



Quarterly Human Rights analysis Report on Bangladesh Situation

July-September, 2018

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY
(HRSS)**

www.hrssbd.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

According to the sources of HRSS, between Jul and Sep '18, at least 121 people were extra-judicially killed most of the cases due to anti-drug drive; a total of 34 people have been forcefully disappeared by the members of law enforcement agencies (as reported by family/media/eyewitnesses). Moreover, the HRSS report finds that a total of 187 females have been raped. Of them, 57 were identified as an adult and alarmingly 130 were children under the age of 16. A total of 38 women were killed in the family feud, 09 females were killed due to dowry-related violence. It has also been reported that a total of 31 were abducted by a non-state actor in different areas of the country. Unexpectedly at least 06 people were killed in political violence and around 09 people were killed through lynching.

HRSS observed that from Jul to Sep 2018, about 19 violent incidences were committed against the children, 06 lost their lives and 15 were critically injured. As a result of violent attacks, a total of 50 unarmed civilians were victimized, of them, 29 were killed, 14 seriously injured, and roughly 07 were hit a bullet. HRSS also find a total of 08 incidences of attack on minority throughout the country. On the other hand, in the border, Bangladeshi citizens have been the victims of suspected killings, subjected to torture, and other forms of inhumane and degrading treatments. A total of nearly 07 incidents have been reported resulting 05 loss of life of Bangladeshi citizens, 02 arrested, and 14 injured by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). This shocking condition of human rights in Bangladesh motivates HRSS to work hard to raise awareness both home and abroad.

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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 in the name of anti-drug drive in the recent time. 'Crossfire' or 'encounter' and gunfight are very common terms used by the LEA to hide their crime and avoid the liabilities of extra-judicial killing. After killing in a pre-planned and cool head, the police and 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 the 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. Relevant cases of extrajudicial killing have been discussed and analyzed below:

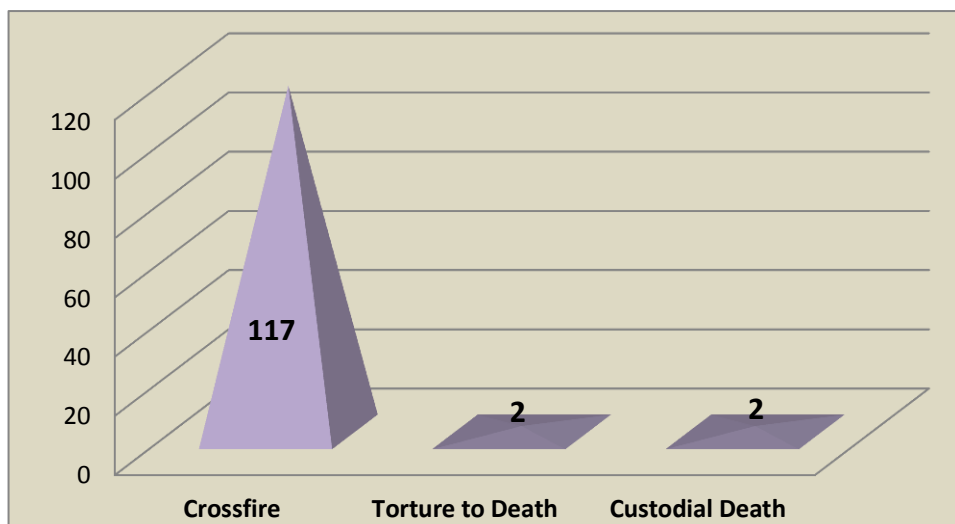


Figure 1: Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing

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>.

The provided pie chart denotes information about the extra-judicial killing from Jul to Sep 2018: a total of 121 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed. Of them, 117 were killed in the name of 'crossfire/ gunfights', 02 tortured to Death and 02 died in the custody. Most of the incidents were in the name of anti-drug drive. On the other hand, 09 bodies of suspected drug peddlers were recovered after reported gun battles between rival groups during the countrywide anti-narcotic drives from July to September.

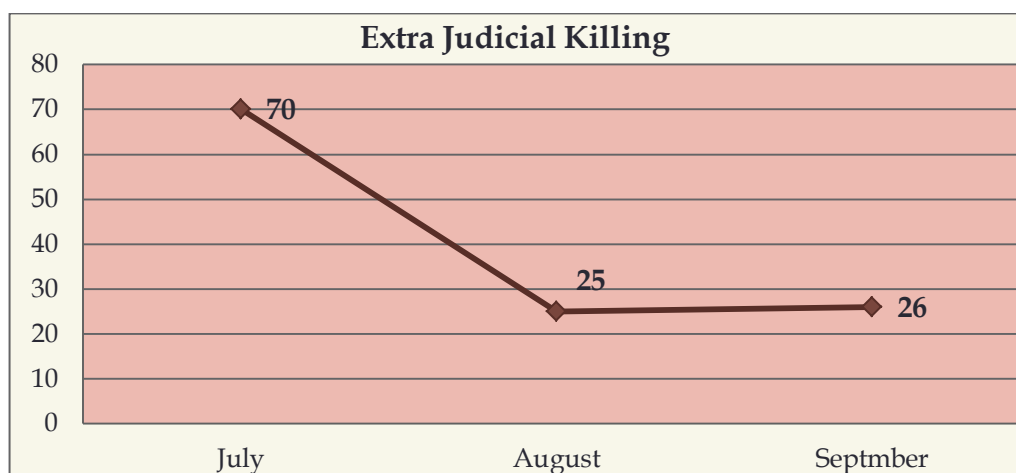


Figure 2: Monthly Comparison of Extra Judicial-Killing

The given line graph illustrates information about the extra-judicial killing from July to September 2018. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 121 persons were allegedly killed extra-judicially. On an average, around 41 people were killed in every month from July to September 2018. The data reveal that a significant number of people were died in the name of crossfire in the between July and September 2018, due to anti-drug movement. Highest numbers of people 70 were killed extra-judicially in July while this rate was the lowest position in August and September.

Some important cases are mentioned below: On July 01, 2018A Jubo League leader was killed in a so called “gunfight” with police at Kaemkola Bagmara Beel in Jhikorgachha upazila of Jessore. The deceased, Zahid Hasan Tokon, 32, son of Ali Aslam of Krishnanagar village under the upazila, was joint convener of Jhikorgachha upazila Jubo League. Victim's father has alleged that police picked up his son Tokon from their rented house at Chachra area in Jessore town at around 9.30 pm on 29 June.⁴

On July 09, 2018 the body of a 25-year-old was found with bullet wounds in Shariatpur Sadar upazila, two days after plainclothes men identifying as detectives allegedly picked him up from his house. The victim was identified as Kalu Sikder, 25, son of Siraj Sikder of Khalshi area. Kalu's brother-in-law Suruj Sikder said several plainclothes men, identifying themselves as detectives, handcuffed him and took him away in a white microbus on 06 July evening. “We

⁴ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/jubo-league-leader-killed-gunfight-1597903>

went to Sadar Police Station to file a general diary but the police refused to register it. Later, after receiving information from locals, we identified his body at the hospital,” he said.⁵

On Sep 28, 2018 A teenage boy was allegedly tortured to death by police in Ananda Bazar area of Zanjira upazila of Shariatpur. The deceased was identified as Pavel Sheikh, son of Abdur Rouf Sheikh of village Krishnanagar Purbakajikandi in Bibeknagar union. Pavel had sat for his Higher Secondary Certificate examination this year from Bibeknagar Bangabandhu College. Victim's family members alleged that when Pavel and his cousin Shanta Sheikh were standing by a road in the marketplace area, a police team approached them. A policeman got down from the police vehicle and started checking the pockets of Pavel's trousers. At one stage, the policeman began beating Pavel until he collapsed onto the ground. The police team then took the college boy to Shariatpur Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.⁶

On July 30, 2018 An alleged drug peddler was killed in a “gunfight” with Rab in the capital's Mohammadpur. The victim, Rajon, 25, also known as “Ganja Rajon”, stood accused in at least 15 drug-related cases, said Rabiul Islam, operations officer of Rab-2.⁷

On August 07, 2018 A suspected drug peddler was killed in a so called gunfight with members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha. The deceased was identified as Abdus Salam 48.⁸

On Aug 07, 2018 A suspected drug peddler was killed in a reported gunfight with members of Rapid Action Battalion in Komalla village of Chaudagram in Comilla. The deceased was identified as Faruk hossen, 35, son of Md Mantaz Mia of the same village.⁹

On August 13, 2018 A man was killed by DB police in Rangunia upazila of Chittagong, a day after he had allegedly been picked up. The deceased was identified as Altaf, 40, and found in a bush beside a road, said his brother Sumayun Kabir Suman, a Jubo League leader. Suman's brother of altaf hossen, president of Mariam Nagar union unit of Jubo League, claimed his brother was vice president of the local unit of Awami League. Altaf was killed by law enforcers, he claimed.¹⁰

On September 04, 2018 a suspected drug peddlers were killed in a so called gunfights between law enforcers and their “associates” in Shariatpur. The victim is Suman Pahar, 25, from Uttar Baluchar village in Shariatpur municipality. His family claimed that some plainclothes men had picked up Suman in front of a shop of their village on 28 Oct.¹¹

⁵ <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/68205/বিশিষ্ট>

⁶ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/51844/teen-tortured-to-death-by-police-in-shariatpur>

⁷ <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1543091/ঢাকা>

⁸ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/08/07/666790>

⁹ <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1549426/কু>

¹⁰ Hrss research unit

¹¹ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1556121/শরী>

On September 26, 2018A suspected drug peddler was killed in a “gunfight” with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Mirkadim in Sadar upazila, Munshiganj district. The dead was identified as Malek Abdul, 45, from Dakkhin Islampur in the district, Rab officials said.¹²

Violence against Women



Violence against Women is a common and insidious phenomenon in Bangladesh. The major atrocities against women are torture for dowry, rape, killed after the rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid throwing, physical and mental abuse and killed in a family feud the most common manifestations of violence against women in Bangladesh. It remains a main social problem in contemporary Bangladesh. Inhuman attacks on women have become common and widespread across the country. The majority of women were victimized domestically by their husbands, in-laws and other family members. The reasons mentioned for abuse were trivial and includes questioning of the husband, failure to perform household work and care of children, economic problems, refusal to manage dowry, etc. human rights support society's team tried to find out different categories and reasons, of domestic violence against women in Bangladesh. The rate of reported violent acts against women has risen steadily and at an alarming rate, especially from Jul to Sep 2018.

