cox's Bazar, October 10, 2017. Reuter's photo

Since the government passed the 1982 Citizenship Act, Rohingya have been denied equal access to citizenship. The Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine State have also been subjected to grave human rights abuses at the hands of the Myanmar authorities, security forces, police, and local Rakhines (the Buddhist majority population in Rakhine State). These actors have perpetrated violence against Rohingya, claiming thousands of civilian people have been killed. Lots of Rohingya have been the victims of torture, arbitrary detention, rape, and other forms of serious physical and mental harm.

Myanmar's army launched comprehensive attacks on Rohingya villages in the country's Rakhine state after the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) a Rohingya militant group attacked Myanmar's police. The country's 1.1 million Rohingya Muslims are essentially stateless.<sup>202</sup> Their government claims they are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, but many Rohingya say they have lived in Myanmar for generations. Accounts of their origin vary. Some historian's trace them back to 15th century Arab, Turkish, or Mongol migrants, while others claim they have come from Bangladesh in phases.<sup>203</sup>

Around 300,000 to 500,000 Rohingya refugees already lived in Bangladeshi camps before the current wave of refugees. The more recent arrivals describe Myanmar's military as beating, sexually assaulting and shooting villagers, including children. Many Rohingya villages have been burned to the ground. The Bangladesh government has responded to this crisis in partnership with national and international development agencies. But it's not enough. The Rohingya crisis could still become a massive humanitarian catastrophe.<sup>204</sup>

Since August 25, 2017 to 2017, sectarian violence between the Rohingya Muslims and the Myanmar security forces, an estimated 656,000<sup>205</sup> (among them 380,190 are children) Rohingya, reportedly have crossed the Naf River got into Bangladesh through different points (Naikhyangchhari, Teknaf and Ukhia borders) from Myanmar (Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung). The scale of these atrocities has increased precipitously since 2012. In the wake of the conflicts in 2012, the majority of Myanmar's Rohingya have been confined to villages in northern Rakhine State or internally displaced persons camps.<sup>206</sup> The people who have arrived in Bangladesh since 25 August came with very few possessions. They have used



About 656,000 refugees have arrived since 25 August 2017, among them 380,190 are children

The Government of Bangladesh has allotted 3,000 acres of land to accommodate the growing inflow.

Source: UNICEF Bangladesh

most of their savings on transportation and constructing a shelter, often out of no more than bamboo and thin plastic. They are now reliant on humanitarian assistance for food, and other life-saving needs. Basic services that were available prior to the influx are under severe strain due to the massive increase in people in the area. In some of the sites that have spontaneously emerged, water and sanitation facilities are limited or of poor quality, with extremely high density raising the risks of an outbreak of disease. The Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar is highly vulnerable, having fled conflict and experienced severe trauma, and now living in extremely difficult conditions.<sup>207</sup>

200 Estimates vary and the most recent government census, conducted in 2014, excluded Rohingya from the count. Rakhine Inquiry Commission, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Final Report of Inquiry Commission on Sectarian Violence in Rakhine State, pp. 3, 78 (July 8, 2013) \*Rakhine Commission Report+ (citing 968,218 Muslims in Rakhine State). See also Jason Szep & Andrew Marshall, "Myanmar Minister Backs Two-Child Policy for Rohingya Minority," Reuters (June 11, 2013), <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/11/us-myanmar-rohingyaaidUSBRE95A04B20130611> (quoting Myanmar's Minister of Immigration and Population Khin Yi as stating 1.08 million Rohingya live in Rakhine State).

