



# Half Yearly Human Rights Report Bangladesh Situation

---

*January-June, 2018*

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY  
(HRSS)**

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

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

Half yearly human rights analysis report's published by Human Right Support Society the based on incidents of human rights violation and atrocities based on information received through our district representatives and twelve prominent national dailies has published this report. From January to June '18, this report illustrates that freedom of expression was denied and the constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of assembly and association witnessed a sharp decline. Restrictions on the political parties and civil societies, impunity to the abusive security forces, extrajudicial killing in the name of anti-drug war, enforced disappearance, abduction, violence against women, arbitrary arrest and assault on opposition political leaders and activists, coercion and extortion are exposed a very glooming scenario of the overall human rights situation in Bangladesh. The situation reached such an awful state that even the common people feel insecure everywhere.

According to the sources of HRSS, between Jan and Jun '18, at least 303 people were extra-judicially killed; a total of 24 people have been forcefully disappeared by the members of law enforcement agencies. Moreover, the HRSS report finds that a total of 397 females have been raped. Of them, 189 were identified as an adult and alarmingly 208 were children under the age of 16. A total of 148 women were killed in the family feud, 26 females were killed due to dowry-related violence. It has also been reported that a total of 197 were abducted by a non-state actor in different areas of the country, among them approximately 140 were male, 21 females, 36 children, and 83 were killed after the abduction. Unexpectedly at least 16 people were killed in political violence and around 22 people were killed through lynching.

HRSS observed that in the first half of 2018, about 45 violent incidences were committed against the children, 21 lost their lives and 43 were critically injured. As a result of violent attacks, a total of 129 unarmed civilians were victimized, of them, 71 were killed, 53 seriously injured, and roughly 05 were hit a bullet. HRSS also identified a total of 20 incidences of attack on minority throughout the country. On the other hand, in the border, Bangladeshi citizens have been the victims of suspected killings, subjected to torture, and other forms of inhumane and degrading treatments. A total of nearly 18 incidents have been reported resulting 03 loss of life of Bangladeshi citizens, 22 arrested, and 05 injured by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). This shocking condition of human rights in Bangladesh motivates HRSS to work hard to raise awareness both at home and abroad.

# Table of Contents

<b>SL</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
01	<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>01</b>
02	<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>02</b>
03	<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>03</b>
04	<b>Extra-Judicial Killing</b>	<b>04</b>
05	<b>Enforced Disappearance</b>	<b>10</b>
06	<b>Violence Against Women</b>	<b>14</b>
07	<b>Attack on Journalists</b>	<b>19</b>
08	<b>Attack on Minority</b>	<b>22</b>
09	<b>Political Violence</b>	<b>24</b>
10	<b>Border Killings</b>	<b>27</b>
11	<b>Violence Against Children</b>	<b>29</b>
12	<b>Violent Attack</b>	<b>31</b>
13	<b>Abduction</b>	<b>34</b>
14	<b>Public Lynching</b>	<b>37</b>
15	<b>Recovery of Dead Body</b>	<b>39</b>
16	<b>Torture by Law Enforcement Agency</b>	<b>41</b>
17	<b>The situation of Freedom of Expression</b>	<b>44</b>
18	<b>Half Yearly Human Rights Report at a Glance</b>	<b>47</b>
19	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>48</b>
20	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>49</b>
21	<b>Annexure: Half Yearly Statistics-2018</b>	<b>50</b>

# 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
UP	: Union Parishad
VAW	: Violence against Women
VAC	: Violence against Children

---

# Extra Judicial Killing

Extrajudicial killing is an illegal deprivation of life and simply murder. This is the killing of a person by governmental authorities without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.<sup>1</sup> Bangladesh has earned notoriety in carrying out extrajudicial killings in the name of anti-drug drive in the recent time. ‘Crossfire’ or ‘encounter’ and gunfight are very common terms used by the LEA to hide their crime and avoid the liabilities of extra-judicial killing. After killing in a pre-planned and cool head, the police and RAB<sup>2</sup> authorities have informed the media that the victim’s died to engage in the crossfire. These extra-judicial killings are depriving the people of their rights to lives and the right to get justice in neutral open court.<sup>3</sup> The government of Bangladesh has been violating the Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights day after day since 2002 especially when the operation clean heart started. Now the situation is becoming more complex day by day. In Bangladesh, the law says minimum force should be applied to arrests and every person has the right to seek a trial. In the cases of "crossfire or encounters, the rights to life and personal liberty are under threat in Bangladesh, despite the fact that they are guaranteed by the constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh the constitutions. The existing legal framework does not allow encounter killing. Relevant cases of extrajudicial killing have been discussed and analyzed below:

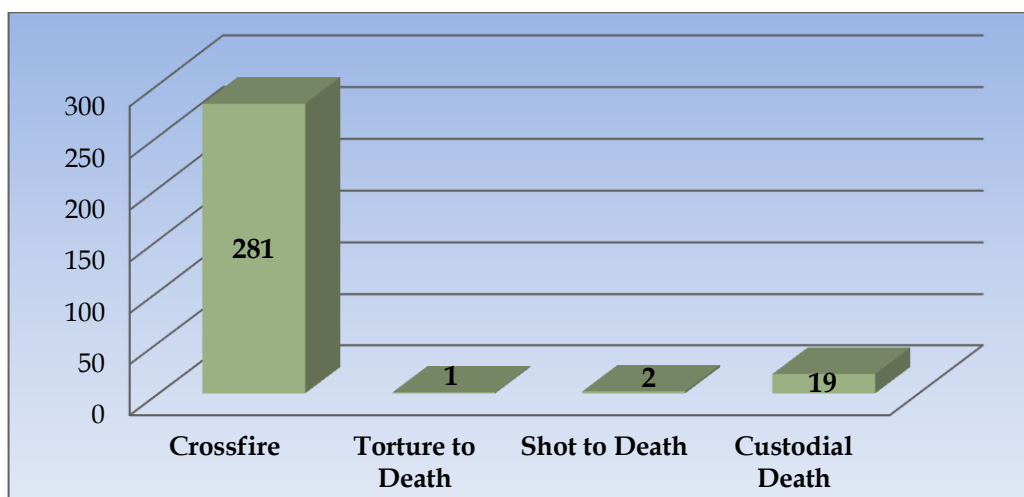


Figure 1: Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing from Jan to Jun '18<sup>4</sup>

The provided chart denotes information about the extra-judicial killing from Jan to Jun 2018: a total of 303 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed. Of them, 281 were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, 02 shot to death, one tortured to Death and 19 died in the custody.

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

<sup>2</sup><http://www.lawteacher.net>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/constitutional-law>.

<sup>4</sup> Hrss research desk

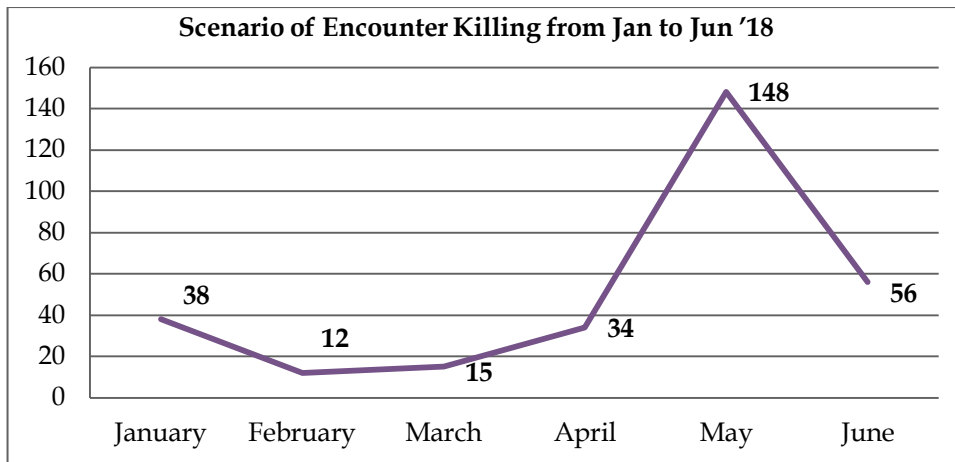


Figure 2: Monthly Comparison of Extra Judicial-Killing

The given line graph provides information about the extra-judicial killing from January to June 2018. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 303 persons were allegedly killed extra-judicially. On an average, around 51 people were killed in every month from January to June 2018. The data reveal that a significant number of people were died in the name of crossfire in the first six month 2018, due to anti-drug movement. Highest numbers of people 148 were killed extra-judicially in May while this rate was the lowest position in February and March.

Region	Victims of Extrajudicial Killing Under the Government by Region	
	Extrajudicial Killing	Number of Incidents
Dhaka	49	43
Chittagong	77	69
Rajshahi	33	26
Sylhet	02	02
Khulna	83	73
Rangpur	26	21
Mymensingh	28	21
Barisal	05	04
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>259</b>

Figure 3 Extra-Judicial killing based on Region

The law enforcement agency was charged for their participation and involvement in the various human rights violations committed against the civilian people including political killing. 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 between January and June. Total 303 people have been killed by LEA in a different city of them about 70% in the main four cities such as Chittagong 77, Khulna 83, Dhaka 49, and Rajshahi 33. On the other hand, almost 30% of victims were killed by security forces in others four rest of the division in Bangladesh, for instance, Rangpur 26, Mymensingh 28, Sylhet 02 and Barisal 04 people.*

Some important cases are mentioned below: On June 05, 2018, Police claimed to have found the bullet-riddled body of a suspected drug dealer in Alalpur area of Faridpur, two days after he was allegedly picked up by several plainclothes detectives. The victim Mr. Azad Kha, 45, 's sister Sahera Begum, said, "Several plainclothes men, identifying themselves as detectives, picked my brother up from his friend's house in Gazaria area around 2:00 am on 2 June. My brother was missing since then."<sup>5</sup>

On Jan 01, 2018 a drug trader was killed in a so-called gunfight with RAB in Feni Sadar. The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain Raju, 25, son of Jahangir Alam, a resident of Dharmapur in Feni Sadar. Father of the deceased said his son got a release on bail from jail 10 days back. RAB personnel picked Raju up from the house around 4:00 am, he claimed.<sup>6</sup>

On Mar 12, 2018, The BNP has alleged that Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Dhaka north city unit vice president Zakir Hossain Milon died in custody due to 'brutal torture' on him during police remand. In a statement, BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said Milon was subjected to the government's political vengeance as it is out to protect its despotic rule by eliminating the existence of the opposition parties. He said police arrested Milon, also the acting president of Tejgaon Thana unit JCD, on 6 March.<sup>7</sup>

On Apr 29, 2018, an alleged criminal was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Abaderhat area under Agordari union of sadar upazila in Satkhira. The deceased was identified as Nabab Ali Mollah, 38, a son of Sujit Mollah of Bokchora village under the upazila. Satkhira Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Maruf Ahmed, said Patkelghata police arrested fugitive Nabab Ali from Patkelghata on 28 April.<sup>8</sup>

On Jan 24: A suspected mugger was killed in a so-called gunfight with police in the city's Balashpur area. The deceased was identified as Nayem, 23, prime accused of college. A police team conducted a drive in Balashpur area, said Khandaker Saker Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/bullet-riddled-body-drug-peddler-found-1586437>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/31583/drug-trader-killed-in-feni-gunfight12:00 AM, January 02, 2018 / LAST>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=108737>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=115428&cat=9/স্ব>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=102109&cat=9/স্ব>

*The Case of Rakib Halwader;* On April 06, 2018 a teenage boy was killed in a so-called “gunfight” with police in the capital's Wari. The deceased was identified as Rakib Halwader, son of Mohsin Halwader, a resident of Wari's Kaptan Bazar. He was only 15, according to his birth certificate. The family alleged that Rakib was picked up by Sub-Inspector Jyotish Chandra of Wari Police Station around 10:30 pm on 04 April as he went out to buy daily essentials for his mother Rita Akter. “The next day, I went to the police station around 11:00 am to meet my son. I saw him in the OC's room,” Rita Akter told. Rakib's body was kept at the college morgue. She said she waited at the police station for hours but was barred from meeting him. “I heard a shout 'Ma...Ma...’” she said, adding that she then saw his son in handcuffs being taken to the OC's room. Rita said she bought a packet of biriyani from a shop for her son, but it was not allowed. She waited till 4:30 pm but could not talk to her son. Sub-Inspector Jyotish Chandra could not be reached for comments despite several attempts.<sup>10</sup>