¹² <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1559011/৯>

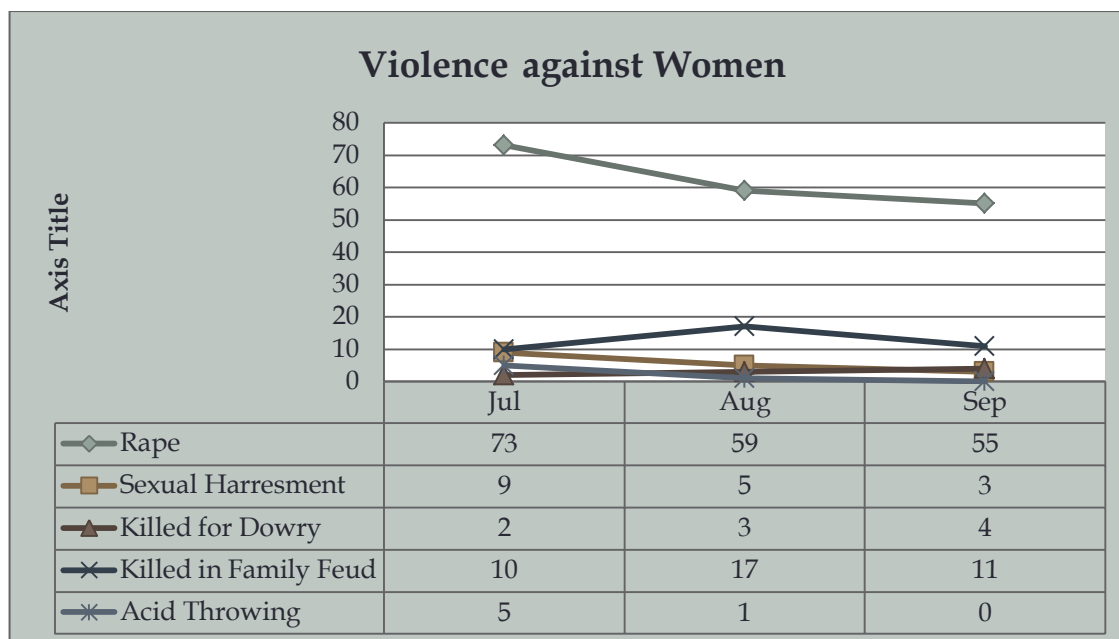


Figure 3: Violence against Women

The provided graph gives information about the violence against women from Jul to Sep'18. According to the graph, a total of 187 females have been raped. Of them, 57 were identified as an adult, and alarmingly 130 were children under the age of 16. About 155 were victims of single rape and nearly 32 were subjected to gang rape. Approximately 12 were killed after being raped and around 22 incidents have been attempted to rape. Almost 49 incidents of family feud related violence were reported between Jul and Sep'18 out of them, around 38 women were killed in the family feud and almost 11 females have been injured. Approximately 26 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported. Out of them, about 09 females were killed due to dowry-related violence and 17 injured. Around 06 incidents of acid violence were reported, among them 06 females were injured. On the other hand, a total of 17 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment between Jul and Sep'18. Among them, 12 were assaulted and 05 were stalked.

Selected cases are stated below: On July 5th, 2018 a female quota reform activist, who was reportedly molested by Chhatra League activists, points her finger at the police too for harassing her during a 27-hour-long detention. Twenty-seven hours after her detention, Shahbagh police released a female activist of the ongoing quota reform movement, who was reportedly molested by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.



Moriom Mannan Farah, sitting at the centre, addressing the press briefing organized by the female quota reform activists in front of Ruqayyah Hall of Dhaka University On, July 5, 2018

However, at a press briefing on 5 Jul, Moriom Mannan Farah, said she did not know the youths who had molested her near Central Shaheed Minar on 2 Jul when she was trying to save Faruk Hasan, a joint convener of Bangladesh General Students' Rights Protection Council, from being inhumanely beaten. But she claimed that she was mentally tortured and harassed by both male and female officials at the Shahbagh police station all night until her release the next afternoon. "The police officials, who are supposed to uphold the law, tried to charge me with solicitation, and under the Narcotics Act, calling me a yaba-addict," she said at the briefing organized by the female quota reform activists in front of Ruqayyah Hall of Dhaka University. "They called me a whore, and tried to force me to confess that I was part of something bigger than just the quota reform movement. But I refused." Moriom, a first year student of political science at Tejgaon College, claimed that police did not release her when her family members came to the police station. "Even the policewomen at the station were calling me names, mentally torturing me, and they did not let me sleep all night inside the dirty room where I was kept."



Moriom, who lives with her family in the city's Bashundhara Residential Area, was reportedly picked up by Chhatra League activists during the attack on quota reform activists on DU campus, and was then taken to Shahbagh police station. A photo of her, showing her trying to protect Faruk from the brutal Chhatra League attack, went viral on social media soon after the incident. The attackers were identified by the media as Chhatra League leaders from different units of the Awami League student wing based in DU.¹³

On July 06, 2018A woman was killed allegedly by her husband at Mirzapur upazila in Tangail. The deceased is Jhalmal Rani, 32, wife of Pran Krishna. SM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, said the couple used to live on the second-floor of a six-storied

¹³ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2018/07/05/moriom-police-harassed-abused-all-night>

building in Sohagpara. They used to quarrel frequently, said the OC quoting neighbours. He might have hacked her to death following an argument and fled the scene, he added.¹⁴

On August 01, 2018 an 11-year-old girl was raped in Senbagh upazila noakhali. The victim is a student of Class IV. Superintendent of Police Md Iliyas Sharif said local teashop owner Kamal Hossain, 30, entered the house of the victim and raped her when her parents were not there. Hearing the screams of the child, neighbours rushed to the house and rescued her.¹⁵

On August 03, 2018 in less than a week's time, amid an ongoing protest against rape and murder of primary schoolgirl Punati from Dighinala upazila, another indigenous schoolgirl from the same upazila was allegedly assaulted sexually. Her maternal uncle said they took her to the hospital as she became devastated mentally after a resident of the same village, Mitran Chakma alias Barpeda, 23, attempted to rape her. She was home alone when the incident took place around 3:30pm.¹⁶



On 9 July, 2018 the teenage girl, who sustained serious burn injuries along with her sister after criminals attacked them with acid in Sadar Upazila on May 14, died at CRP Hospital in Mirpur. Deceased Tanjim Akhter Mala, 16, daughter of Mohammad Helal of Uttar Digholdi in Sadar Upazila and her sister Marzia, 8, sustained serious burn injuries when unidentified miscreants poured acid on them while they were sleeping on May 14. Mala passed this year's SSC examination with good result (A-) from Abdul Mannan Secondary School in the union and Marzia is a student of class two of another local school. Stalker Rajib used to disturb Mala over mobile phone for long, although she rejected his proposal of love.¹⁷

On August 24, 2018 Two Tripura girls, aged 12 and 17, were allegedly raped by two members of Border Guard Bangladesh in Lama Upazila of the bandarban district. In a case filed with Lama Police Station, the girls said a third BGB man stood guard as they were raped in a bush

¹⁴ <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/18071372/ফি>

¹⁵ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/fourth-grader-raped-noakhali-1614568>

¹⁶ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/schoolgirl-sexually-assaulted-dighinala-1615642>

¹⁷ <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/news/68025/৳>

not far from their village. BGB jawans Sumon and Maruf of Tirer Deva Camp were accused of raping and Nayek Rabiul of assisting, investigation officer of the case Sub-Inspector Abdullah said. The men first offered the girls money for sex. They raped the girls after they rejected the offer, the SI said, quoting the case statement.¹⁸

On August 24, 2018A woman has been beaten to death allegedly by her husband over dowry in Siddhirganj upazila of Narayanganj. Police recovered the body of Alo Begum, 22, from her Shantinagar house in upazila. They detained the victim's husband Jony Mia, 28, for interrogation, said Sub-inspector Mohammad Joshim of Siddhirganj Police Station.¹⁹

On September 03, 2018A schoolgirl, raped allegedly by two youths at Rouha Kalapara village in Sadar upazila, Sherpur district. The girl, 14, daughter of a poor rickshaw puller at the village, is a student of Class VII at a local high school. Local youths Shakil, 20, Masud, 18, and Shipon, 20, used to harass her on the way to and from her school; police quoted the victim as saying.²⁰

¹⁸ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1554797/লামায়->

¹⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/city/woman-beaten-death-over-dowry-1624180>

²⁰ <http://www.samakal.com/todays-print-edition/tp-lokaloy/article/1809862/শেরপুর>

Attack on Journalists

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, and states that: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek to receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.²¹ Regarding this fact, Journalists are facing an “unprecedented” wave of attacks in Bangladesh. Freedom of expression was restricted in every aspect. Freedom of expression is a precondition for a functional democracy, peace, and participatory decision-making procedures. Regrettably, individuals are not always able to disparage the government publicly without the fear of reprisal and the government often attempted to impede criticism by prohibiting or dispersing as well as shutting down many electronic and print media due to negligible reports against the government. Abduction is common incidences in present-day Bangladesh. The numbers of attacks on the journalist, according to human rights support society report is increasing day by day. The graph below provides information about the total number of attack on a journalist.

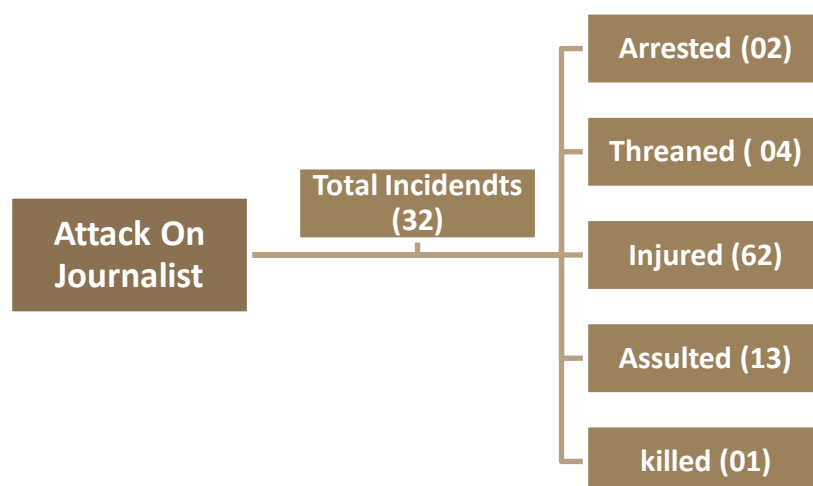


Figure 4 Attacks on Journalist

The given chart illustrates information about the attack on journalists. According to HRSS's documented statistics, around 62 were injured, nearly 04 threatened, 02 arrested, 13 were assaulted and one killed in nearly 32 incidents between Jul to Sep'18.

Selected cases are as described below: On July 22, 2018 Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman suffered injuries in an attack allegedly by BCL men on the court premises in Kushtia after he was granted bail in a defamation case. The case was filed on December 10, 2017 for making “derogatory” remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a seminar in Dhaka earlier that month. Several other cases were also filed in different districts over the same allegation.

²¹ <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>



Amar Desh acting editor, Mahmudur Rahman attacked 'by BCL' in Kushtia.

