



Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

November, 2017

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

Human Right Support Society is functioning to ensure all sorts of human rights for people through building consciousness as well as monitoring and publishing human rights situation in Bangladesh. It is regularly publishes monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly human rights observation report. As part of these activities, Human Right Support Society has published monthly human rights observation report in Nov, 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, enforce disappearances and arbitrary arrest. Moreover, the number of rape, gang-rape, and child-rape has also increased surprisingly.

According to the sources of HRSS, at least 23 persons were killed extra-judicially in November 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 07 people have been disappeared by the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs).

Moreover, the HRSS report finds that in November 2017, a total of 97 females were raped. Among of them, 51 were an adult, whereas alarmingly 56 were children under 16. It's a rising concern in the incidence of raping crime that among victims at least 10 of them have been gang-raped. Among of the victims, almost 04 were brutally killed after being raped. About 27 women were killed in the family feud. Approximately, 18 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported, about 07 were killed and 11 women were physically abused over dowry demands. A total of 18 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in November 2017.

It has also been reported that a total of 185 people were abducted in different areas of the country, among of them approximately 170 were male, 07 female, 08 children, and 18 were killed after the abduction. Moreover, at least one person was killed in political violence whereas around 03 people were killed through lynching. HRSS also tracked the "attacks on minority", as documented by HRSS in November 2017; at least 02 minority members were killed in a total of 02 incidents.

It is alarming that a total of 17 violent incidents were against children, 04 victims lost their life and 17 were critically injured. On the violent attacks on unarmed civilians, a total of 34 incidents have been happened, where 15 were killed and 13 seriously were injured.

On the other hand, due to the silence of the Government combined with its loose foreign policy with India and Myanmar, 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 03 injured and almost 02 arrested and almost 04 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, do 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 dreadful human rights situations in the country. To fight against all kinds of repressive situation, HRSS is publishing their reports online or offline and trying to generate people's power for the restoration of democracy, bringing back voting rights of the people, establishing rule of law and human rights.

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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.

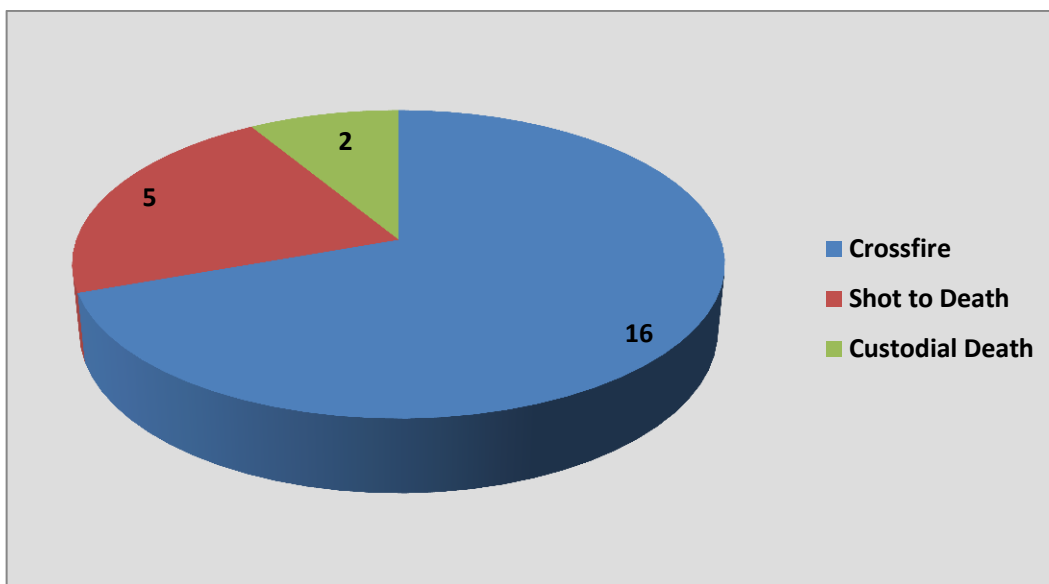


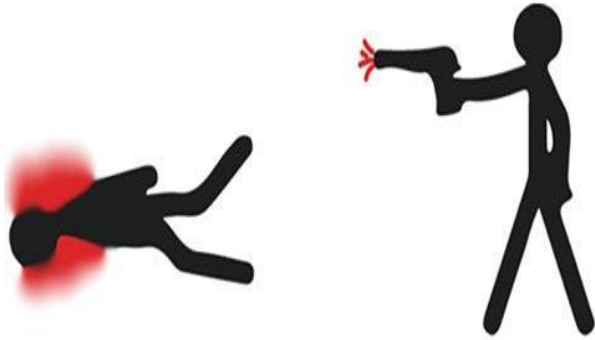
Figure 1: Scenario of Encounter killing in Nov 2017

The given pie chart provides information about the extra-judicial killing scenario in November 2017: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 23 persons were alleged killed in extra judicially. Out of them, 16 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, 05 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>.



On Nov 01, 2017 a bullet-wounded body has been recovered from Baterdighirpar area of Balaishpur in Lakshmipur Sadar. The deceased was identified as Masum Billah alias Laden Masum, son of Hafiz Ullah, a resident of Abirnagar under Sadar upazila. Police claimed Masum was a listed criminal and he had 28 cases including of murder, robbery and extortion filed against him with different police stations including Sadar and Chandraganj. Chandraganj police officer-in-charge Md

Moktar Hossain said Masum was killed during the gunfight between two gangs of criminals. On the other hand, family of the deceased claimed Masum was killed by police firing. Law enforcers arrested Masum at Gulistan in Dhaka on Sunday, they said. He was implicated with cases as Masum was involved with the politics of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, youth body of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, family claimed.⁴

On November 18, 2017A man was killed in what police claimed was a crossfire between detectives and his armed cohorts in South Keraniganj. Al Amin alias Akash, 32, was killed hours after police picked him up in Munshiganj. Police add that they picked up Al Amin from Lohajang upazila on 17 Nov. “Al Amin was injured by bullets fired by his cohorts. He was declared dead after he was taken to Mitford Hospital.”⁵