*The Case of Anisur Rahman;* Nazma Khatun, wife of Anisur Rahman who was killed recently in Satkhira, On June 08, 2018 held a press conference at Satkhira Press Club and alleged that police killed him and cooked up the story of a “gunfight” to cover up the murder. She alleged that police picked up her husband from their house and killed him in a planned way. Police on May 29 claimed to have recovered the body of Anisur from Kolaroa upazila and said he was a drug dealer, who was killed in a “gunfight” between two groups of “peddlers”. “Around 9:30 am on May 28, assistant sub-inspectors Ezaz Mahmud and Toriqul Islam of Khurdo Police Outpost and two others in plainclothes came to our house and detained my husband. They handcuffed and blindfolded him before taking him away,” Nazma told. She also alleged that they went to the police outpost and Kolaroa Police Station, but police denied detaining her husband. Biplob Kumar Nath, officer-in-charge of Kolaroa Police Station, refused to record a general diary in this connection on that day and asked the family to wait for a couple of days. The next morning, they came to know that Anisur was killed, Nazma alleged. She further said ASI Ezaz visited their house in search of her husband several times before he was picked up. Nazma demanded a fair probe into the incident and urged the prime minister and the home minister to direct the law enforcers to take steps in this regard. “If my husband committed any crime, he could be punished through the legal process. It is not acceptable that police killed him, violating his basic human rights.” Contacted, both Ezaz and Toriqul denied the allegation of detaining Anisur. OC Biblob said Anisur's family did not appear before him with the allegation. The police official added that Anisur was killed in a “gunfight” between two groups of “drug dealers” and they were investigating who was involved in the incident.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/picked-boy-killed-shootout-1559248>

<sup>11</sup> Hrss investigation desk



*The case of Belal Hossain;* On the first June 2018 Belal Hossain, was killed in so-called “gunfight” with Rab in the city's Koromja area, was involved in fish farming, said his wife. Belal's wife Amena Begum said her husband was a day labourer over a decade ago. Amena said two plainclothes members of a law enforcement agency went to their house in Poba upazila around 1:30 pm on 27 may and asked her husband if he was involved in drug peddling. Within around half an hour after leaving the house, one of the two law enforcers phoned Belal and asked him to go to Nawhata area. Although Amena asked her husband not to go there, Belal did not comply. He was confident that he would face no problem as he was no more involved in drug trade. Belal went to Nawhata around 3:00 pm. After some time, he phoned his son. Toriquil said he heard on the other side that someone slapped his father and the call ended. Belal had been missing since then and his phone was found switched off. Amena alleged that law enforcers used to take bribes from her husband to allow him to run the drug trade.<sup>12</sup>

*The case of Habibur Rahman;* On May 19: The family of Habibur Rahman, who was killed in an alleged shootout RAB in Chittagong, claimed he had been taken and killed. RAB said Habibur Rahman and Mosharaf Hossain were killed in a shootout at the Barisal Colony in Ice Factory Road adjacent to Chittagong Railway Station, a notorious site of drug trafficking on 17 May. However, Habib's family claims that he was detained by plainclothes security force personnel from Jhautola mosque when he went to pray on 17 May. "Locals told me my father was picked up from Baitul Falah Mosque following his afternoon prayers by a group of people who claimed to have ties to the local administration. They drove away in a CNG autorickshaw," Habib's son Abdul Ali Rabbi said. "My mother, other family members and I went to different police stations and contacted the narcotics office and the Detective Branch seeking his whereabouts, but they would not give us any information." "We looked for him in many places. Finally, we saw a man in white lying on the ground on television who looked like Habib. We later identified the body at Chittagong Medical College Hospital," said Habib's father-in-law Nazrul Islam. He said Habib had worked in Oman for some time and began working as a vegetable trader when he got home. His family now lives on money sent by his expatriate sister and her husband, he added. Habib's son Rabbi said that his father had been released last on 17 May after spending a month in jail.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Hrss investigation desk and the daily start

<sup>13</sup> Hrss's investigation desk and <http://observerbd.com/details.php?id=138675>

The case of Ekramul; On June 2, 18 Ekramul, an upazila-level leader of the ruling Awami League, was killed by law enforcement agency, Six days after his wife, Ayesha Begum, held a press conference in Cox's Bazar, where she claimed that her husband was killed in cold blood, not in a gunfight as the security forces claimed. "On the night of May 26, an official of a security force took him by force from our home. My daughter and I talked to him over the phone after he left us. When we talked to him last, he was panicking. The phone call continued and gunshots and shouts were heard. It was then I realized that my husband was killed in cold blood," she said. "We don't have much wealth, but our family was filled with happiness and joy. But today, we lost everything. My daughters have no one to call "father". Their future is bleak." She wanted a fair investigation into the killing of her husband and intervention of the prime minister in the matter so on one has to lose her or his dear ones in such "unjust actions." Ayesha also gave reporters a total of four audio clips that recorded terrifying conversations between Ekram and his wife and one of the daughters before he died in a hail of bullets. The audio recorded on a mobile phone also captured sounds of gunfire and groans of a dying man. As the groaning continued for a while, Ekramul's wife and two daughters on the other side of the phone screamed and begged for his life, saying he was innocent, according to one of the clips. Ayesha claimed that the conversations were recorded when Ekramul was brutally shot dead (<https://youtu.be/4iGB6iL49KM>).<sup>14</sup>

On June 27, 2018, two alleged drug peddlers were killed in what police claimed was a gunfight in Bagmara area in the city, hours after their arrest amid the ongoing anti-narcotics drive. The deceased were identified as Manik Sheikh, 32, son of Sultan Sheikh of Mistiripara Khalpara area, and Raju, 27, son of Mohammad Babul of Bagmara in the city. Raju's family, however, claimed the police demanded Tk 10 lakh for his release and killed him as they failed to pay the sum. Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar police, said a team of law enforcers from Khulna arrested Raju and Manik in Dhaka and brought them to the city as they were listed drug peddlers and killed in a gunfight. Titli Begum, Raju's wife, told that police picked up her husband from New Market area in Khulna on 26 June. "I met the police and requested them to free him, but they demanded Tk 10 lakh for that. We wanted to arrange a press conference at Khulna Press Club, but civil police did not allow us,"<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Hrss's investigation desk and <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2018/06/02/ekram-killing-audio-clip-raises-questions-about-anti-drug-crackdown>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/anti-narcotics-drive-2-killed-shootout-khulna-1596460>

# Enforced Disappearance



Enforced disappearance comprises of abduction, carried out by agents of the State or organized groups of individuals who act with Government support or tolerance, in which the victim “disappears”. Authorities neither accept responsibility for the dead, nor account for the whereabouts of the victim.<sup>16</sup> The events of disappearance have already triggered a gravest hurdle in our national life by polluting the political and administrative culture of Bangladesh. Abduction, killing after the abduction, rescuing dead body becomes the 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. Freshly, the government of Bangladesh has ratified the convention against torture but has 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 the first half of ‘18 by the law enforcement agencies and deny the arrest; but days later, their bullet-riddled dead body has been found in several places.

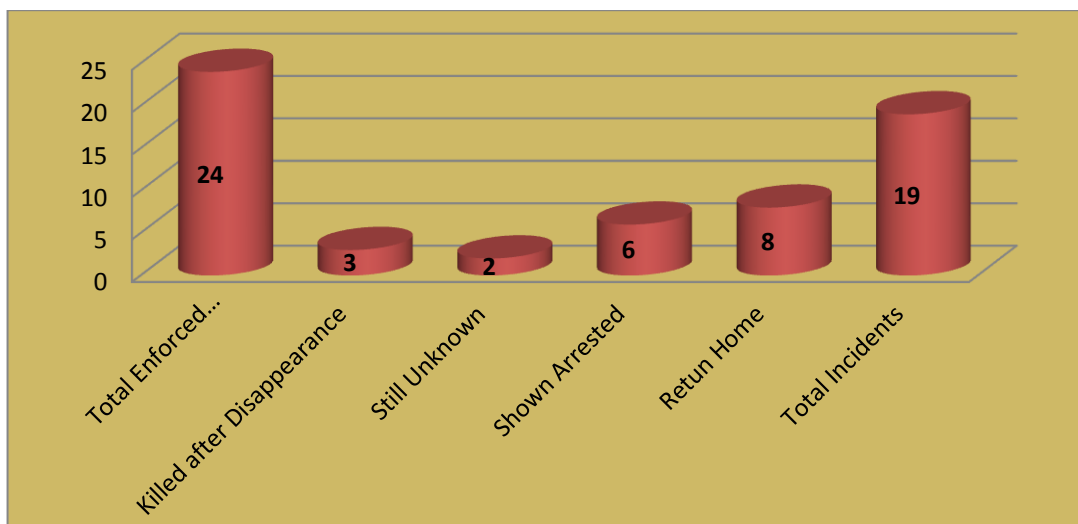


Figure 4 Statistics of Enforced disappearance by LEA

*‘Human Rights Support Society’ (HRSS) finds that from Jan to Jun 2018 a total 24 people have been disappeared by law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 03 were found dead, 08*

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx>

*returned home, 06 were brought before the court and nobody knows what happened to the rest 02 persons.*

*Selected cases are stated below:* On June 02, 2018 alleged drug dealer Kamrul Khan Kamu, 40, who was killed in a “shootout” with detectives in Gazipur, was picked up a day before from his home by plainclothes policemen, his wife have claimed. “Five to six plainclothes policemen came to our house around 5:00 am on 31 may and took Kamrul with them,” said Kamrul's wife Asma Begum. “During the time, the policemen in name of searching the house took away some valuables, including a TV set, mobile phone, some cash, ornaments and documents,” she claimed. Asma said she got married eight years ago and during these years, she never heard of any case filed against Kamrul. She said her husband used to work at a garment factory. “I have requested police to hand Kamrul over to the court if he had committed any crime but I found his body a day after he was picked up from home,” she said.<sup>17</sup>

On June 04, 2018 Criminals posing as the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) kidnapped a youth from the capital's Hatirjheel and later demanded Tk 10 lakh from his family, threatening to kill him in “crossfire” otherwise. The victim, 22-year old Nafis-ur-Rahman, had returned home from Japan after completing study two weeks ago. He was going to his Rampura residence via Hatirjheel around 8:00 pm when 10-12 youths barred his way, according to a case filed by his mother Rehana Akter with Ramna Police Station. They picked him up from there brandishing firearms, and took to a secret place, said the case statement. Later, the criminals called Rehana around 10:00 pm over the phone and identified themselves as Rab-1 members. They said that they detained Nafis with 100 yaba pills. The gang members also directed her to send Tk 10 lakh through a bKash account, Rehana said in the case statement. Later, at late night, they set Nafis free after taking Tk 1 lakh from the family, said the family members. A family member last night told that Nafis was undergoing treatment as the criminals had beaten him up and injured his eyes. Contacted, Deputy Commissioner (Ramna division) Maruf Hossain Sorder of Dhaka Metropolitan Police confirmed the incident. The DC said police arrested six persons and that they were interrogating the suspects in connection with the incident. A Dhaka court ordered to place the arrestees on a three-day remand each in connection with the incident said sources in the court.<sup>18</sup>

On January 30, 2018, finally, Rab was shown arrested BNP leader Anisur Rahman Talukder Khokon over allegations of plotting subversive activities around 20 hours after he went missing in the capital's Gulistan area. On January 29, 2018BNP leader Anisur Rahman Talukder Khokon went missing from the city's Ramna area, his wife claimed. Shah Israt Azmery alleged that a vehicle with a Rab sticker picked up her husband from in front of Ramna Hotel. Khokon, mass education affairs assistant secretary of BNP's executive committee, remained missing for around three months after he had allegedly been picked up by the same force in 2015. Earlier on June 15, 2015, Khokon, a former organizing sectary of Chhatra Dal's central unit, was found in Faridpur about three months after he had gone missing from the capital. At that time, the Rab claimed that it had arrested Khokon along with two others in front of a restaurant on the Dhaka-

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/cops-took-my-husband-home-the-day-1585618>

<sup>18</sup> Hrss investigation desk and <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/rab-impersonators-abduct-youth-ransom-1586572f>

Khulna highway in Faridpur Sadar upazila. Khokon's family, however, alleged that Rab members had picked him up from his home on March 5 that year an allegation rejected by the force.<sup>19</sup>

On January 21, 2018, Detectives claimed that the three people, who had allegedly been picked up by plainclothes men in similar fashion over the last four days, were arrested by them. "A DB team arrested the three raiding the capital's Gulshan and Basila areas," Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said. He said the team arrested Nasiruddin in Gulshan around 8:30 pm with Tk 1.3 lakh in his possession. They arrested Motaleb Hossain at Basila following information gleaned from Nasiruddin, he said. In another drive, the DB men arrested Khaled Hassan Matin, owner of controversial Lakehead Grammar School in the capital, at Gulshan, Masudur said. He, however, refused to divulge details, like why they were arrested and what the charges were. Motaleb, personal officer of Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, had been missing on 20 Jan after a group of people picked him up in the capital's Basila area. The incident happened just two days after Nasiruddin, another employee of the ministry, went traceless. On 18 Jan, Nasiruddin, an upper division assistant (UDA) of the education ministry, went missing. He was on his way to the ministry from his Khilkhet home. On the other hand, Lakehead Grammar School owner Khaled was missing after he was allegedly picked up by unidentified plainclothes men from in front of the school's Gulshan branch on 20 Jan. Edris Ali, an employee of the school, filed a GD with Gulshan Police Station the same day. Khaled, the managing director of RM Group Ltd, a company that supplies construction equipment and materials, purchased the school in March last year.<sup>20</sup>

