



Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

December, 2017

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

Human Right Support Society is regularly publishes monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly human rights observation report. As part of these activities, HRSS has published monthly human rights observation report in Dec, 2017 based on data collected from the dailies and fact-finding reports from its regional representatives throughout the country and twelve prominent national newspapers of Bangladesh. It is highly observed that the violation of human rights continues almost with the same flow as last month. From this report, it is evident that extra-judicial killing, domestic violence, and enforce disappearances. Moreover, the number of rape, gang-rape, and child-rape has also increased surprisingly.

According to the sources of HRSS, at least 17 persons were killed extra-judicially in December 2017. The deaths occurred during raids, arrests as well as during the operations conducted by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs). As usual, the government regretfully describes these deaths as "crossfire/gunfights/encounter killings" and so on and almost 2 people have been disappeared by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs). Moreover, the HRSS report finds that in December 2017, a total of 58 females were raped. Among of them, 28 were an adult, whereas alarmingly 30 were children under 16. It's a rising concern in the incidence of raping crime that among victims at least 08 of them have been gang-raped. Among of the victims, almost 04 were brutally killed after being raped. About 33 women were killed in the family feud. Approximately, about 06 were killed and 07 women were physically abused over dowry demands. A total of 07 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in December 2017.

It has also been reported that a total of 73 people were abducted in different areas of the country, among of them approximately 41 were male, 20 female, 12 children, and 32 were killed after the abduction. Moreover, at least 04 people were killed in political violence whereas around 03 people were killed through lynching. It is alarming that a total of 15 violent incidents were against children, 13 victims lost their life and 02 were critically injured. On the violent attacks on unarmed civilians, a total of 56 incidents have been happened, where 47 were killed and 14 seriously were injured.

On the other hand, due to the silence of the Government combined with its loose foreign policy with India, unexpected occurrences increased in the border area of the country. Bangladeshi citizens became the victims of suspected killings, torture, and other forms of inhumane treatments. It has been reported that roughly 02 injured and almost 07 killed by BSF, Such human rights violation has not even been reported to the respective high commission in some cases. As a result, such events have been increasing day by day. Human Rights Support Society, think that state authority should be more responsive in protecting the life and property of the general people and thereby fulfill their constitutional commitment. It also requests to every conscious citizen to be more vocal against these sorts of awful human rights situations in the country.

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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.¹ Bangladesh has earned notoriety in carrying out extrajudicial killings. ‘Crossfire’ or ‘encounter’ and gunfight are very common terms used by the LEA to hide their crime and avoid the liabilities of extra-judicial killing. After killing in a pre-planned and cool head, the police and RAB² authorities have informed the media that the victim’s died to engage in the crossfire. These extra-judicial killings are depriving the people of their rights to lives and right to get justice in neutral open court.³ The government of Bangladesh has been violating the Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights day after day since 2002 especially when the operation clean heart started. Now the situation is becoming more complex day by day. In Bangladesh, the law says minimum force should be applied to arrests and every person has the right to seek a trial. In the cases of "crossfire or encounters, the rights to life and personal liberty are under threat in Bangladesh, despite the fact that they are guaranteed by the constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh the constitutions. The existing legal framework does not allow encounter killing.

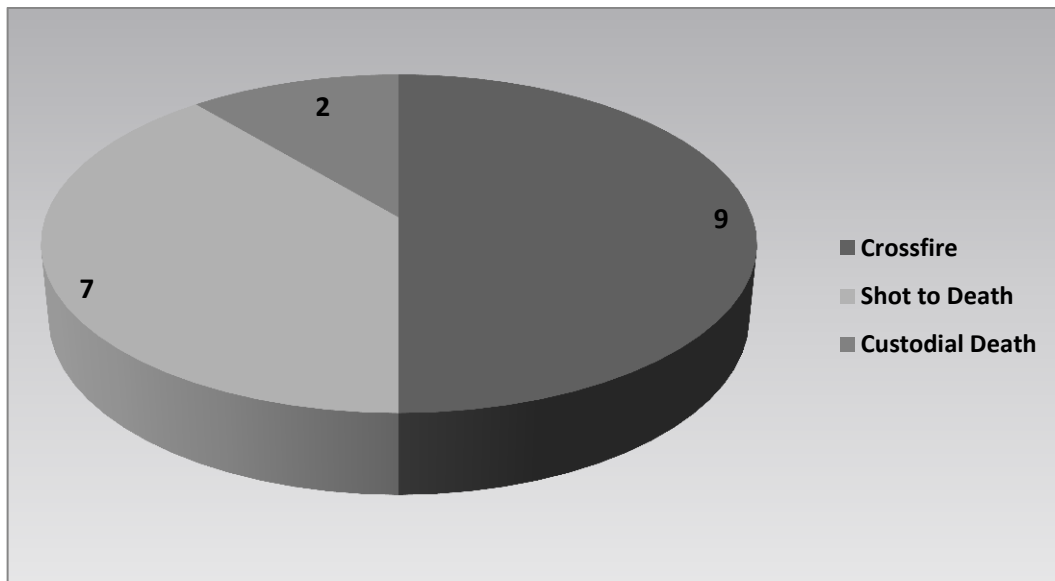


Figure 1: Scenario of Encounter killing in Dec 2017

The given pie chart provides information about the extra-judicial killing scenario in December 2017: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 17 persons were alleged killed in extra judicially. Out of them, 09 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, 07 shot to death and almost 02 died in the custody. Some important cases are mentioned below:

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

²<http://www.lawteacher.net>

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

Two people were killed in a “shootout” by DB police and their cohorts in the capital's Badda. However, families of the deceased - Al Amin, 34, and Saddam, 25 - alleged that they were picked by some people, who claimed them selves to be detectives, several days ago. Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch (north) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the "gunfight" took place around 4:00am when a team of detectives went to Aftabnagar to arrest suspected killers of the businessman. Family of Saddam alleged that some people, identifying themselves as detectives, picked up Saddam, a resident of city's Rampura, from his father-in-law's house in Comilla on December 26. Al Amin's family alleged that law enforcers picked him up from Tongi on December 2. Both the families claimed that the two were innocent. According to the families, Al Amin used to sell toys, while Saddam used to sell mosquito coils and candles. Al Amin's wife Khadiza Begum told that his husband used to stay in the capital's Abdullahpur. “Had he killed anyone, he would not have stayed at home,” she said. Ruma, an aunty of Saddam, said they went to the DB office on Minto Road in search of her nephew on information that he was picked up by detectives. But police denied picking him up. “If he was not picked up by police, then who did it?” she said.⁴

