



Monthly Human Rights Observation Report on Bangladesh

October, 2017

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

Executive Summary

Human rights violation in Bangladesh is continued in October 2017, as similar to the previous month, the most momentous human rights issues were extra-judicial killings, torture, political violence, abduction and domestic violence. Further human rights problems encompassed exploitations by security forces; they were alleged to responsible for the abduction, disappearance, arbitrary arrest and indiscriminate detention. The government controlled freedom of assembly and encourage politically motivated violence in a mundane way. Violence against women remained to be going to worsen way, as numbers of incidences have occurred for a silly matter. Discrimination against persons especially women has been considered as a serious problem for the last October 2017.

According to the source of human rights support Society (HRSS), Approximately 23 people were killed extra-judicially in October 2017. The deaths occurred during raids, arrests as well as during operations by the law-enforcement agencies. The government often regretfully describes these deaths as the name of crossfire/gunfights/encounter killing. Moreover, HRSS report demonstrates that a total of 80 females were alleged to be raped in October 2017. Among of them, around 52 were below the age of 16 and one was killed after rape. About 10 women were subjected to be gang raped. A total of 09 women were killed for dowry and roughly 12 were sexually harassed. Approximately and 17 women were killed in the family feud. On the other hand, Around 32 people were killed in the violent attack. Accounts of 39 people have been abducted. Furthermore, around 04 people were killed in political violence.

However, we hope that this report will help mass people, civil society as well as international communities to realize the current dreadful and degrading human rights situation of Bangladesh. We are deeply concerned about debasing human rights situation in our beloved country. We also urge national and international human rights organizations as well as every citizen to raise their voice to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh. To finish, we want to acknowledge the contribution and pay our thanks to those people who have an assist and encourage us that will help us to make this monthly report more qualitative and encourage us to keep a vibrant role in human rights sector.

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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.

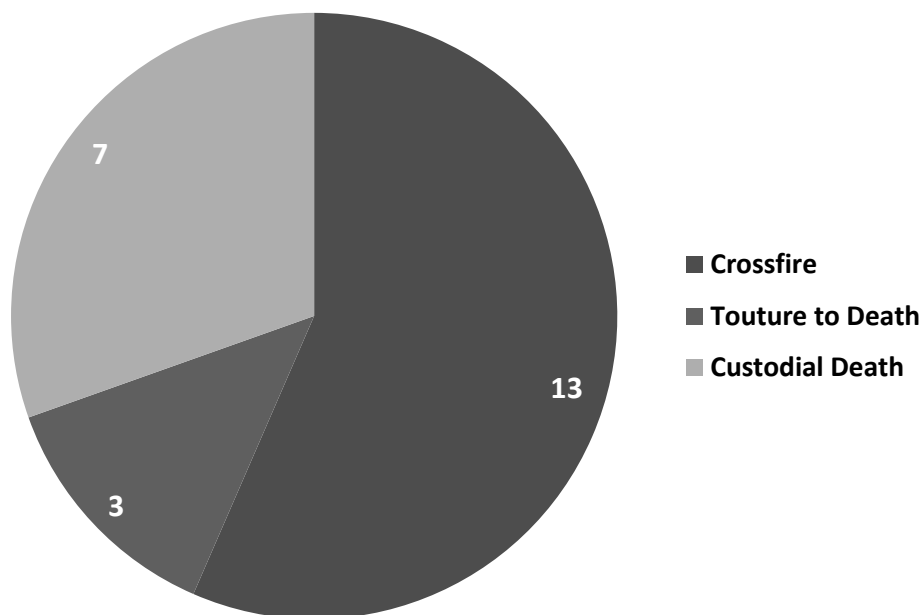


Figure 1: Scenario of Encounter killing in Oct 2017

The given pie chart provides information about the extra-judicial killing scenario in October 2017: According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 23 persons were alleged killed in extra judicially. Out of them, 13 people were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/gunfights’, 03 torture to death and almost 07 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 Oct 08, 2017 a man was allegedly beaten to death by police during a raid in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat. The deceased was identified as Saidur Rahman, 38, son of Kazem Ali from Kalai upazila, said additional superintendent of police of Joypurhat. According to the family members, a team of police from Kalai Police Station raided the home of Saidur Rahman at Harunza village around 5.30am to arrest his brother. Saidur Rahman had an altercation with the police over the arrest. The law enforcers, in retaliation, allegedly beat him up with batons inside the house. Saidur fell on the ground unconscious. The police team took him to Kalai upazila Health Complex where he was declared dead.⁴

On October 28, 2017A man was beaten to death in police custody in Rangpur, alleged his family members. The victim, Sohel Rana alias Russell, 26, was the son of Ruhul Amin of Haldibari village under Kaunia upazila. He died around 10:00am at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH). But Sohana Moni, elder sister of Sohel Rana, said law enforcers picked up her brother from their house in Haldibari around 10:00pm Saturday. The police also demanded Tk 1.5 lakh for his release, she added. They killed him as the family refused to give the money, she alleged. “We demand punishment of the police officials responsible for my husband's death,” said Runi Begum, Sohel's wife.⁵

On October 20, 2017An alleged man was killed in a "gunfight" between his cohorts and Rab in Chittagong city's Ice Factory Road area. The dead is Mohammad Faruk, 42, from Chittagong's Patiya upazila, said Lt Commander Ashiqur Rahman, deputy director of Rab-7, adding that Faruk stood accused in 18 cases filed with different police stations in Chittagong.⁶