On April 16, 2018, several leaders from the student platform's central committee were going to restaurants in Chankharpool for lunch. But before that, they wanted to visit their fellow demonstrators who were injured and being treated at the DMCH. "As soon as we reached near the emergency gate of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, three to four motorbikes intercepted the rickshaw carrying the three students," said Bin Yamin, a student who was in another rickshaw nearby. "Two white microbuses with tinted glasses came and the three were dragged into one of the microbuses," he said, adding that he along with others present at the scene spread the news. At the briefing, Nurul said, "We saw hundreds of people in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. We screamed for help but none came to our rescue." Nurul claimed that as the blindfold was removed and he opened his eyes, he found himself and the other two in a room. Later, they found that they were at the DB office. The leaders, Nurul Haq Nur, Muhammad Rashed Khan, and Faruk Hasan are joint conveners of Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, a platform of students who had been demonstrating for reforms in the country's quota system in civil service. Nurul is a master's student of Dhaka University English department while Rashed and Faruk are former students of the university's "Banking & Insurance department" and "Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies". All the fellow protesters were in the dark about their whereabouts until detectives admitted detaining and taking the three to the DB office on Minto Road for "questioning". They were released around 2:30 pm. When the three were being picked up in Dhaka, police in

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/rab-picked-bnp-leader-khokon-1527535>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/they-are-now-custody-1523206>

Jhenidah interrogated Rashed's father Nabai Biswas, a mason, to know whether the family had any political affiliation, claimed Nabai. He said he was not linked with any political party or its affiliated bodies. Talking to reports in front of DU Central Library, the trio narrated how they were picked up.<sup>21</sup>

On the May 24th, 2018, BNP's student affiliate JCD leader Sajal who was reported missing for a couple of days was found left blindfolded near the Rampura Bridge in the Capital at about 8 pm. Earlier the BNP in the afternoon accused the law enforcing agencies of taking away Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's central vice president Faisal Ahmed Sajal who has been missing for the last two days. "The whereabouts of Sajal is not available for two days. His colleagues apprehend that he has been picked up by the members of law enforcing agencies," alleged BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi. "He (Sajal) informed about his position to his elder brother Habibur Rahman and sister in law from a mobile phone of a pedestrian," Sajal's wife said. She also said Sajal cannot say anything more than that since he is now ill. JCD office secretary Abdus Sattar Patuary said Sajal has been admitted to a private hospital for treatment. Earlier on 22 may, Sajal went to missing on his way to Banosrhi residence after Tarabi prayer, according to his family sources. Meanwhile, Speaking at a press conference at party central office, he said the BNP believes the ruling Awami League has the culture of taking away people in such way. He said almost 48 hours have passed but there is no news of Faisal. "His family, friends, and associates are worried about his fate.

---

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/3-quota-leaders-held-hour-1563520>



# Violence against Women



Violence against Women is a common and insidious phenomenon in Bangladesh. The major atrocities against women are torture for dowry, rape, killed after the rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid throwing, physical and mental abuse and killed in a family feud the most common manifestations of violence against women in Bangladesh. It remains a main social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. Inhuman attacks on women have become common and

widespread across the country. The majority of women were victimized domestically by their husbands, in-laws and other family members. The reasons mentioned for abuse were trivial and includes questioning of the husband, failure to perform household work and care of children, economic problems, refusal to manage dowry, etc. 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 from Jan to Jun 2018.

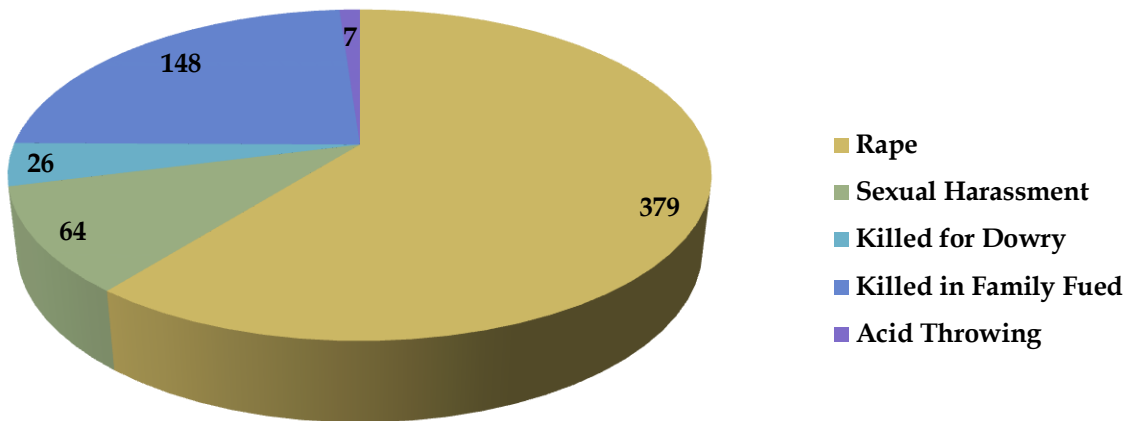


Figure 5: Violence against Women

*HRSS identifies the whole situation of a female in Bangladesh and documented the issues relating to the violation of women rights. The major subjects of violation against women were dowry killings, rape, sexual harassment and stalking, physical and mental abuse. According to the HRSS, the supplied graph illustrates information on violence against women in the first six months of 2018 are detailed:*

### **Rape**

- *A Total Number Of 379 Females Were Raped. Among Of Them 271 Were Victims Of Single Rape And 56 Were Subjected To Gang Rape and 208 Were Children Below The Age Of 16 (Including Single & Gang Rape). On The Other Hand, 16 Female Was Killed After Being Raped and Almost 50 Incidents Have Been Attempted to Rape.*
- *Girls And Women*

### **Killed In Family Feud**

- *In first-half of 2018, About 148 Women Were Killed In The Family Feud And 46 Females Have Been Injured. Out Of Them, 194 Were An Incidents Of Family Feud.*

### **Dowry Related Violence**

- *Approximately 50 Incidents Of Dowry-related Violence Were Reported from Jan To Jun 2018. 26 Killed and 24 Women Were Physically Abused Over Dowry Demands.*

### **Sexual Harassment**

- *According To Information Collected By HRSS, A Total Of 64 Girls And Women Were Reportedly Victims Of Sexual Harassment In the first six months 2018. Among Them, 44 Were Assaulted And 20 Were Stalked.*

### **Acid Violence**

- *Around 07 Girls And Women became victims of acid violence, and among them of 07 were injured between January and June 2018.*

*Selected cases are stated below:* On February 04, 2018 Criminals threw acid on a newlywed woman in Baliadangi upazila of the thakurgaon. Victim Jharna Rani, 18, told reporters at Baliadangi Health Complex that she and her husband were going to Baliadangi Pilot Model High School on a motorbike to meet a relative who is appearing in the SSC examinations. When they reached near the school, four youths, including Sujan Chandra Paul, 19, son of Kheldar Chandra Paul, and Arjun Chandra Paul, 21, son of Rajen Chandra Paul, came to the place on two motorbikes and threw acid at them, she said.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/acid-attack-newlywed-1529887>



On February 07, 2018A man has allegedly beaten his son-in-law to death for demanding dowry and torturing his daughter in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur. The victim was identified as Mozaharul Islam, 27, son of Younus Ali of village Feskipara in Badarganj. The incident happened on 07 Feb at 11:30 pm in Khalpara village of the upazila.<sup>23</sup>

On February 24, 2018A teenage girl was allegedly gang-raped and her mother was “tied up” for trying to save her in Chunarughat of Habiganj. The alleged victim and her mother are under treatment in Habiganj Sadar Hospital. The victim's mother told that one Mizan Mia and Fazul Haque, residents of Manikvandar village of the same upazila, had been stalking her daughter for a long time. “They entered my house while my husband was away and raped my daughter,” she said.<sup>24</sup>

On Jan 08, 2018 Deputy Inspector general of police Mizanur Rahman. The police headquarters withdrew deputy inspector general of police Mizanur Rahman after a woman accused him of marrying her at gunpoint and torturing her. Additional inspector general (media) Seheli Ferdaus said Mizanur has been withdrawn from Dhaka Metropolitan Police and attached to the police headquarters. A woman alleged that DIG Mizan, also an additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, forcibly picked her up from her Panthapath residence adjacent to Square Hospital. Later he kept her confined to his bailey road residence for three days and married her by force in presence of her mother. The incident took place on July 17, 2017.<sup>25</sup>

On 28 January 2018 Teachers and students of Geography and Environment Department (G&E) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) postponed academic activities till February 1 as two female teachers of the department were reportedly abused by two students verbally. The decision came from an urgent academic meeting held at the G&E department council room at 11:00 am.<sup>26</sup>

On February 24, 2018A teenage girl was allegedly gang-raped and her mother was “tied up” for trying to save her in Chunarughat of Habiganj. The alleged victim and her mother are under treatment in Habiganj Sadar Hospital. The victim's mother told that one Mizan Mia and Fazul Haque, residents of Manikvandar village of the same upazila, had been stalking her daughter for a long time. “They entered my house while my husband was away and raped my daughter,” she said.<sup>27</sup>

On April 17, 2018A housewife was killed allegedly by her dowry greedy husband at Kachua village in Jashore Sadar. The deceased, Rahela Begum, 25, was married to fish trader Hero Hossain of Kachua village 14 years ago, family sources said. After the marriage, Hero and his family members often tortured Rahela for dowry. Rahela recently went to her father's home and

---

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/man-beaten-death-demanding-dowry-1531513>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/02/24/606194>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/32171/dig-mizan-withdrawn-for-harassing-woman>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=119340>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/02/24/606194>

started a small business of clothes there. On 16 April, Hero brought Rahela to his house and strangled her following an altercation over the issue.<sup>28</sup>

On 2 April 2018 a housewife sustained serious burn injuries as a miscreant hurled acid on her at Jhauchar in Hazaribagh in the city. The victim was identified as Aklima Khatun, 25, wife of Zobayer Hossain. Zobayer said when Aklima along with her daughter was going to a local school in the morning a young man hurled acid on her.<sup>29</sup>

On April 02, 2018A woman was killed allegedly by her dowry-greedy husband in Jashore Sadar upazila. The deceased was Rabeya Khatun, 22, daughter of Delwar Hossain of Jhumjhumpur Uttarpara in the upazila. Family sources said Rabeya married easy-bike driver, Iqbal Hossain of Satiantola Ghop village, five years ago. After the marriage, Iqbal and his family members often tortured Rabeya for Tk one lakh as dowry. On 2 April, Iqbal strangled Rabeya following an altercation over the issue and fled the scene, said the victim's brother Habibur Rahman.<sup>30</sup>

On May 17,2018A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband over family feud at village Balidah in Sharsha upazila of Jessore. The deceased was Sumona Begum, 27, wife of Ujjal of village Balidah, and daughter of Shahidul Islam of Jhikorgachha upazila. Quoting locals, Sharsha police station officer-in-charge Mashiur Rahman said that Ujjal, son of Mobarak Hossain used to often torture Sumona since they were married eight years back. On 16 may, the couple locked into an altercation during which Ujjal beat up Sumona badly, leaving her dead.<sup>31</sup>

On 17 May 2018, a woman was beaten to death allegedly by her husband over family feud at Balidah village in Sharsha upazila of Benapole. The deceased is Sumona Begum, in her twenties, wife of Ujjal of the village. Local people said Ujjal, son of Mobarak Hossain, used to torture his wife Sumona, daughter of Shahidul Islam of Jhikorgaccha upazila, since their marriage eight years back. On 16 may the couple locked into an altercation. At one stage, Ujjal beat up Sumona mercilessly, leaving her dead.<sup>32</sup>

On May 02, 2018 two minor girls have been raped in Pabna and Lalmonirhat districts In Pabna, a Class-III student was violated allegedly by her uncle in Teghari area of Bera upazila. Police arrested the alleged rapist, Aminul Islam, 32. Locals said Aminul used to stay at his father-in-law's house since his marriage. On 2 may evening, Aminul called the girl, daughter of his wife's sister, to his room and violated her there. In Lalmanirhat, a first grader was raped by a neighbor named Mohananda, 40, on 2 may. The man took the minor to a maize field when the girl had gone to her paddy field, and violated there. Hearing the screams of the victim, locals rushed in and took the girl to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. However, the alleged rapist managed to flee the scene.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-kills-wife-dowry-jashore-1563865>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=130738>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/woman-killed-husband-dowry-1557589>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/41475/housewife-beaten-dead-by-husband-in-jessore>