201 Rohingya were excluded from the United Nations-supported 2014 national census, so reliable data is not available.

202 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/10/12/theres-a-massive-humanitarian-crisis-in-bangladeshs-rohingyarefugee-camps/?utm\\_term=.a6ae7dd82cfe](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/10/12/theres-a-massive-humanitarian-crisis-in-bangladeshs-rohingyarefugee-camps/?utm_term=.a6ae7dd82cfe)

203 Ibid3

204 Ibid3

205 <https://reliefweb.int/organization/unicef>

206 HRSS gather data from local representative and national, international media house as al Jazeera, tha daily star bd, dainik prothom alo on 26,27 and 28, August'17

207 <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/isgc-situation-report-rohingya-refugee-crisis-cox-s-bazar-19-november-2017>



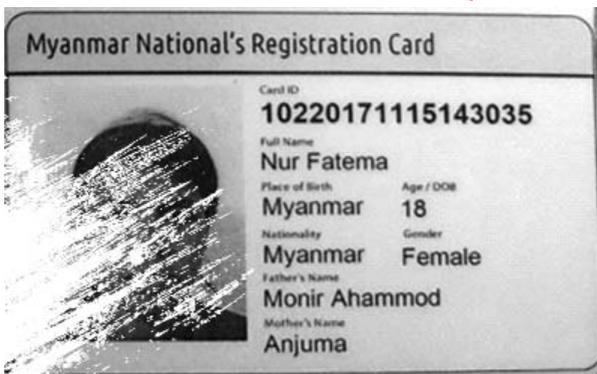


## Case study on Rohingya victim's people

Our fact findings and investigation team fish out some important cases from Ukhaia, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Where, the rohingya people were taken shelter. As we talked to them we found many Gunshots injured, Burned, and Rape victims. Almost everyone is a witness of persecution in Arakan State. Among them many lost their families. Selected cases are as follow:

### Case study

01



### Nur Fatema

**Age:** 18  
**Gender:** Female  
**Occupation:** House maker  
**Father:** late Monir Ahmed  
**Mother:** Anjoma  
**Husband:** Imam Hosen  
**Address :** Chouprang, Buthidong (locally pronounced Busidong), Akiyad, Arkan state, Myanmar  
**Present camp address:** Gundaun-01, Block-B-1, Cox's bazar. Camp leader: Idris Majhi

### Statement:

On 25 August 2017. At 7.00 am she (victim) heard around 40 Burmese Military (ailed dress, means olive colored attire) raid their village chouprang. When, she was inside the house with her husband Imam Hossen (22). Few times later Military enter her house and tried to attack. Her husband tried to obstacle them so they shoot him in his right eye. He (husband) died on spot. Aftermath, they took her to the corner and teared her clothes while other military was guarding them with gun other two raped her besides husband's dead body. At 9.00 am they left victims house. Then she ran to the nearest hills which is north side of their village and stayed there, with other escaped villagers she saw military torched and burned almost one and half thousand homes. Then she fled with other neighbor's and came to Bangladesh on 2nd September 2017.<sup>208</sup>



## Case study

02

### Johura Begum

**Age:** 13

**Gender:** Female

**Occupation:** Student of Maktab (primary religious education) and Shepherd

**Father:** MD. Shofi

**Mother:** Abiya Khatun

**Address in Myanmar:** Tulatuli (Mingziwa, Mandu, Akiyad, Arkan state, Myanmar)

**Local Chairman:** Aung Kwa Sing

**Present camp address:** Block-8, new hill, B-8, Kutupalong Rohingya camp, Cox's bazar, Bangladesh

## Statement:

On the 29th August 2017, around 8.00 am local chairman (locally called *okkada*) called villagers to gather beside *phurma* canal and he told us that they won't harm us. We are safe. When we was sitting there then cohort of Military, BGP, Mog (*Rakahine buddist*) surrounded us. We were Huge number ("around two thousand" she added) of villagers there. Then they picked beautiful women's and took them to village. I heard they were shouting and were saying "they are raping us, please save us". And then they started to shot us, and a helicopter came and attacked villagers by rocket launcher. Many of them died on the spot. They also forced alive ones to dug grave. They threw dead bodies to grave, also killed those alive peoples and threw them to grave also. Then they pets pour petrol burned those dead bodies. I was laying among dead bodies acting dead. When they started to pull other dead bodies near me I stand and jump in the canal. Other 4 jumped with me in canal. One of them was my elder sister Sura Khatun (18). Then she got hit by bullet. I saw blood floating from her mouth. She died. Then I also got hit by bullet in my right buttock. Only I could reach the other side of the canal. I crawled to near paddy field and stay there on that day. The next day people from east (Buthidong) take me with them while they were fleeing to Bangladesh. When, we reached to Morikkong para (also pronounced 'MoroSong') local doctor treatment me with first aid. We stayed that night there. Next day we stayed in Shilkhali village. Two of the rohingya from buthidong carries me to unchiprang, Bangladesh. In Bangladesh MSF provide me basic treatment and refer me to cox's bazar hospital. I was admitted there for 16 days. After that , some of our local people brought me at kutupalong camp in cox' bazar. After 3/4 days I found my aunty (mother's sister) Hajera Khatun wife of Abul Kasem, residence of BoliBazar, Mandu. And after few days I found my younger brother Hayrul Amin (11). Currentlty I am in Kutupalong Rohingya camp, Cox's bazar, Bangladesh.<sup>209</sup>