On 1 December, 2017 a Shibir leader was killed in a 'shootout' with members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB-7) at Panchlaish area. The victim was identified as Mahim Uddin alias Mahin, son of late Abul Kashem of Bayezid Bostami area. Later, he was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the on duty doctors declared him dead, said the RAB officer.⁵

On Dec 13,2017A suspected robber was killed in a reported gunfight with police in Tejgaon area of the capital. The deceased was identified as Abdullah, 31, son of Shamsul, hailing from village Araiura at Tarail in Kishoreganj. Mizanur Rahman, sub-inspector of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station, said that a team of police conducted a drive around 3:30am.Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the robber gang opened fire on them, prompted them to retaliate, triggering a gun fight, leaving Abdullah injured with bullet. The injured Abdullah was taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 4:15am.⁶

⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/banani-murder-two-suspects-shot-dead-1502347>

⁵ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=108894>

⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1385731/>

Violence against Women

Violence against women and girls is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations. It is rooted in gendered social structures rather than individual and random acts; it cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries; affects all societies; which are the major obstacle to ending gender inequality and discrimination globally.⁷In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.⁸Violence against women is a main social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. Inhuman attacks on women have become commonplace and widespread across the country. Daily news reports are filled with atrocities including physical and psychological torture, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, dowry-related violence, trafficking, coerced suicide, and murder. The rate of reported violent acts against women has risen steadily and at an alarming rate, especially in December 2017. HRSS provides the following data has been taken from 12 prominent daily newspapers in Bangladesh.

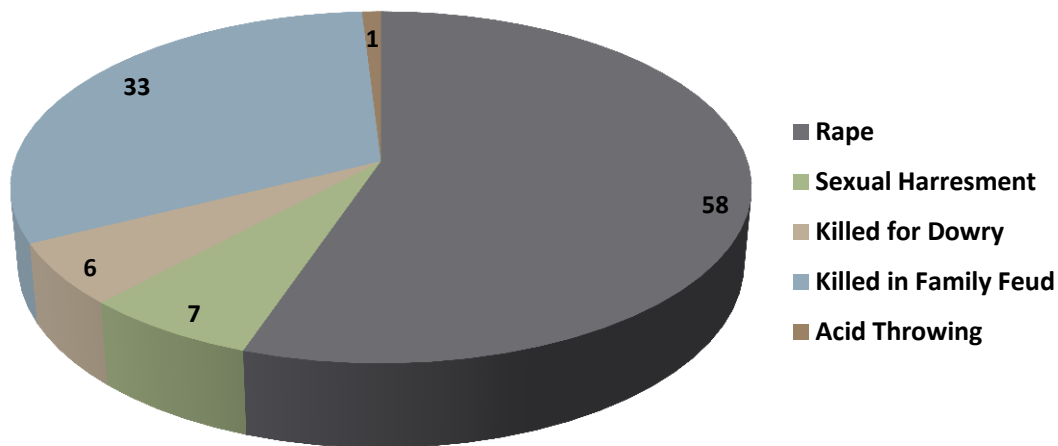


Figure 2: Violence against Women in Dec '17

HRSS identifies the whole situation of a female in Bangladesh and documented the issues relating to the violation of women rights. The major subjects of violation against women were dowry killings, rape, sexual harassment and stalking, physical and mental abuse. According to the HRSS, the supplied graph illustrates about information of violence against women in December 2017 are detailed:

⁷ (UN General Assembly, 2006)

⁸ (General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993)

• A Total Number Of 58 Females Were Raped. Among Of Them 48 Were Victims Of Single Rape And 08 Were Subjected To Gang Rape And 30 Were Children Below The Age Of 16 (Including Single & Gang Rape). On The Other Hand, 04 Female Was Killed After Being Raped And Almost 02 Incidents Have Been Attempted To Rape.

Rape

• In dec 2017 About 33 Women Were Killed In The Family Feud And 14 Females Have Been Injured. Out Of Them, 14 Were An Incidents Of Family Feud.

Killed In Family Feud

• Approximately 13 Incidents Of Dowry-related Violence Were Reported In dec 2017. About 06 Were Killed And 07 Women Were Physically Abused Over Dowry Demands.

Dowry Related Violence

• According To Information Collected By HRSS, A Total Of 07 Girls And Women Were Reportedly Victims Of Sexual Harassment In dec 2017. Among Them, 05 Were Assaulted And 02 Were Stalked.

Sexual Haressment

Some important cases are cited: On December 04, 2017A college student was killed allegedly by her dowry-greedy husband at Katpatti of Jhalakathi town. The deceased, Suraiya Yasmin, 21, a degree student of Government Jhalakathi College, was wife of Mainul Islam Akon Himu of Katpatti area in Jhalakathi Sadar. Police arrested Himu and he has confessed to killing his wife, said Md Tajul Islam, officer in charge of Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station.⁹

⁹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/college-girl-killed-dowry-1500307>



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

On December 06, 2017 The Institute of Health Technology in Rajshahi has been closed for an indefinite period after Chhatra League leader's assaulted female students leaving at least five of them injured. Of the victims, three were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. But they left the hospital in a hurry fearing further attacks, said a number of students, requesting not to be named. At least five women were pushed to the ground, dragged and assaulted in front of police and Principal Sirajul Islam, they added. A group of BCL men led by Jahidul Islam, president of the institute unit of the pro-Awami League student body, attacked the women when they were going to their dorm accompanied by the principal around 11:30am, they alleged.¹⁰

On December 19, 2017 Criminals raped four women of a family while robbing a house in Karnaphuli upazila of Chittagong. The victims filed a case accusing four unknown people under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Karnaphuli Police Station on 17 dec evening. Police arrested two suspects in Karnaphuli area. They are Md Sumon alias Abu, 23, a mason, of Shahmirpur village in Karnaphuli, and Md Ismail, of Patiya upazila, said police. "One of the victims has already identified Abu, saying that he was there during the incident," said Jahedul Islam, assistant commissioner (Karnaphuli zone) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police. Quoting her, the police official said at gunpoint, the robbers rapped the women, aged between 20 and 25, after looting their house. Of the four, three are wives of three Dubai expatriate siblings and the other is their husbands' sister, who came to visit her brother's house, said Jahed.¹¹

On 27 December, 2017 A Khulna University (KU) teacher has been accused of torturing his wife physically and mentally for dowry. Jannat Ara Ferdous, wife of Md Wahiduzzaman, an assistant professor of the KU Mathematics department, raised the allegation at a press conference at Khulna Press Club. Jannat, also a fourth-year student of Philosophy department of Jessore Govt MM College, said after their marriage on March 27, 2015, she and her husband started living in rented house of Nirala Residential Area of Khulna city. However, they entered into a marital discord when Wahiduzzaman demanded Tk 10 lakh as dowry from her parents, she claimed. "He used to torture me mentally and physically for dowry," she said.¹²