He appeared before a Kushtia court, seeking permanent bail in the case, filed by Kushtia BCL President Yasir Arafat Tushar. During the bail hearing, one of his counsels questioned the legality of the defamation case, saying the complainant was not the aggrieved person. Outside the courtroom, witnesses said, around 100 activists of the pro-government student body led by Tushar had taken position. "We are waiting for him," the BCL leader told. "When he will come out of the courtroom, we will seek to know how he dared to make derogatory comments about Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina." The BCL men confined Mahmudur to the courtroom till 4:30pm since Senior Judicial Magistrate MM Morshed granted him bail around noon. Mahmudur shouted for police help to come out, but the officials allegedly were inactive. After 4:30pm, he along with his lawyers burst out of the courtroom and tried to get into his car. The BCL men with brick chips and sticks smashed the windscreen and some other parts of his car, witnesses said. Police allegedly remained silent spectators this time as well. Mahmudur took shelter in the room of advocate Shams Tanim Mukti, also general secretary of Mohila Awami League's Kushtia unit. BCL men allegedly stormed into the room and beat him up, leaving him with bloodied face and head. Mukti tried to save him but only in vain. He was rescued by police at one stage.²²

On August 04, 2018 Police and alleged BCL men beat up three journalists of The Daily Star and molested another in the capital's Jhigatola afternoon. One of them, Shaer Reaz, was taking pictures of a clash near Dhanmondi 3/A around 6:00pm when a man, who did not appear to be a law enforcer, started beating him up with a stick, kicked him and punched him and handed him to police. His phone was snatched away and smashed. Shaer said the man along with a police official beat him up and then took him to Dhanmondi Police Station. He was later beaten up on the police station premises. He had been locked up at the station for about four hours until reporters of this newspaper went there and requested police to release him.

²² Hrss investigation desk

Another journalist Selim Sadman Somoy, a contributor to The Daily Star, was also detained at the police station and beaten up. He was held while taking pictures of clash at Jhigatola. Policemen, requesting anonymity, told that Shaer was handed to them by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.

Sushmita S Preetha, editor of this newspaper's Star Weekend magazine, said that she was molested allegedly by some ruling party men on Mirpur Road at Science Lab intersection around 5:30pm. They were in a procession, chanting "Joy Bangla" slogan and carrying sticks on the road. As she was filming the procession from the footbridge, they climbed up stairs of the footbridge, shouting, "Catch her". Preetha tried to get down from the bridge but two BCL men got hold of her and began dragging her to the other side of the road. She requested them to leave her alone, saying "If you people have objections to video footage, I will delete it." Preetha eventually deleted the video but the BCL men were not yet ready to set her free. Amid the chaos, they touched and groped her and were hurling abuse at her, she said. They let her go only after being convinced that she had deleted the video of the procession.

Another journalist, Rafiul Islam came under attack by a BCL man while covering the clashes between students and ruling party men at Jhigatola around 2:00pm. Rafiul Islam said two to three more journalists had come under attack for trying to get video clips of the events and 10 others harassed. He was hit in the head with a piece of wood even after showing his press ID. Other BCL men then stopped the attacker from hitting him further, he said. In the same area close to a ruling party office, journalist Faisal Hossain from Channel 24 along with camera person Krishna Sarker was beaten up around 7:00pm while doing live broadcast of the situation.²³

On September 11, 2018A campus-based journalist of Chittagong University was beaten up by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men as he protested an incident of ragging. Victim Minhaj Tuhin, the CU correspondent of Alokito Bangladesh, also a third-year student of Arabic, took primary treatment at the university medical Centre. Minhaj said five to six BCL activists, led by Mahamudul Hasan Rupak, were bullying a student over in the shuttle train around 1:25pm. "At one point, they were about torture him physically."²⁴

²³Hrss research unit and <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/2-the-daily-star-journalists-assaulted-1616086>

²⁴ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/bcl-men-beat-journo-protesting-ragging-1632088>



Female journo, Suborna Nodi killed in Pabna by criminal attack

On August 28, 2018 Unidentified criminals hacked a female journalist to death near her house in Pabna town. Suborna Nodi, 32, daughter of Ayub Ali of Radhanagar village, was the Pabna correspondent of Ananda TV. Victim's elder sister Chompa Khatun said some four to five criminals attacked and hacked Nodi when she was entering home from her office around 10:00pm, leaving her critically injured. She was rushed to Pabna Medical College Hospital where she died around 10:30pm, Chompa added.²⁵

On August 05, 2018 Alleged ruling party men attacked journalists. About a dozen photojournalists and reporters came under attack at different places of the capital. Witnesses said after dispersing student protesters in Jhigatola area around 1:15pm, a group of policemen came near City College. At that time, around 150 supposed BCL men, a few with machetes, started shouting at some stranded protesters near Science Lab police box. Many of the "ruling party men" were wearing helmets and carrying sticks and iron rods. As some photojournalists present there tried to take photographs, some of the "BCL" men got furious and warned the newsmen not to do so. At one point, some of them threw brickbats at freelance photographer Rahat Karim who was standing on a nearby footbridge, witnesses said. Later, the attackers held him by his T-shirt, dragged him down and beat him indiscriminately with rods, sticks and a machete, leaving him wounded.



Rahat Karim, a freelance photojournalist, is attacked allegedly by BCL men at Science Lab intersection in Dhaka on August 4, 2018.

²⁵ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1555344/গার>

Around the same time, AP photographer AM Ahad was beaten mercilessly in the area, said some of the journalists present there, adding that the attackers also broke his cell phone and camera. Witnesses said during the attacks, some policemen were standing nearby, but they did nothing to stop the attackers. Palash of Daily Bonik Barta, Ibnul Asad Zawad of The Daily Janakantha, Rimon of US-based Zuma Press and Enamul Hasan, a photography student of Pathsala South Asian Media Institute, were also injured in similar attacks. Ahmed Deepto, a staff reporter of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, also came under attack near Science Lab area. He sustained injuries to his back and left hand.

Those who were assaulted included Nagorik TV reporter Abdullah Shafi, online news portal Sara Bangla reporter Golam Samdani, Prothom Alo photojournalist Shajid Hossain, Nagorik TV's Kamrul Hassan, news portal bdmorning's Abu Shufian Jewel, Naya Diganta's Sharif Hossain, freelance photographers Marjuk Hasan, Hasan Jubayer and N Kayer Hasim. They were attacked in different parts of the city. A car of private television channel Nagorik TV was vandalised near Science Lab area. Many other journalists, including female reporters, were threatened as well, witnesses said, adding the attackers also looked for The Daily Star and Prothom Alo reporters there.²⁶

²⁶ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/5-photojournalists-hurt-in-bcl-men-attack-science-lab-dhaka-student-protest-for-safe-roads-1616251>

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.²⁷ 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 Jul to Sep 2018 by the law enforcement agencies and deny the arrest; but days later, their bullet-riddled dead body has been found in several places.

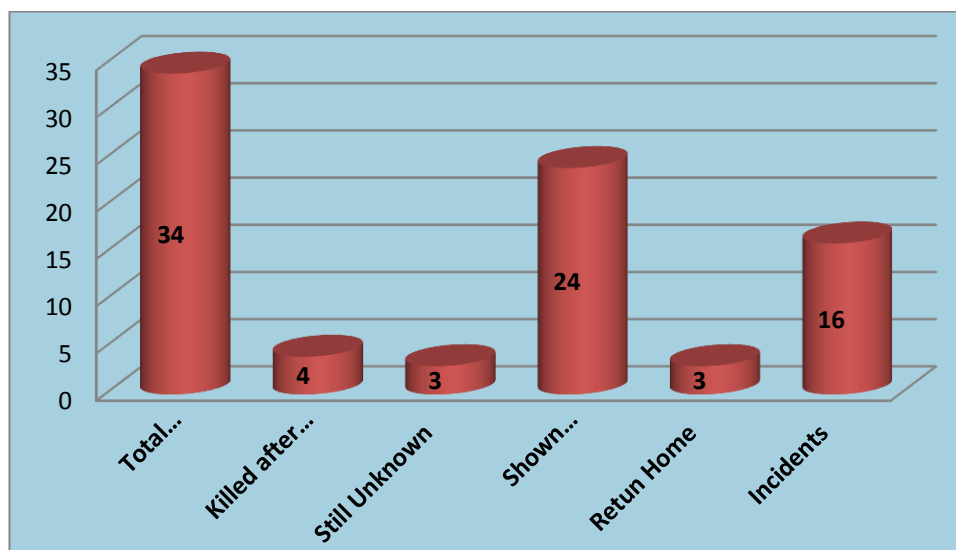


Figure 5; Statistics of Enforced disappearance

Human Rights Support Society' (HRSS) finds that from Jul to Sep 2018 a total 34 people have been disappeared by law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 03 were returned home, 24 have been arrested 04 found dead and nobody knows what happened to the rest 03.

²⁷ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx>

Selected cases are stated below: On September 11, 2018 the student's identity cards recovered from the 12 students who were allegedly picked up by police on Sept 5 and shown arrested. Twelve youths, who were allegedly picked up by police six days ago, were remanded after the law enforcement officials produced them before a Dhaka court. Earlier in the day, they were shown arrested in the cases, a day after their families alleged that members of the Detective Branch (DB) of police had picked the 12 youth up during raids in the capital's Tejgaon and Mohakhali areas on September 5. Apart from Dhaka Polytechnic student Aziz, he identified the 11 others as Md Tarek, Jahangir Alam, Md Mujahidul Islam, Md Al Amin, Johirul Islam Hasib, Gazi Md Borhan Uddin, Iftekhar Alam, Md Mehedi Hasan Rajib, Md Mahfuz, Md Saifullah Bin Monsur and Md Raihanul Abedin. According to their families, Amin and Johirul are HSC graduates; Mujahidul is a second-year student at Bangladesh Textile University; Jahangir is fourth-year student at Government Titumir College; Saifullah has graduated from Government Sadat College; Borhan goes to SAIC Institute; Tarek, Mahfuz, Raihanul, Iftekhar and Mehedi are Dhaka Polytechnic students.²⁸

On August 28, 2018 Identifying themselves as law enforcers, a group of plainclothes men abducted a small trader from near his home in the capital's Mirpur-2 on June 10. Over the last two and a half months, the family members of the man, Mohan Miah, 38, tried everything possible to find him. They went to police, Rab and even paid an alleged source of the law enforcers Tk 2 lakh, all in vain. The family members made the allegations at a press conference at the city's Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (Crab) on 28 Aug. Reading out a written statement, Mohan's father Jamsher Ali demanded the immediate release of son, father of two. He said he watched helplessly as seven to eight people picked up Mohan, 38. Asked, the men introduced themselves as members of Detective Branch (DB) of police and said Mohan was an accused in a case, he said. Jamsher immediately went to Mirpur Police Station and then to the DB office on Minto Road, but the law enforcers said Mohan was not with them. Later, Mohan's family members went to the office of Rab-4 in Mirpur. The Rab unit also denied picking him up.²⁹

On September 15, 2018 the families demanded the whereabouts and the release of the five boys who were picked up allegedly by detectives. Ramisa Khanam, bent with age and illness, held her son Shafiul Alam in her arms, to try and save him from being taken away from in front of her eyes. Her helpless screams brought a huge crowd together before the Dhaka airport, from where her sons Shafiul and Monirul Alam and Monirul's friend Abul Hayat were picked up by plainclothes men on September 12, 18. The three young men had gone to the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to receive Ramisa and her husband, who just returned from hajj, around 8:00pm. The plainclothes men, who took Shafiul, 30, Monirul, 28, and Abul, 28, away showed identity cards and claimed to be detectives. "My tears have dried, as I have no trace of my sons, who were abducted in front of my eyes four days ago," said Ramisa, 62, while describing the incident at a press conference at the Crime Reporters' Association. The "detectives" took the three from the airport to Shafiul's mess in Jatrabari. From there, they picked up two more people