On November 19, 2017 a "top robber" enlisted by the home ministry was killed in a “gunfight” between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion in Cox's Bazar. The elite force also claimed to have recovered 44 firearms and a huge cache of ammunition during the operation in Maheshkhali upazila. Deceased Mokarram Hossain alias Jambu, 38, led local gang “Jambu Bahini”, said Rab. He lived in the upazila's Kutubjom union.⁶

On November 28, 2017An alleged member of an outlaw group was killed in what police claimed was a shootout. The incident took place between the police and his armed cohorts at Baninagar Khowghat area under Mizanpur Union of Rajbari Sadar Upazila in Rajbari around 3:30am. The deceased was identified as Abbas Sorder, 48, of Kamarkhali village under Sujanager Upazila in Pabna.⁷

⁴ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/27487/murder-accused-killed-in-lakshmipur-gunfight>

⁵ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/dhaka/2017/11/18/567053>

⁶ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/print-edition/last-page/2017/11/20/237724.html>

⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1375336/>

Violence against Women

Violence against women and girls is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations. It is rooted in gendered social structures rather than individual and random acts; it cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries; affects all societies; which are the major obstacle to ending gender inequality and discrimination globally.⁸In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.⁹Violence against women is a main social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. Inhuman attacks on women have become commonplace and widespread across the country. Daily news reports are filled with atrocities including physical and psychological torture, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, dowry-related violence, trafficking, coerced suicide, and murder. The rate of reported violent acts against women has risen steadily and at an alarming rate, especially in November 2017. HRSS provides the following data has been taken from 12 prominent daily newspapers in Bangladesh.

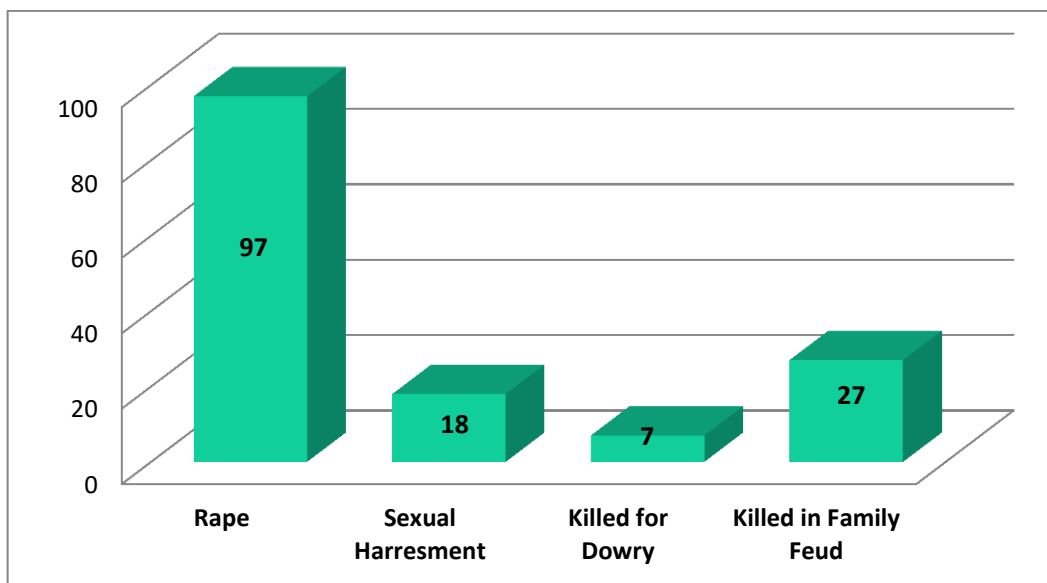
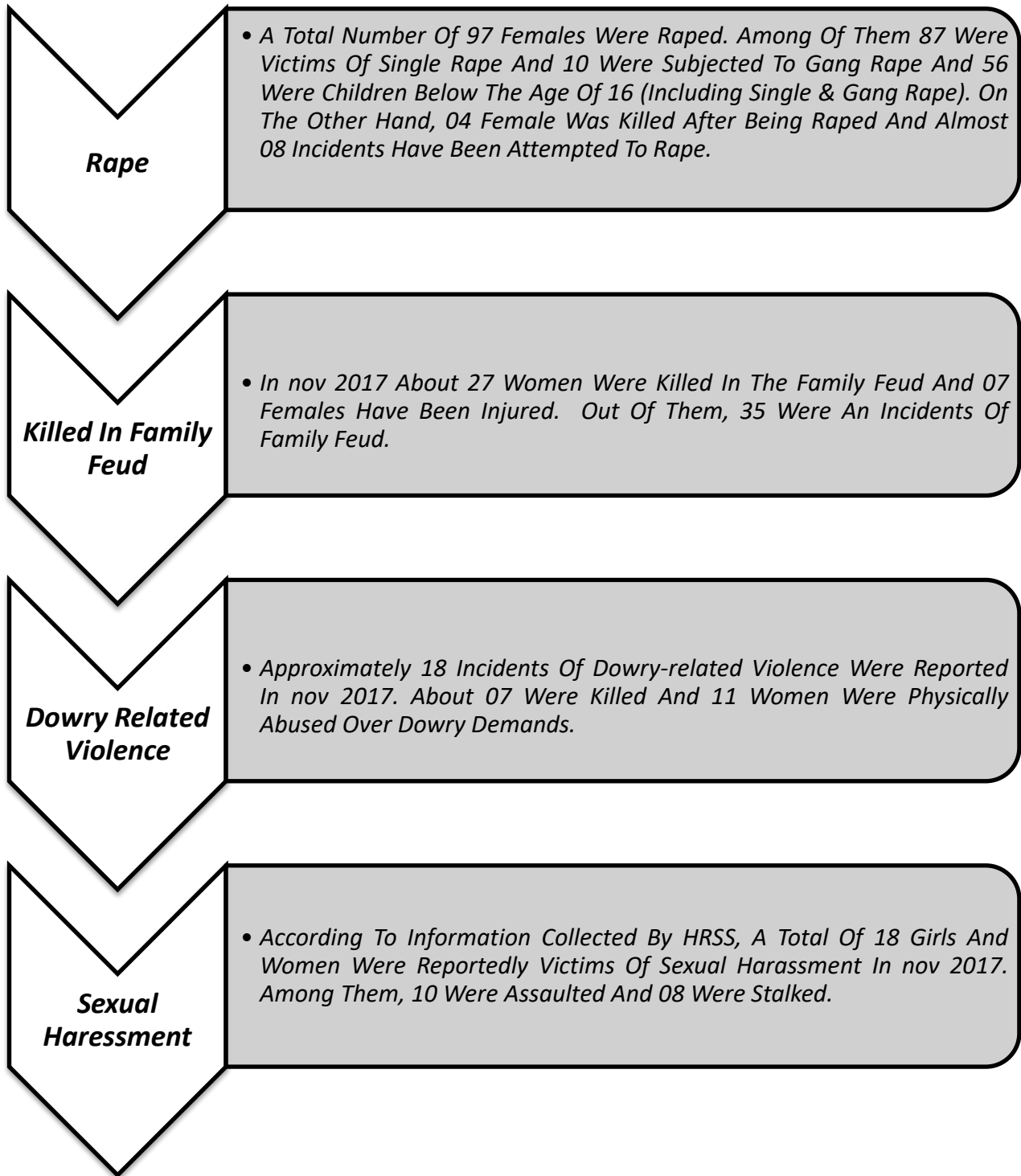