## Case study

03

### Aisa Siddika

**Age:** 35  
**Gender:** Female  
**Occupation:** Farmer, Householder  
**Father:** Late Monirujjaman  
**Age:** unknown  
**Profession :** Farmer (*halchash*)  
**Mother:** late Abeda Khatun  
**Age:** unknown  
**Husband :** Abdul Jalil  
**Age :** 70  
**Occupation :** Farmer (*halchas*)  
**Address :** *Chouprang, Buthidong (locally pronounced Busidong), Akiyad, Arkan state, Myanmar*  
**Natonaily:** Burmese, Religion: Islam,  
 Ethnicity: Rohingya  
**Present camp address:** Gumbur, Block-1, Cox's bazar.  
**Camp leader:** Idris Majhi  
**Victim of Rape**

### Statement:

On the 25th August 2017, I was in my house with my 4 children are Thares (15), Md. Iyasin (10), Md, Zubaer (9), Diljar (8). My husband was in another house with his another wife. At 8.00 am I heard around 20/30 military (*ailed dressed* means 'olive dressed') started gunfire from villages south side. I sent my four child to my brother's Yunus(50) house. I stayed my house to observe situation. My elder son Md. Harun (20) was in Bangladesh for study. Another two son Faruk (22) Md. Saad (16) left house before incident. In the meantime about 9.00 am almost 10/20 military raid my house and 7 entered. One of them hold me down threw to floor. Then they teared my clothes, three of them raped me. After I fainted I don't know what happened then. When I returned senses I was bleeding from lower body. I was sick and I went to my brother's house and my brother's wife Dildar Begum (35) wash me with hot water and take care of me. I stayed with them Saturday the 02nd September 2017. This day Village leader (*Ukkada*) Nur Hosen told villagers to leave village for self-preservation. So I started journey with villagers. Neighbor villagers of *Gunapara, Monnapara, Morichabil* joined with us. I entered Kanjorpara (*unjiprang*), Bangladesh through *fatear dala* after walking around 9 days. Now I am rohingya in camp in Bangladesh. I want justice; I want to have military punished who raped me brutally.<sup>210</sup>