<sup>32</sup> <http://en.ntvbd.com/bangladesh/167755/Woman-beaten-dead-%E2%80%98by-husband%E2%80%99-in-Benapole>

<sup>33</sup> <http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/174987/2-minor-girls-raped-in-2-districts>

On June 02, 2018 a woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Moheshpur Kuniapara village in Ishwarganj upazila Mymensingh. The deceased was Murshida Begum, 25, wife of Johirul Islam of the village, also the mother of a three-year-old boy. Johirul often tortured Murshida for dowry after their marriage, said the OC. Johirul strangled Murshida following an altercation over the issue, and fled the scene, he said.<sup>34</sup>

On June 22, 2018, five indigenous organizations have protested the recent gang-rape of a teenage Tripura girl in Khagrachhari and demanded an end to the culture of impunity by ensuring punishment for the culprits. They also alleged that violence against women, particularly of the minority indigenous communities, is on the rise due to lack of proper implementation of the law. On 21 June, the Tripura girl, also a tenth grader, went to the Zilla Parishad Park with three of her friend's two boys and a girl. There, a group of Bangalee youths attacked them and gang-raped the Tripura girl. She was rescued later by police. The victim's family filed a case with Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station, accusing eight people.<sup>35</sup>

On the June 28th, 2018 the accused demanded a sum of Tk2 lakh by blackmailing the victim's family with a recording of the rape. Two have been arrested over gang-raping a fourth-grader in Pathalia village of Gopalpur in Tangail. The arrested are Majnu and Josna Begum, both hailing from Pathalia village. According to case statements, the fourth-grader lived with her grandmother after her parents' separation. On April 16, she went to neighbor Fazlu Mia's house on an errand. At that time, with the help of Fazlu's wife Josna Begum, Majnu and Shohag, from Pathalia village, confined the girl to a room and took turns raping. They also recorded it on a mobile phone. On June 9, the rapists again came to the minor's grandmother's house and threatened to leak the video if they were not paid a sum of Tk2 lakh.<sup>36</sup>



<sup>34</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=120012&cat=9/ঐশ্বরগ>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=122450&cat=9/খাগড়া>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2018/06/29/two-arrested-over-gang-raping-minor>

# Attack on Journalists



Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; states that: Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, 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. Journalists are facing an “unprecedented” wave of attacks in Bangladesh. Regrettably, individuals are not always able to

criticize 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.

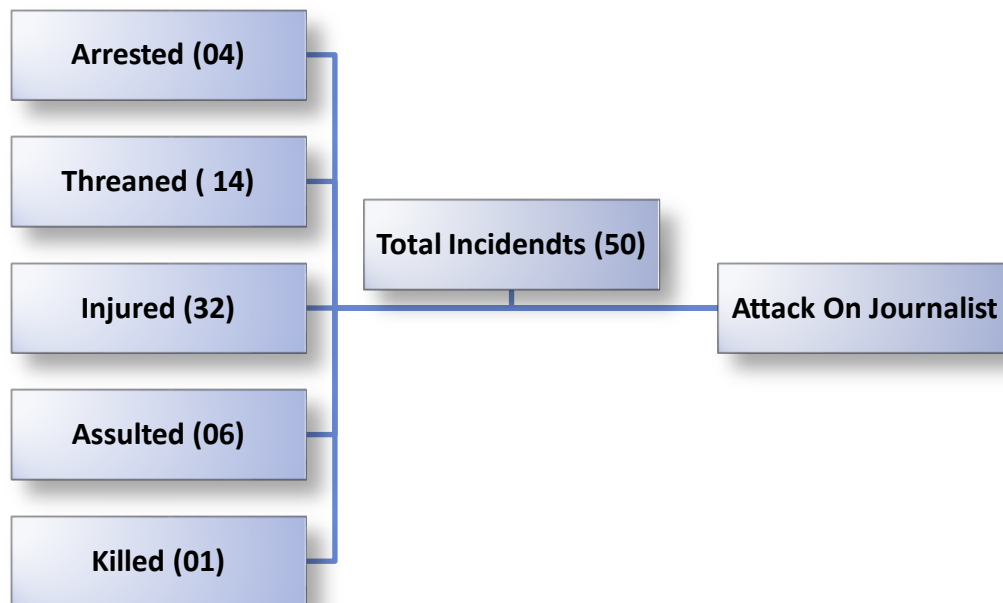


Figure 6 Attacks on Journalist

The given chart illustrates information about the attack on journalists. According to HRSS’s documented statistics, around 32 journalists were injured, nearly 14 threatened, 04 arrested 06 assaulted and one killed from nearly 50 incidents between January to March’18.

Selected cases are as described below: On Jan 22, 2018, a journalist was assaulted by some miscreants in Kaliganj upazila of the lalmonirhat district. They also took away the newsman's camera and laptop from him, said Kaliganj police. A complaint was filed with the local police station, accusing seven people, including the son of a union parishad (UP) member, in

connection with the incident. The victim is Niaz Ahmed Shipon, 28, Kaliganj upazila correspondent of Bangla daily Khola Kagoj, and son of Hazrat Ali of Tushbandar village.<sup>37</sup>

On January 24, 2018 Two newsmen were injured in an attack by miscreants at Benapole Land Port. The injured are Jessore reporter Ziaul Haque and video journalist Sharif Khan of Independent Television. They were admitted to Jessore General Hospital. When a group of port workers brought out a procession, a bomb blasted in the area, said police. On information, the two journalists went to cover the news when a gang attacked them and destroyed their camera, said the victims.<sup>38</sup>

On February 02, 2018 The mayor of Thakurgaon municipality has allegedly threatened to hack a local journalist over the phone for reporting on irregularities in an ongoing road construction project. However, denying the allegation, Mayor Alamgir Sarkar, also president of Jubo League's Ranishankoil upazila unit said he only hurled abuses at the reporter for publishing a "fabricated report". Khurshid Alam Shawon, 24, the upazila correspondent of the Bangla daily Protidiner Sangbad, filed a general diary with Ranishankoil Police Station the same night, accusing the mayor of threatening to hack him.<sup>39</sup>

On April 18, 2018, a police official allegedly assaulted a senior journalist, forced him into the police van and kept him in custody at Rajpara Police Station while he was on duty. Saidur Rahman, the local correspondent of Bhorer Kagoj and general secretary of Rajshahi Press Club, was however released later in the afternoon after the intervention of local journalists and public representatives.<sup>40</sup>

On April 24, 2018 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Government Tolaram College unit in Narayanganj allegedly have assaulted a journalist for his involvement in the recently concluded quota-reform demonstrations. The victim Sourav Hossain Siam, 20, a second-year student of zoology department in the college and literature editor of Prothom-Alo Bondhushava in the district, was beaten on the college campus. Sourav, also a staff reporter of Local online newspaper "Press Narayanganj", said. BCL men called him over a cell phone and asked him to meet them. When he went in front of Tolaram College Arts Building, five to six BCL men swooped on him and shouted, "You do news against us. You are involved with quota-reform movement", he alleged. Sourav alleged that he was beaten inside the students' union office in presence of Habibur Rahman Riad, president of the college BCL unit.<sup>41</sup>

On June 08, 2018 two police officials have been closed for their alleged involvement in the torture of a journalist in Habiganj. They are sub-inspectors Rakibul Islam and Abdul Mukid Chowdhury of Habiganj Model Police Station. Bidhan Tripura, superintendent of police (SP) in Habiganj, confirmed it to this correspondent. On May 31, some policemen forcibly picked up

---

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/journo-assaulted-1523572>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/two-journos-hurt-attack-1524685>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1423156/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/cop-assaults-journalist-rajshahi-1564492>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/journalist-beaten-bcl-men-1567363>



Shirajul Islam Jibon, a reporter of UK-based television Channel S. He was tortured the entire night and framed in a drug case, according to the journalists.<sup>42</sup>

On May 27, 2018, a senior journalist was beaten up allegedly by some ruling party men in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur district. The victim, Jahurul Islam Thandu, 50, of Satpua village, is also Sarishabari upazila correspondent of Bangla daily Jugantor since 1999. Injured Thandu said a group of local Jubo League men led by its upazila unit president Ashraful Islam attacked him when the viva exams for recruitment of MLSS-cum-night guard posts at 20 government primary schools was about to start at the office of the upazilanirbahi officer (UNO) around 10:30 am.<sup>43</sup>



---

42 <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/2-habiganj-cops-closed-torturing-journo-1588612>

43 <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/journo-beaten-ruling-party-men-1582465>

# Attack on Minorities

According to the data collected HRSS, from Jan to Jun '18, it is found, in different corners of the country, a large number of atrocities were committed against the members of the minority communities. The violations against the Hindu minority have been left largely unreported. 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>44</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>45</sup>.

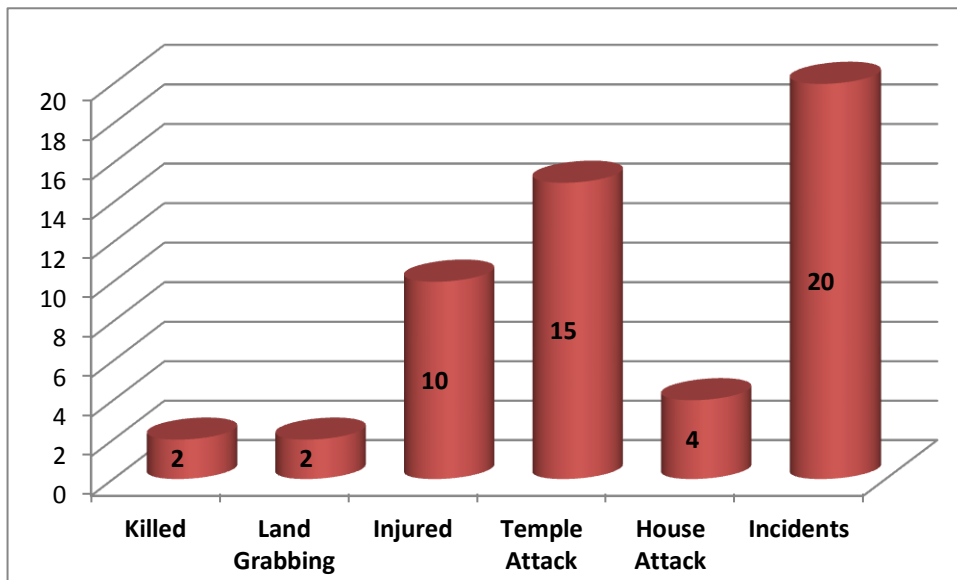


Figure 07: Attacks on Minority

The above graph provides information about the incidents of attacks on the minority. It shows that between Jan and Jun '18 at least 02 men were killed, 04 houses and 15 temples were partially or fully destroyed and 10 minority members were injured in a total of 20 incidents.

Some significant cases are stated below:

<sup>45</sup> ibid

On February 01, 2018 failing to purchase it forcibly, a local influential person erected a tin-shed structure grabbing the seven decimals of land belonging to a minority Hindu family at Fakirertokeya Balapara village in Sadar upazila of the lalmonirhat district. The alleged grabber Majnu Miah and his men also threatened land owner Khagendranath Barmon, 42, son of Dinanath Barmon of the village, with dire consequences if he dared to go there further. “I purchased the land a few years ago to build a new house there for my family,” said land owner Khagendranath. Since the land was purchased, Majnu, 40, son of late Jabbar Ali of the village, had been putting pressure on him to sell the land, which he refused, Khagendranath said. “As I didn't agree to sell my land, Majnu and his men forcibly grabbed the land built a tin-shed structure there,” he said, added, “I could not do anything to resist the grabbers as they all were equipped with sharp weapons and sticks.”<sup>46</sup>

On March 06, 2018A Hindu priest was strangled inside his room and his nephew's house was looted at Jaleswar village in Chatmohar upazila of the pabna district. Police and locals believe it was a planned murder. The victim, Haradhan Bhattacharya alias Haru Sannasi, 70, was an herbal medicine practitioner and a philanthropist.<sup>47</sup>

---

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/hindu-land-grabbed-1528114>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/hindu-priest-killed-1544500>



# Political Violence

Political violence is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. The present government assumed power through a controversial election in 2014 and has been playing an oppressive role against oppositions. No democratic party is allowed to conduct constitutionally guaranteed political activities in any corner of the country. This is a clear sign of immature political culture.<sup>48</sup> Since there is a little political space for oppositions, most of the reported violence's are intra-ruling party clashes over political dominance, tender, and possession of power, collecting subscription, grabbing land and what not. The leaders and activist of opposite political parties are being killed and tortured by the leaders and activists of the ruling party from January to June '18.