On October, 02, 2017A 17-year-old boy died hours after being released from police custody in Sherpur. The incident took place in Nalitabari upazila of the district. The victim was Biswajit Chandra Dey, son of Bidhan Chandra Dey of Uttar Bazar area in the upazila. Biswajit's sister Sheuly said his brother was detained by a police team along with some hemp from Uttar Bazar area around 9:00 pm and he was released around 11:00 pm. He complained of chest pain and was taken to Nalitabari Upazila Health Complex where he died around 1:00am. Angry locals demanded punishment of the involved policemen and brought out a protest procession with the teenager's body at Uttar Bazar intersection in the morning. When contacted, Jahangir Alam, Assistant Superintendent of Police (Nalitabari Circle), denied the allegation of conducting any kind of torture on the boy in police custody.⁷

⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/man-killed-joypurhat-police-raid-bangladesh-1473763>

⁵ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/man-dies-police-custody-1483612>

⁶ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1347666/>

⁷ <http://www.clickittefaq.com/sherpur-cops-torture-teen-death/>

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 October 2017. HRSS provides the following data has been taken from 12 prominent daily newspapers in Bangladesh.

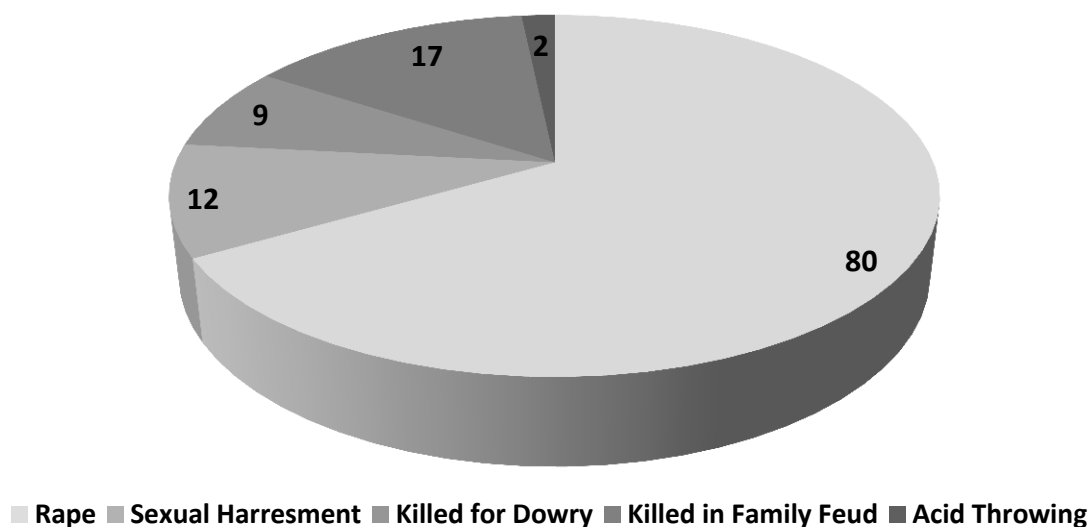


Figure 2: Violence against Women in Oct '17

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 October 2017 are detailed:

⁸ (UN General Assembly, 2006)

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

Rape

- A Total Number Of 80 Females Were Raped. Among Of Them 70 Were Victims Of Single Rape And 10 Were Subjected To Gang Rape And 52 Were Children Below The Age Of 16 (Including Single & Gang Rape). On The Other Hand, one Female Was Killed After Being Raped And Almost 04 Incidents Have Been Attempted To Rape.

Killed In Family Feud

- In october 2017 About 17 Women Were Killed In The Family Feud And 04 Females Have Been Injured. Out Of Them, 21 Were An Incidents Of Family Feud.

Dowry Related Violence

- Approximately 15 Incidents Of Dowry-related Violence Were Reported In october 2017. About 09 Were Killed And 06 Women Were Physically Abused Over Dowry Demands.

Sexual Haressment

- According To Information Collected By HRSS, A Total Of 12 Girls And Women Were Reportedly Victims Of Sexual Harassment In october 2017. Among Them, 08 Were Assaulted And 04 Were Stalked.

Some important cases are cited: On October 12, 2017A female secondary school student has died from suicide, as two youths, after raping the girl, threatened to release the video clips of the incident on the internet. The victim, 14-year-old Rohima Akhter Sonia, daughter of Jaherul Islam of Kalaramjodth village in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh, had been gang-raped by local youths -- Rajon and Atik -- nearly three months ago.¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/rape-teenage-girl-she-takes-her-life-over-threats-release-video-1475713>

On October 06, 2017A union parishad chairman, who was sued for raping and torturing a woman at his office in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila, is yet to be arrested. The woman, a mother of a two-and-a-half-year old child, is now undergoing treatment at Noakhali General Hospital. She alleged that police were not arresting prime accused Mozammel Hossain, chairman of Charbata Union Parishad, though he was moving freely. The victim alleged that the chairman's men repeatedly told her old parents to withdraw the case and threatened them with life and to drive them out of their village, if they didn't do so. Her elder sister claimed that the men also offered them Tk 3 lakh to settle the issue.¹¹

On Oct 11, 2017 a teenage girl was allegedly gang-raped in Jakiganj upazila of Sylhet after being kidnapped. Family members said that the girl, a student of Class VII of a local school, went missing around 9:30pm after she went out of her house to use the toilet. The victim's guardians rescued her around one and a half hours later in an unconscious state from the backyard of Aftab Ali's house in the neighbourhood. Quoting the OCC staff, the relative said that the girl was gang-raped and Aftab Ali's son Kamrul Islam, 25, was involved in the matter.¹²