208 HRSS's fact findings and investigation desk

209 Ibid208

210 Ibid208

## Yearly Human Rights Bulletin at a Glance

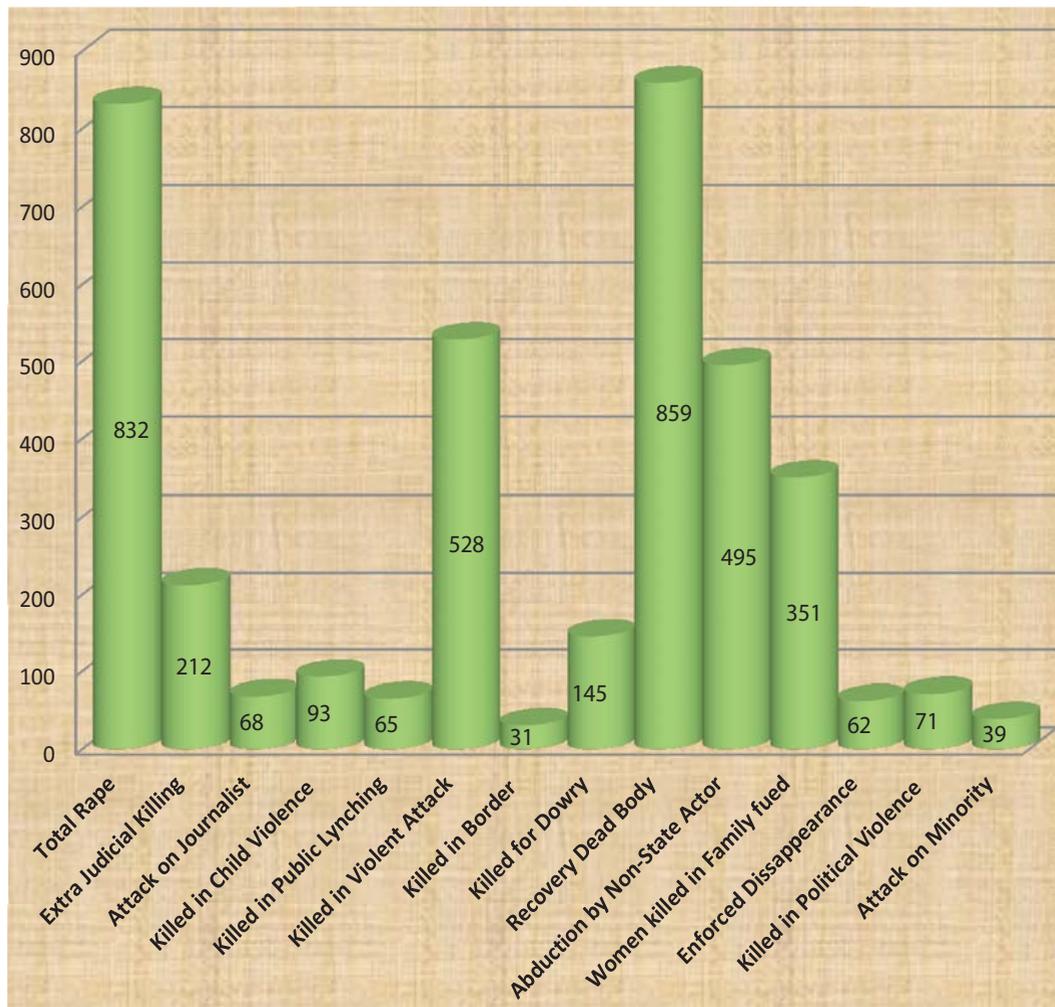


Figure 35 : Human Right Situation of Bangladesh in 2017

## Human Rights Bulletin Yearly Comparison

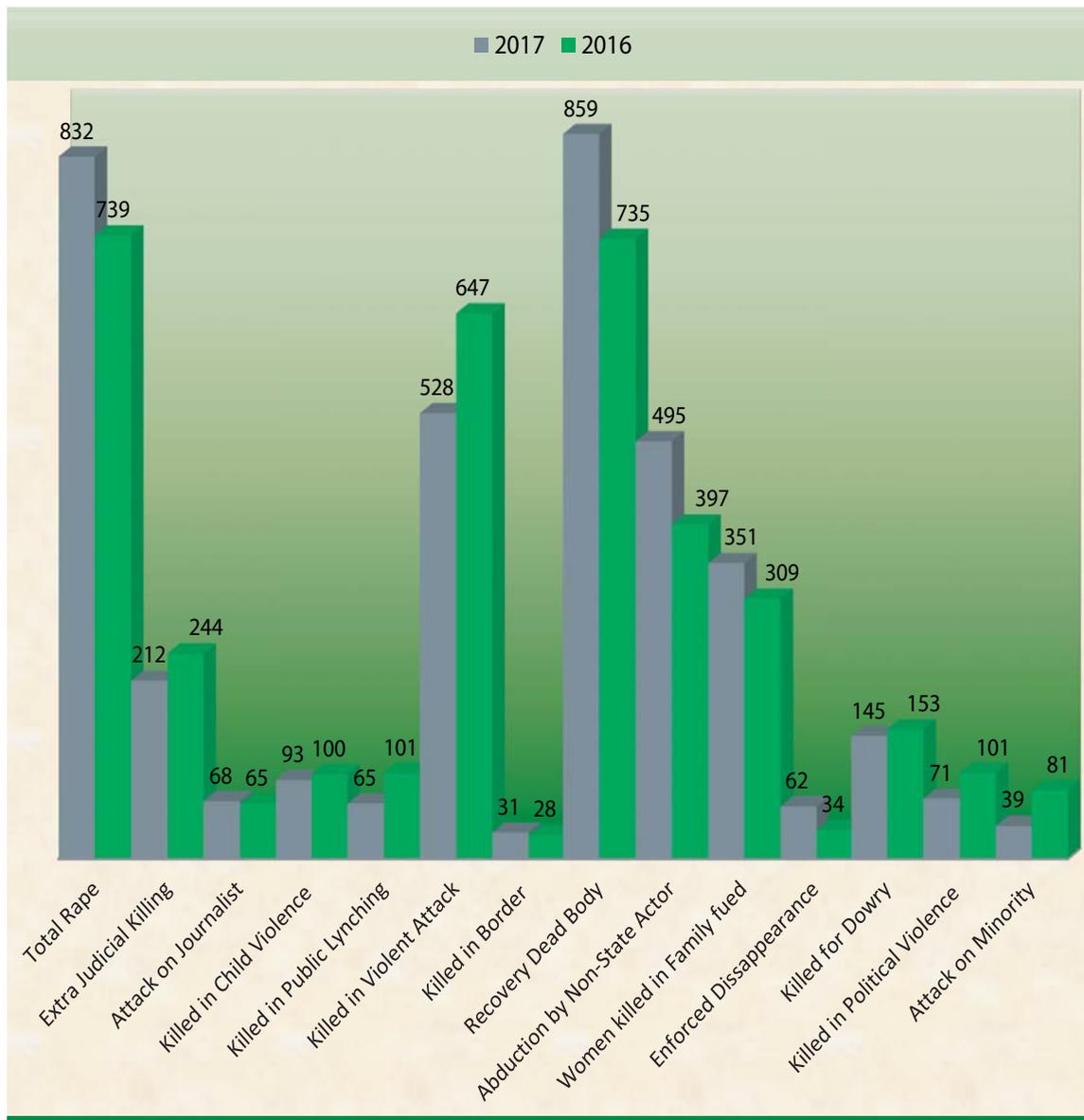


Figure 36 : Comparison between Annual Bulletin of 2017 and 2016.

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# Conclusion

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As has been noted, HRSS witnessed that the human rights situation in Bangladesh was shocking during the whole of the stated period of time. Political turmoil in Bangladesh threatens the enforcement of constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights, in particular, the fundamental right to form assemblies and association. Right of freedom of expression has been rendered nugatory by application of section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 and the proposed enactment of the “Digital Security Act 2018”. Moreover, huge numbers of human rights violations are regularly taking places, such as enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, targeted killings, and arbitrary arrests. Domestic violence, rape, and child abuse have been frequent in 2017. While international human rights instruments require all signatory states to protect basic human rights and the Constitution of Bangladesh specifically guarantees the fundamental rights of the citizens, it is a matter of deep concern that they have been denied by the incumbent governments. The need of the hour for Bangladesh is to enhance democratic practice. The constitution has given adequate space to discuss and debate in the parliament. It is necessary to begin a dialogue to resolve the disputes. There is no alternative to dialogue.

The existing government assumed power through uncontested and controversial general elections in 2014 which led to serious political violence. The government, in order to continue its regime, undertook repressive measures against the opposition. The rule of law has been compromised. This situation has led to a political vacuum and created enabling an environment for extremism. However, the government has been trying to cast responsibility on the leaders and activists of oppositions and undertook unprecedented repressive measures against them and also termed them as ‘extremists’.