Political Violence			
<b>Number of Incidents (98)</b>	<b>Injured (1224)</b>	<b>Bullet hit (39)</b>	<b>Killed (16)</b>

Figure 8: Statistics of Political Violence

*The Figures presented above explain the situation of political violence from January to June '18. According to HRSS, a total of 16 people were killed, 39 were bullet hit, and almost 1224 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.*

*Selected cases are as follows:* On Feb 07, 2018 An activist ruling Awami League was shot to death and at least five other activists received injuries in a clash between its two factions in Kanchan Bridge area of Rupganj in Narayanganj. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Sujon, son of Monu Miah, a resident of Rupshi Gobindapur village of the Kayetpara union.<sup>49</sup>

On March 07, 2018 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists allegedly beat up a student at Rajshahi University. Victim Moynul Islam, a student of mass communication and journalism department, is also an activist of Anushilon Natya Dal -- a university-based drama club.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>48</sup> Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2015,

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/34368/one-killed-in-narayanganj-al-infighting-over-thwarting-bnp>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-beat-ru-student-1545037>

On February 07, 2018 all he asked a BCL man was to return his calculator that the latter borrowed from him around three months back. But little did he imagine that he would have to face a dire consequence just for asking for the calculator he lent to help a fellow student. a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Salimullah Muslim Hall unit of Dhaka University (DU) beat up Ehsan Rafiq, a second-year student of disaster management and science department, leaving him seriously injured. “Omar Faruk of marketing department borrowed my calculator around three months back. On 7 Feb, when I asked him to return my calculator, he refused to do so and threatened me with dire consequences,” alleged Ehsan. “Later, the hall unit Vice President Tanim, Joint General Secretary Anim Irtija Shovon and Abu Taher asked me to show up at the dormitory's TV room. Then they snatched my mobile phone terming me a 'Shibir' activist.” As the BCL men did not find his involvement with "Shibir" after browsing through his Facebook account, they forced him to admit that he was a "Shibir" activist and beat him mercilessly, said Ehsan. Afterward, BCL hall unit president Tahsan Ahmed Rasel asked his followers to take Ehsan to the hall playground in name of solving the issue, said Ehsan. Upon reaching the ground, the BCL activists including BCL hall unit Assistant Secretary Omar Faruk (who borrowed the calculator), Ruhul Amin, Samiul Islam Sami, Ahsan Ullah, Deputy Secretary Mehedi Hasan Himel again beat him up with iron rods and sticks, leaving him severely injured, alleged Ehsan.<sup>51</sup>

On January 05, 2018The authorities have closed Comilla Medical College until January 11 after two groups of Chhatra League clashed over establishing dominance on the campus. The incident left 10 BCL men injured. Two of them Taufik Ahmed and Irfanul Haque, both final-year students, were referred to Dhaka for better treatment, while three others were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital.<sup>52</sup>

On March 26, 2018A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist was stabbed allegedly by men of his rival group in the town. The incident took place near the PDB residential area. Locals took him to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Later, he was referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. He died on the way to the hospital the same day. The victim was Md Russell, 18, a BCL activist of Khagrachari municipality ward No 6.<sup>53</sup>

On January 23, 2018Bangladesh Chhatra League men attacked dozens of Dhaka University students who were demonstrating in front of the vice-chancellor's office to press home a four-point demand, including expulsion of some BCL leaders for “harassing” female students a few days ago. At least 50 students and two campus-based journalists were injured in the second such attack by the pro-Awami League student body. Of the injured, 24 took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. One sustained brain injuries while three to four might have to be admitted there, said Sanaul Hoque Sarker, a doctor at the DMCH.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/dont-lend-calculator-bcl-man-1531573>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1401756/>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bcl-activist-murdered-1553929>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/attack-sit-bcl-men-swoop-protesters-1524280>

On April 01, 2018 Two Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders beat up a student in his room at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Jahangirnagar University. With leg and head injuries, Salauddin Khairullah Tuhin, a master's student of economics, was undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, said his friends. Tuhin alleged that Anik Kumar Nath and Abdullah Al Mamun Razu, vice presidents of the JU unit of BCL, stormed into his room at that night and at one stage, they beat him up with iron rods and pipes.<sup>55</sup>

On April 02, 2018A Chhatra League leader was shot and hacked to death by his rivals at Pakshey in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila, pabna, said police. The victim, Sadrul Alam Pintu, 28, of Char Rooppur village, is the president of Pakshey union unit BCL, pro-ruling Awami League student body. Azim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said around 8:00 pm, some criminals first shot Pintu and then hacked him in front of a pharmacy at Rooppur crossing.<sup>56</sup>

On Apr 15,2018A man was killed in a clash between two factions of local Awami League in Krishnapur bazar of Sadarpur in Faridpur centering the lease of the local market. The deceased was identified as Mannan Sikder, son of Mohammad Ali, a resident of village Radhanagar of Krishnapur union. Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Sadarpur police station, said there was a dispute between union parishad chairman Billal Fakir and Akhteruzzaman Titash, a supporter of local MP, over establishing supremacy in the area.<sup>57</sup>

On April 05, 2018 the principal of Chattogram Biggan College filed a case against Nurul Azim Rony, general secretary of Chattogram City Unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for allegedly assaulting the principal on March 31. In the case, the principal Jahed Khan Rony and seven others of his fellows and some 25 unnamed people, police said. BCL leader Rony allegedly tortured Jahed on the college campus on March 31. The incident, however, surfaced as CCTV footage went viral on social media after a couple of days.<sup>58</sup>

On May 18, 2018A man was killed and 20 others were injured as two rival group of Awami League (AL) clashed over establishing supremacy at Char Ghoshpur area in the pabna district headquarter before iftar. The tense situation is prevailing in the area after the incident, and additional police have been deployed to bring the situation under control. The deceased, Md. Rafik Mondol, 40, is the son of Afzal Mondol from Char Ghoshpur village under Pabna Sadar upazila. He was a fellow activist of AL leader Tarek Mondol, police said.<sup>59</sup>

---

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-mens-attack-sends-ju-student-hospital-1556806>

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=111634&cat=9/ঐক্য>

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/39121/man-killed-in-al-factional-clash>

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-leader-sued-over-assaulting-college-principal-1558885>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/one-killed-20-injured-al-rivals-clash-1578511>

# Border Killings

Bangladesh, 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, issues over border dispute, is considered as prime, because of the 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. The report shows that BSF members are involved in the 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.

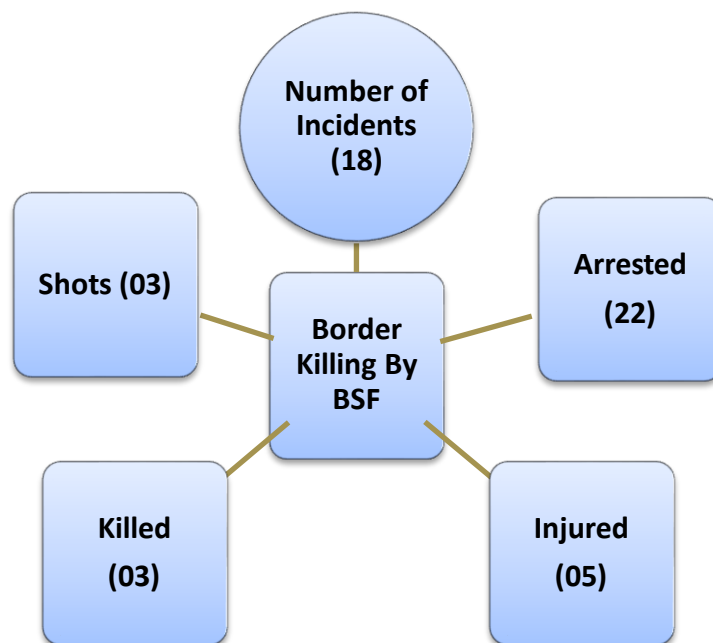


Figure 9: killed in Border by BSF

The given chart provides data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS between Jan and Jun '18, roughly 03 Bangladeshi citizen were killed, 05 injured, and 22 arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) from 18 incidents. Some important cases are mentioned below:

On Jan 15, 2018, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi cattle trader from Burimari border in Patgram upazila of the Lalmonirhat district. The detainee, Mofazzal Hossain, 24, is the son of Abu Hanifar of bordering Mughlibari village in the upazila.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bsf-picks-bangladeshi-cattle-trader-1520305>

On January 17, 2018, A Bangladeshi cattle trader was injured in BSF firing at Chouka border in Shibganj upazila. The injured is Bikon Ali, 26, son of Abul Hossain of Raghob Bati-Par Chouka in the upazila.<sup>61</sup>

On January 28, 2018A Bangladeshi cattle trader was tortured to death by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Burimari border in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat, locals have alleged. The deceased was identified as Manjurul Islam, 20, son of Asadul Islam at Fakirerdanga village in the upazila, police said.<sup>62</sup>

On Jan 31: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) detained a Bangladeshi cattle trader near Ratnai border in Baliadangi Upazila in the thakurgaon district. The arrested is Abdur Barek, 25, son of Abdul Majid, of Ratnai Moradhar Village and a cattle trader.<sup>63</sup>

On Feb 01, 2018Two Bangladesh nationals were injured as a crude bomb thrown by the members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) blasted on the border in Sapahar upazila of Naogaon. The injured are Golam Hossain, 22, son of Alfaz Hossain, and Md Babu, 25, son of Nazrul Mondal of Boldiaghat village in Sapahar. The incident took place near pillar No 238 of India-Bangladesh border at Kalmudanga under Sapahar upazila around 5:00 am.<sup>64</sup>

On May 13, 2018, Indian Border Security Force picked up three Bangladeshi cattle traders at Paria border in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila. They are Shah Alam, 35, of Taranbari village, Abu Sayeed, 23, of Nayabasti village, and parul hossen, 24, of Taranjubari village, of the same upazila. Lt Col Mohammad Hossain, commanding officer of 50 Border Guard Bangladesh Battalion in Thakurgaon, said a patrol team of BSF Satvita camp picked up the three near pillar-386 along the border around 5:00 am as they entered India by cutting barbed wire fence along the border.<sup>65</sup>

On June 26, 2018, a farmer was injured after he was shot by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in bordering Bandarkata village in Haluaghat upazila of Mymensingh, said police. The victim Mozammel Hossain, 26, son of Altaf Ali from the village was undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.<sup>66</sup>

---

61 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/cattle-trader-shot-bsf-1521325>

62 <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1419246/> □ □

63 <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=119941>

64 <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bsf-throws-bomb-bangladeshis-1528648>

65 <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/48385/> □ □ □ □ □

66 <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2018/06/25/161496.html>

# 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>67</sup> Bangladesh has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (September 2, 1990). Despite having such an 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>68</sup>



Figure 9: Statistics of Violence against Children

According to Human Rights Support Society’s report, the graph presented below regarding violence against children from Jan to jun ’18 shows that around 21 children were killed and 43 children’s have been critically injured in a total 45 incidents. Some important cases are stated below:

On Jan 21, 2018, the father, grandparents and an aunt of a one-and-half-months-old baby have been arrested for “murdering” the baby born prematurely in Aronkola village under Ishwardi upazila of Pabna. Police recovered the body from a cabinet in the house. Atika Khatun was born

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

<sup>68</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27.

prematurely with disabilities to one Ashraful Islam on December 5, police said. “Ashraful’s family wanted a son. He already has two girls and when the third child turned out to be a dJanhter, they were very unhappy. Atika was born prematurely at seven months and had severe disabilities. The family conspired to kill the baby to be freed from the burden of a sick girl child. They also planned to implicate their neighbor, with whom they have some enmity,” Md Johurul Haque, assistant superintendent of Ishwardi police circle, said. Atika went missing around noon after her mother was called away by her mother-in-law to the next room in the house. “When I returned, the baby was missing and after not being able to locate her, we informed the police. Police recovered the body from a cabinet in the house,” said Nishi Khatun, Atika’s mother. Nishi said she was tortured by her in-laws since Atika was born for failing to deliver a son. The family could not accept Atika’s disabilities, she said. Nishi demanded punishment of the people who killed her child.<sup>69</sup>

On February 14, 2018, a class X student was beaten to death; while his classmate was left injured in Bokchora Bypass area of Satkhira around 10:00 pm. Police have arrested one person in this connection. The dead, Sakib Hossain, 16, only son of Police-constable Nazrul Islam of Palashpol Boubazar area, was a student of Police Line Secondary School. The injured, Rashedul Islam, is a son of retired policeman Abdul Aziz of Rasulpur area in the town.<sup>70</sup>

On March 28, 2018A five-year-old girl was beaten dead in front of her father during a clash in Ghughudah Beel area of Santhia upazila of the pabna district. The deceased was Sadhona Khatun, daughter of Ratan Fakir of the village. Victim’s father filed a case with Santhia Police Station, accusing Iman and his sons. The accused went into hiding after the incident.<sup>71</sup>

On June 27, 2018, a 12-year-old girl was killed by burglars at her house on Sayed Shah Lane in Chittagong city. The throat slit body of Ilham Bint Nasir was found by her mother, who had left home for about an hour to drop her other daughter off at school. The grieving mother Nasrin Akhter told police that ‘gold ornaments of about ‘five tolas’ were missing from the flat. The victim was a student of class VI at Mern Sun School and College. Her father Nasir of Satkania upazila is an expatriate in Saudi Arabia.<sup>72</sup>

---

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/infant-killed-family-members-1523185>

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1431126/□□-ঐশ্বন ->

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/five-year-old-girl-beaten-dead-front-her-father-1554751>

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/2-kids-murdered-their-homes-1596481>



# Violent Attack

‘Attack’ is a general term 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 in the first six months of ‘18, Bangladesh has experienced a series of violent attacks by extremists. HRSS tried to track all kinds of a violent attack which took place in Bangladesh.