¹⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/bcl-rampage-rajshahi-1501363>

¹¹ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1389846/>

¹² <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1395331/বি>

Violent Attack

The attack against civilians is considered a serious violation of international humanitarian law,” the human rights. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security. So the state is obliged to protect the citizens from all kinds’ of criminal attack to them. ‘The obligation of protection’ requires the state to prevent violations of rights of citizens by third parties. This obligation also implies that State has to exercise due diligence to prevent, punish, investigate or redress the harm caused by acts of private persons or entities. "In spite of growing concern of criminal attack, the number of incidences is gradually increasing day by day. During the December 2017, Bangladesh has experienced a series of violent attacks by extremists. The victims have included besides atheists, secular bloggers, liberals and foreigners many Buddhists, Christians, and Hindus. HRSS try to detect and divulged all kinds of violent attack in December 2017

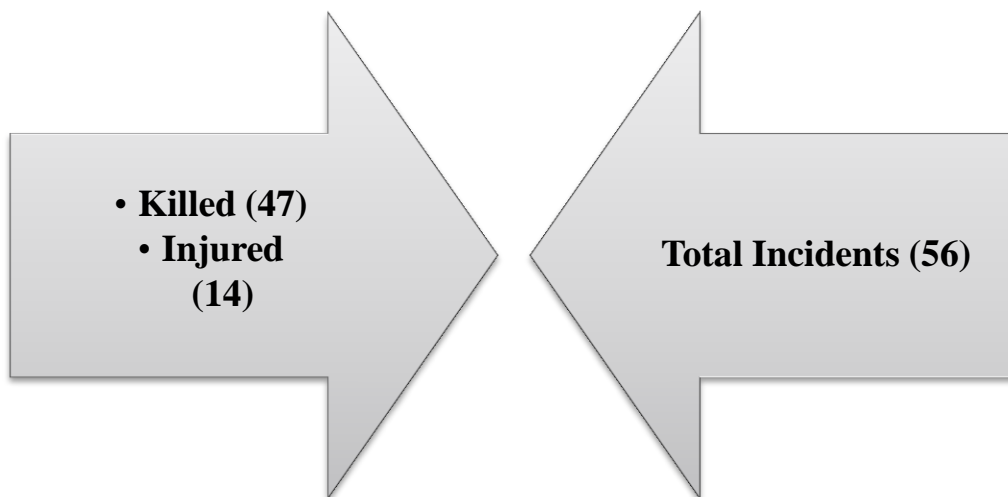


Figure 3: Statistics of Violent Attacks in Dec '17

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on an armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in December 2017, a total 56 incidents of violent attack have happened and 47 were killed in these attacks and 14 were seriously injured.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On December 03, 2017A leader of pro-BNP youth organisation Jubo Dal was shot dead by unidentified persons in Chittagong city. The dead, Md Harun, 48, son of late Chittagong BNP leader Dastogir Chowdhury's brother Alamgir Chowdhury, was also an owner of ST Transport in the city's Kadamtali, police said. Local BNP leaders and police sources said Harun was the joint convener of Sadarghat Jubo Dal. “The incident occurred around 6:00pm in front of Rahat Centre, just opposite of Shubhopur Bus Stand in Kadamtali area, when miscreants opened fire from the tail of a procession of local Awami League which was organised to celebrate the Unesco's recognition of historic March 7 Speech of the Father of

the Nation,” said Inspector (Investigation) Ruhul Amin of Sadarghat Police Station. The victim's elder brother Humayun Chowdhury said activists of Chhatra League and Jubo league, pro-AL organisations, might have been behind the killing “as Harun protested an incident of extortion a few days ago”.¹³

On December 05, 2017 A former union parishad member was shot dead by unidentified people in Toichakma Dajar Para area under Naniarchar upazila of the Rangamati. The deceased was identified as Anadi Ranjan Chakma. Rangamati-Khagrachhari road was closed from 10:00am to 5:00pm due to the incident. A press release signed by Sentu Chakma, member secretary of Nobbo Mukhosh Bahini Protirodh Committee, announced a half-day blockade of roads and waterways in the district, protesting against the murder of the former UP member. The press release alleges that the newly formed group United People's Democratic Front (Democratic) was involved in the murder. Officer-in-Charge of Naniarchar Police Station Muhammad Abdul Latif said they recovered the body.¹⁴

On Dec 15, 2017 unidentified miscreants shot a local leader of a faction of United People's Democratic Front to death in Rangamati Sadar. The deceased was identified as Plotho Chakma, 45, a resident of Kawkhali upazila in the Rangamati. Kotwali police officer-in-charge Satyajit Barua said masked gunmen shot the UPDF leader at village Dhamaishara, leaving him dead on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent it to Rangamati General Hospital morgue for autopsy, he added.¹⁵

On 21 December, 2017 a young man was stabbed to death by some unknown assailants at Chakfirani village in Lohagara upazila, chittagong. The deceased was identified as Md Mozammel Haque, 35, son of Mafjolur Rahman Rahman of the village. Sarwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Lohagara Police Station, said the assailants swooped on Mozammel around 9:30am while he was returning home from a field and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot.¹⁶

¹³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/ctg-jubo-dal-man-shot-dead-1499782>

¹⁴ <HTTP://WWW.THEDAILYSTAR.NET/COUNTRY/FORMER-MEMBER-SHOT-DEAD-1500706>

¹⁵ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/30595/updf-leader-shot-dead-in-rangamati>

¹⁶ <http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/17123823/কোঁ>

Border Killing

Every state of the civilized world is very serious about maintaining the standard of human rights. But BSF has been violating human rights with freedom in the border area by torturing, abducting, beating, stoning etc.; by doing so they gradually are degrading the friendly relation between Bangladesh and India. BSF disregards human rights in the border area and they have shown utmost cruelty in this regard. Members of the BSF also illegally enter Bangladesh territory and attack people residing along the border, shoot and kidnap Bangladeshis. However, we have frequently observed that India has been violating treaties, shooting at anyone seen near the border, which is a pure violation of the international law and human rights.