HRSS considers that the state authority should be more vigilant in protecting the life and property of the citizen and thereby fulfill their constitutional obligations. It further appeals to every conscious citizen to raise their voice against flagrant human rights violations. In order to fight against all sorts of repressive measures, HRSS is committed to gather all relevant information and publish reports in various forms (i.e. monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, and annually). HRSS further expresses its commitment to bring back democracy, right to vote, freedom of assembly, establishing rule of law, ensuring transparency and accountability in all spheres of life. HRSS emphasizes the importance of the state authority and civil society working together to ensure dignity and equality among the people of different classes in order to establish peace and security in the country. ■

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# Recommendation

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- The international community and Bangladesh government should put pressure on the Myanmar government to restore citizenship rights of Rohingya ensuring their security of life.
- The state should take necessary steps to identify the victims of forced disappearance and hand them over to their families, and to ratify international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.
- The government must ensure the accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies, and also constitute judicial inquiry committee to investigate each incident of extra-judicial killing, enforced disappearance and abduction.
- The Judiciary and the administrative authorities must ensure justice to all minority communities, including reconstruction of all damaged temples and places of worship that were subjected to attack and to put an end all potential attacks on places of worships irrespective of race, sex, color, religion and any other social standings.
- Actions should be taken to end structural and cultural violence against women from all spheres of life and furthermore, in order to ensure safety and security of women, children, and members of minority communities, immediate appropriate measures should be taken by the concerned authorities.
- The government should be respectful of the freedom of expression of all citizens, and the print, Electronic, and online media should be allowed to work freely.
- Arbitrary arrests of citizens including opposition leaders and activists must be immediately stopped. The government must comply with the directives given by the Supreme Court of the land regarding arrest of citizens. It should immediately repeal the Special Powers Act, 1974 and the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (Amended 2013).
- Establishing a judicial inquiry commission to look into all violations of international human rights law by the BSF, and to take initiatives to investigate and compensate the victims' family.
- Freedom of assembly and association should be respected. The government must allow opposition parties, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to express their opinions by way of public gatherings, processions, seminars, and symposium. ■

## Annexure : Yearly Statistics 2017

Type of Human Rights Violation		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Violence Against Women	Sexual Harassment	21	16	18	24	15	8	37	16	9	12	18	7	201
	Rape	51	42	57	57	87	55	80	78	90	80	97	58	832
	Killed for Dowry	13	9	9	19	13	17	22	17	4	9	7	6	145
	Killed in Family Feud	31	19	27	33	36	29	38	30	31	17	27	33	351
	Acid Violence	2	1	1	3	6	5	0	2	4	2	0	1	27
Killed in Child Rights Violence		9	11	10	5	7	10	11	8	4	1	4	13	93
Extra-judicial Killing	Crossfire	14	15	23	9	15	13	17	12	2	11	15	9	155
	Shot to death	2	1	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	14
	Torture to death	2	3	3	1	1	2	0	2	3	3	0	0	20
	Custodial death	0	1	1	0	2	1	4	3	1	6	2	2	23
	Total	18	20	30	10	20	18	21	17	6	20	19	13	212
Abduction		10	52	30	15	33	10	16	27	16	39	130	117	495
Enforces Disappearance		5	2	14	3	4	3	7	7	4	3	5	5	62
Attack on Minority		2	5	2	2	4	2	4	4	1	3	6	4	39
Border Disputes	Killed	2	4	0	1	0	6	2	0	4	4	2	6	31
	Injured	6	7	13	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	2	38
	Arrested	12	5	11	7	2	8	14	2	0	1	19	0	81
Attack on Journalists	Injured	4	3	4	5	7	2	10	6	0	0	5	5	51
	Threatened	1	0	3	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	6	0	17
	Assaulted	1	0	0	0	0	10	2	1	0	18	3	1	36
	Arrested	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	6
Political Violence	Killed	5	5	6	11	15	6	6	5	3	4	1	4	71
	Injured	297	346	421	432	500	347	453	308	147	243	265	172	3931
Violent Attack	Killed	51	36	61	50	35	57	51	54	34	32	20	47	528
	Injured	71	57	99	32	40	37	41	50	50	5	15	14	511
Killed in Public Lynching		4	11	9	6	2	6	6	9	5	1	3	3	65
Recovery Dead Body		62	50	55	53	43	42	46	50	104	116	130	108	859