Figure 2: Violence against Women in Nov '17

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 November 2017 are detailed:

⁸ (UN General Assembly, 2006)

⁹ (General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993)



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Some important cases are cited: On November 03, 2017A pregnant housewife was strangled for dowry at Udaypur village in Kamarkhand upazila of Sirajganj, police said. Abdul Hamid, husband of the victim, Rukshana Khatun, 30, was arrested on charge of killing his wife. Officer-in-Charge Abu Obaida of Kamarkhand police, quoting the victim's family members, said

Rukshana was often tortured by her in-laws for dowry. She was taken to arbitration several times for not meeting their demands, they alleged.¹⁰

On Nov 09,2017A ten-year-old girl was raped allegedly by a teenage boy at Baro Mandartala in Sharsha upazila in Jessore. Police arrested the suspected rapist, Shukur Ali, 17, a resident of the same area, soon after the incident, said Sharsha police officer-in- charge Moshiur Rahman. Quoting family members and locals, the police said that the victim, 10, was raped at her house while she was alone at home around 6:30pm. On hearing the victim screaming, locals came to the rescue and took her to Jessore General Hospital.¹¹

On November 09, 2017 Locals have accused a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader of Bhedarganj upazila of sexually harassing six women, secretly filming the acts to blackmail them and then sharing the footage on the internet. One of the women, being subjected to ignominy, had left the area; two had stopped going to college while the in-laws of another woman made her leave her husband's house. The accused is Arif Hossain Hawladar, 22, who was the general secretary of Narayanpur BCL. Residents of Narayanpur said, Arif filmed a neighbour's wife taking a shower with a hidden camera. He later threatened the woman with sharing the clips online and assaulted her sexually. Arif again secretly filmed the acts and continued to blackmail her, they added. The clips started spreading on November 15 and were shared on social media many times in the following days.¹²

On November 16, 2017 The Institute of Forest and Environmental Science of Chittagong University (CU) formed a fact-finding committee following an allegation of sexual harassment against one of its teacher. The three-member committee is headed by Prof Gias Uddin Ahmed, said the institute's Director Prof Md Danesh Miah. It has been asked to submit the report as early as possible. He said one of the institute's students filed the complaint a few days ago. "So far, we have got three such complaints against the teacher," he said. The teacher decided to refrain from all academic activities till submission of the report, Prof Danesh added.¹³

¹⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/pregnent-woman-strangled-dowry-1486465>

¹¹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/27990/minor-girl-raped-in-jessore>

¹² <http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-first-page/article/17112084/৫>

¹³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/cu-teacher-accused-sexual-harassment-1492471>

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 November 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 November 2017

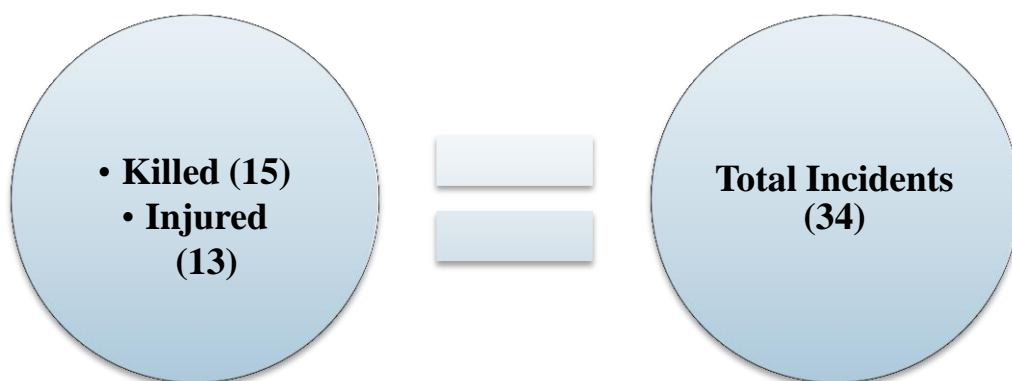


Figure 3: Statistics of Violent Attacks in Nov '17

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on an armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in November 2017, a total 34 incidents of violent attack have happened and 15 were killed in these attacks and 13 were seriously injured.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On November 10, 2017A local Jubo League activist was stabbed to death by some miscreants in Latifpur Colony area in Bogra town. The deceased was identified Abu Sayeed, 30, a member of ward-12 Jubo League of the district town and son of Eshak Ali of Chak Farid Colony. Witnesses said a group of miscreants, numbering 7-8, swooped on Sayeed at Munshipara intersection around 7:30pm over a previous enmity and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.¹⁴

¹⁴ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2017/11/10/135206.html>

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.