²⁸ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/2018/09/11/missing-for-six-days-12-youths-finally-shown-arrested-remanded>

²⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/backpage/abducted-men-posing-detectives-1626040>

Shafiullah, 22, a Dhaka College student, and Mosharraf Hossain Mayaz, 15, a ninth grader of a local madrasa. The five have remained missing since then. Police have denied picking them up. At the press conference, family members of all the five demanded that the authorities either release them or, if they have committed any crime, produce them before a court. “Do not cook up any story or stage a drama involving our sons. Return them to us,” lamented Ramisa who cannot walk properly because of her knee problem. “I don’t understand how three people were picked up from in front of a secure airport and how they remain missing for days,” said a relative of another boy preferring anonymity. However, sources in Shafiul’s family mentioned that he was a city leader of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir. Contacted, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, claimed they did not arrest the boys.³⁰

On September 14, 2018 The bullet-ridden bodies of three traders of garment factory leftovers were found in Rupganj, a day after they were allegedly picked up by men claiming to be detectives. The dead bodies found around 8:00am from a culvert in Purbachal area them. Nur Hossain Babu, 30, his brother-in-law Shimul Azad, 25, and their associate Sohag Bhuiyan, 35, traded garment factories’ leftover fabrics in Mugda area of the capital. Family members said the three men were coming to their homes in Dhaka from Jhenidah by a bus of Purbasha Paribahan on 13 Sep when they last contacted them. Staffers of the bus told the family members that around 15 to 20 men in vests emblazoned with the letters DB picked them up from the bus which was near Paturia Ferry Ghat of Manikganj at the time. The men left in two minibuses, brothers of the three dead men told, quoting the staffers of the bus.”³¹

³⁰ HRSS’s research desk and <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/5-boys-picked-up-db-detectives-branch-in-dhaka-airport-area-1634191>

³¹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/4-bullet-hit-bodies-recovered-narayanganj-magura-1633825>

Border Killings



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

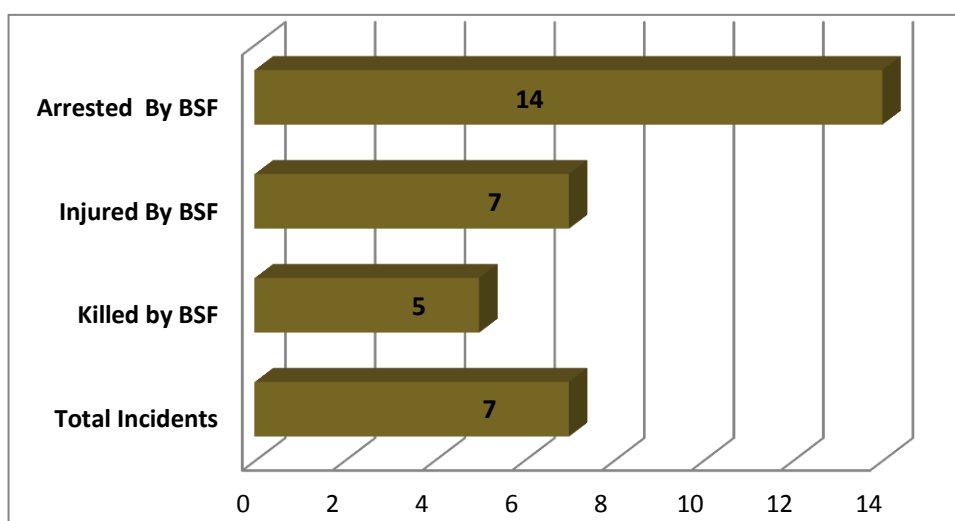


Figure 6; killed in Border by BSF

The given bar chart provides data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS between Jul and Sep '18, roughly 05 Bangladeshi citizen were killed, 02 arrested and 07 injured by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) in 07 incidents.

Some important cases are mentioned below:

On July 21, 2018A Bangladeshi teenage boy wounded by BSF firing on Kathaldangi border in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon died on his way to hospital. The deceased was identified as Hossain Ali, 18, son of Mostaq Ali of Kathaldangi village in Haripur. Police recovered the body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for autopsy.³²

On September 22, 2018 Six Bangladeshis were wounded when Indian Border Security Force (BSF) fired rubber bullets on them at Madla frontier in Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria district. BSF personnel also picked up a Bangladeshi man, Khaleq Mia, 70, from the area. Four of the six injured were identified as residents of Madla village. They are Shahjahan Mia, 55, his son Tushar, 16, Faruk Mia, 25, Nannu Mia, 57, and his son Rasel Mia, 20.³³

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³² <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=126895&cat=9/বিশেষ>

³³ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/6-bangladeshis-hurt-bsf-fires-rubber-bullets-1637296>

³⁴ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/6-bangladeshis-hurt-bsf-fires-rubber-bullets-1637296>

Violent Attack

Attacks against civilians are an increasing concern in Bangladesh. It's viewed a wave of violent attacks against civilian people, politician, atheists, secular bloggers, academics, gay rights activists, foreigners, and members of religious minorities in several times. The state is obliged to protect the citizens from all kinds 'of criminal attack. 'The obligation of protection' requires the state to prevent violations of rights of citizens by third parties. This obligation also implies that 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. "Between Jul and Sep 2018, Bangladesh has experienced a series of violent attacks by extremists. HRSS tried to track all kinds of violent attack took place from July to September'18.

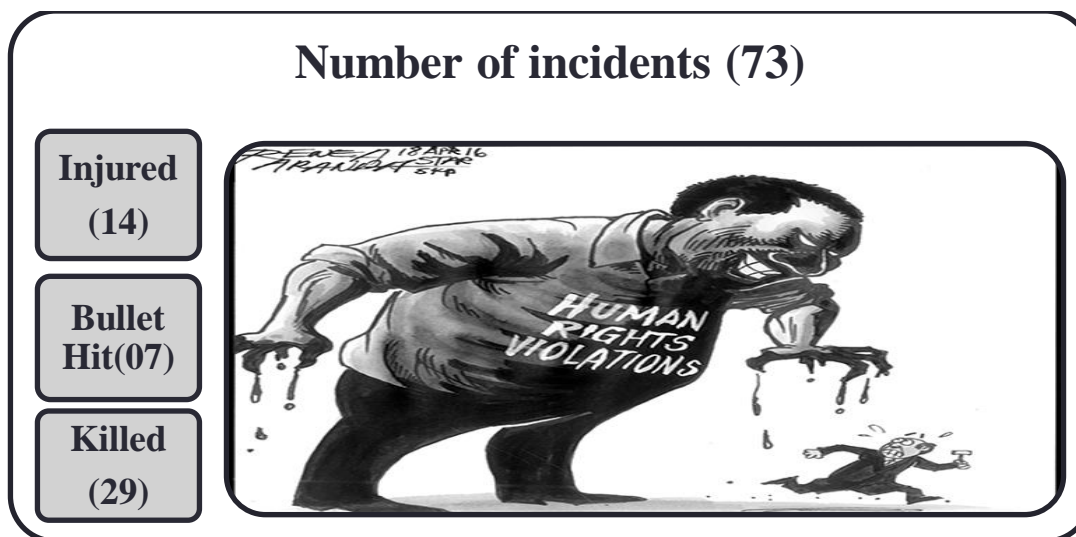


Figure 7: Statistics of Violent Attacks

The provided chart describes Information about the violent attacks on armless civilians has been summarized above. Statistics shows, a total 33 incidences of violent attack happened and 29 were killed in those attacks, 14 were seriously injured and around 07 were hit by bullet.

Some of the incidences have been stated below:

On August 11, 2018 Unidentified assailants shot and injured three Jubo League men in the capital's Wari area. Mohammad Jewel, 32, is general secretary; Robin, 30, and Kajol Islam, 37, are activists of ward-41 unit of the youth wing of the ruling Awami League, said the victims. With leg injuries, they were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Sub-Inspector Bachchu Mia of DMCH police camp.³⁵

On August 18, 2018 Seven people, including three leaders of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), were killed and six injured in two gun attacks in Khagrachhari town. Around 8:30am,

³⁵ <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1552036/>

two groups of gunmen went to UPDF-dominated Swanirvar Market area of Khagrachhari town on three-wheelers and opened fire. They killed six, including three bystanders, just 50 yards from Swanirvar police outpost. When supporters of UPDF brought out a protest procession around 12:30pm in Perachhari area about 2km away, the second attack left another dead.³⁶

On August 28, 2018 Criminals killed a BNP activist in Jessore town. The deceased was Moshir Rahman, 45, son of Takabbar Sheikh of Shankarpur in the town. The victim's nephew M Ripon said Dablu and Sumon stabbed and shot Moshir near Golpata Mosque at Shankarpur around 8:00pm. The victim died soon after he was taken to Jessore General Hospital, said Medical Officer Dr Abdur Rashid. Jessore town unit BNP General Secretary Munir Ahmed Siddiqui said Moshir was an activist of BNP.³⁷

On September 08, 2018 Unidentified criminals shot a union parishad chairman dead in Satkhira. Mosharraf Hossain, 48, chairman of Krishnanagar Union Parishad in Kaliganj upazila, also the assistant organising secretary of district Jatiya Party, was chatting with some people in front of Krishnanagar Union Jubo League office around 11:00pm, witnesses said. Six men on two motorcycles arrived and one of them shot Mosharraf from close range, they said.³⁸

On September 14, 2018 An Awami League leader was stabbed by miscreants in the port city, police said. The victim was SM Alamgir Chowdhury, 45, an AL leader from Anwara upazila and a member of Ward 12 of Chittagong Zila Parishad. A group of miscreants equipped with sharp weapons attacked Alamgir from behind in Mirzarphul area in the city around 10:15pm when he was returning home, his son Shafi Alamgir Chowdhury said.³⁹

³⁶ Hrss investigation desk and the star

³⁷ <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/bnp-activist-shot-dead-jessore-1625323>

³⁸ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1556779/সাতক>

³⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/al-leader-stabbed-ctg-1634437>

Violence against Children

Bangladesh has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (September 2, 1990). Despite having such existing legal framework, the violation of child rights is a common problem in Bangladesh. It occurs within the family, at home, and at schools where children may face sexual abuse or harassment. Girls in particular face the threat of child marriage. In schools, children might be beaten if they fail to perform or face humiliating and degrading punishments for minor errors or infractions. The incidents of violence against children, including killing, trafficking, abduction, and rape, have increased across the country in recent times amid slack. The rights of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development".⁴⁰

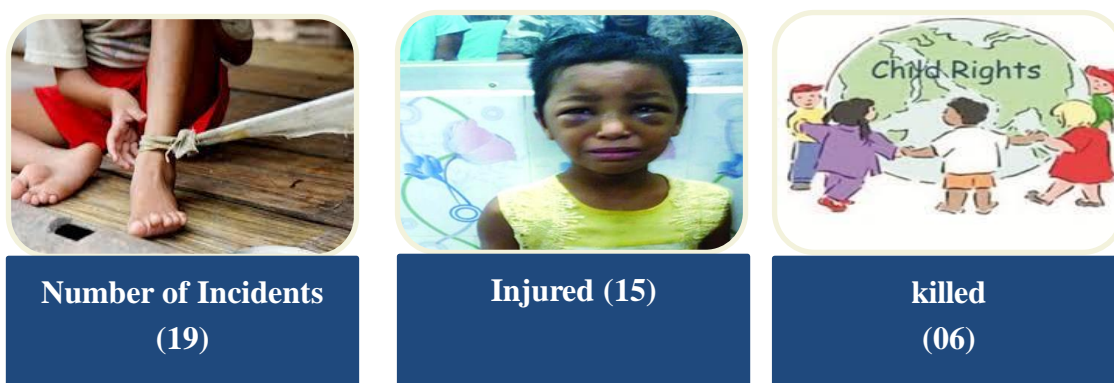


Figure 8: Statistics of Violence against Children

According to human rights support society's report, the graph presented below regarding violence against children from Jul to Sep'18 shows that around 06 children were killed and 15 children's have been critically injured in a total 19 incidents.