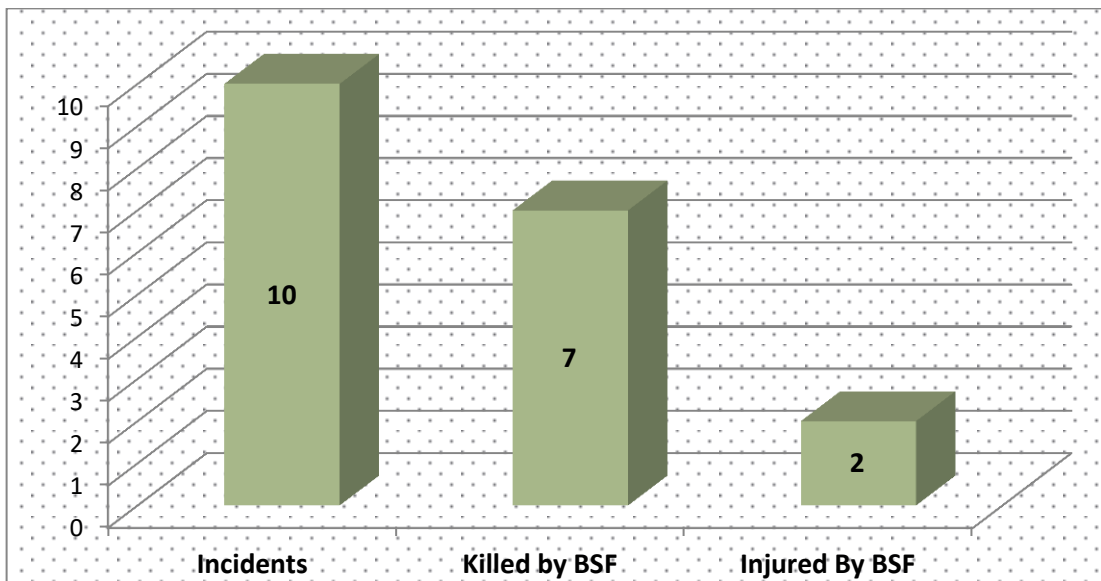


Figure 4; Statistics of Border Violence

The given chart gives data on the border dispute. According to HRSS in December 2017, almost 07 Bangladeshi citizen was killed, and 02 Bangladeshi citizen were injured by BSF in a total 10 incidents.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On December 10, 2017 Indian Border Security Force shot dead two Bangladeshi cattle "smugglers" along Diar Manik Char border in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi. The two, Esharul Islam, 28, and his cousin Abu Nasrat, 29, were residents of Char Bhubanpara of the upazila, said officials of the Border Guard Bangladesh. BGB recovered the body of Esharul Islam from inside Bangladesh territory. The body was later sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for an autopsy. BSF members recovered the body of Nasrat from the barbed wire fence and agreed at the flag meeting to return it.¹⁷

¹⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/bsf-shot-dead-2-bangladeshis-1503085>

On Dec 19, 2017A Bangladeshi cattle trader was allegedly tortured to death by Indian Border Security Force personnel. Fellow cattle traders rescued him in critical condition at Bangladesh-India border near Mastarbari border point in Patgram of Lalmonirhat, said Manik Hossain, a member of the Jongra union parishad in Patgram. Rashidul died while he was being taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, Manik said. Rashidul is the son of one Taslim Uddin of Mominpur under Jongra union.¹⁸

On December 21, 2017 Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead Bangladesh national near a border in Patnitola upazila of Naogaon. The deceased was identified as Ershad Ali, 30, son of Gazim Uddin of Ambati village in Dhamoirhat upazila. Lt Col Khizir Khan, commanding officer (CO) of BGB 14 Battalion in Naogaon, said BGB sent a letter to BSF protesting the killing and urging their counterparts to return the body.¹⁹

¹⁸ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/priyo-desh/2017/12/21/579969>

¹⁹ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/priyo-desh/2017/12/22/580365>

Political Violence

Political violence in Bangladesh is a banal phenomenon. The role and way of democratic politics have been subjected to a great question due to the considerable number of political classes among the parties as well as intra parties. At present, it has been considered a sign of an immature or even immoral political class.²⁰After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th December 2014 by controversial election, political violence is still continued. But due to limited space for opposition parties, now political violence are mostly intra-factional clashes of ruling party over the issues of supremacy, tender, and possession of power, collecting subscription, grabbing land etc. The activist of opposite political parties is being tortured, killed by the activist of ruling parties in every corner of the country.

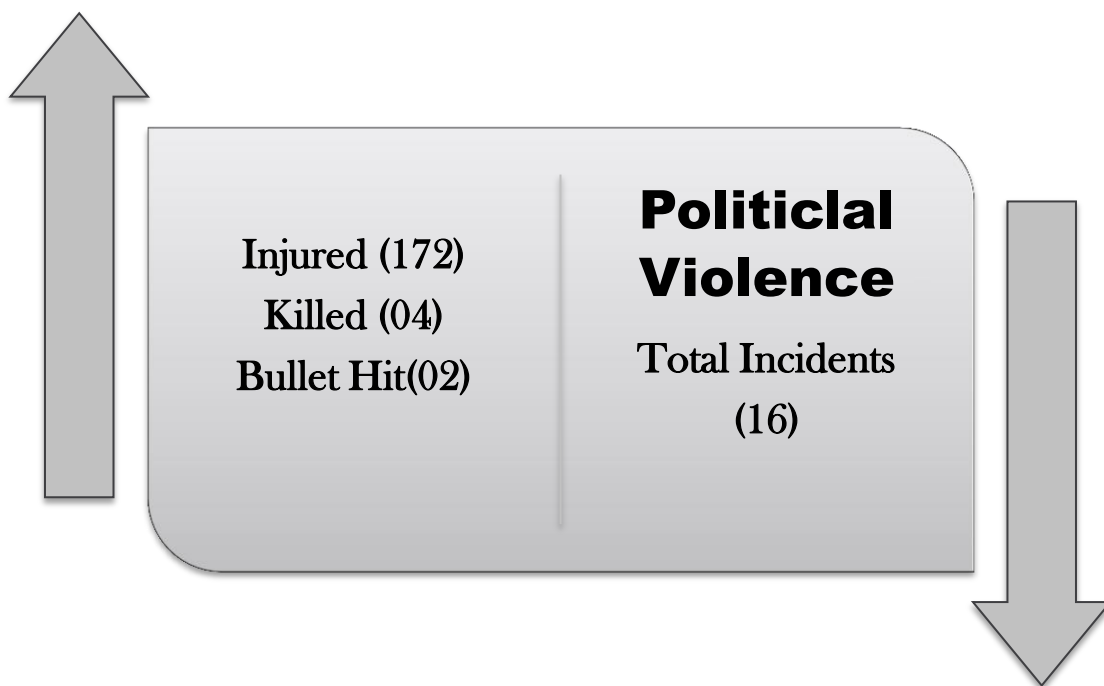


Figure 5: Statistics of Political Violence in Dec '17

The figure presents information about the political violence in December 2017. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 04 people has been killed, almost 272 injured and 02 bullets hit due to politically related issues. Most of the political violence occurred among the sub-organization of ruling party on the supremacy of power or tender.