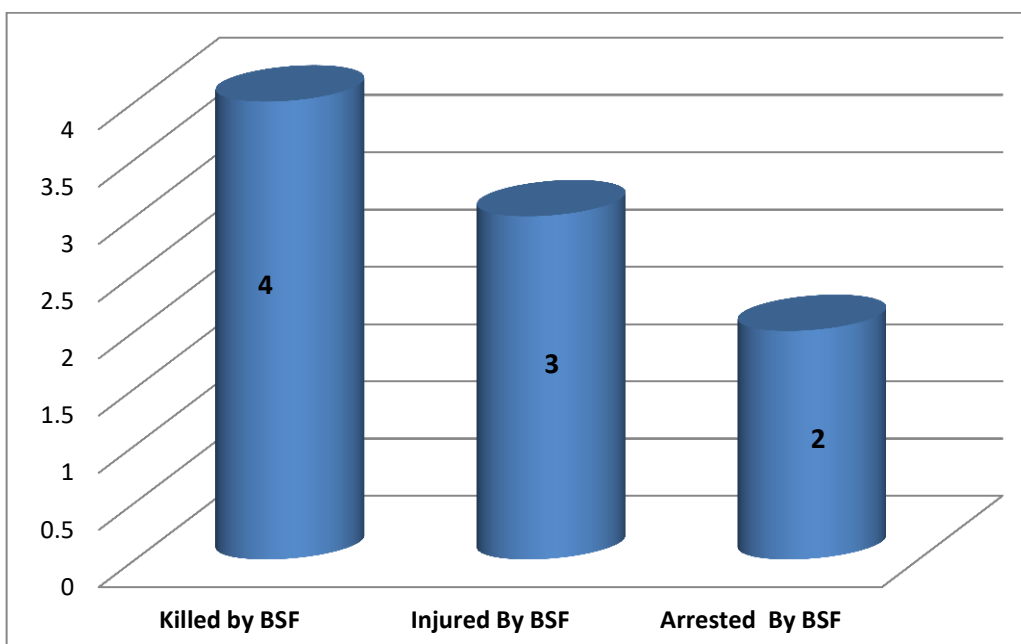


Figure 4; Statistics of Border Violence

The given chart gives data on the border dispute. According to HRSS in November 2017, almost 04 Bangladeshis citizen was killed, 03 injured, and 02 Bangladeshis citizen were arrested by BSF in a total 08 incidents.

Some important cases are mentioned below;



On Nov 14, 2017 The Indian Border Security Force shot a Bangladeshi cattle trader dead and injured another one on Burimari border at Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat. The victim was identified as Farid Uddin, 23, son of Shamsul Haq, a resident of village Upharmara under the upazila. The victim's fellow, Akkas Ali, 24, of the same village, was admitted to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital with bullet-wounds.¹⁵

On 25 November, 2017 A Bangladeshi national was shot dead by Indian Khasias along Sonarhat border in Gowainghat upazila. The deceased was identified as Faruk Miah, 35, son of Jalfu Miah of Laxmanchhara in the upazila. Gowainghat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Bishwajit Kumar Paul said Indian Khasias opened fire on Faruk when he was standing near border pillar no-1266, leaving him dead on the spot.¹⁶

On November 28, 2017 The Border Security Force of India shot dead a man along Boro border in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, said BGB officials in Dinajpur. The victim was identified as Mozaffar Hossain, 32, son of Abu Taher, of Ator village under the upazila, Dinajpur. BGB-29 Phulbari Battalion claimed the man went inside India for fetching Phensidyl. BSF shot him when he was returning. He died later.¹⁷

¹⁵ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2017/11/15/565861>

¹⁶ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=107996>

¹⁷ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=94081&cat=9/11>

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.¹⁸ After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th November 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.

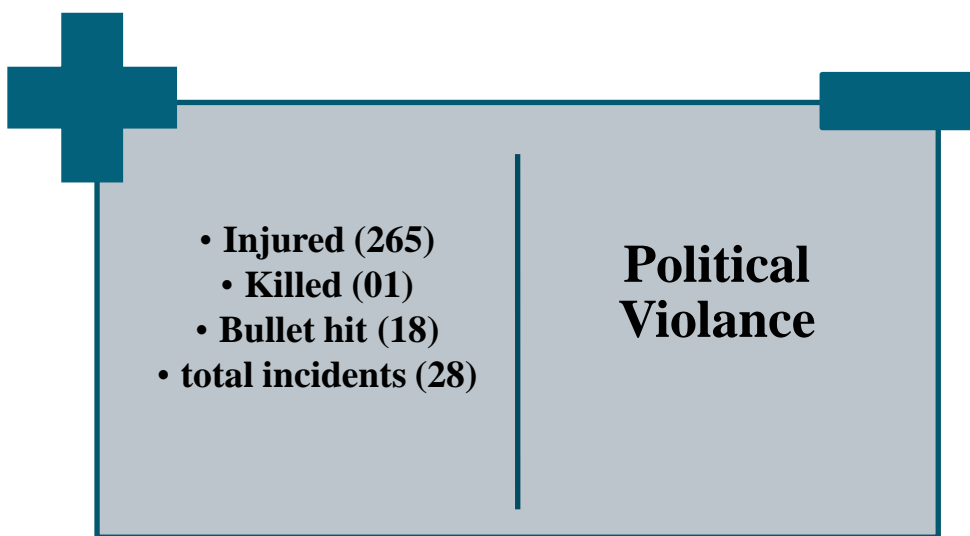


Figure 5: Statistics of Political Violence in Nov '17

The figure presents information about the political violence in November 2017. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, a total of one people has been killed, almost 265 injured and 18 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 November 01, 2017 seven people were injured as two factions of Awami League (AL) clashed in the Khagrachhari district town. The clash began when a group attacked a procession that was brought out in protest against the assault on a Sramik League leader. One faction is led by local lawmaker Kujendra Lal Tripura, also president of the district unit of AL, while the other faction is led by Khagrachhari Mayor Rafiqul Alam.¹⁹

¹⁸ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2017,

¹⁹ <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/304575/২৩৭>



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

On November 04, 2017 A local Jubo League leader was beaten allegedly by some BNP men at Durgapur village in Aditmari upazila, Lalmonirhat. A case was filed in this connection, said OC Hareshwar Roy of Aditmari Police Station. The victim is Afzal Hossain Nannu, 43, publicity secretary of Durgapur union unit of Jubo League.²⁰

On Nov 09, 2017 At least 16 people sustained bullet injuries in a gunfight between two factions of the ruling Awami League (AL) in Banskhali upazila of Chittagong. The bullet-hit AL men were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), confirmed Silbroto Barua, assistant sub-inspector of CMCH police outpost. The gun battle started around 5:30pm following a clash between the followers of lawmaker from Banskhali Mostafizur Rahman Chowdhury and local AL leader Abdullah Kabir Liton in municipality area, said Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Chittagong (South) AKM Emran Bhuiyan.²¹

On November 19, 2017 Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Chittagong University unit allegedly beat up a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader at CU. Abdul Kaiyum, senior vice president of CU unit of JCD, was being treated at a private hospital in Hathazari upazila. Witnesses said several leaders and activists of CFC, a shuttle train-based CU BCL group, altercated with Kaiyum at a tea stall beside the arts and humanities faculty. At one stage, the group led by Shariful Islam, SM Masum Khan and Fazlul Haque started beating him with sticks, they said.²²

²⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/jubo-league-leader-beaten-bnp-men-1486405>

²¹ <http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-first-page/article/17111838/>

²² <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-men-beat-jcd-leader-cu-1493794>

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.”²³ 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 November 2017. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly.