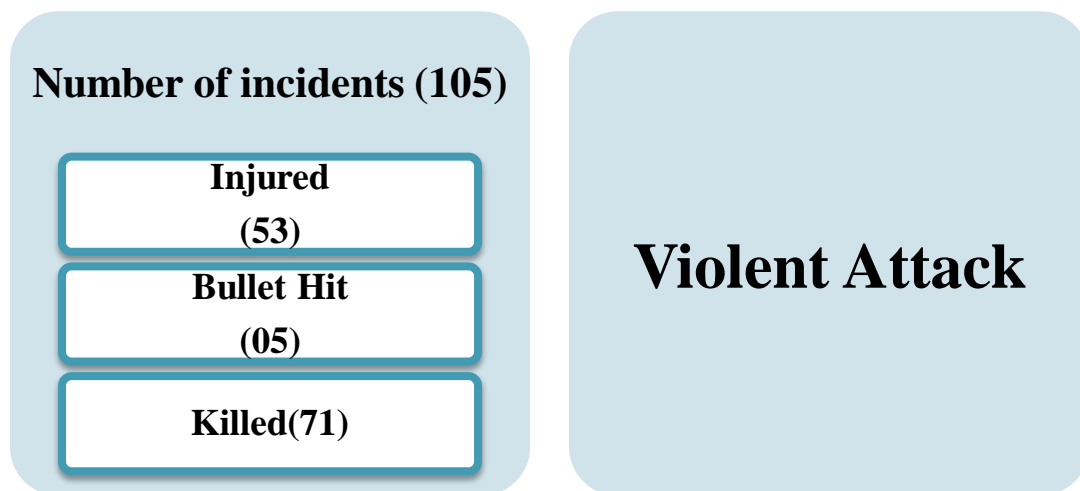


Figure 10: Statistics of Violent Attacks

*The provided chart describes Information about the violent attacks on armless civilians has been summarized above. Statistics shows, a total 105 incidences of violent attack happened and 71 were killed in those attacks, 53 were seriously injured and around 05 were hit by a bullet.*

Some of the incidences have been stated below: On Jan 1, 2018: A teenage boy was stabbed to death at Janerchala Royal Green area in Kaliakoir Upazila of the gazipur district. The identity of the deceased could not be known. Sub-Inspector of Kaliakoir Police Station Abdul Hakim said some miscreants stabbed the boy and silted his throat in the area around 5 am.<sup>73</sup>

On Jan 07, 2018 A Bangladesh Chhatra League activist was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals in Tilagarh Point area of Sylhet city. The deceased, Tanim Khan, 21, son of Ismail Khan of Burunga village in Osmaninagar upazila, was a BA (pass) final year student of Sylhet

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=114480>



Government College, and a member of the district Awami League faction led by the youth and sports secretary Ranjit Sarkar, said his classmates.<sup>74</sup>

On Jan 25, 2018, unidentified miscreants attacked Professor M Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari, vice-chancellor of Islamic University in Kushtia. The incident took place on Jhenidah-Kushtia Highway adjacent to Boroda area under Shoilokupa upazila in Jhenidah around 3:00 am, IU police officer-in-charge Raton Shiekh, said. A group of unidentified miscreants attacked on the vice-chancellor falling tree on the road while he was returning to the campus from Dhaka.<sup>75</sup>

On Jan 25, 2018 An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of Awami League was stabbed to death in Feni. The deceased was Mostafa Ahmmad Shakil, 20, son of Humayun Kabir at village Gunabati of Chouddagram in Comilla.<sup>76</sup>

On February 01, 2018 A local Jubo League activist was allegedly hacked to death by unidentified assailants at Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj. The deceased was identified as Zakir Hossain, 36, of Murtozabad area in Bhulta union, locals said. Md Shahidul Alam, officer-in-charge of Bhulta police outpost said, Zakir was left injured after being hacked in Tat bazaar of Bhulta area.<sup>77</sup>

On Feb 23, 2018, Unknown assailants shot a retired army person to death at village Dhanuakhola in Comilla Sadar. The victim was identified as Mobarak Hossain, 70, a resident of the village. Kotwali police inspector (investigation) Salahuddin Ahmed said miscreants stormed into the house of the former army member around 3:30 am and fired several bullets at him, leaving Mobarak injured critically.<sup>78</sup>

On March 19, 2018 A local Jubo League leader was stabbed to death in the town. Imran Ali, 26, son of Khorshed Ali of Kanaikhali area, was youth and sports secretary of district Jubo League's ward No 4 of Natore municipality.<sup>79</sup>

On 26 March 2018 unidentified miscreants stabbed a man to death and injured another on Dinajpur-Thakurgaon highway near Purba Mallikpur Dakhil Madrasa in Kaharol Upazila here. The deceased was identified as Uday Chandra Roy, son of Lalon Chandra Roy, of Sundarpur Village in the upazila while the injured is van passenger Afijul Islam.<sup>80</sup>

On Apr 01, 2018 a union level leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, ruling Awami League-backed student organization, died after he was shot and hacked at Ishwardi in Pabna on the 31st March. The deceased was identified as Sadrul Alam alias Pintu, 28, president of BCL Pakshey union unit and son of Abdul Azad, of village Char Rupur of Ishwardi. The family said that some

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/sylhet-bcl-man-stabbed-death-1516657>

<sup>75</sup> <http://samakal.com/whole-country/article/18011317/>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/33446/bcl-activist-stabbed-to-death-in-feni>

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=102999&cat=9/>

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/02/24/606172>

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/natore-jubo-league-leader-stabbed-dead-1550617>

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=129332>

miscreants shot at Sadrul Alam Pintu and hacked him indiscriminately at Pakshi Ruppur crossing of the upazila.<sup>81</sup>

On April 03, 2018 a youth was stabbed to death by unknown miscreants in Miakhannagar area of Chattogram. The deceased is Saidul Islam Rakib, 23, of Kumilla. He was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. There was an altercation among Saidul and some others while working at a community center. Saidul might have been stabbed following that, said Kabir Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Bakalia Police Station.<sup>82</sup>

On April 16, 2018A 10-year-old madrasa student was killed in a gun attack by unidentified miscreants at Khabir Miar Bazar in Hatiya upazila of Noakhali. The victim, Miskatur Rahman Nirob, was a student of class-VI at Rahmania Madrasa in the area. His father Miraj Uddin sustained gun injuries in the incident. Both are residents of Bejugalia in the municipal area. Nirob's mother Shefali Begum, 28, and two other men Rashedul Haque Nantu and Shahadat Hossain were also injured in the attack.<sup>83</sup>

On May 02, 2018 the chairman of Naniarchar upazila parishad, Shaktiman Chakma, was shot to death by some unidentified miscreants in front of Naniarchar police station in Rangamati. Rangamati superintendent of police Md Alamgir Kabir confirmed the incident. The deceased, Shaktiman Chakma, 51, was vice-president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (MN Larma). The incident took place around 10:300am. Md Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Naniarchar police station, said a group of miscreants swooped on Shaktiman and opened fire on him while he was going to the office, leaving him critically injured. Later, he was rushed to Rangamati General Hospital where the duty doctor declared him dead. The victim's driver Rupak Chakma was also injured during the incident, police said.<sup>84</sup>

---

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/38136/bcl-leader-killed-in-ishwardi>

<sup>82</sup> <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2018/04/03/tailor-stabbed-to-death-in-chittagong>

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/10-year-old-killed-gun-attack-1563508>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/40333/rangamati-upazila-chairman-shot-dead>

# Abduction

Abduction means the crime of taking away of a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.<sup>85</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 Jun '18, the occurrences of abduction increased alarmingly all over the country. The graph below provides information about the total number of abduction.

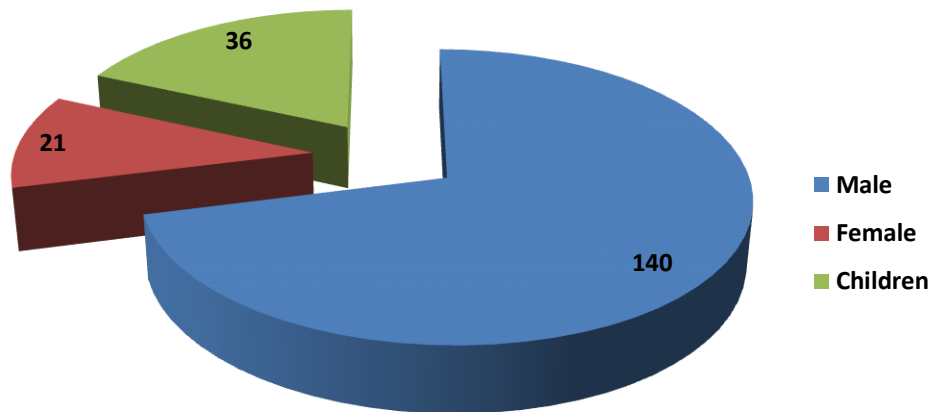
## Abduction by Non State Actors:

- **Total Abduction (197)**
- **Killed after Abduction (83)**
- **Rescue after Abduction (74)**

**Figure 11: Statistics of Abduction**

*The above chart describes information about abduction cases between Jan and Jun '18 in Bangladesh. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), a total 197 people were abducted and among them, 83 were killed after the abduction and nearly 74 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.*

<sup>85</sup> <https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/abduction/>



**Figure 12: Categorization of abduction**

*The above pie chart illustrates information about the abduction. According to information gathered by HRSS from Jan to Jun '18, a total of 197 people were abducted in the different area of the country, among them approximately 140 were male, roughly 21 were female and almost 36 were children.*

Selected cases are as follows: On April 03, 2018 the body of Rangpur special public prosecutor Rathish Chandra Bhowmik was found from the Rangpur district town following the statement of his wife Dipa Bhowmik who was picked up by the law enforcers. According to Rapid Action Battalion, they said, the body of Rathish Chandra, 55, has been recovered from Tajhat Mollapara in the town around 2:30 am, five days after went missing, A lawyer by profession, Rathish was also involved in other activities. He was the general secretary of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote of Rangpur district unit, vice president of Rangpur District Lawyers' Association, law affairs secretary of district Awami League (AL), and a trustee of Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian Oikya Parishad in the district.<sup>86</sup>

On Jan 1, 2018, over two months into the incident, a three-year-old missing boy is till traceless. The victim is Reaz Babu, son of trader Azizul Islam of Baroi para area in Nilphamari municipality. Azizul in a choked voice said his son went to his maternal grandfather's house beside their residence on October 14 and had breakfast there with family members. “We apprehend that Babu was abducted but none has contacted me for ransom till now,” he added.<sup>87</sup>

On Jan 04, 2018A “missing” woman and her nine-year-old grandson were found dead inside a locked room of a rented house in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj where she lived with her son-in-law and grandchildren. The January to March’18man, Parvin Akhtar, 50, wife of late Abdur Rahim from Comilla, used to look after her grand daughter and grandson, Mehedi Hasan, as her daughter Shilpi Akhtar is an expatriate worker in the UAE.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>86</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/body-missing-rangpur-pp-rathish-chandra-bhowmik-found-1557898>

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/kidnapped-or-missing-1513255>

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/missing-woman-grandson-found-dead-home-1515130>

On Jan 10, 2018, the body of a primary school boy was recovered from a pond at Shibjay Nagar village of Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj, three days after he was allegedly kidnapped. Relatives of the victim alleged that miscreants killed him as they failed to realize ransom from his family. The deceased was identified as Shah Paran, 7, son of Shabaj Ali, a shopkeeper of village Shibjay Nagar of Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj and a class one student of Bat Tali Government Primary School in the area, police said.<sup>89</sup>