Selected cases are as follows: On December 07, 2017 two students died of their injuries at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, around half an hour after they were hacked allegedly by some rival Chhatra League men on Moulvibazar Government High School ground. The dead, Shahbab Rahman, 23, was from Hospital Road in Moulvibazar town and Mahi Ahmed, 18, was from

²⁰ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2017,

Durlobpur village in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila. Shahbab was a student of Moulvibazar Government College and Mahi was an SSC candidate of the school.²¹

On Dec 15,2017 Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of ruling Awami League, allegedly carried out an attack on the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed student body, while placing floral wreath on the Chittagong University campus. Chhatra Dal alleged that at least three of their supporters were injured in the attack that took place around 9:00am as they went to place floral wreath at the Martyrs Monument, marking the 47th Victory Day.²²

On December 07, 2017 An Awami League (AL) leader, who was injured in an attack allegedly by some of his party rivals in Jessore town on December 6, died at a hospital in Dhaka. The deceased, Sardar Milon, organising secretary of Basundia union unit of AL, was son of Babu Sardar of Padmabila village in Jessore Sadar upazila. Habibul Ahsan Bablu, general secretary of Basundia union unit AL, said critically injured Milon was first admitted to Jessore Sadar Hospital and later shifted to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (popularly known as Pangu Hospital) in the capital following deterioration of his condition.²³

On 29 December, 2017 At least 15 people were injured in a clash between two groups of local Awami League (AL) in Biral Upazila here. The supporters of AL backed mayoral candidate Alhaz Sabujar Siddique Sagor and rebel mayor candidate Shafiqul Azad Moni locked in an altercation at Brahmaputra area, leaving 15 people injured. The injured were admitted to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital. Officer-in-Charge of Biral Police Station claimed the situation is normal, but the locals said a tense situation is prevailing in the area.²⁴

²¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/rivals-kill-2-students-moulvibazar-1501807>

²² <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1388496/আ>

²³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/jessore-al-leader-killed-rivals-1501924>

²⁴ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=113876>

Attack on Journalist

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) contains, in Article 19, the first and most widely recognized statement of the right to freedom of expression: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.”²⁵ In Bangladesh, attacks on journalists are very frequent incidents; assaulting, threatening and disrupting in their professional duties have become very mundane matter. Freedom of expression was seen to limited in every aspect in Bangladesh December 2017. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly.

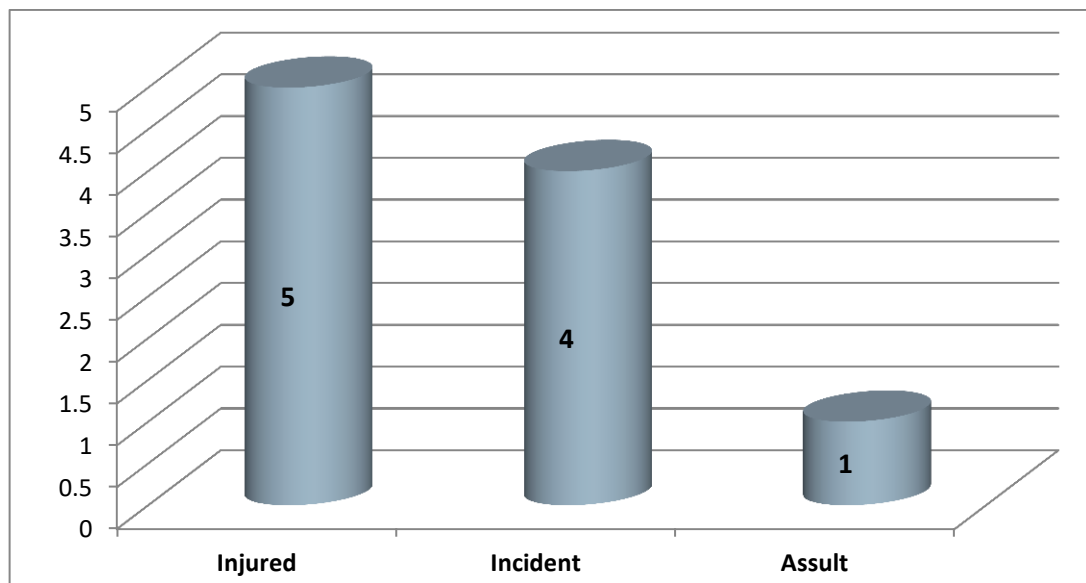


Figure 6; Attacks on Journalist

The journalists and the media constant were to be victims of attacks, physically assaulted, threaten and intimidated from different powerful quarters, especially from the government and the ruling party leaders and activists. In December, According to HRSS’s documented statistics, around one was assaulted, 05 injured, from in a total 04 incidents.

Selected cases are as described here: On December 07, 2017 Accusing Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman of treason by “making derogatory comments” on Bangabandhu and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, an Awami League leader of Natore has filed a case seeking Tk 1,000 crore in damages. Lawyer Malek Sheikh, organising secretary of Natore AL, lodged the case with Natore Chief Judicial Magistrate’s Court. After a hearing, the court ordered Natore Sadar Police Station to investigate the matter. The plaintiff said Mahmudur, while speaking at a seminar at the Jatiya Press Club on December 1, made defamatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and their family. He said Mahmudur insulted and lied about Bangabandhu’s family, termed Bangladesh a “colony of India”, and

²⁵ UDHR-1948, article 19

claimed that the present government was illegal. The complainant said the acting Amar Desh editor insulted Bangabandhu's ideals and offended the prime minister and her family.²⁶

On December 11, 2017 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists allegedly ransacked the office of Rajshahi Government College Reporters' Unity and beat up three journalists for not hanging the portraits of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the office. A group of BCL men led by the college unit BCL Organising Secretary Ratan Ali led the attack at 11:30am, and ransacked the furniture of the office located at room no 103 of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Building on the campus, said the journalists. They then beat up the unity's General Secretary Mim Obaidullah, a reporter of local daily Sunshine; Office Secretary Babar Mahmud, a sub-editor of Padmatimes24.com; and Executive Member Mofazzal Hossain, a reporter of Barendraexpress.com. The journalists complained that the BCL men also forced them out of the office and put it under lock and key.²⁷