On October 17, 2017 a 14-year-old mentally challenged girl was raped allegedly by an elderly man in Sadar upazila, Pirojpur. The accused is Nasir Munshi, 65, of Uttar Shankarpasha village in the upazila, said Md Masumur Rahman Biswas, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station. The girl's father filed a case accusing two people, including Nasir, under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.¹³

On October 28, 2017A female student of Nawabeki College in Shyamnagar of Satkhira district died by suicide after falling victim to a gang of stalkers. Joyshree Chakraborty, 17, killed herself at her Boyarsing village home under Shyamnagar upazila on October 25. Joyshree was the youngest daughter of Makhon Chakraborty. The victim's elder brother, Kajol Chakraborty, said Joyshree was a class XI student of the college. Shekhor Mondal, the 22-year old son of rice trader Ranjan Mondal of the neighbouring Barokupote village, had been stalking the girl on her way to college and back for some time. According to Kajol Chakraborty, it took a physical turn on the day of the incident. Shekhor, along with three to four accomplices, obstructed Joyshree's path when she was returning home from college. Kajol said Shekor and his accomplices reached Karmaker Para, the area of the incident, on their motorcycles at 11:00 in the morning. At the time, the location was almost deserted. They then snatched her scarf. At one stage, the miscreants assaulted her physically and cut off her hair with a pair of scissors. Joyshree's cries led to local people gathering on the scene and that is when the criminals fled.¹⁴

¹¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/rape-noakhali-accused-chairman-still-large-1472800>

¹² <http://www.newagebd.net/article/25995/teenage-girl-raped-in-sylhet>

¹³ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=88030&cat=9/>

¹⁴ <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/country/2017/10/27/275764>

On Oct 28, 2017 the family of an 11-year old rape victim demanded justice in a case filed over the rape incident in Sherpur. Father of the victim alleged that the criminals involved are trying to release themselves from the case. As part of their ill attempt, they managed the doctors of Sherpur General Hospital for providing false report mentioning that no rape evidence was found in the medical test, alleged the victim's father. He also said that they have refused the report provided by the medical board of Sherpur hospital and appealed before the court for conducting second medical test at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital or elsewhere. Shuvro Saha, sub-inspector of Sherpur Sadar Police Station, also investigation officer of the case, said that he has prayed to the court for conducting a DNA test of samples including victim's clothes. He also said that the court in Sherpur placed one-day remand to the prime accused Jasim Uddin. The court also set today for hearing on a petition filed for conducting medical test again. The grade III girl was raped allegedly by Jashim at village Dashkahniya in Charsherpur union under Sadar upazila on October 6. Victim's family members said that Jasim Uddin, a resident of the same village who is a father of two children, chased the girl while she was returning from a local market in the afternoon and he forcibly took her in a paddy field. He later raped the girl. After being rescued by locals, the victim was taken to her house first. As her condition deteriorated, she was then admitted to Sherpur Sadar Hospital.¹⁵

¹⁵ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/27191/minor-rape-victim-seeks-justice-in-sherpur>

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 October 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 October 2017

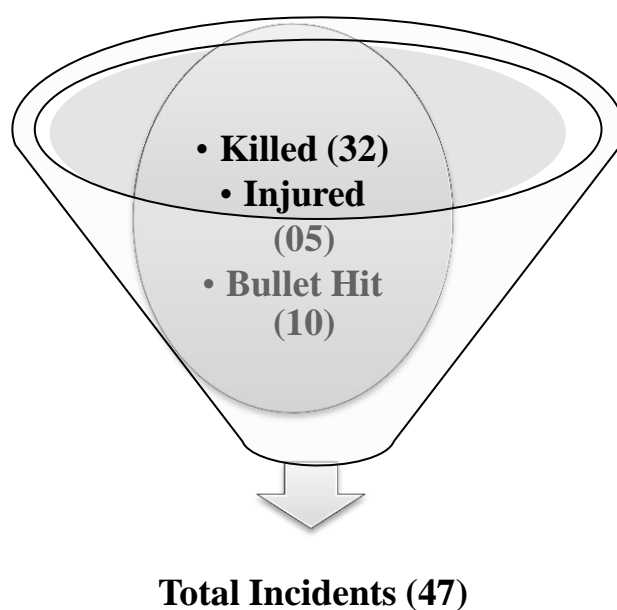


Figure 3: Statistics of Violent Attacks in Oct '17

The chart provides information regarding the violent attack on an armless civilian. According to the data in Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in October 2017, a total 47 incidents of violent attack have happened and 32 were killed in these attacks, 05 were seriously injured and around 10 persons have been bullet hit.