Some important cases are stated below: On August 18, 2018A college boy, who was beaten allegedly by a group of schoolboys over a trivial matter, died at Haluaghat Upazila Health Complex early. The victim, Nafi Al Nazran, 17, son of Nazmul Huda, was a second year student at Gouripur Government Technical School and College.⁴¹

On September 04, 2018A child worker is mercilessly beaten by his former employer in Mission Intersection area of the town, Lalmonirhat. The victim is Harez Ali, 13, son of Faridul Islam and Hasina Begum of Khochabari in the district town. "I left my job as a trainee at a Thai furniture shop at Mission Intersection, after my trainer craftsman Abu Jafar gave up the job there on 28 Jul. On 2 Sep afternoon, shop owner Rabbi Islam forcibly took me from our home to his shop. Tying me to a pole, he beat me mercilessly with iron rod and wooden stick," said Harez.⁴²

⁴⁰ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Art., 27.

⁴¹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/college-boy-beaten-dead-schoolboys-1622875>

⁴² <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/brutality-child-leaving-job-1628626>

Attack on Minorities

According to the data collected HRSS, from Jul to Sep'18, it is found, in different corners of the country, a large number of atrocities were committed against the members of the minority communities. The violations against the Hindu minority have been left largely unreported. According to 'The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights' declaration, "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language"⁴³. It also states that "the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or another opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or another status"⁴⁴."

From Jul to Sep 2018, according to Human Rights Support Society's statistics, describes information about the attack on a minority, at least 03 land grabbing, and 05 temples and house were partially or fully destroyed in 08 incidents.



U Hla Aung and his family members are worried about their existence there as an influential person has grabbed parts of their jhum land.⁴⁵

Some significant cases are stated below: On September 09, 2018 Seventy-year-old Sing Yu Marma and his only son have to keep vigil on their remaining 40 decimals of Jhum land almost round the clock as an influential man has already grabbed their 3.60 acres of jhum land among four acres of their land in Bangamura Marma Para in Bandarban Sadar upazila. "The land grabber named Mohiuddin gave death threat to me and four other families of Bangamura Marma Para to leave our land," said the indigenous man, worried about impending poverty amid mental agony with his physically challenged wife. "We used to get good amounts of paddy and other crops from our four acres of land but now we are facing food crisis along with uncertainty to survive on our ancestral land as most of our jhum land has been grabbed," he lamented. The affected five families are now living in fear of ouster from their ancestral homes as three male

⁴⁴ ibid

⁴⁵ Photo Star

members of the families had to go to jail in a 'false' case filed by the alleged land grabber in July. "I had never gone to any police station in my life but police arrested me on July 24 and again on July 30. The land grabber has snatched away peace from our life," said Ba Chaw Mong, karbari (local chief) of Bangamura Marma Para. "The land grabber is very influential, he managed the local administration and police," said U Hla Aung, another victim of the land grabbing of the para. Mohiuddin grabbed around 1.26 acres of jhum land of the four families including the karbari, said U Hla.⁴⁶

On September 23, 2018 Police arrested a union parishad (UP) member in Gopalpur upazila on charge of vandalising idols of a Hindu temple. "The arrestee, Babul Hossain, a member of Mirzapur UP, vandalised idols, made for Durga Puja, at a temple in Nayapara area. Locals caught him red-handed and informed the police who brought him here," said Hasan Al Mamun, OC of Gopalpur Police Station. "Sujon Chandra Das, president of the temple committee, lodged two cases, one for vandalising the idols and another for hurting religious sentiment, against Babul the same night," he added.⁴⁷



This century-old house belonging to a Hindu family on Maharaja Road in Mymensingh town faces threat of collapse as a local influential person is constructing a high-rise building, allegedly after illegally occupying the adjacent land, also belonging to.⁴⁸

On September 07, 2018 A century-old home on Maharaja Road in Mymensingh town trembles as the foundation for a 15-storey building is being laid on the ground under the same boundary. Within their boundary, a Hindu family lives on in fear. Nine decimals of their ancestral property of 12.32 decimals have already been grabbed by a local influential person. The house was built by Rai Bahadur Jogodish Cahndra Guha, who served as chairman of Mymensingh municipality in 1921-26, and passed it on to his son late Shishir Kumar Guha.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/5-marma-families-under-grabbers-threat-1631662>

⁴⁷ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/member-arrested-vandalising-hindu-idols-1637164>

⁴⁸ Ibid45

⁴⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/grabbers-eye-century-old-home-1630255>

Political Violence

Political violence is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. The present government assumed power through a controversial election in 2014 and has been playing an oppressive role against oppositions. No democratic party is allowed to conduct constitutionally guaranteed political activities in any corner of the country. This is clear sign of immature political culture.⁵⁰ Since there is a little political space for oppositions, most of the reported violence's are intra-ruling party clashes over political dominance, tender, and possession of power, collecting subscription, grabbing land and what not. The leaders and activist of opposite political parties are being killed and tortured by the leaders and activists of the ruling party from Jul to Sep'18.

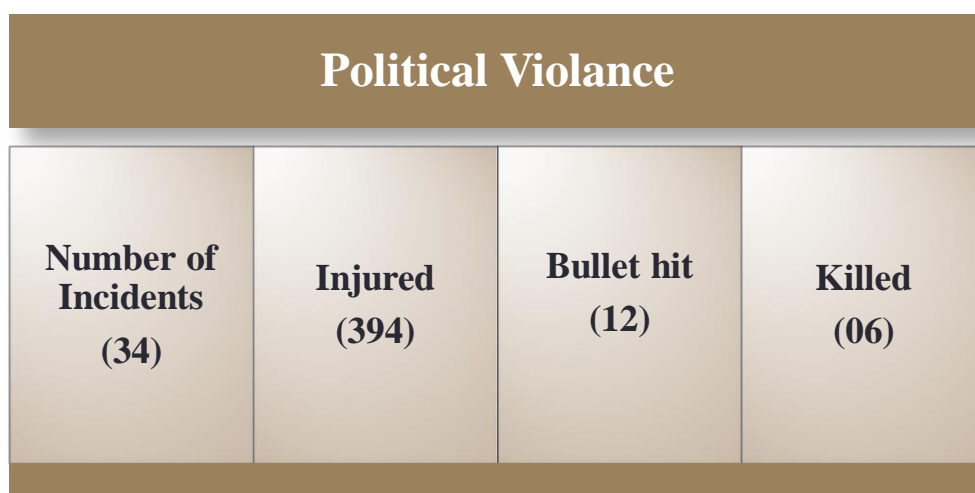


Figure 8: Statistics of Political Violence

The Figures presented above explain the situation of political violence from July to September'18. According to HRSS, a total of 06 people were killed, no was bullet hit, and almost 394 people were injured due to clash over political interests. Most of the political violence occurred among the groups of the ruling party over political dominance or tender.

Selected cases are as follows: On Jul 03,2018 Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the ruling Awami League, beat up a student at Rajshahi University for making 'defamatory' remarks about prime minister Sheikh Hasina on social media. However, the injured student, Sheikh Jasim Uddin Bijoy, claimed that BCL men beat him as he was involved in the quota reform movement.⁵¹

On Jul 21, 2018 some activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League beat up an organizer of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation on the Jagannath University campus over his involvement with the progressive movements. Witnesses said that JnU anthropology department student Rakibul Rakib was allegedly injured by some activists of BCL JnU unit in front of the

⁵⁰ Islam and Suykens, Distribution of Political Violence in Bangladesh 2015.

⁵¹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/45161/chhatra-league-assaults-student-at-ru>

university academic building at around 1:00pm. Rakib was, an organiser of JnU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation.⁵²

On July 01, 2018 A Jubo League activist was hacked to death allegedly by some youths at Digarkanda area in Mymensingh town. The victim is Millat Tarashi, 33. Khandaker Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, said Millat was killed following a feud over a bike.⁵³

On August 11, 2018 A Chhatra Dal leader died of his wounds at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, around an hour after he came under attack allegedly from some rival men near mayor elect Ariful Haque Choudhury's home in the city's Kumarpara area. The attack took place when a group of JCD men were leaving the area after celebrating Ariful's win, said witnesses. The dead, Foyzul Haque Raju, 27, is a former assistant publication secretary of Sylhet city JCD.⁵⁴

On August 17, 2018 A member of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) stabbed a fellow activist at Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall of Jahangirnagar University. Mokarram Hossain Shiblu, a third-year student of philosophy and activist of the hall unit, was admitted to the university medical centre. Shiblu submitted a complaint to the proctor and the hall provost, accusing Al Razi, a third-year student of government and politics, of stabbing him at the hall around noon as he had an altercation with him earlier.⁵⁵

On Sept 20 At least 35 people were injured in a factional clash between two groups of Awami League (AL) in Begumganj Upazila of the noakhali district. Local sources said miscreants attacked Joint Secretary of Upazila AL Akteruzzaman Ansari on September 13 last. Protesting the incident, AL organised a meeting on Chowmuhany Public Hall premises. At one stage of the meeting, supporters of local lawmaker Mamunur Rashid Kiron were locked in a scuffle with the supporters of Chowmuhany Municipality Mayor Akhter Hossen Faisal, which triggered a clash, leaving 35 people of both groups injured.⁵⁶

On September 26, 2018 The president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union's Chittagong University for Engineering and Technology (Cuet) unit was allegedly beaten up on the university campus by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) unit of Cuet. Following the incident, Manishi Roy, a final-year student of Urban and Regional Planning department, received primary treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).⁵⁷

⁵² <http://www.newagebd.net/article/46631/bcl-beats-up-chhatra-federation-activist-at-jnu>

⁵³ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/jubo-league-leader-hacked-death-1597984>

⁵⁴ <http://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/2018/08/12/166808.html>

⁵⁵ <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/city/bcl-activist-stabbed-fellow-1622419>

⁵⁶ <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=159439>

⁵⁷ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/cuet-chhatra-union-president-beaten-bcl-men-1639204>

Abduction

Abduction means the crime of taking away of a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.⁵⁸ Originally abduction applied only to such taking away from women and children, but now in Bangladesh also applies it to an adult male. It is distinguished from kidnapping, which requires an element of force or threat of force that is a grave violation of human rights. Abduction is common incidences in present-day Bangladesh. The numbers of victims, according to HRSS report is increasing day by day. Between Jul and Sep '18, the occurrences of abduction increased all over the country. The graph below provides information about the total number of abduction.