On December 17, 2017 Some of the staff of Dhaka University (DU) registrar office allegedly assaulted the campus correspondent of the Daily Ittefaq. Kabirul Islam Kanon, also a third-year student of mass communication and journalism department, later made a written complaint to Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman. According to it, he went to the building in the morning to verify an allegation against the officials of coming late to work. He said while he was filming the empty office rooms around 11:00am, a group of staff attacked him. The office hour starts at 9:00am. They also snatched his phone and hurled abusive words claiming that they were BCL activists, Kabir alleged. He identified the attackers as section officers Nizam Uddin and Ahsanul Kabir, and personal secretary to the registrar Sheikh Giyas Uddin.²⁸

²⁶ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/amar-desh-editor-sued-treason-1502095>

²⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-beat-three-journalists-ransack-reporters-unity>

²⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/du-registrar-office-staff-assault-journo-1506610>

Abduction

Abduction, Kidnapping, killing after the abduction are the common phenomena in Bangladesh. Nobody could confidently predict his safe return after going outside of his resident. The numbers of victims, according to HRSS report is increasing day by day. The supplied chart describes information about the abduction cases in December 2017 in Bangladesh,

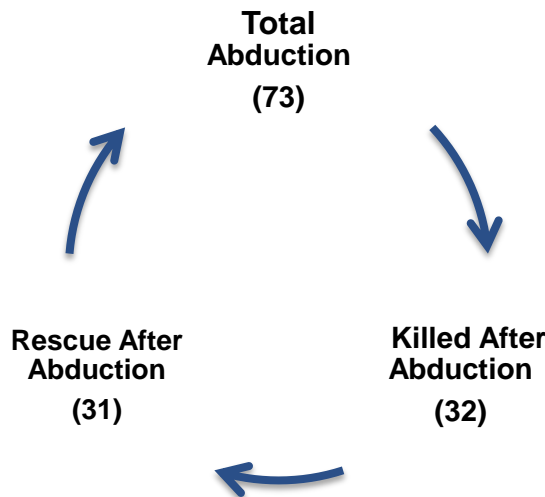


Figure 7; Statistics of Abduction in December '17

According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 73 people has been abducted, among of them, 32 killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 31 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction and nobody knows what happened to the rest 10 persons.

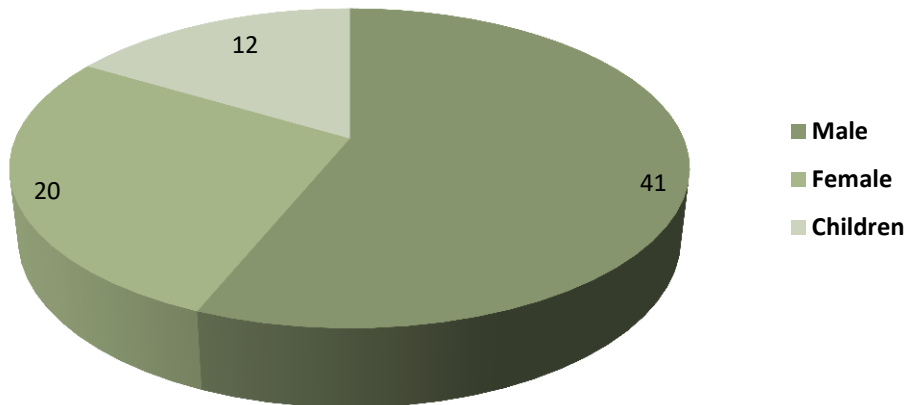


Figure 8; Categorization of Abduction

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in December 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 73 people were abducted, among of them, 41 were male, around 20 was female and nearly 12 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On December 19, 2017 Utpal Das, who had been missing since October, was found in Narayanganj. A black microbus dropped him off in front of Shahjalal filling station in Aduria of Bhulta around midnight, said Mostafizur Rahman, additional police superintendent of Narayanganj. Utpal, a senior reporter of purboposhchimbd.news, went missing on October 10. His phone was found switched off since he talked to his mother the same day. The incident sparked a huge outcry among journalists, rights activists and social media users. Utpal's family and Khugesta Nur E Naharin, editor of the portal, filed two general diaries with Motijheel Police Station in this regard. In the general diaries they said Utpal called her mother on October 10 informed her that he was at his office.²⁹

On December 27, 2017A senior officer of Brac Bank's Shyamoli branch reportedly went missing from the capital's Gulshan area. Nayeemul Islam Shaikat, 30, last informed his wife around 11:00am on 26 dec that he was going to the bank's head office in Gulshan from the Shyamoli branch with some documents, said Jamal Uddin, Shaikat's brother-in-law. His phone was last active at 2:30pm and the location was Niketan, said police. The family filed a general diary with Tejgaon Industrial Police Station. OC Abdur Rashid of the police station said they are investigating the incident. Hailing from Barisal, Shaikat used to live at a rented house with his wife in Mirpur.³⁰

On December 30, 2017 Syed Sadat Ahmed, a central BNP leader, who had allegedly been missing for around four months, was shown arrested. A team of Detective Branch of Police “arrested him at Rampura Bridge around 10:00pm” and showed him arrested in a case filed in 2015 with Ramna Police Station in connection with carrying out subversive activities, Deputy Commissioner of DB (South) Md Shahidullah told. He would be produced before a court today, he said. Family members had alleged that Sadat, a central executive committee member of the BNP and the managing director of ABN Group, was picked up from the Banani Flyover area around 3:00pm on August 22.³¹

On Dec 01, 2017 Catholic priest Walter William Rosario was rescued in a senseless condition in South Surma area of Sylhet , four days after he went missing from northern Natore district. Abida Sultana, the on-duty officer in South Surma police station, said he was found in a senseless condition in Shyamoli Bus Counter of Kadamtoli area. ‘We found him around 4:10pm at Shyamoli Bus Counter. Somebody had left him there in senseless condition. He now got his sense back, but could not recall how he came here,’ she said.³²

²⁹ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1390451/>

³⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/now-banker-goes-missing-1511452>

³¹ <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1397966/>

³² <http://www.newagebd.net/article/29551/missing-catholic-priest-found-in-sylhet>

Recovery of Dead Body

Security of life is the foremost right of all others human rights. In Bangladesh, due to worsening law and order situation recovery of the dead body from different places of the country has been regular incidents. Most of the killers of these incidents are not identified; on the other hand, sometimes dead bodies’ identities are not found.