Selected cases are as analyzed: On Oct 11, 2017 a group of miscreants stabbed a college student in Sylhet. The victim was identified as Fuzayel Ahmad Fayeze, 21, a first year Bangla student of Sylhet MC College. He lived in a rented house at Baluchar in Sylhet city along with some other students. Fayeze's roommate Mizan said that a group of three masked men arrived on a

motorcycle and stabbed Fayeze at Baluchar Point around 7:00am while he was out for a walk in the morning.¹⁶

On October 12, 2017A group of assailants hacked to death two men in Hosaini Nagar area of Narayanganj sadar. Police said feud over money and establishing supremacy in the area could be the reasons behind the double murder. Quoting locals, the law enforcers said the attackers stormed a rickshaw garage owned by Milton Hossain around 9:00pm and hacked the 40-year-old man and Parvez Ahmed, 35, indiscriminately with sharp weapons, killing them on the spot.¹⁷

On October 13, 2017A college student was allegedly beaten to death by some local miscreants in Faridpur. Deceased Solaiman Mia Shimul, 25, was an honours third-year student of the English department of Government Rajendra College. Shimul was playing carrom at Shovarampur bazar around 7:30pm when he was picked up by the people of one Khokon, said Billal Hossain, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station. They took Shimul to a nearby place and beat mercilessly, leaving him severely injured, he added.¹⁸

On Oct 20, 2017 an activist of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti was shot dead by miscreants in Kamolchhari Christianpara area of Khagrachari Sadar. The deceased was identified as Samayun Chakma, 45. Major Mujahedul Islam, staff officer of Khagrachari region, said Samayun Chakma was killed by members of his rival group. Locals alleged that UPDF members killed Samayun, Mujahedul Islam added.¹⁹

On Oct 28, 2017 Former vice-president of Jessore district unit Bangladesh Chhatra League was shot to death by miscreants at Gulgolla in Jessore town. The deceased was identified as Monwar Hossain Imon, 30, son of Anwar Hossain of Bejpara Gulgolla area. Imon was shot by miscreants around 11:00pm when he was playing with his friend at Gulgolla Chattar, said AKM Ajmal Huda, officer-in-charge of Kotwali police station. He was rushed to Jessore General Hospital where duty physician declared him dead. However, police could not identify the perpetrators immediately, the OC added.²⁰

¹⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/25992/college-student-stabbed-by-miscreants-in-sylhet>

¹⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1342636/>

¹⁸ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/faridpur-government-rajendra-college-student-beaten-dead-1476289>

¹⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/26607/jss-man-shot-dead-in-khagrachari>

²⁰ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1353586/>

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.

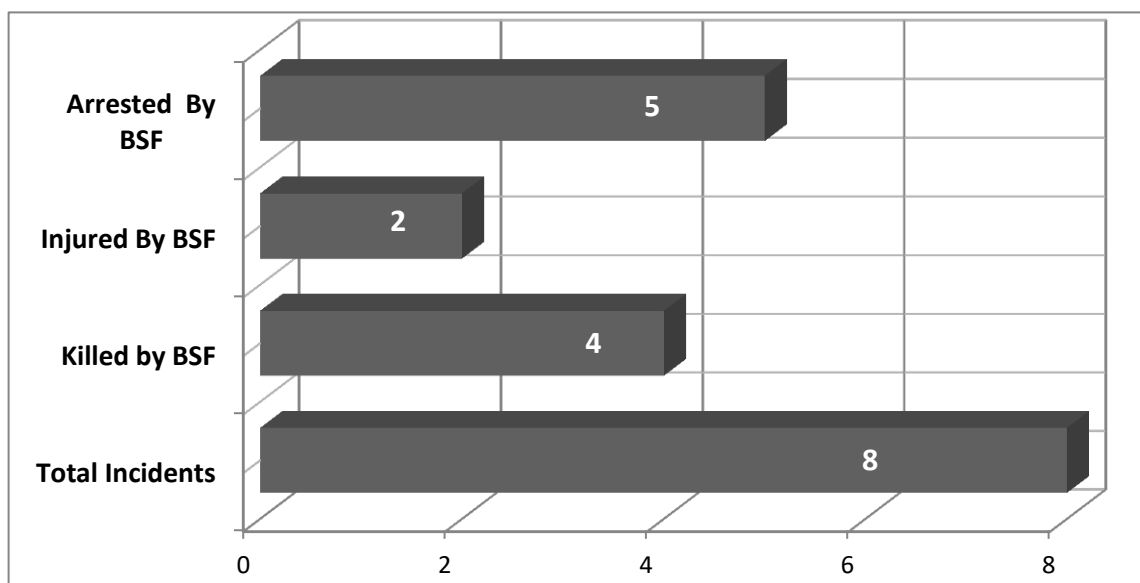


Figure 4; Statistics of Border Violence

The given chart gives data on the border dispute. According to HRSS in October 2017, almost 04 Bangladeshis citizen was killed, 02 injured, and 05 Bangladeshis citizen were arrested by BSF in a total 08 incidents.

Some important cases are mentioned below; On October 09, 2017 Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi on Nasirpara border in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia. The victim was Bulbul Hossain, 24, son of Mubar Ali of Jamalpur village in Daulatpur upazila. Nayek Subedar Abdur Razzak of Border Guard Bangladesh at 47/Jamalpur camp said Bulbul along with six others went to Nasirpara border point for reasons unknown. The BSF patrol team from Nasirpara camp in Nadia of West Bengal opened fire on them about 4:30am. Bulbul was shot in his chest and was admitted to Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex where he died about 12:00 noon.²¹

²¹ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2017/10/09/551690>



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

On October 15, 2017 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) foiled the Indian Border Security Force's (BSF) attempt to push in about 50 Rohingya women and children into Bangladesh through Putkhali border in Benapole. BGB members have been put on high alert and their patrol along the bordering areas has been increased to prevent any attempt by BSF to push the Rohingya people into Bangladesh, said Lt Col Tariqul Hakim, commander of BGB-21 Battalion in Khulna. The Rohingya women and children, who were gathered by BSF for push-in into the Bangladesh territory, have been staying in the jungles on Angrail border in India since early morning on Saturday, BGB and local sources said. With hardly any provision for food, they are in an inhuman condition. The BSF is gathering many Rohingya women and children on different bordering areas of India, BGB sources said.²²

²² <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/bsf-bid-push-50-rohingyas-1476856>

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.²³ After assuming state power by Awami League Government through 5th October 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.