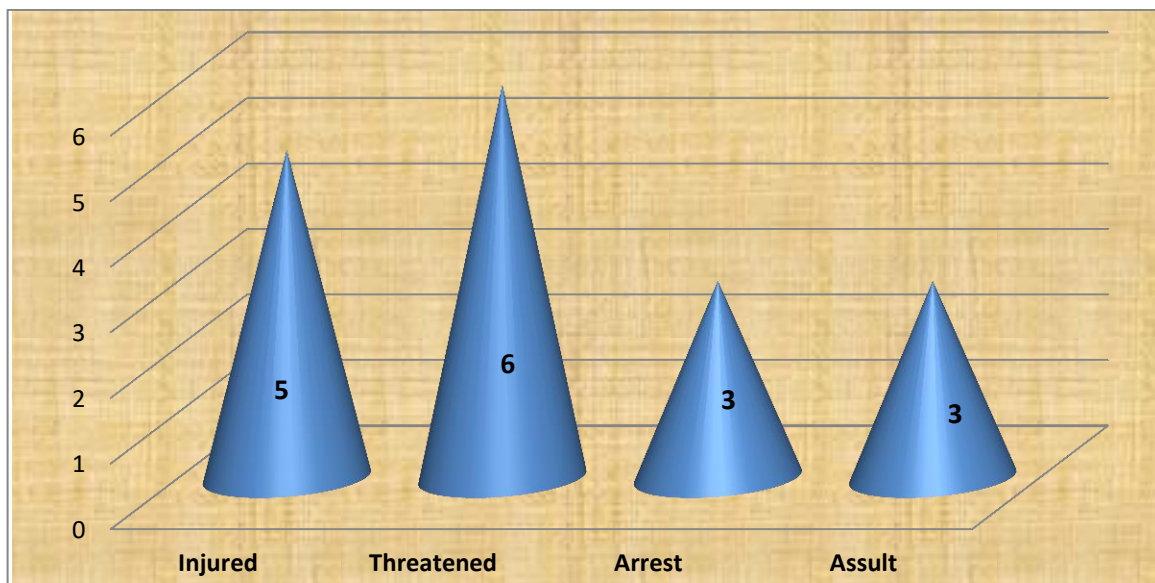


Figure 6; Attacks on Journalist

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 November, According to HRSS’s documented statistics, around 03 were assaulted, five injured, 03 arrested and almost 06 threatened. Selected cases are as described here:

On November 29, 2017 four journalists were beaten up allegedly by some Jubo League men, led by the son of Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sherif, in Pabna's Ishwardi. They were gathering information about the preparation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit there. The victims are Saikat Afroz, 35, Pabna correspondent of Somoy TV, Rizvi Joy, ATN News correspondent of the district, Partho Hasan, Pabna correspondent of DBC News, and ATN News cameraman Milon Hossain, 25. The four were admitted to Pabna General Hospital. Of them, Saikat and Rizvi are undergoing treatment there.²⁴

²³ UDHR-1948, article 19

²⁴ <http://samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-last-page/article/17115887/9>

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 November 2017 in Bangladesh,

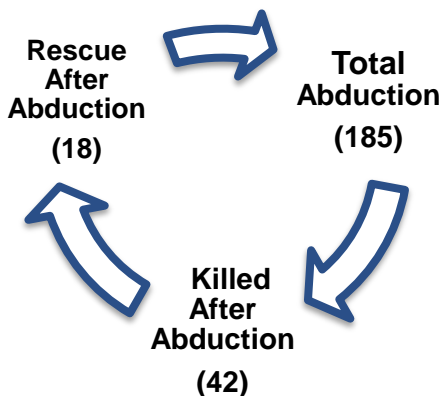


Figure 7; Statistics of Abduction in November '17

According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 185 people has been abducted, among of them, 18 killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 18 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction and nobody knows what happened to the rest 05 persons.

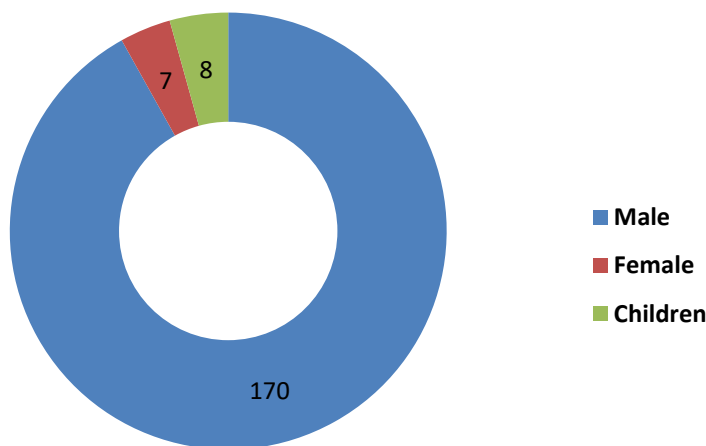


Figure 8; Categorization of Abduction

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in November 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 185 people were abducted, among of them, 170 were male, around 07 was female and nearly 08 were children.