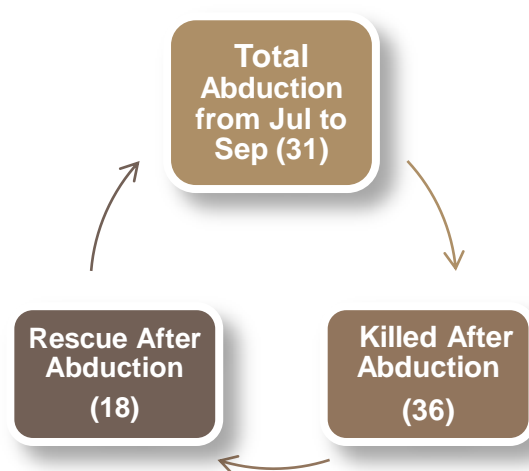


Figure 9: Statistics of Abduction between Jul and Sep '18

The above chart describes information about abduction cases between Jul and Sep '18 in Bangladesh. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), a total 31 people were abducted and among them, 36 were killed after the abduction and nearly 18 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

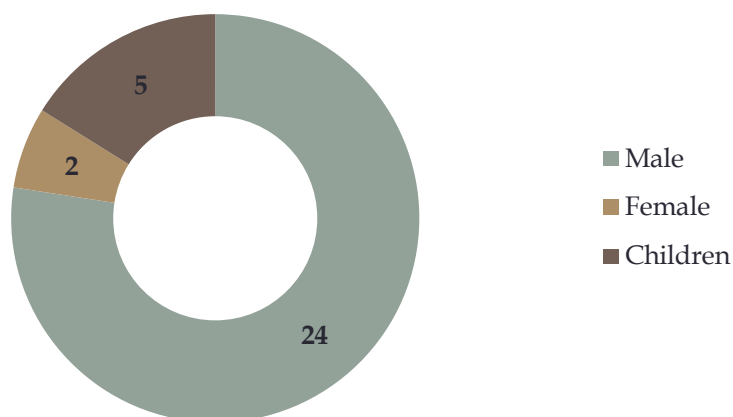


Figure 10: Categorization of abduction

⁵⁸ <https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/abduction/>

The above pie chart illustrates information about the abduction. According to information gathered by HRSS from Jul to Sep '18, a total of 31 people were abducted in the different area of the country, among them approximately 24 were male, roughly 02 were female and almost 05 were children. Selected cases are as follows:

On July 02, 2018 Police recovered the decapitated and decomposing body of a youth in Chittagong city's Panchlaish area, nine days after he had gone missing. Alauddin, 30, from Fatickhari and an employee of a community centre, did not return home after he had left for his workplace on June 24, said police.⁵⁹

On Jul 10, 2018 Burnt body of a police officer was recovered from a forest in Rayerdia area of Kaliganj in Gazipur. Two days earlier, inspector Mamun Imran Khan of Dhaka Special Branch went missing from his brother's house at Sabujbagh area of Dhaka. Gazipur police superintendent Md Harun ur Rashid said in the afternoon locals saw the body which was burnt and left abandoned wrapped in a sack in the forest of Rayerdia village in Ulukhola area.⁶⁰

On Jul 12, 2018 Architect Md BMA Mahfuz Nabin, who went 'missing' after leaving his residence at Bhasantek in the capital's Mirpur, was found in Khalishpur area in Khulna city. 38-year-old Nabin, an employee of Sheltech Ltd at capital's Kalabagan, was left blindfolded at Khalishpur around 2:30am, the victim's brother-in-law Md Imran Hossain told.⁶¹

On August 12, 2018 A Union Parishad member was kidnapped by some armed men from his house in Chittagong's Lohagara upazila. The victim is Mozaffar Ahmed, 60, member of Potibil ward under Potibil Union Parishad, said Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station. Quoting family members and witnesses, Mohammed Yunus, chairman of Potibil union, told that around 12:15am, some 30 to 40 armed men cordoned off Mozaffar's house in Gowher Chanda village and took him.⁶²

On Jul 31, 2018 the body of a fourth year political science student of Jagannath University, who had gone missing in South Keraniganj on Monday, was found in the River Buriganga. The deceased was Ariful Islam, son of Moin Uddin, resident of village Ma rufdaha under Jibonnagar police station in Chuadanga. Ariful used to reside in Keraniganj.⁶³

On September 16, 2018 The bullet-hit bodies of two brothers were found in Sharsha and Keshabpur upazilas, a day after they were allegedly abducted by unidentified men. The deceased are Azizul Haque, 45, and Faruq Hossain, 50, sons of Zeher Ali of Jamtola Samta village in Sharsha. Their brother Saidul Islam identified the bodies at Jessore General Hospital morgue in the afternoon.⁶⁴

⁵⁹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/missing-youth-found-dead-ctg-1599616>

⁶⁰ <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=125110&cat=9/গাজীপুর>

⁶¹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/45886/missing-architect-found-in-khulna-after-four-days>

⁶² <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/backpage/armed-men-abduct-member-1619890>

⁶³ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/47336/missing-jagannath-university-students-body-found-in-buriganga>

⁶⁴ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/2-brothers-found-dead-day-after-abduction-1634818>

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. In Bangladesh, A lot of people are being killed in different places in public lynching due to lack of respect for law, mistrust on the security forces, people are taking law into their own hands, fearing that they will not get justice any other way. As a result, the incident of public lynching became a common matter. Human rights support society believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.

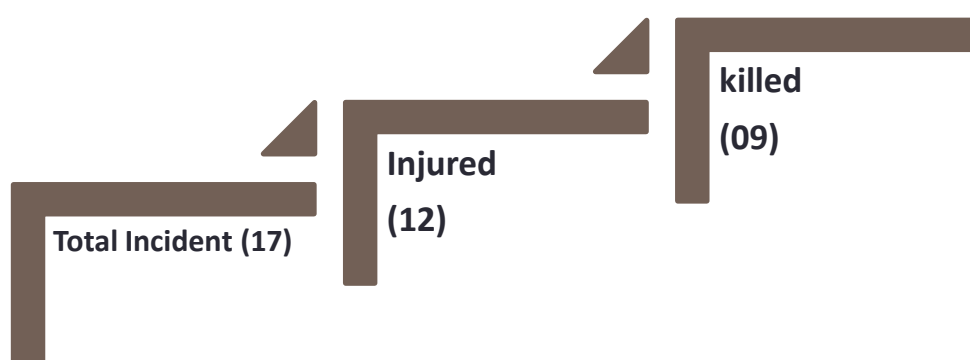


Figure 11: Statistics of Public Lynching from Jul to Sep'18

The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases from July to September'18. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 12 people were injured and nearly 09 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total 17 incidents.

Some important cases are given below: On Jul 05, 2018A suspected robber was killed in a lynch-mob attack at Tatarkandi village of Shibpur in Narsingdi. The deceased was identified as Nurul Amin alias Nura 'Dacoit', 29, son of Mia Chan of Gubindi village. Local people caught one of the 'robbers' and gave him a good thrashing, leaving him dead on the spot, while the others managed to flee the scene.⁶⁵

On September 11, 2018A suspected thief was beaten to death by villagers at Harashpur village in Bijohnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria district. The deceased was Shahidul Islam, 45, son of late Tajul Islam of Bhubhan village in Nasirnagar upazila.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/07/06/654831>

⁶⁶ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/thief-suspect-killed-mob-beating-1632535>

Recovery of Dead Body



The right to life is a moral principle based on the belief that a human being has the right to live and, in particular, should not be killed by another human being and Security of life is the most important right of all human beings. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.⁶⁷ In Bangladesh, due to different reasons including worsening of law and order situation, the unidentified dead body is found at different places of the country.

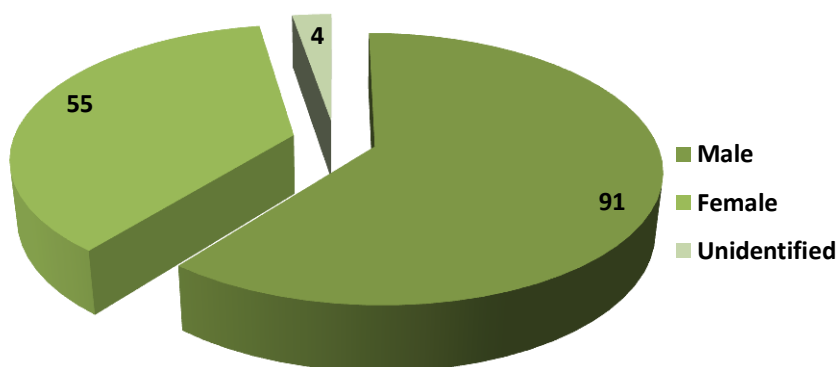


Figure 12: Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body

The given pie chart provided information according to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), from July to September'18, a total of 150 dead bodies were found in different areas of the country, among them 91 bodies were male and 55 bodies were female and 04 bodies were unidentified.