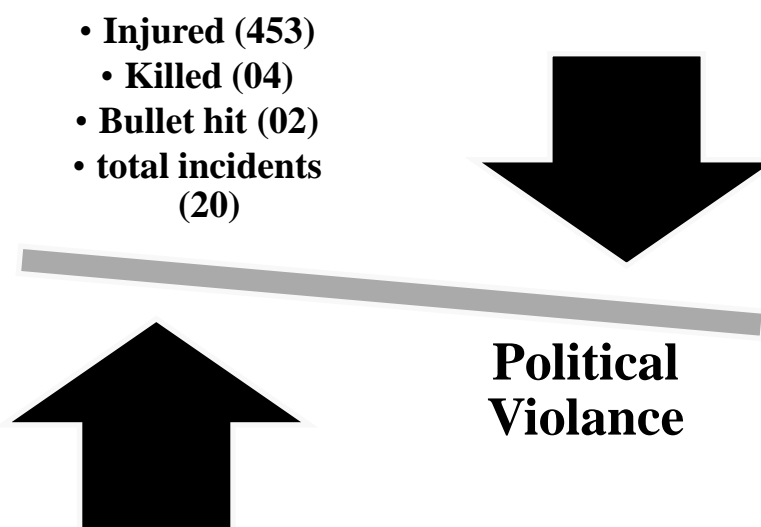


Figure 5: Statistics of Political Violence in Oct '17

The figure presents information about the political violence in October 2017. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 04 people has been killed, almost 243 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 October 10, 2017 A woman was killed and at least 29 people were injured as two factions of ruling Awami League clashed over establishing supremacy in three villages of Saltha upazila. The victim was identified as Jahura Begum, 60, wife of Manna Matabbor of Gobindapur village. The clash took place between the supporters of Shar Ali Khan, a resident of Gobindapur village and member of Saltha unit AL, and Delowar Khan, a resident of Khagor village and AL supporter, around 11:00am.²⁴

²³ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2017,

²⁴ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/woman-killed-faridpur-al-men-clash-1474633>

On Oct 01, 2017 an attack on a private hospital by the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League left at least five people injured at Ramganj in Laskshmipur. The list of the injured include at least three patients said Mizanur Rahman, manager of Prantik Hospital owned by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Ramganj branch secretary Mizanur Rahman Bhuyan, The manager complained that BCL activists led by Ramganj upazila BCL president Faisal Mal and general secretary Mehedi Hasan Shuvo reached the hospital riding 15 to 20 motorcycles Oct 01, 2017 night and vandalised the hospital. He said BCL leaders were demanding a large amount of money as extortion and the attack on them was the outcome of denial to provide the money.²⁵



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

On October 16, 2017 the six BCL activists, who were wounded in factional clash in Chittagong Government College, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Three of them are the students of Haji Mohammed Mohsin College. Police and college sources said there had been a longstanding conflict between two groups -- one led by Mahmudul Karim and the other by Jubo League activist Nur Mostofa Tinu -- over establishing domination on the campus.²⁶

²⁵ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/25235/bcl-leader-leads-attack-on-hospital-owned-by-jcd-leader>

²⁶ <https://www.jugantor.com/last-page/2017/10/17/164017/5>



Omar Ali

On October 16, 2017²⁷ A Chhatra League man was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals over previous enmity at Tilagarh in Sylhet city. The victim, Omar Ali Miyad, 26, son of Akul Miah of Baluchar in the city, was a law student at Leading University. In Sylhet, Rayhan Chowdhury, general secretary of Sylhet district unit BCL, pro-Awami League student body, confirmed that Omar was a BCL activist. Witnesses said some BCL activists, led by Tofayel Ahmed, stabbed Omar and his men Nasim Ahmed, 21, and Tarik Ahmed, 22, after stopping their CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 3:00pm. The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Omar died. Tarik was released from the hospital after primary treatment.²⁷

²⁷ <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1345166/>

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.”²⁸ 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 October 2017. The government applied indirect pressure to coerce to different news agencies constantly.