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Selected cases are as follows: On November 10, 2017 a pharmacist for Sanofi-Aventis pharmaceutical company, Jamal disappeared after leaving his home in the capital's South Banasree area. Following the incident, his father, Siddiqur Rahman, filed a General Diary (GD) at Khilgaon police station on Wednesday afternoon. Khilgaon police station's Officer-in-Charge (OC) Moshir Rahman said: "We are questioning Jamal about his whereabouts during his disappearance." He further said: "Jamal was receiving treatment at a hospital after he fell victim to a dope gang. However, he could not specify which hospital he was at or why he did not inform the police." In another incident, fruit trader Giasuddin, returned home after being missing for more than three days. Giasuddin and his two brothers are wholesale fruit traders at Dhaka's Badamtoli market. Nazrul Islam, his elder brother, said that Giasuddin's mobile phone had been switched off after he left to go home. Giasuddin's wife Shumi Begum became worried when her husband had not returned home by the evening. She later filed a GD at the Shajahanpur police station on the same day. Superintendent Sanjay Kumar, who was the investigating officer in the case, confirmed Giasuddin's return but said police were yet to be informed where Giasuddin was when he went missing.²⁵

On Nov 22, 2017 Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police rescued a private university student who was allegedly abducted by his friend. They rescued Mahbub Tanzil Ershad, an LLB Department student of International Islamic University of Bangladesh, On Monday night Imrul kidnapped Mahbub and demanded Tk 1.5 lakh from the latter's family members. Victim's father Babul Kadir filed a case with Panchalish PS in this connection on the very night.²⁶

²⁵ <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2017/11/11/2-missing-persons-return-home/>

²⁶ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=107344>

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.

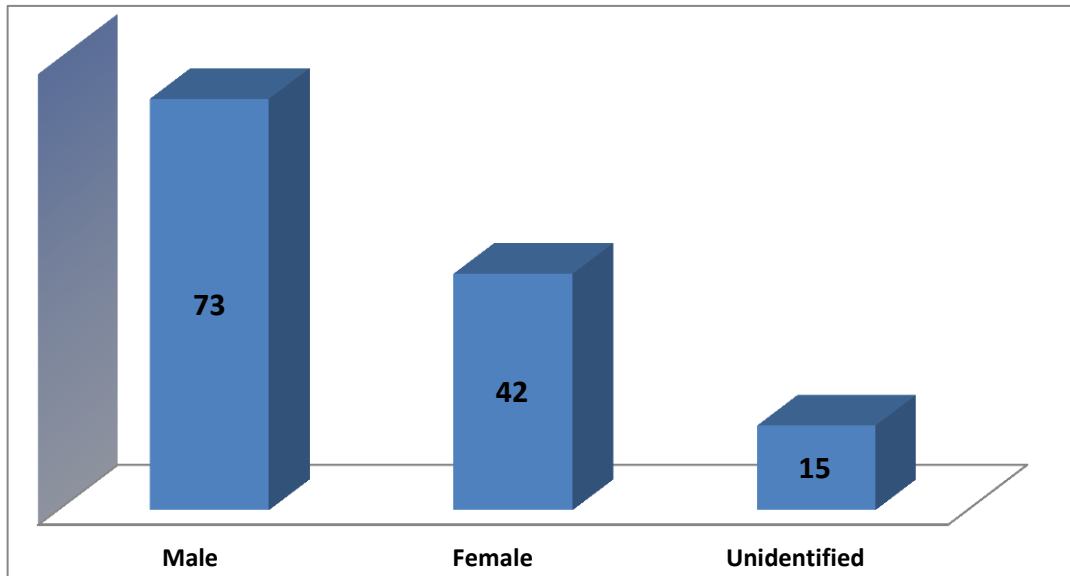


Figure 9; Recovery of Dead Body in November '17

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in November 2017, a total of 130 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 73 bodies were male and 42 bodies were female and 15 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On November 17, 2017 Police dug out the body of a college student from his friend's house in Ulat village of Pabna's Sujanager. The victim, Robiul Islam, 20, son of Abdul Malek of the village, was a second-year BBA student at Selim Reza Habib Degree College in Sujanager. Police arrested deceased's friend Mamun Hossain, 22. Obaidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Sujanager Police Station, said Robiul had been missing since September 20. A week later, the victim's family got a phone call from an unknown number and the caller demanded Tk 50 lakh as ransom for Robiul's release. The family filed a general diary with the police station.²⁷

²⁷ <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/pabna-college-student-murdered-1492834>

On Nov 20, 2017 Police recovered a throat-slit body of a madrassah student at Gulistan in the city early. The victim was identified as Md Abdur Rahman alias jihad, 13, son of Md Hafiz Uddin, a resident of Dalukchhari under Gaffargaon in Mymensingh. He was a student of Hefza department of Madinatul Ulum Hafizia Madrassah.²⁸

On Nov 21: An XI class student of Palardi School and College was allegedly killed by a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist. The victim was identified as Shakir Gomosta (18), son of Ayub Ali of Ashkathi village in Barisal. Sources said alleged killer Sohel Gomosta (29), a BCL activist, along with his cohorts used to take drugs on the college campus and teased the female students. As Shakir protested against their activities, Sohel allegedly hit him on the head with a stick. Critically injured Shakir was rushed to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital and later referred to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) as his condition deteriorated, said Palardi School and College Principal Tapan Kumar Ray. Later, he died he added. Gournadi Thana OC Monirul Islam said victim's mother Aleya Begum filed a case in this regard and police was operating a drive to arrest the accused.²⁹

²⁸ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1369406/>

²⁹ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=107341>

Attack on Minorities

Article 27 of The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “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”. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights mentions explicitly in article 2 (2) 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 other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

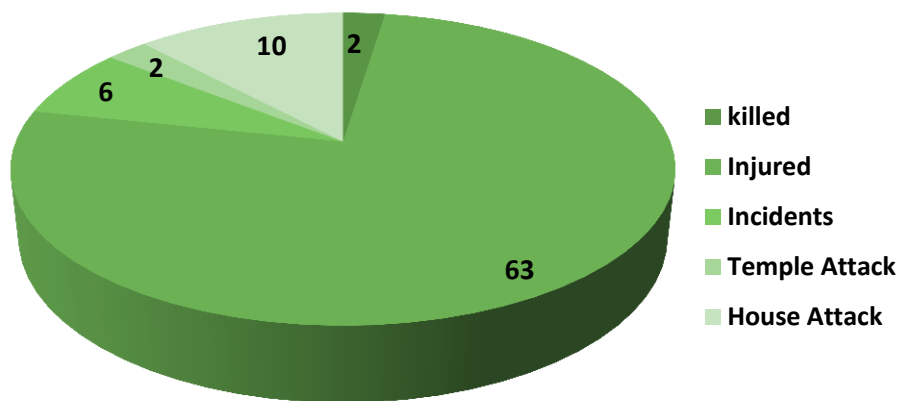


Figure 09: Statistics of attack on minority

The given chart provides information according to HRSS in the month November 2017; almost 02 temples were attacked, about 10 houses attack, almost 06 and 02 minority members have been killed in a total almost 02 incidents. Selected cases are as described here:



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

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On Nov 10, 2017 two men was killed and 60 others, were injured in a clash between local Muslims and police protesting at a Facebook post allegedly ‘defaming’ Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) at village Thakurpara of Paglapir area in Rangpur Sadar . The deceased were identified as Habibur Rahman, 27 and hamidul islam a resident of village Khaleya. The local administration imposed Section 144 in Paglapir and its adjacent areas to calm the situation. Police detained five persons and filed a case against unnamed 1,000 people with Kotwali police station over the matter, said Moktarul Islam, officer-in-charge (operations) of the police station. Locals and police said Titu Roy, a resident of Thakurpara, a Hindu-dominated village, allegedly uploaded an image and posted a status on his Facebook account defaming the Prophet (PBUH) some days back. Protesting at the status, Muslim devotees formed a human chain at Paglapir Bazar on Rangpur-Dinajpur Highway after Jumma prayer. Locals from other villages also joined the human chain. The agitated devotees later headed towards Thakurpara and police intercepted them on the way. Being barred, they went berserk, vandalised 10 to 15 Hindu houses, set fire on five houses and a warehouse in the village. Police charged batons, fired about hundred rounds of rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse the mob. Chase and counter-chase took place, leaving at least 60 people, including police personnel injured. Habibur Rahman and hamidul isalm also got injured by law enforcement agency during the clash, died on the way to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital.³⁰

³⁰ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=91380>

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 Nov, 2017 by the law enforcement agencies.

‘Human Rights Support Society’ (HRSS) finds that in November 2017 a total 07 people have been disappeared by law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them one returned home and nobody knows what happened to the rest one person. Selected cases are stated below:

On Nov 13, 2017 a woman filed a case with a magistrate court in Jessore accusing 16 cops, including 7 officials, of being involved in enforced disappearance of her only son in early April from Jessore district town. The cops were posted to Jessore Kotwali police station when the alleged offence was committed, according to the case statement filed with senior judicial magistrate Shahinur Rahman by Hira Khatun, wife of Tauhidul Islam Khokon of Shankarpur in Jessore town. In the complaint, the plaintiff stated that her only son Md Syeed disappeared after the cops picked up him and she suspected that Syeed had been killed by the cops as she did not pay Tk 2 lakh demanded by the police personnel, said her lawyer Ajit Kumar Das, lawyer of the complainant. ‘The case was filed to tarnish the image of the police,’ he claimed. Taking cognisance of the case, the court ordered the police bureau of investigation to submit a report after an investigation into the case. Hira named sub-inspectors HM Shahidul Islam, Amir Hossain and Hasanur Rahman, assistant sub-inspectors Rajon Gazi, Selim Hossain, Biplob Hossain and Selim Ahmed and constables Arifuzzaman, Rafiqul Islam, Md Ramjan, Habibur Rahman, Abu Bakar, Mizan Sheikh, Mahbubur Rahman, Rajibul Islam and Khokon Hossain as accused in the case. The plaintiff stated that getting a phone call she went to Jessore Paura Park at about noon on April 5, 2017 and witnessed that her son along with his friend Shaon were being picked up by some cops on a police van. One of the cops told her to go to Kotwali as she wanted to know why her son was picked up. She then went to the police station but she was not allowed to enter. The police later demanded Tk 2 lakh for the release of Syeed. She later came to know from newspaper reports that her son fled from the police. The family was yet to know the whereabouts of Syeed.³¹

³¹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/28353/16-cops-sued-for-enforced-disappearance>

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”.³²

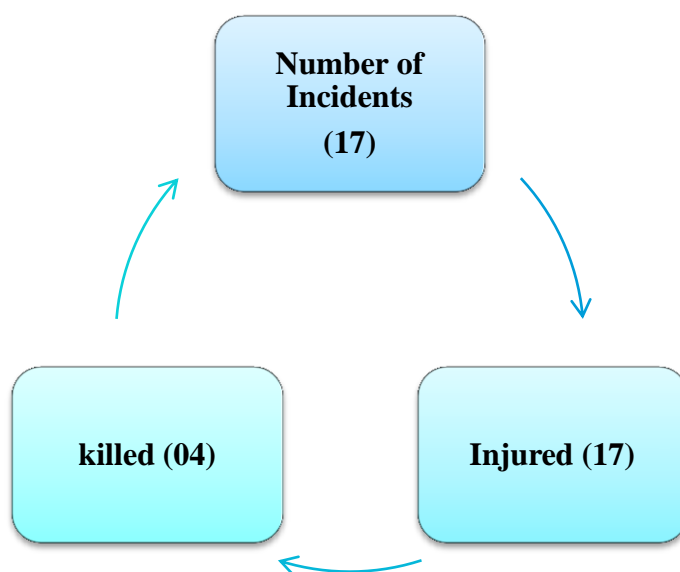


Figure 11: Violence against children in Nov '16

According to HRSS report, the graph presented below regarding the violence against children in nov, 2017, around 04 children’s were killed and almost 17 children’s have been critically injured in a total of nearly 17 incidents of Violence against Children.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On Nov 01,2017A four-year-old boy was tortured brutally on allegation of stealing a mobile phone set at village Char Bamani of Raipur in Lakshmipur. The victim, Piyash, was admitted to Lakshmipur General Hospital around 10:00pm and later was shifted to Noakhali General Hospital as his condition was deteriorated. He bore injuries on his skull, face and eyes, the physician said. On November 27 on allegation that she had stolen a mobile phone set in Narsingdi. Md Sohel Rana, father of Piyash, said Rakib Hossain, 22, son of Touhidul Islam, of the village, lost his mobile phone set and called Piyash over suspicion. Rakib took him behind Char Bamani Kindergarten and beat up Piyash, Sohel said. He also tortured Piyash by putting him into a sack, he said.³³