Selected cases are as follows: On July 04, 2018A college teacher was found dead at his rented house in the district pirojpur. The deceased was Abdus Salam 58, assistant professor of the Department of Management at Government Suhrawardi College in the district. He stayed alone at the house for the last few days. Police recovered the body from the third floor of Hamida Manjil in Rajarhaat area of the town around 12:00 noon and sent it to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

⁶⁸ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/07/05/654347>

On Jul 18, 2018 the body of college a girl was recovered in Habiganj, four days after she went missing. Police said they arrested victim's boyfriend, who confessed to have killed the girl as she was pressing him for marrying her after she became pregnant. The deceased was identified as Monila Maroti Moni, 18, a class twelve student of Madhabpur Degree College and daughter of Suresh Sawtal of Mahjhil Division at Surma Tea Garden under Madhabpur upazila in the district.⁶⁹

On August 01, 2018A woman was found murdered at her residence in Chittagong city's Farider Para area. The deceased was identified as Rahima Bibi, 25, wife of Ehteshamul Haque Jewel, a lawyer at Chittagong Court, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abul Bashar of Chandgaon Police Station. Quoting the husband, the OC said Rahima was five months' pregnant. The couple also has a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter.⁷⁰

On August 06, 2018The throat-slit body of an unidentified woman, aged about 25, was recovered from Nagarpur upazila, tangail district. Being informed by locals, police recovered the body from a bamboo cluster at Nolsandhaya village under Sohobotpur union and sent it to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Nagarpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Main Uddin.⁷¹

On September 10, 2018 an unidentified woman's decomposed body recovered in Narsinghapur area of Ashulia. The body was recovered after locals reported of foul smell emitting from a rented house, said Rezaul Haque, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, adding that Masud, the husband of the woman, aged around 26, might have strangled her three to four days ago, before leaving the room locked from outside.⁷²

On September 16, 2018 Police recovered the bodies of three unidentified men from the river Buriganga in Dhaka's Keraniganj and Kamrangirchar areas in the last two days. The bodies of two men, aged around 21 and 40, were recovered near Telghat area around 11:00am, said Shah Jaman, officer-in-charge (OC) of South Keraniganj Police Station.⁷³

On Sept 28,2018Police recovered the beheaded body of a man from a canal at Guktomari village in Jalma union of Bhatiaghata in Khulna. Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bhatiaghata Police Station, said locals found the body of the man, aged about 50, in a sack around 8:30am and informed police. Later, police recovered the body.⁷⁴

⁶⁹ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/46365/college-girl-found-dead-at-habiganj-tea-garden>

⁷⁰ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/woman-found-dead-home-1614709>

⁷¹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/country/woman-found-murdered-tangail-1616842>

⁷² <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/decomposed-body-found-ashulia-1631623>

⁷³ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1557932/>

⁷⁴ <http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2018/09/29/685487>

Quota Reform and Safe Roads Movement in Bangladesh

According to Human Rights Support Society's observation, monitoring and fact-finding, between July and September 2018 around 356 people (quota reform and safe roads protesters) have been injured by LEA and BCL activist 84 arrested, around 120 students have been victim of torture and threatening.

Some cases are as follows: On July 02, 2018 In Dhaka University, it was around 10:45am. About 15 quota reformists gathered at the Shaheed Minar to form a human chain. Within moments, however, Chhatra League men pounced on them. First, they snatched the banner and tore it down. Then they grabbed some of the protestors by their collars and started slapping, punching, dragging and stomping them before driving them out. They did not even spare female protestors. While one woman was pushed and shoved, another woman said she was kicked by the attackers. Quota reformists blamed Chhatra League men for the attack and alleged police and the university authorities were playing a dubious role. BCL men also allegedly picked up two quota reformists at Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University, as if they are now an auxiliary force of law enforcement agencies. At the Shaheed Minar, police were seen leaving the spot just before the attack.



Around 15 reformists led by Hasan Al Mamun, convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, and its Joint Convener Faruk Hassan went to the Shaheed Minar to form a prescheduled human chain. But BCL men swooped on them, hitting indiscriminately anyone they could catch. At least six protestors, including two women, were injured in the attack.



BCL men attacking other protesters and snatching their banner.

Some of the protestors managed to run away while two female protestors were seen crying helplessly. “I was trying to run. Then I stopped. I didn't think they would assault any woman. But I was wrong. One of them kicked on my stomach,” said a DU student. Witnesses said BI Badhon, president of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall unit of BCL, and Al Amin, general secretary of the unit, picked up Faruk from the spot. General Secretary of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall BCL unit Mehedi Hasan Sunny, central BCL Secretary of School and Students' Affair Joynal Abedin, Human Resource Affairs Secretary Jahir Ahmed Khan, Publicity Secretary of central BCL Saif Babu, Al Amin and BI Badhon were among the attackers, witnesses said.



Luthfunnahar Luma of Eden College said they were being threatened via Facebook messenger for quite a while. “But now we are being threatened in public.” She alleged that the attackers threatened that the male protestors will be abducted and the females will be raped.



The attackers snatch away a banner of the platform on the Shaheed Minar premises and assault another Protester nearby on 02 July



BCL activists beat up Tarikul Islam, joint convenor of Rajshahi University unit of the platform spearheading quota reform movement near the main gate of the university on 02 July.

In Rajshahi University at least seven students were injured when 40-50 BCL men with bamboo sticks, iron rods and machetes attacked them near the main gate of the university afternoon. Tarikul Islam Tarek, a RU student and a leader of the quota reform movement, had to be admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with serious injuries. His cousin Jewel Mamun, himself a student of the university, told quoting doctors that his right leg was fractured. The attack and the inaction of police and the university administrations sparked heavy criticism. Masud Monnaf, convener of the platform leading the quota reform movement at RU, said the attack was led, among others, by Faisal Ahmed Runu, general secretary of RU BCL. He added that the quota reform activists had just started a procession near the main gate of the campus around 4:00pm when BCL men swooped on Tarek, also a master's student of the university.

In Jahangirnagar University BCL men snatched the national flag from quota reform activists and drove them away from the central library premises where the activists attempted to demonstrate in the morning, witnesses said, adding that the BCL men assaulted an organiser. BCL activists also picked up Shakil Uzzaman, convener of the quota reformist platform in JU, from the central library and released him later.⁷⁵

On July 17, 2018 An assistant professor of Chittagong University has said he left the campus after getting continuous threat from Bangladesh Chhatra League activists over his Facebook remarks on quota reform. Assistant Prof Maidul Islam of sociology department said he along with his wife went to a safer place as he felt insecure on the campus. The teacher added that he had protested the attacks on quota reformists as it was his political right. “Considering the inhumane attacks on quota reformists, I wrote some lines on Facebook. It is my decision what I will write on Facebook and BCL men have no right to obstruct me,” he added.⁷⁶

On Jul 25, 2018 Bangladesh Chhatra League activists attacked a procession of quota reform movement at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, leaving five students injured. The injured were given first aid at different clinics and hospitals of the city. Two of the injured were identified as Alamgir Kabir and Rashedul Islam.⁷⁷



University teachers and other citizens take part in a protest against BCL attacks on students demanding quota reformation in government jobs; police manhandle a person with a child there and policemen drag a demonstrator in front of National Press Club.

On Jul 03, 2018 Attacks on quota reform protesters by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists at universities for three days until on 02 Jul sparked protests in Dhaka and elsewhere. In Dhaka, police created an atmosphere of panic, manhandling students' guardians and citizens who came to stage their pre-scheduled protest at 4:00pm in front of National Press Club. They gathered there under the banner of 'Udbigno Abhibhabak O Nagarik Samaj' to protest at BCL attacks and intimidation on different campuses and arrest of quota reform demonstrators. Police also picked up two writers and columnist Rahnuma Ahmed and a former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union Baki Billah from the spot and released them after about 40 minutes, police and organisers of the citizens' demonstration said.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/bcl-men-action-again-1599037>

⁷⁶ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/fb-post-quota-reform-cu-teacher-leaves-campus-upon-bcl-mens-threat-1606591>

⁷⁷ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/46942/5-injured-as-bcl-attacks-quota-activists-at-begum-rokeya-univ>

⁷⁸ <http://www.newagebd.net/article/45083/protests-flare-amid-police-action>

On July 01, 2018 Muhammad Rashed Khan, joint convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, was detained from the area around 12:30pm, Devdas Bhattacharya, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP). Rashed was shown arrested in a case filed under the Information Communication Technology (ICT) act, said police. Bangladesh Chhatra League law affairs secretary Al-Nahian Khan Joy filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station this morning, police added. The case was filed as Rashed went to Facebook Live on June 27 and made “derogatory remarks” about the prime minister, according to the case statement.⁷⁹

On July 01, 2018 At least seven members of the platform demanding civil service quota reforms, including its two leaders, were beaten allegedly by a group of BCL activists in front of Dhaka University Library. The incident happened right before the protestors were about to hold a press briefing demanding immediate publication of the gazette on abolishing the quota system. Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, the platform spearheading the quota reform movement, called for the press briefing to announce their next course of action as three months have gone by since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared the quota system would be removed. Before they could start, a group of 200-250 BCL men swooped on the quota reform leaders around 10:45am, injuring seven members of movement, including its convener Hasan Al Mamun and Nurul Haque Nur, a joint convener, Sumon Kabir, another joint convener of the platform, claimed.



⁷⁹ <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1522441/কোটা-আ>



Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of DU were beating up a student who had been demonstrating demanding reforms in the quota system for civil service near the university library...

Meanwhile, at different spots on the campus, other members of the quota reform movement came under attack. Two of the platform leaders were beaten up in front of the Public Library at Shahbagh around 2:45pm, a witness said. BCL men mercilessly punched and kicked Nurul after surrounding him while Hasan managed to escape. Nurul was then confined to the DU library by BCL men for 30 minutes, before he was handed over to the proctorial body. The attackers also drove the quota reform demonstrators away from the area and took position at the library premises.



Ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League activists roughed up anti-quota protesters at Dhaka University on 30 June.

In April, students of public and private universities across the country took to the streets demanding reforms in the quota system. In the wake of the protests, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during a parliamentary session on April 11, declared the abolition of quotas. After the government's failure to issue a gazette notification on the PM's announcement, the quota reform platform started an indefinite boycott of classes and examinations at all universities and colleges on May 14. They gave an ultimatum for the publication of the notification by May 13. On May 21, quota reform demonstrators postponed their decision of boycotting examinations considering the month of Ramadan and at the prospect of "session jams" the strike might have caused.⁸⁰

⁸⁰ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/quota-movement-bcl-swoops-reformists-1597912>

The situation of Freedom of Expression



The present condition of freedom of expression in Bangladesh is dreadful because of an absence of social equality, democracy and a lack of useful societies, which have been provoked by a gradually suppressive political milieu. The rights to freedom of expression are constantly violated while human rights activists and journalist, opposition party are facing systematic oppression under the state actor. The declaration of draconian laws against the journalist, human rights defenders, online activists, and bloggers are extensive. Suppression of uncooperative voice has become a regular practice due to a culture of impunity, lack of accountability and destructive justice delivery mechanisms. The following issues are major concerns for freedom of opinion and expression in Bangladesh.

According to the Human Rights Support Society's information from July to September '18, a total of 32 have been arrested under Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act 2006 (amended 2009 and 2013) in different areas of the country.



Digital Security Bill passed in parliament session Jatiya Sangsad on 18 September. Concerns of journos, rights activists ignored; fear widespread over free speech, independent journalism.⁸¹

On September 18, 2018 The much-debated Digital Security Bill 2018 was passed in parliament with a harsh provision allow police officials to search or arrest anyone without any warrant. The bill got through by voice vote amid opposition from a number of Jatiya Party lawmakers, ignoring concern of journalists, owners of media houses and rights activists over some of its sections. Journalists and rights activists have expressed worries over the new law, saying it was

⁸¹ Ibid48

passed without addressing their concern. In Section 43 of the new law says if a police official believes that an offence under the law has been or is being committed at a certain place, or there is a possibility of committing crimes or destroying evidence, the official can search the place or any person there. On the other hand, Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council), a platform of the editors of the country's dailies, expressed its surprise, disappointment and shock at the committee's final report. In a statement, the Parishad said they were “forced to reject the report” as it suggested no fundamental changes to sections 8, 21, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, and 43 of the draft act that poses serious threats to freedom of expression and media operation. The Parishad also called upon the authorities not to pass the draft act, saying it would gravely affect journalistic freedom and democracy in Bangladesh.