On February 07, 2018A little girl's courage and quick thinking saved four girls including her from kidnappers. Fourth-grader Lima Akter and three other girls of her school were being taken away by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, when the girl jumped off the speeding vehicle, prompting bystanders to intercept the kidnappers.<sup>90</sup>

On February 14, 2018A 10-year-old schoolboy was found dead in Phulbaria upazila of the Mymensingh, four days after he went missing. The deceased, Muklesur Rahman, son of Ashraf Ali of Koyerchala village, was a Class III student at a local primary school in the upazila, police said.<sup>91</sup>

On April 01, 2018 Detectives rescued a seventh grader from a bus in Chittagong city's Maijjartek, six days after he went missing. Shreekanto Nath, 13, son of Torun Kanti Nath, was traveling alone in the Dhaka-bound bus of Green Line that started from Cox's Bazar, said Assistant Commissioner Moinul Islam of the Detective Branch of police, West Zone. Shreekantho went missing from Haliashahar while he was going to take tuition on March 25, said police. Later, the father, a teacher at Haliashahar Housing Estate Primary School, got a phone call asking for Tk 2 lakh as ransom. The boy was handed over to his family.<sup>92</sup>

On May 24, 2018, over two months into his abduction, a teenage boy was found murdered at Keshoreganj Bazar in Phulbaria upazila of Mymensingh district. Victim Mehedi Hasan Babu, 15, son of Shahjahan Ali of Shibpur village, got GPA-5 in this year's SSC examinations. He went out of his house on March 6 and remained missing since then. The following day, Minara Khatun received a message from her son's mobile phone demanding Tk 6 lakh for his safe return and not to disclose the matter to others, the mother said, adding that since then Babu's phone was found switched-off.<sup>93</sup>

---

<sup>89</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/32305/minor-boy-killed-after-abduction>

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/kidnap-bbaria-girls-presence-mind-saves-her-3-others-1531489>

<sup>91</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/missing-schoolboy-found-dead-mymensingh-1534864>

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=111302&cat=9/নির্দেশ>

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/abducted-teen-found-murdered-1581373>

# Public Lynching

Lynching 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 the right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

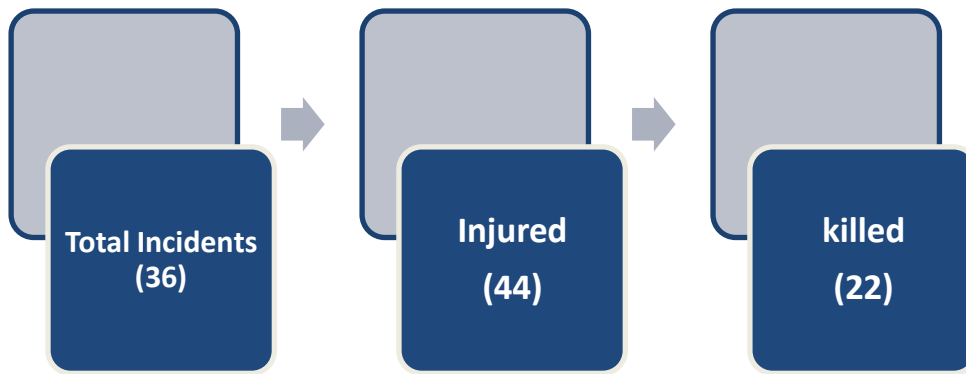


Figure 13: Statistics of Public Lynching

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases from January to June '18. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 44 people were injured and nearly 22 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total 36 incidents.

Some important cases are given below: On February 08, 2018 Villagers beat two unidentified men to death suspecting them of robbers in Savar and Brahmanbaria. An alleged robber aged about 30 was beaten to death by a mob in Nolam area of Savar on the outskirts of the capital. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, another suspected robber was killed after a good beating by the villagers in Mulgram union under Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria on 08 Feb.<sup>94</sup>

On February 12, 2018A mob beat up an alleged robber to death at Belua village in Tongibari upazila of munshiganj district. The dead were identified as Babul Hossain Babu, 47, son of Shahjahan of Postagola. Babul's body was sent to Munshiganj General Hospital for an autopsy.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=104112&cat=9>

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/mob-beats-robber-death-1533778>

On February 17, 2018, a suspected robber, beaten by an angry mob at Charsandi village under Sadar upazila, died at Shariatpur General Hospital. The victim was Kabir Khan, 45, son of Ansar Uddin Khan of Lakkhipur village under Nagerpara union of Gosairhat upazila in the shariatpur district.<sup>96</sup>

On March 09, 2018 an alleged robber was killed and another injured in a mob beating in Nawdapara area of Chapainawabganj's Gomostapur upazila of the chapainawabganj. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Raihan, 28, son of Bakkar Ali of Birampara village in the same upazila. The injured, Sabdul, 23, son of Mohiuddin of Jambaria village in Bholahat upazila in the district, was undergoing treatment at Gomostapur Upazila Health Complex.<sup>97</sup>

On March 13, 2018A mob beat dead an alleged robber in Pathorghata upazila of Barguna. Md Bellal Hossen, 45, son of Amir Hossen of Dakkhin Kupdhon village under Pathorghata upazila died around 8:00 pm at Pathorghata upazila health complex, said Mollah Md Khabir Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Pathorghat Police Station.<sup>98</sup>

On May 09, 2018A youth died in the capital, hours after a mob suspecting him a mugger beat him in the capital's Ramna area, police claimed. The deceased is Md Mongol, 25. Ihsanul Ferdous, assistant commissioner (Ramna Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said police rescued him around 9:00 am from Chairmangoli area after people beat him on an allegation of mugging. Police took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, after which he was taken to Ramna Police Station around 2:00 pm. As his condition deteriorated, police rushed him to DMCH again where he was declared dead around 5:50 pm, Ferdous claimed.<sup>99</sup>

---

<sup>96</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/robber-beaten-dead-1536376>

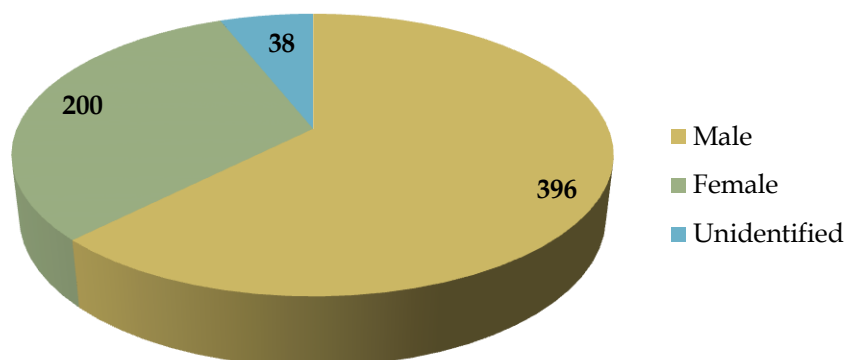
<sup>97</sup> <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1446736/> □ □ □ □

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/333967/> □ □ □ □ □ □

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/youth-killed-mob-beating-capital-1574131>

## Recovery of Dead Bodies

The right to life is universally acknowledged as a basic or fundamental human right. It 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>100</sup> In Bangladesh, due to different reasons including worsening of law and order situation, unidentified dead bodies are frequently found at different places in the country.



**Figure 14: Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body**

The given pie chart provided information according to Human Rights Support Society's data collection from January to June '18, a total of 562 dead bodies were found in different areas of the country, among them 396 bodies were male and 200 bodies were female and 38 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On Jan 03, 2018 An elderly woman and her grandson were found dead in a house of an Italy-expatriate at Mijmiji Kandapara of Siddhirganj in Narayanganj. The victims were identified as Parvin Begum, 50, also the caretaker of the house, and her grandson Mehedi, 9. Mohammad Sarfuddin, additional superintendent of police (zone-Ka) of Narayanganj, said locals smelt an unpleasant odour coming from the locked house of Tofazzal Hossain, an expatriate from Italy and informed police.<sup>101</sup>

On Jun 09, 2018 A member of a union parishad in Kushtia was found dead in a canal at Machpara union of Pangsa in Rajbari. The deceased was identified as Abdul Mazed Mandal, 50, a member of ward no 5 of Jayanti Hazra union in Khoksa upazila of Kushtia.<sup>102</sup>

On Jan 13, 2018 The body of a madrasa student was found in Naogaon. The deceased was Md Shakib Hossain, 18, son of Azahar Ali of Chawk-Proshad Khanpara village under Naogaon municipality area. He was an Alim student at Chawk-Proshad Alim Madrasa in the area.<sup>103</sup>

<sup>100</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1401126/ঘর->

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/58540/কুষ্টিয়ার->

<sup>103</sup> <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/320893/ট>



On February 27, 2018A music teacher was found dead in the town. The slain was identified as Nahidul Islam Nahid, 33, son of Abdul Mabud Sarkar of Dinajpur Municipality. He was a music teacher at Dinajpur Collectorate School and College. Nahid's family members said he went to Yammi Chinese restaurant in the town from where he came out after getting a phone call. Later, passersby found him lying unconscious in front of the restaurant.<sup>104</sup>

On Mar 15, 2018, the police recovered two unidentified bullet-hit bodies from the hilly area on Eidgor-Eidgaon Road in Cox's Bazar Sadar. Locals saw the bodies early in the morning and informed the police, said Minhaj Mahmud Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Eidgaon Investigation Centre under Cox's Bazar Sadar Thana.<sup>105</sup>

On Mar 24, 2018, the police recovered a throat-slit body of a man near his house at village Kuladi of Bharara union in Pabna Sadar. The deceased was identified as Abdur Rashid Biswas, son of late Wahid Ali Biswas of the village.<sup>106</sup>

On April 05, 2018 the body of a schoolboy was found at Ayubnagar in Patarihat union of Kamalnagar upazila under Laxmipur, five days after he went missing. The deceased, Sharif Hossain, 12, son of Faruk Pahloan of Char Falkon area, was a student of Class V. "Locals found the boy's body at a soybean field near the fish farm, and informed the police."<sup>107</sup>

On May 02, 2018 a bullet-hit body of an alleged robber was found under a bridge at Luterchar of Meghna upazila of Cumilla. The deceased, is Jahangir, 35, son of Abul Hashem of Boro Baipara village of the upazila. Locals said they called the police after they found a body lying in muddy water under the Luterchar Bridge.<sup>108</sup>

On Jun 18, 2018, an indigenous college girl was found dead in Bandarban while an elderly man was beaten dead in Barguna. Police recovered the body of an indigenous girl from her house in Yangcha area under Bandarban's Lama Upazila. The victim was identified as Mya Hla U Marma, 18, who sat for her HSC exam this year and daughter of Cra Hla Aung Marma.<sup>109</sup>

On 29 Jun 2018: A female garment worker was found dead at her working place at South Jarun area of the district town. The deceased was identified as Mitu Akhter, 25, of Barishal District and a worker of Delta Apparels Ltd.<sup>110</sup>

---

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/music-teacher-found-dead-1541050>

<sup>105</sup> [www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=109350&cat=9/](http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=109350&cat=9/)

<sup>106</sup> <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1456621/>

<sup>107</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/schoolboys-body-found-1558636>

<sup>108</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/bullet-hit-body-recovered-1570675>

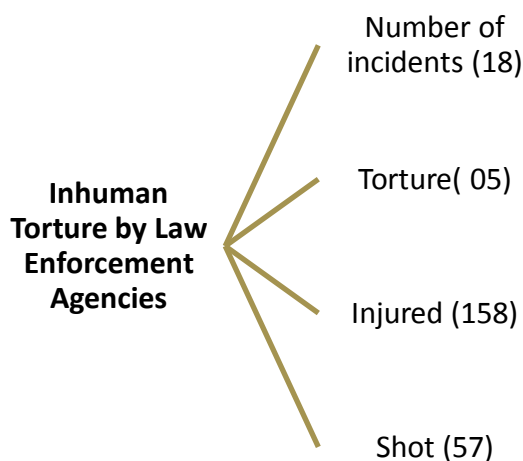
<sup>109</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/college-girl-found-dead-bandarban-1591912>

<sup>110</sup> <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=145173>

# 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>111</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 the first six of 18 is detailed below:



Figure; 14, Statistics of Inhuman Torture

<sup>111</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx>

*The graph illustrates information about inhuman tortured by law enforcement agencies, According to HRSS, from Jan to Jun' 2018, a total of 278 people were reportedly injured, almost 57 shot and about 55 victims of torture by the law enforcement agency. Some cases are as follows:*



**More than 100 protesters injured by LEA in quota reform clashes in DU on April 08'18**

On Apr 11, 2018, Job-seekers and students demanding reform of the existing quota system in public service clashed with police in Shahbagh and Dhaka University areas throughout the night on April 08, leaving at least 80 people injured. Police dispersed the agitating job-seekers and students from Shahbagh intersection around 8:00 pm on Apr 8, charging baton, and lobbing teargas shells and rubber bullets after they blocked the intersection as part of the programme announced earlier by Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad (Bangladesh general students' right protection council). Amid the police action, the demonstrators retreated towards the DU campus. However, they took a position on different roads and continued their protest. Female students of the university also came out of their dormitories and joined the protesters. Amid the police action, the demonstrators retreated towards the DU campus. Female students of the university also came out of their dormitories and joined the protesters.