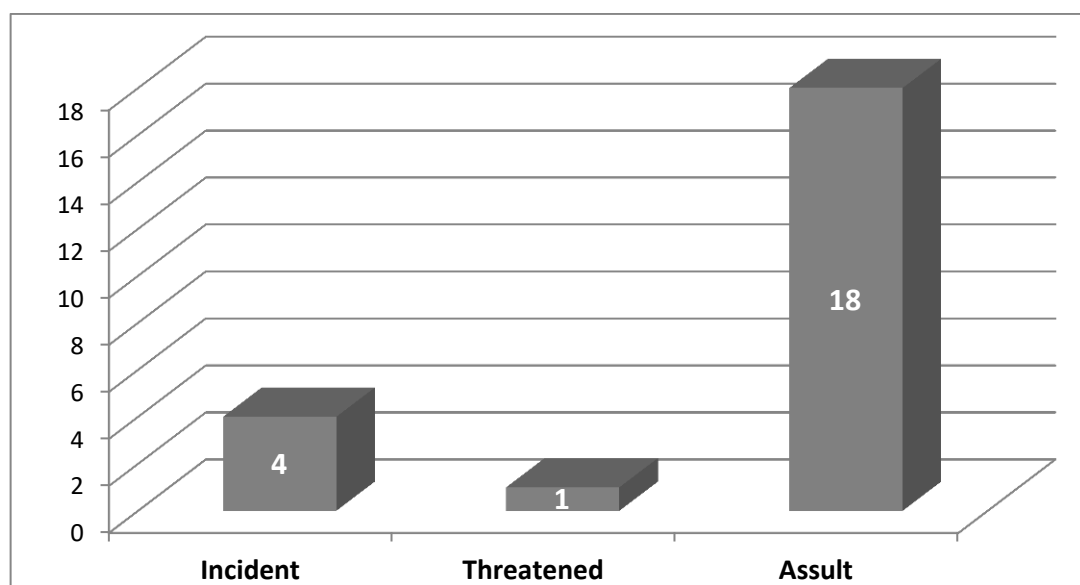


Figure 6; Attacks on Journalist

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 October, According to HRSS’s documented statistics, around 18 were assaulted and one threatened.

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

²⁸ UDHR-1948, article 19



This's a vandalised media vehicle, of the motorcade at Mohammad Ali Bazar near Feni. Pic;na

On Oct 01,2017 Sadar upazila Awami League general secretary Abul Kashem, also upazila parishad chairman of Uttar Joypur, and his followers assaulted Lakshmipur Kantha editor Rafiqul Islam for publishing corruption news against him. In a separate incident, a local goon, Suman, filed a 'false' case against district correspondent of Dainik Khobor Ismail Hossain Jobu. Former general secretary of the press club Md Kausar and other local journalists from different print media and electronic media demanded proper investigation and stern steps against the culprits.²⁹

²⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/25237/protest-held-against-attack-on-journalists>

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 October 2017 in Bangladesh,

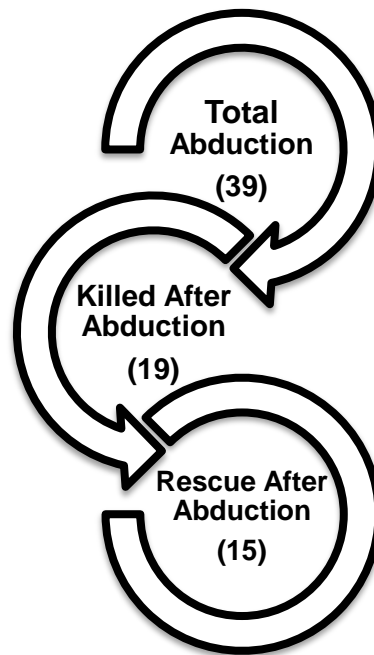


Figure 7; Statistics of Abduction in October '17

According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 39 people have been abducted, among of them, 19 killed after the abduction. On the other hand, nearly 15 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction and nobody knows what happened to the rest 05 persons.

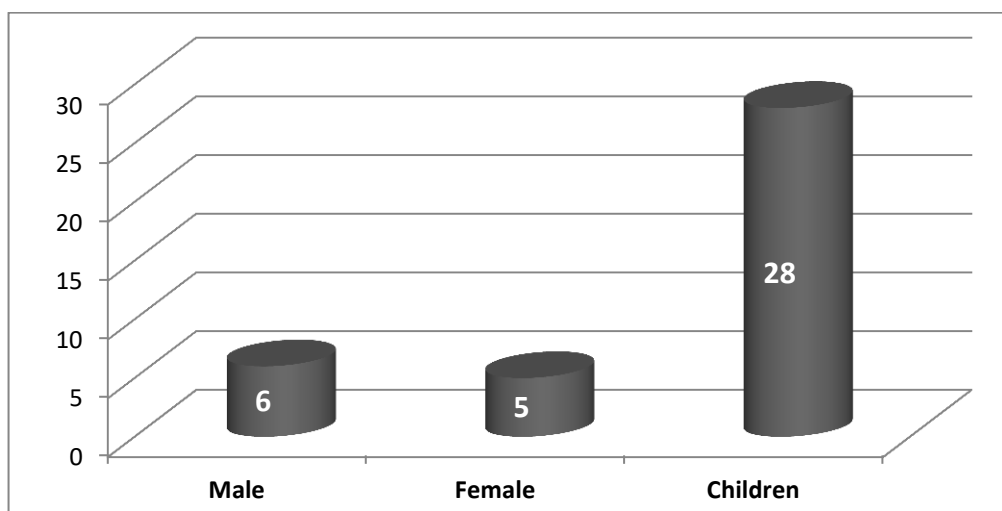


Figure 8; Categorization of Abduction

The given pie chart describes information about the abduction cases in October 2017 in Bangladesh, According to the human rights support Society (HRSS) information, a total of 39 people were abducted, among of them, 06 were male, around 05 was female and nearly 28 were children.