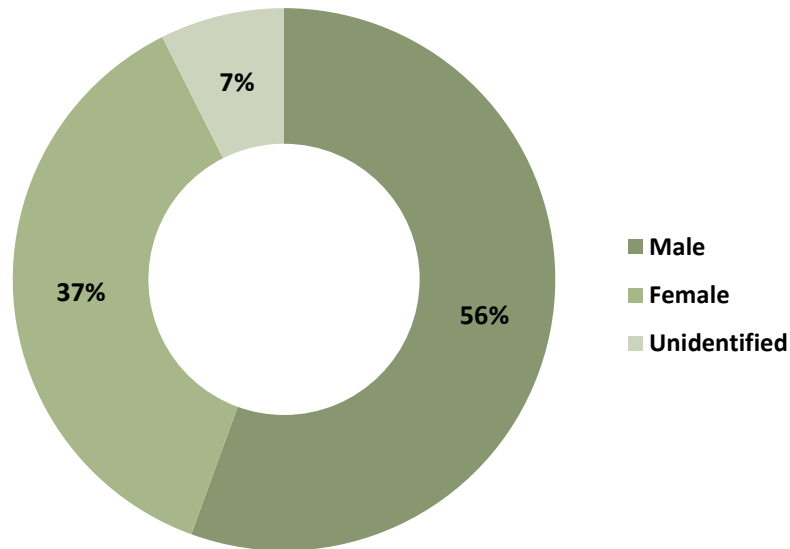


Figure 9; Recovery of Dead Body in December '17

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in December 2017, a total of 108 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 60 bodies were male and 40 bodies were female and 08 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On 09 December, 2017Body of a youth was recovered after one day of his disappearance from Kalitola Village in Baliadangi Upazila, Thakurgaon. The victim was identified as Ramjan Ali, 35, son of Rafiqul Islam of the village. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Baliadangi Police Station Mostafizur Rahman said Ramjan did not return home from on 09 dec. His family members searched for him everywhere but could not find him out. Later, local found the body at a potato field and informed police, the OC said.³³

On December 29, 2017Police recovered the body of a man in Amtala area beside Signboard Sharonkhola regional highway under Morrelgonj upazila in Bagerhat. The deceased was identified as Sohag Khan, 32, son of Ishaq Khan of Boloibuniya village, said police. It was sent to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.³⁴

³³ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=110256>

³⁴ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/12/29/141478.html>

Enforced Disappearance

Enforced disappearance have already triggered a gravest hurdle in our national life by polluting 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 Dec, 2017 by the law enforcement agencies.

‘Human Rights Support Society’ (HRSS) finds that in December 2017 a total 02 people have been disappeared by law enforcement agency (LEA). Selected cases are stated below:

On December 4, former diplomat Muhammed Maroof Zaman, who served Qatar and Vietnam as ambassador, went missing while going to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to pick his daughter. At about 7:45pm, he called home from an unidentified number and informed house helps that some people would come to take his computer. CCTV footage showed that shortly after the phone call, three men went to his house at about 8:05pm. They took his laptop, home computer’s CPU, camera, and a smart-phone. A general diary was filed by his daughter on December 5 with the Dhanmondi police station. Police officials said they were still in search of him.³⁵

On December 23, 2017 Bangladesh Kalyan Party Secretary General MM Aminur Rahman, who went missing around four months ago, is now shown arrested in an explosives case filed in 2015. Aminur had gone traceless after he came out of the office of Kalyan Party in Paltan to go to his home in Savar around 10:00pm on August 27, said his relatives and leaders of the party, an ally of BNP. Aminur's family members filed a general diary with Paltan Police Station on August 30. Police had been looking for him since then, they said. Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, chairman of Kalyan Party, told that Aminur was abducted to “thwart the progress of the party”.³⁶

³⁵ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/first-page/2017/12/06/574118>

³⁶ <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/missing-kalyan-party-leader-now-custody-1509415>

Violence against Children

Bangladesh has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (September 2, 1990). In spite of this existing legal framework, the violation of child rights is a common problem in Bangladesh. It occurs within the family, At home, and at schools, children may face sexual abuse or harassment. Girls in particular face the threat of child or early marriage. In schools, children may get beaten if they fail to perform or face humiliating and degrading punishments for minor errors or infractions. The incidents of violence against children, including killing, trafficking, abduction, and rape, have increased across the country in recent times amid slack. The rights of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development”.³⁷

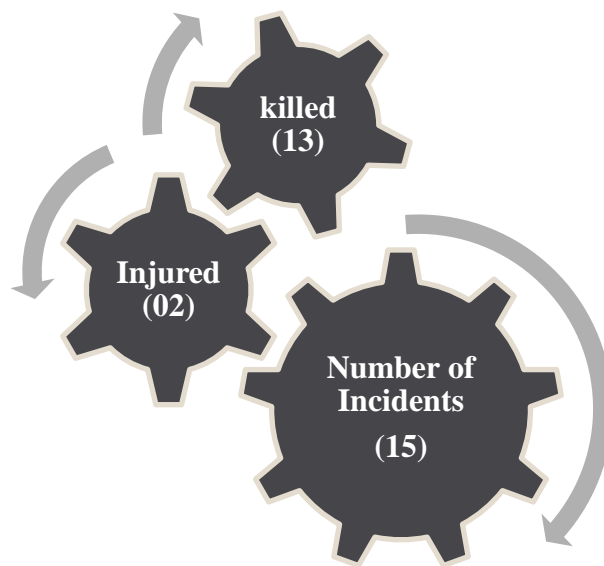


Figure 10: Violence against children in Dec '16

According to HRSS report, the graph presented below regarding the violence against children in Dec, 2017, around 13 children’s were killed and almost 02 children’s have been critically injured in a total of nearly 15 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On Dec 06,2017Police recovered the hanging body of a schoolgirl from the house of Ibarat Hossain, brother of Member of Parliament from Manikganj-2 constituency and popular singer Momtaz Begum, at Joymandap village of Singair upazila. The deceased was identified as Jhuma Akhter, daughter of Riadul Islam of Medulia village in Singair upazila and also a JSC examinee. Jhuma had been living in Ibarat’s house and appeared in this year’s JSC examination from there. The residents of the house found Jhuma hanging at noon and informed police, said Khandaker Imam, officer-in-charge of Singair Police Station. Later, they recovered the body.³⁸

³⁷ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27.