On the other hand, police and Bangladesh Chhatra League men rushed in and chased them. Later, they went back to the Raju Sculpture. Around 2:00 am, police surrounded them in the area and lobbed teargas shells to disperse them. Being chased, the female students took shelter

in the Teacher-Student Centre. Police detained at least 25 students from the protest. The injured students were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Dhaka University Medical Centre. On 17 February, students and job-seekers started the movement to press for their five-point demand that includes the introduction of unified age limit in government jobs, review of quota system in government recruitment process, also it includes Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination, stopping taking benefit by job seekers under the same quota, filling vacant posts from merit list if the candidates from quota are not found and fixation of 10 percent quota instead of existing 56 percent.<sup>112</sup>

At least 60 students were injured as the police charge baton against quota protesters to disperse them on Dhaka-Aricha highway near the Jahangirnagar University campus, On Apr 11, 2018, Witnesses said some 2,000 students under the banner of Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, (Bangladesh General Students' Right Protection Council), brought out a procession around 9 am from the central library of the university. At one stage, police charged baton, teargas shells, and rubber bullets to disperse them that triggered a chase and counter-chase. Sixty students were injured during the police action and they were taken to Enam Medical College Hospital.<sup>113</sup>



Police use rubber bullets to disperse quota protesters

On June 11, 2018, At least 5 readymade garments (RMG) factory workers were injured when police tried to disperse them from Zirabo-Bishmail road in Kathgora area of Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital. Around 10:00 am, hundreds of RMG workers of Positive Fashionwear Ltd started demonstrating on the busy road leading to Dhaka-Aricha and Dhaka-Tangail highways demanding arrear salaries and Eid bonus, said locals.<sup>114</sup>

<sup>112</sup> <http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/173887/At-least-80-protesters-injured-in-quota-reform>

<sup>113</sup> <http://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/173914/At-least-60-hurt-at-JU-as-quota-protesters-clash>

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/5-rmg-workers-injured-clash-police-1589902>

# The situation of Freedom of Expression

The present condition of freedom of expression in Bangladesh is dreadful because of an absence of social equality, democracy and a lack of useful societies, which have been provoked by a gradually suppressive political milieu. The rights to freedom of expression are constantly violated while human rights activists and journalist, opposition party 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.

*According to the Human Rights Support Society's information from January to June '18, a total of 08 have been arrested under Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act 2006 (amended 2009 and 2013) in different areas of the country.*

*Case study 01; On Jan 29, 2018, the cabinet of Bangladesh has approved a draft of the "Digital Security Act 2018", 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 2018. 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 the freedom of expression of citizens, which is contrary to the constitution.<sup>115</sup>*



On January 01, 2018 two journalists were sued under Section 57 of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act in Narayanganj. They are Shahjahan Shamim, editor-in-chief of [www.newsnarayanganj24.net](http://www.newsnarayanganj24.net), and Tanvir Hossain, executive editor of the news portal. Sayem Ahmed, a local businessman, filed the case with Narayanganj Model Police Station, alleging that the news portal tarnished his image by publishing a fake news item. Police, however, say Sayem is accused in a number of cases, including abduction, attempted murder, and extortion, filed with different police stations in the district.<sup>116</sup>

On January 14, 2018, Narayanganj police arrested a youth allegedly over a Facebook post demeaning Islam. Hasan-ul Islam, 29, was arrested in Meghna Ghat area of Sonargaon. He is the son of a brick kiln owner in Fatullah. Md Shahjalal, the inspector of Fatullah Model Police Station, said some photos “demeaning Islam” was posted on Hasan's Facebook account. Police also detained Hasan's elder brother on that day for interrogation, he said.<sup>117</sup>

On Jan 02, 2018 two journalists were sued under Section 57 of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act in Narayanganj. They are Shahjahan Shamim, editor-in-chief of [www.newsnarayanganj24.net](http://www.newsnarayanganj24.net), and Tanvir Hossain, executive editor of the news portal.<sup>118</sup>

On 03 February 18 Police has arrested Shihab Gazi, a Juba Dal leader, for posting a mockery image of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by social network on Facebook. Shihab Gazi, the Juba Dal leader, was arrested from his house at Chakhar in Banaripara upazila of Barisal. Officer in charge of the police station, Mujjad Hossain said that they are processing of filing a case against Shihab Gazi is under the Information Technology Act. He is also said, shihab is the General Secretary of Ward No. 7 of Chakha Union Jubal Dal.<sup>119</sup>

The singer Asif Akbar has been arrested under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) act. The case filed by the composer, musician and singer Shafiq Tuhin on 4<sup>th</sup> June. A team of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) arrested him on June 5<sup>th</sup>, late night. In the same case, more than 4/5 unidentified people have been accused. Asif Akbar is the main accused in this case. He was arrested from his own studio in the FDC area at around 1:30 am.<sup>120</sup>

---

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/2-journalists-sued-under-ict-act-1513816>

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/youth-held-over-facebook-post-nganj-1519486>

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=98781&cat=9/>

<sup>119</sup> <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2018/02/03/145780.html>

<sup>120</sup> <http://www.banglanews24.com/entertainment/news/bd/657321.details>

*Case study 02;* On February 24, 2018, Police charged truncheons and used water cannons on BNP men to foil their black flag programme in the capital's Nayapaltan. More than a dozen party leaders and activists, including Joint Secretary General Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, were detained in the process. The BNP had announced the protest programme after the authorities denied it permission to hold a rally in Dhaka on 24 Feb. On February 22, the BNP announced the black flag programme protesting the denial of permission for its rally on 24 Feb demanding the release of Khaleda. Party leaders and activists started gathering in front of their central office since morning. The programme was scheduled for 11:00 am. Around 10:30 am, several hundred party activists with black flags sat down on the street in front of the office and started chanting slogans. Police began charging truncheons as soon as the BNP activists sat there. They also used coloured water from the cannons. BNP chairperson's adviser Aaur Rahman Dhali, organizing Secretary Fazlul Haq Milon and central leader Nilufer Chowdhury Moni were injured in police action and were taken to the hospital. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at an emergency press briefing blamed the government for “provoking the party to create a violent situation”. “The ministers of this illegal government are continuously making provocative statements to create a volatile situation in the country but we are very carefully avoiding it,” he said. The BNP leader said they would carry on with peaceful programmes in the coming days despite the “provocations”. He said, “Why should the party have to take permission for every program. Why did police launch an attack on BNP's peaceful movement? “It is our fundamental right,” Fakhrul said. Meanwhile, He claimed that at least 320 leaders and activists, including several women activists, were injured on 22 Feb police action and over 150 were arrested.<sup>121</sup>

---

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/cops-swoop-bnp-activists-foil-protest-1539673>



# Quarterly Human Rights Report At Glance

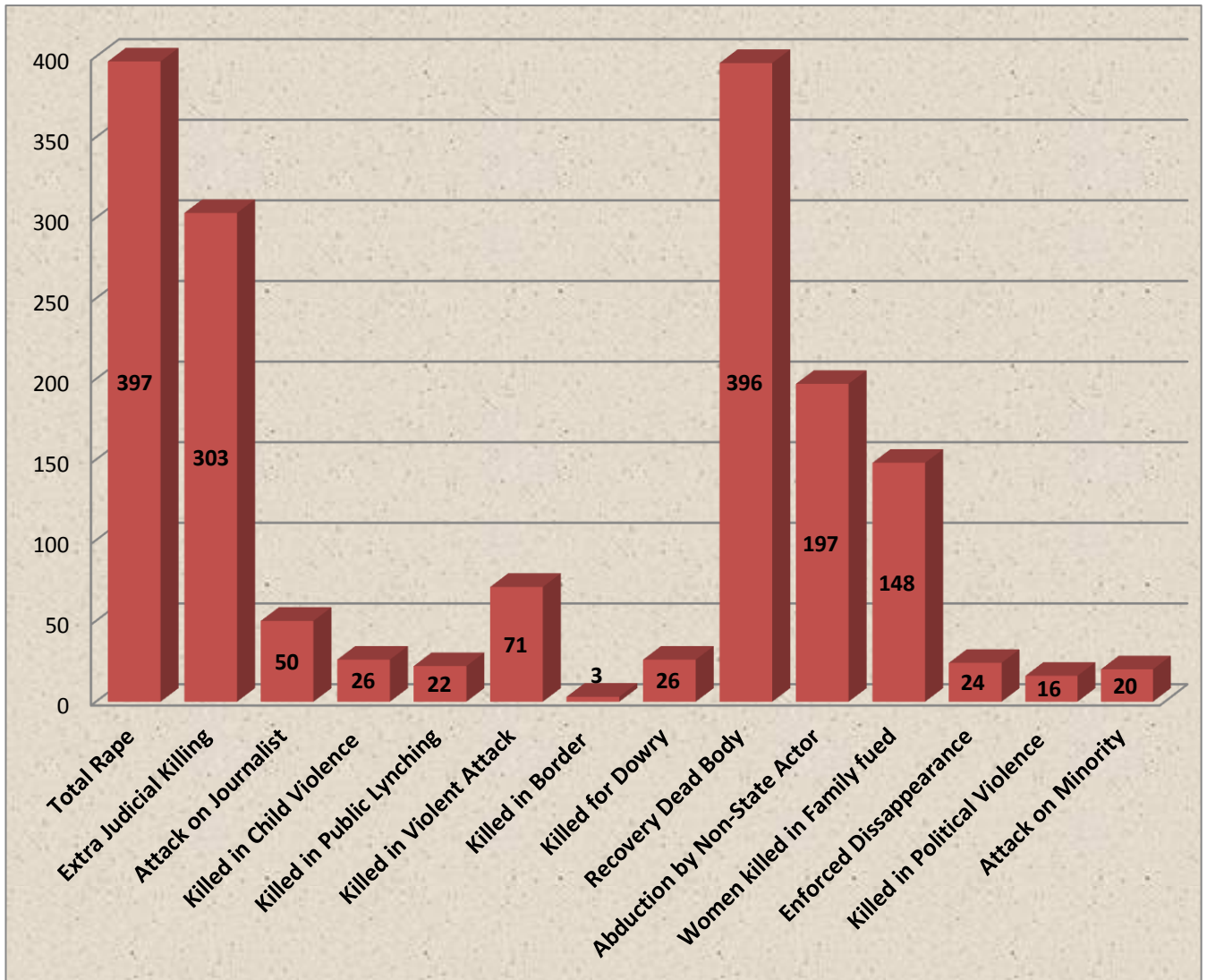


Figure 16: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh from Jan. to Jun '2018

# Conclusion

---

Having examined the pros and cons, it is observed 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. The 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 the first six months of 2018. 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.

# Recommendation

---

- 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 which recently happened in the name of anti-drug war, 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 the 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: half-yearly Statistics-2018

Type of Human Rights Violation		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
<b>Violence Against Women</b>	Sexual Harassment	08	16	07	15	10	08	64
	Rape	64	53	63	63	65	71	379
	Killed for Dowry	01	04	04	12	00	05	26
	Killed in Family Feud	15	26	44	25	21	17	148
	Acid Violence	1	2	1	1	2	0	7
<b>Killed in Child Rights Violence</b>		04	03	03	03	03	03	21
<b>Extra-judicial Killing</b>	Crossfire	32	10	13	28	147	51	281
	Shot to death	02	00	00	00	00	00	02
	Torture to death	00	00	01	00	00	00	01
	Custodial death	04	02	01	06	01	05	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>Total Abduction</b>		85	19	46	12	30	05	197
<b>Enforces Disappearance</b>		06	00	06	06	02	04	24
<b>Attack on Minority</b>		03	04	03	02	02	06	20
<b>Border Disputes</b>	Killed	01	02	00	00	00	00	03
	Injured	01	04	00	00	00	00	05
	Arrested	02	02	00	04	14	00	20
<b>Attack on Journalists</b>	Injured	08	11	02	05	03	03	32
	Threatened	04	04	03	02	00	01	14
	Assaulted	00	02	02	02	00	00	06
	Arrested	02	01	00	00	01	00	04
	Killed	00	01	00	00	00	00	01
<b>Political Violence</b>	Killed	01	02	03	05	03	02	16
	Injured	512	185	116	182	124	105	1224
<b>Violent Attack</b>	Killed	18	08	15	14	09	07	71
	Injured	33	04	10	01	04	01	53
<b>Killed in Public Lynching</b>		04	04	05	01	07	01	22
<b>Recovery Dead Body</b>		168	108	111	86	88	73	634