Selected cases are as follows: On October 08, 2017 Police recovered the decomposed body of a Jubo League leader, who had been missing for the last two months, from Birab Khalpar area in Narayanganj's Rupganj. The body of Monir Hossain, 25, organising secretary of Jubo League's ward-2 unit of Kanchan municipality, was found inside a buried sack. Monir, son of Sirajuddin of Birab Khalpar area, had gone missing on August 9. On August 12, his wife Nasima Begum filed a general diary with Rupganj Police Station, said Inspector Selim Miah, in-charge of Bhalab Investigation Centre in Rupganj. The GD was recorded as a case on September 7 accusing Azizul Haque, Siyem, Badol, Jasim, and Mamun of abducting Monir over a previous enmity.³⁰

On October 10, 2017 Detective police arrested a woman and her son from a house in Tangail, suspecting them to be members of a child traffickers' ring. The law enforcers also rescued five children, two girls and three boys from the rented house, owned by Mohammad Shajahan, at Taltala in the town. The arrestees are Swapna Bhadra, 57, and her son Rana Bhadra, 25. The rescued children are Shama, 12, Sangeeta, 11, Kajal, 10, Krishan, 4, and Anal, 4.³¹

³⁰ <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/missing-jubo-league-mans-body-found-1473733>

³¹ <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/five-trafficked-kids-rescued-1474468>

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.

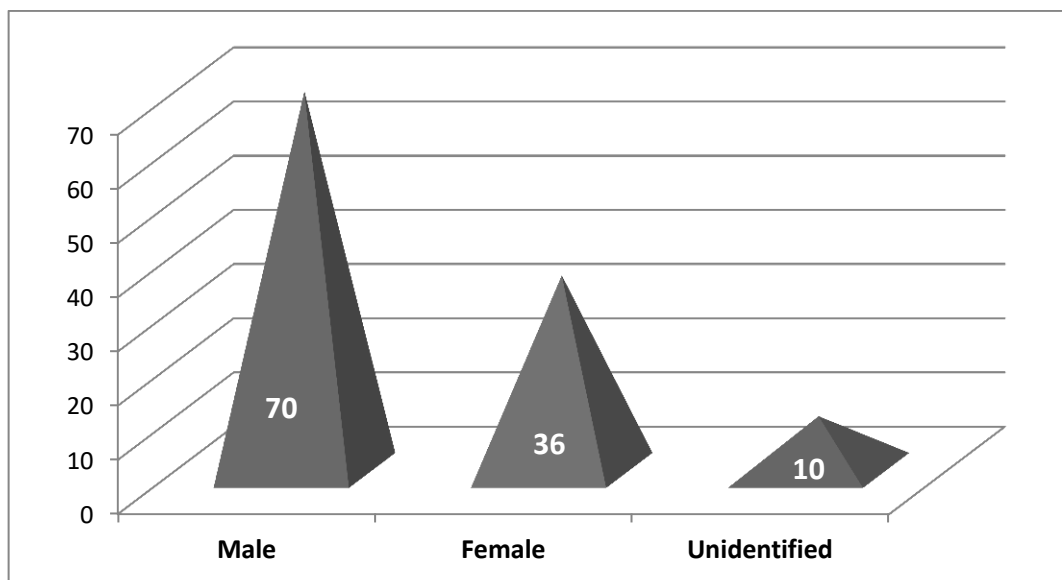


Figure 9; Recovery of Dead Body in October '17

The presented chart illustrates information about the recovery dead body. According to information collected by HRSS in October 2017, a total of 116 dead bodies were found in the different area of the country, among of them 70 bodies were male and 36 bodies were female and 10 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On October 08, 2017 Police recovered the decomposed body of a Jubo League leader, who had been missing for the last two months, from Birab Khalpar area in Narayanganj's Rupganj. The body of Monir Hossain, 25, organising secretary of Jubo League's ward-2 unit of Kanchan municipality, was found inside a buried sack. Monir, son of Sirajuddin of Birab Khalpar area, had gone missing on August 9. On August 12, his wife Nasima Begum filed a general diary with Rupganj Police Station, said Inspector Selim Miah, in-charge of Bhalab Investigation Centre in Rupganj.³²

³² <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/missing-jubo-league-mans-body-found-1473733>

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.”

According to information collected by human rights support society in the month October 2017, almost one temples was attacked, and one house attack in a total almost 03 incidents.



Selected cases are as described here: Oct 30,2017A temple was vandalised allegedly by a local Awami League leader and his followers at Shilpara in Shivalaya upazila of Manikganj. Locals said that around 70 to 80 men, led by district unit treasurer of ruling Awami League Rahim Khan and his nephew Alal Hossain, launched an attack on the temple and began tearing it down around 4:00am. President of the Shilpara Temple Committee Surjay Shil alleged that Rahim Khan had been trying to occupy the site of the temple for a long time. On information, police rushed to the spot and the attackers fled the scene, said officer-in-charge of Shivalaya police station Md Monirul Islam. A case was filed against eight people, including Abdur Rahim Khan, his nephew Alal Hossain, also chairman of Shibalaya union parishad, and another 50 to 60 people in connection with the incident, added the OC.³³

³³<http://www.rtvonline.com/crime/25092/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%9E%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%95-%E0%A7%AB>

Enforced Disappearance

Enforced disappearance comprises of abduction, carried out by agents of the State or organized groups of individuals who act with Government support or tolerance, in which the victim “disappears”. Authorities neither accept responsibility for the dead, nor account for the whereabouts of the victim.³⁴ The events of 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 from August to September 2017 by the law enforcement agencies and deny the arrest; but days later, their bullet-riddled dead body has been found in several places.