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

³³ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/27494/minor-boy-tortured-over-theft-allegation-in-lakshmipur>

Public Lynching

Lynching is the practice of murder by extrajudicial action. It is an unlawful punishment by an informal group. It is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob, often by hanging, in order to punish an alleged transgressor or to intimidate a minority group. It is an extreme form of informal group social group. In Bangladesh due to lack of respect for law, distrust of the police and instability in the country people are taking the law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice any other way. As a result, the incident of public lynching became a banal matter. HRSS believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

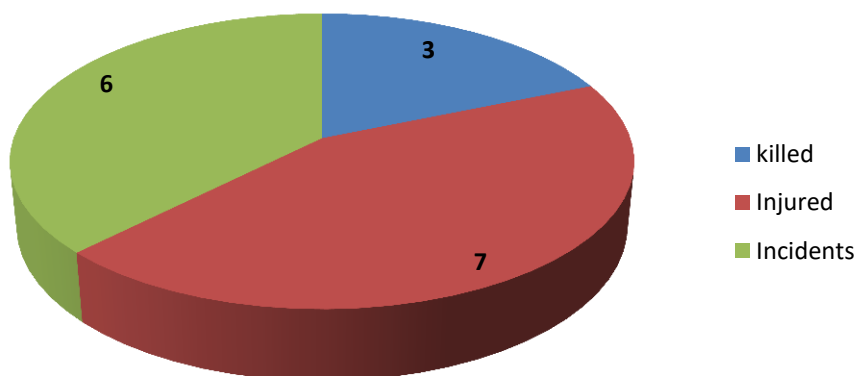


Figure 12: Statistics of Public Lynching in Nov '17

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases in Nov '2017. According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, 07 people have been injured; nearly 03 people were killed in a total of 06 incidents of the public lynching. Some important cases are given below:

On November 27, 2017 An angry mob beat two suspected robbers to death in Brahmanbaria's Kasba. Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kasba Police Station, said they were yet to identify the two men. Quoting locals, he said a night guard in Hariyabaha village saw a group of men preparing for a robbery around 10:30pm and alerted the villagers. Within moments, the villagers came out of their houses, caught the two men and beaten them to death. The others managed to flee.³⁴

³⁴ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1375256/>

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

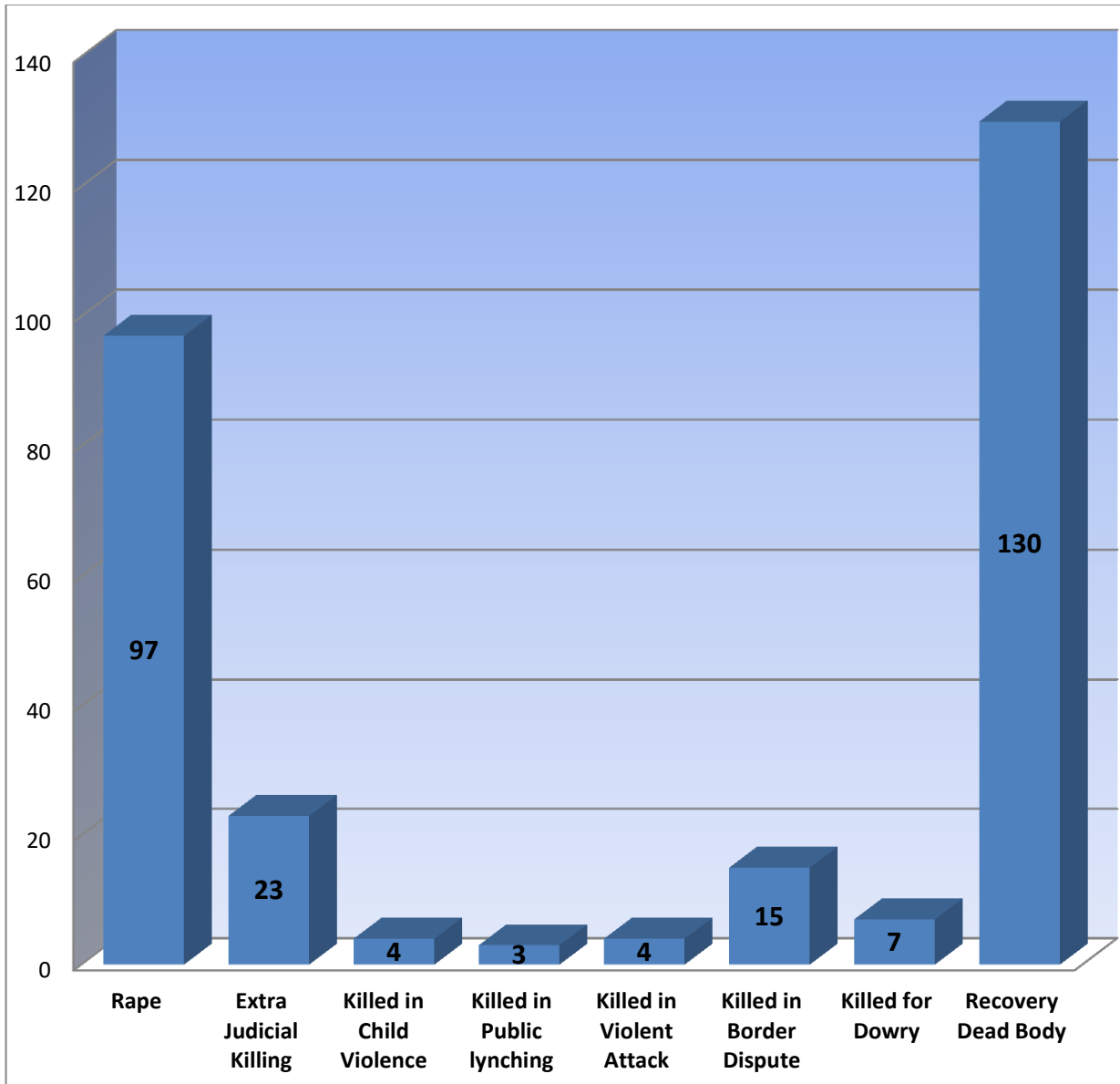


Figure 13: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in November 2017

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 Nov '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.