What's in ICT Act, photo Dhaka Tribune

in section 32 of the law, if a person commits any crime or assists anyone in committing crimes under Official Secrets Act, 1923, through computer, digital device, computer network, digital network or any other electronic medium, he or she may face a maximum 14 years in jail or a fine of Tk 25 lakh or both. According to section 29 of the law, a person may face up to three years in jail or a fine of Tk 5 lakh or both if he or she commits the offences stipulated in section 499 of the Penal Code through a website or in electronic form. Section 31 of the act says a person may face up to seven years in prison or Tk 5 lakh in fine or both if he or she is found to have deliberately published or broadcast something on a website or in electronic form which can spread hatred and create enmity among different groups and communities, and can cause deterioration in law and order. The matter of concern is that the act was passed without addressing journalists' concern over sections 8, 28, 29 and 31 that deal with hurting religious values, disrupting public order, dishing out defaming information and causing deterioration in law and order by publishing anything on a website or in electronic form.⁸²

⁸² <https://www.thedailystar.net/politics/bangladesh-jatiya-sangsad-passes-digital-security-bill-2018-amid-concerns-journalists-1636114>

On August 06, 2018 noted photographer Shahidul Alam seemed to be walking with difficulty as policemen held his arms and helped him go in and out of a Dhaka court. He told his lawyers and family members at the court that he had been tortured in custody. Shahidul was taken to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Old Dhaka from the office of Detective Branch of police on Minto Road around 5:00pm in a police vehicle. He was barefoot. The court placed him on a seven-day remand in a case filed under the controversial section 57 of ICT Act on charges of spreading propaganda and false information against the government. Shahidul, 63, was picked up by plainclothes men on 05 Aug from his Dhanmondi flat. Police produced him before the court about 21 hours after he was picked up. They sought 10 days' remand. Saydia Gulrukh, director of Drik Gallery, who was present in the courtroom, said Shahidul told his family and lawyers that he heard the doorbell ring around 10:00pm on 05 Aug. He looked through the peephole and saw a young woman standing outside, Saydia told. After the girl claimed she was a student of his, Shahidul opened the door and some 10-12 men entered the flat and dragged him to the elevator and went downstairs. As he screamed, the men in plainclothes gagged him, she said. On the ground floor, he saw several other men and a HiAce waiting for them. As they forced him into the vehicle he tried to scream and keep the door of the vehicle open.

His leg was still outside when the men asked the driver to start driving. “They then blindfolded him, beat him up and put handcuffs on him,” Saydia said. He was then taken to a place where he was told to sit on a wooden chair. They placed something heavy on his head, Shahidul told his family members and lawyers. He was punched in the face and bloodied but the marks were washed off before he was brought to the court, he told the court.

Shahidul Alam is an internationally renowned photographer and a social activist, also founder of Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, has arrested under ICT Act.



Shahidul, is a founder of Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, came under attack allegedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League men while videoing an attack on students campaigning for road safety near City College in the capital's Dhanmondi on 04 Aug afternoon. Soon after the incident, he took shelter at a nearby guesthouse from where he went live on his Facebook page to share the incident. “I was attacked a little while ago near City College because I was taking a video of Chhatra League students shouting 'Joy Bangla' and slightly before that attacking students,” he said in the video clip which went viral. Later, Shahidul uploaded a photo of his vandalized camera on Facebook, saying “Remains of my OSMO,” hash-tagging “we want justice”. Since that incident, he went live on his Facebook page, which has around 5,000

followers, at least seven times till 10:00pm. Shahidul, an internationally renowned photographer and a social activist, gave an interview to Al Jazeera English where he criticised the government's role in the student movement.⁸³

On July 29, 2018 A Chittagong court sent an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to jail in a case filed under the ICT Act for his “derogatory” remarks about a minister of the government. The accused, Mohaiminul Islam, 26, is a student and an activist of BCL at Chittagong Government City College, said Chandgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abul Bashar.⁸⁴

On August 07, 2018 Police sued four youths, including two leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, under section 57 of the ICT Act for their activities on the social media. The four are Maruf Hossain, 23, joint secretary and Aziur Rahman, 20, political study affairs secretary of Chhatra Federation's city unit, Imdadul Haque Anik, 24, final year student of applied physics at Chittagong University, and Abdullah Al Shahed, 20. Earlier, the police foiled a protest rally in front of Chittagong Press Club that was organised by a group of youths through social media demanding safe roads and protesting attacks on students. The nine youths including the two Chhatra Federation leaders were detained on the spot.⁸⁵



The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested actress and model Quazi Nawshaba under ICT Act.

On August 14, 2018 Actor Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed served a six-day remand. Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) had detained Nawshaba from the capital's Uttara on August 4, for spreading rumours on Facebook. Actor Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed on 13 aug was denied bail again by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court in a case filed under the ICT Act. Rapid Action

Battalion (RAB) had detained Nawshaba from the capital's Uttara on August 4, for spreading rumours on Facebook during clashes between students and police and reportedly activists of ruling party affiliate organizations at Jigatola. She had claimed that the two students were killed and the eyes of another were gouged out during the clashes.⁸⁶

⁸³ <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/first-page/339429/আ>

⁸⁴ <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/bcl-man-held-derogatory-remarks-facebook-expatriate-welfare-overseas-employment-minister-nurul-Islam-1612861>

⁸⁵ <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/backpage/instigating-students-4-sued-under-section-57-1617514>

⁸⁶ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/feature/2018/08/14/actor-nawshaba-denied-bail>

Quarterly Human Rights Report At Glance

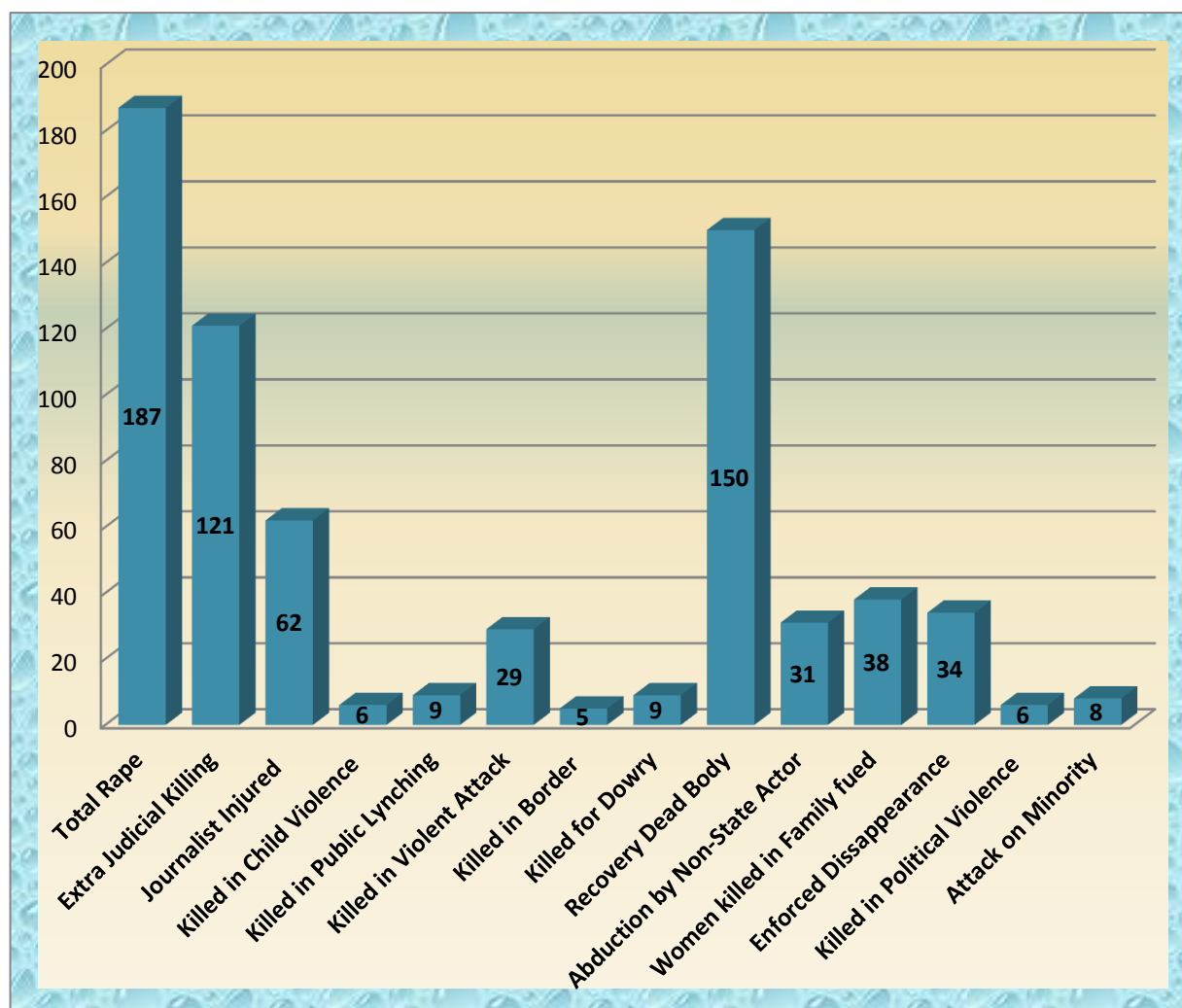


Figure 14: Human Right Situation of Bangladesh from Jul to Sep 2018

Conclusion

HRSS, it is observed that the human rights situation in Bangladesh was shocking during the whole of the stated period of time. Political turmoil in Bangladesh threatens the enforcement of constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights, in particular, the fundamental right to form assemblies and association. The right of freedom of expression has been rendered nugatory by application of section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 and the proposed enactment of the “Digital Security Act 2018”. Moreover, huge numbers of human rights violations are regularly taking places, such as enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, targeted killings, and arbitrary arrests. Domestic violence, rape, and child abuse have been frequent from Jul to Sep 2018. While international human rights instruments require all signatory states to protect basic human rights and the Constitution of Bangladesh specifically guarantees the fundamental rights of the citizens, it is a matter of deep concern that they have been denied by the incumbent governments. The need of the hour for Bangladesh is to enhance democratic practice. The constitution has given adequate space to discuss and debate in the parliament. It is necessary to begin a dialogue to resolve the disputes. There is no alternative to dialogue. The existing government assumed power through uncontested and controversial general elections in 2014 which led to serious political violence. The government, in order to continue its regime, undertook repressive measures against the opposition. The rule of law has been compromised. This situation has led to a political vacuum and created enabling an environment for extremism. HRSS considers that the state authority should be more vigilant in protecting the life and property of the citizen and thereby fulfill their constitutional obligations. It further appeals to every conscious citizen to raise their voice against flagrant human rights violations. In order to fight against all sorts of repressive measures, HRSS is committed to gather all relevant information and publish reports in various forms (i.e. monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, and annually). HRSS further expresses its commitment to bring back democracy, right to vote, freedom of assembly, establishing rule of law, ensuring transparency and accountability in all spheres of life. HRSS emphasizes the importance of the state authority and civil society working together to ensure dignity and equality among the people of different classes in order to establish peace and security in the country.

Recommendation

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