‘Human Rights Support Society’ (HRSS) finds that in October 2017 a total 02 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:



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

³⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx>

On Oct. 25, 2017 seven officials of the police’s Detective Branch (DB) have been suspended for allegedly kidnapping a local businessman and collecting Tk17 lakh in ransom money in Cox’s Bazar. They were caught at Teknaf by army personnel at one of their check posts at Shaplapur on the Teknaf-Cox’s Bazar Marine Drive Road. The Tk17 lakh ransom money was recovered from them during the stop and search, following which the seven policemen were detained, said Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of the DB district unit. The detainees were identified as Sub-Inspectors Moniruzzaman, Abul Kalam Azad and Firoz Ahmad, Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASI) Mostafa and Alauddin, Constables Mostafa Azam and Al Amin. After suspension, they were sent to Cox’s Bazar Police Lines later, said OC Monirul. OC Monirul said the family of businessman Abdul Gafur had lodged a complaint On Oct. 25, claiming he was picked up by DB officers and they were demanding ransom. Gafur said he was whisked away from outside a restaurant in Cox’s Bazar town by men identifying themselves as DB officials. He alleged that the abductors had tortured him for hours and later threatened to kill him. The policemen had demanded Tk1 crore as ransom at first, but later agreed to release him against Tk17 lakh, Gafur said. He was set free in the early hours of On Oct. 25 after his family paid the money. Gafur’s brother Moniruzzaman, councillor of Teknaf Municipality, said they had informed the army about the matter after the abductors threatened to kill him and demanded ransom. “After my brother was released, the army has recovered the money as well.” He demanded stern punishment of the DB officials involved in the kidnapping.³⁵

³⁵ <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2017/10/25/db-suspended-kidnap-coxs-bazar/>

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

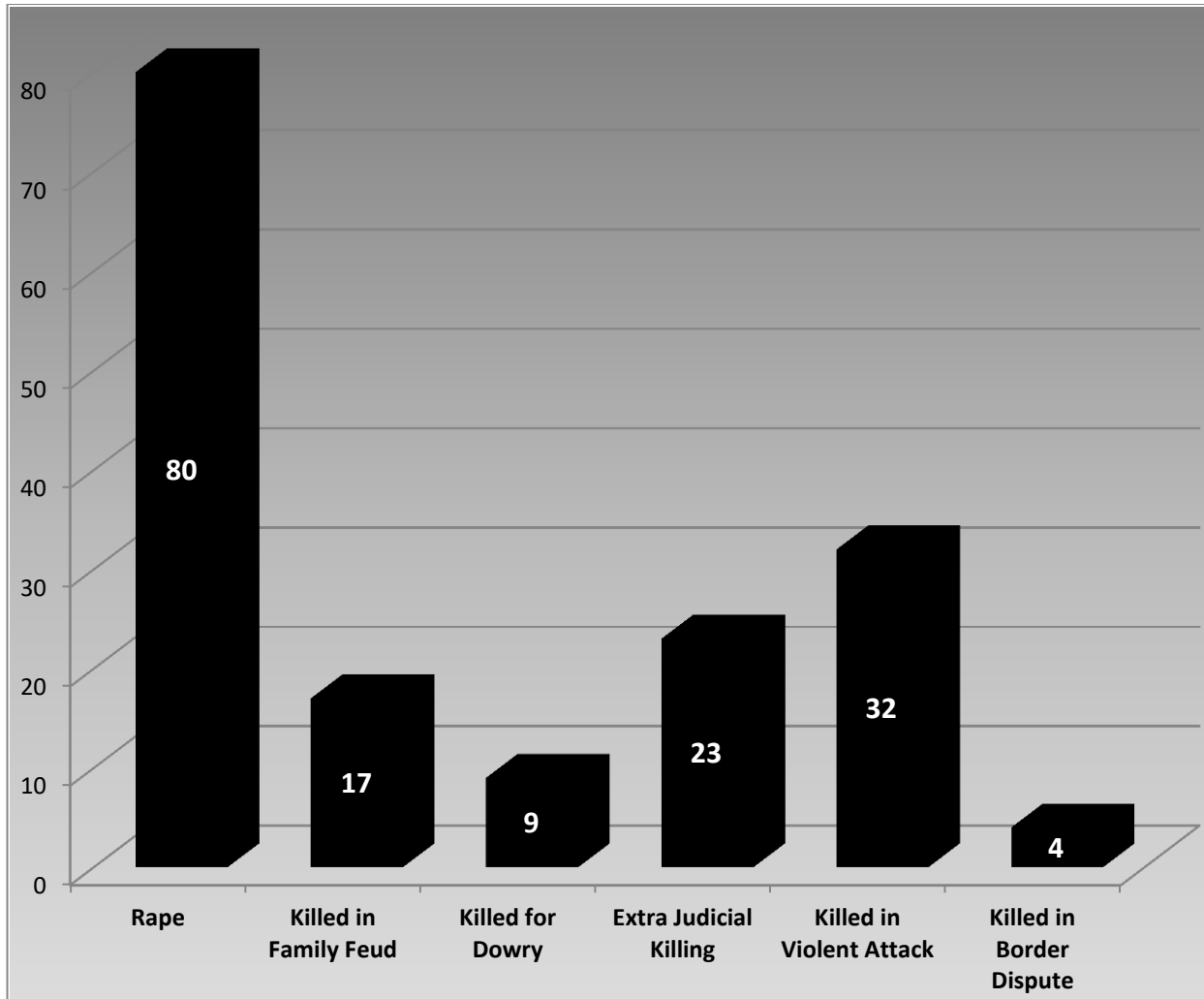


Figure 10; Human Right Situation of Bangladesh at a Glance in Oct 2017

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 Oct '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.