³⁸ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/29953/schoolgirl-found-dead-in-mp-momtazs-brothers-house>

On 4 December, 2017 an eight-year-old girl was allegedly tortured and strangled to death in Uttarpara area of Shreepur upazila. The deceased was identified as Mousumi Aktar, daughter of Quoddus Mia. On information, police recovered the body from their house with wound marks on neck and her private parts.³⁹

On 12 December, 2017 Rivals beat a schoolboy to death at Rupatali area of the city. The victim was identified as Abu Saleh, a class ten student at Nuria High School in the city and son of Liton Mridha of Sher-e-Bangla road. Eyewitness Masum Billah said one Hridoy and his cohorts beat Abu Saleh mercilessly with iron rod, leaving him seriously injured. He was rushed to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctor declare him dead at 9pm.⁴⁰

On December 26, 2017 A four-year-old girl was killed allegedly by her father in Nandail upazila. Police recovered the body of Shanta, daughter of farmer Nazim Uddin, 55, of Bonati village, said Md Yunus Ali, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police Station. Police said Nazim married Shuva Akhter, 27, of adjacent Dakkin Koirati village five years ago and the couple had three-year-old daughter Shanta. It was Nazim's third marriage.⁴¹

³⁹ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=109176>

⁴⁰ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=110861>

⁴¹ <http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/17125067/>

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

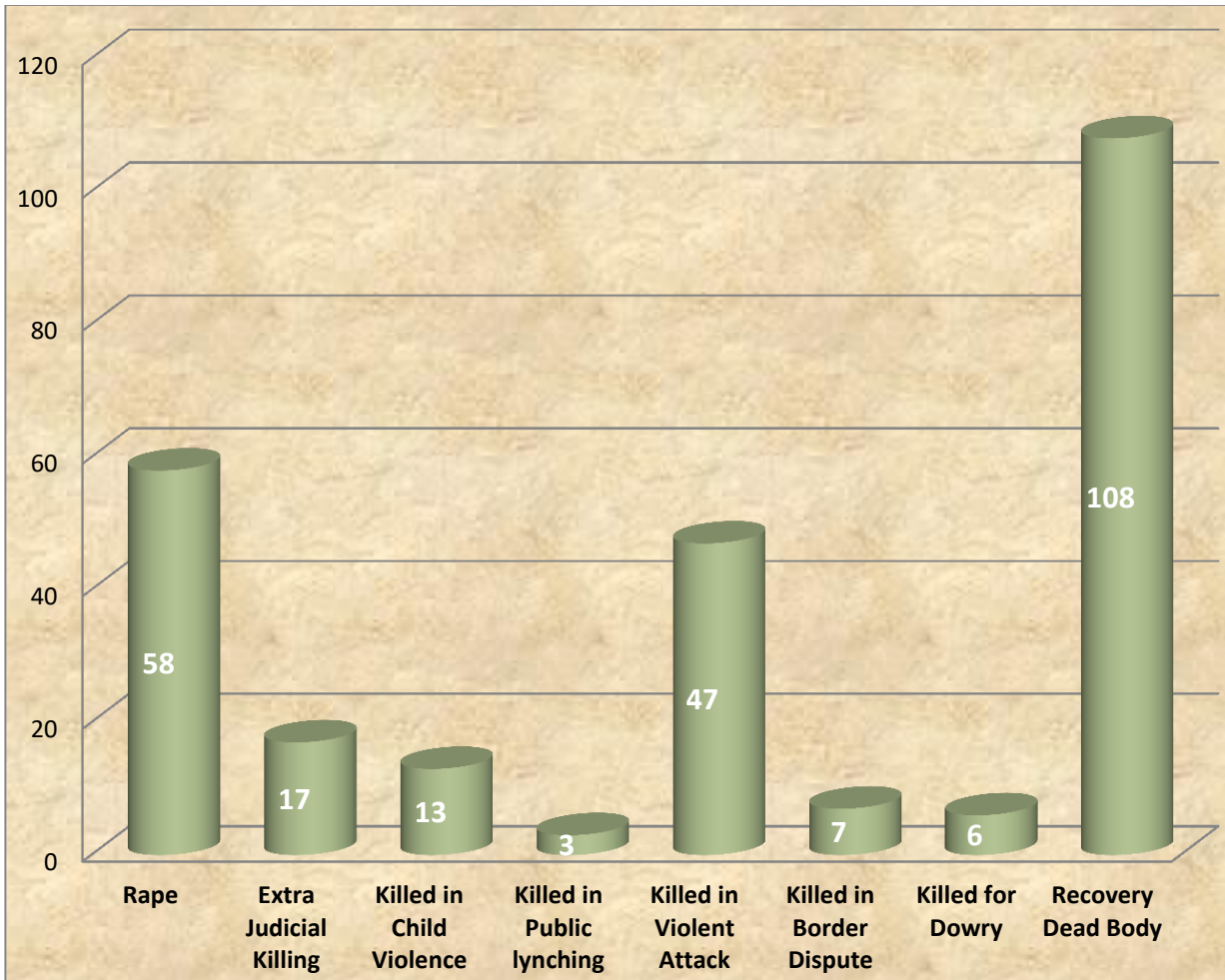


Figure 12: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in December 2017

Conclusion

In closing, it's detected that the political turmoil in Bangladesh threatens the existence of freedom of expression, assembly and association. 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 Dec '17. Although UDHR obliges all signatory states and the Constitution of Bangladesh specifically guaranteed the fundamental rights of the citizens, it's a matter of deep concern that they have been denied by the incumbent governments. The government, in order to continue its regime, undertook repressive measures against the oppositions. The rule of law has been compromised. These situation leads to political vacuum and created enabling environment for extremism. Surprisingly, 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'. Consequently, the government initiated drastic unlawful actions against the leaders and activists of the oppositions.

HRSS spots that the state authority should be more responsive in protecting the life and property of the citizen and thereby fulfill their constitutional obligation. 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 and accountability in all sphere of life. Certainly, this mission is challenging but achievable. We believe relentless effort would ensure improvement of over all human rights situation in Bangladesh.

Recommendation

- The government must ensure the accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies and needs to form a special independent agency or judiciary investigation team to inquiry every incident of extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance and abduction.
- Ensure fair and neutral justice to the Minorities from the Judiciary and Administrative Authority. Reconstruct all damaged temples and places of worship that were the subject matter of violence and loathing, and bring to an end any prospect attacks on places of worships irrespective of trust and religion.
- Violence against women is both structural and cultural. So, actions should be taken to create a culture of violence at all spheres, and appropriate measures need to be taken to ensure the security of women, children, and minority group members. Equity must be ensured in every sphere of social, economic and political life.
- The government should be flexible in the matter of freedom of expression. All types of print and electronic media should enjoy fearless opportunity to broadcast their news even though it goes against the government. The government has to be more tolerant of the opposition and their ideas.
- Arbitrary arrests of persons with different political ideologies must be stopped. The government should immediately retract the repressive special powers act of 1974 and the Information and Communication Technology Act 2006 (Amended 2013).
- The Bangladesh government should establish an independent and impartial commission of inquiry into serious violations of international human rights law by the BSF. The government should invite both Indian and Bangladeshi nationals to submit evidence and bring complaints to such a commission. The inquiry should be time bound and transparent and should have the ability to provide protection to witnesses.
- Meetings and Assemblies should not be obstructed. The government should allow oppositions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to observe their processions, seminars and public meetings.