



**Half Yearly Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh**  
**January-June, 2020**

**HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY  
(HRSS)**

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

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# Acknowledgements

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Bangladesh became independent from Pakistan in 1971, after a nine months bloody war by the sacrifice of three million lives and instead of sanctity of 4,00,000 women and girls to ensure democracy, freedom of expression, security of life and Human Rights of all its citizens. Ironically, immediately after gaining independence rulers failed to establish democracy as well as to ensure constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights due to establishment of repressive autocratic regime till 1990. Although 20 years after independence a democratic government came into power and continue to present with some questions, Human Rights remain a dream for mass people because of the unwilling attitude of government. However, current scenario of Human Rights has become dreadful, as the government restricted on freedom of expression, limited political and civil society space and culture of impunity for security forces and ruling party leaders. This frightful condition of human rights in Bangladesh inspires HRSS to work hard to raise consciousness both home and abroad. We do believe that the contents of this report will help mass people, civil society organizations and international communities understand overall human rights situation in the country. We further expect that both state and non-state actors working for human rights would take necessary steps to stop repeated offenses being acquainted with the updated human rights conditions of Bangladesh.

At the end, I would like to thank all my associates for their remarkable contribution to publish this half yearly report. I specifically express my gratitude to the members of the executive committee who, for this publication, undertook all pains. I hope that your cordial consultation and support will help us to improve the quality of this report and encourage us to keep a vibrant role in human rights sector.

**Ijajul Islam**  
**Executive Director**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In spite of having constitutional obligation and international laws and treaties, human rights are drastically violated in Bangladesh. Although the state is the defender of all sorts of human rights, in most of the cases related to human rights violation, state authorities fail to protect its citizen's right with the help of law enforcement agencies. Sometimes we see law enforcement agencies and administration to some extent were involved in human rights violation rather than protection of citizen's right. Consequently, the state could not properly ensure justice, peace and security to its citizens. At the same time, human rights situation has become very frightful because of the government limited political and civil society space, restriction on freedom of expression, culture of impunity for security forces and ruling party, intimidation and extortion by the law enforcing agencies along with the ruling party leaders. As a result, all sorts of unlawful activities including Extra-Judicial killing, Enforced Disappearance, Custodial torture and death, Border killing, Attack on minorities, Violence against women were massively spread out in the society. As a human rights organization, HRSS is dedicated to ensure all sorts of human rights for people through building awareness as well as monitoring and publishing human rights situation, helping destitute people and conducting advocacy with the government and other concerned authorities from home and abroad. As part of this initiative, HRSS is going to publish Half Yearly Report from January to June, 2020. The report shows that the overall human rights condition in the first six months of 2020 is as frightful as it was in 2019 and has become deteriorated to some extent.

According to HRSS, from January to June 2020: a total of 167 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed. Of them, 124 were killed in the name of 'crossfire/ gunfights/infights', 13 tortured to Death, 05 shot to death and 25 were died in the custody in a total of 142 incidents. On the other hand, a total of 05 persons have been 'disappeared' by the law enforcement agencies in different incidents.

In the mean time, during the first six months of 2020, a total of 527 females were raped. Among them, 226 victims were adult whereas alarmingly 301 were children under the age of 16. It's a grave concern that 97 have been victim of gang-raped and 19 were brutally killed after being raped. Meanwhile, 83 women were killed in family feud related violence, 17 females injured and 18 females suicide for Family feud in 118 incidents. Approximately, 39 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported, where 15 were killed and 24 women physically abused over dowry demand. A total of 93 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment. During the first six months of 2020, 04 incidents of acid throwing have been occurred and 07 injured. It is also alarming that in a total of 52 violent incidents against children from January to June 2020, 18 lost their lives and 39 were critically injured.

It has been reported by HRSS that, 51 journalists were injured, 08 threatened, 11 arrested and 11 were assaulted in nearly 65 incidents during the first six months of 2020. Meanwhile, 71 people have been arrested and 103 cases filed in a total of 63 incidents of Digital security act 2018. HRSS has also observed the incidents of attacks on minorities during the first six months of 2020, where at least 04 temples were partially or fully destroyed and 01 house attacked. Meanwhile, 01 land grabbing and 01 minority member were injured in 07 incidents. Moreover, at least 16 people were

killed and 803 people injured in political violence, whereas around 25 people were killed in public lynching.

On the other hand, According to half yearly report of HRSS, roughly 24 Bangladeshi citizens have been killed, 06 injured, 08 shot and 12 persons were arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) in a total of 34 incidents.

It has also been reported that 92 were killed in a violent attack on unarmed civilians between January and June 2020. Meanwhile, in a total of 28 incidents of inhuman torture and shooting by law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), 318 people were injured, 01 hit by bullet and 41 people tortured during the first six months of 2020.

HRSS is deeply concerned about the degradation of human rights condition in the country. It urges all human rights organizations as well as common citizens to raise their voice to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh.

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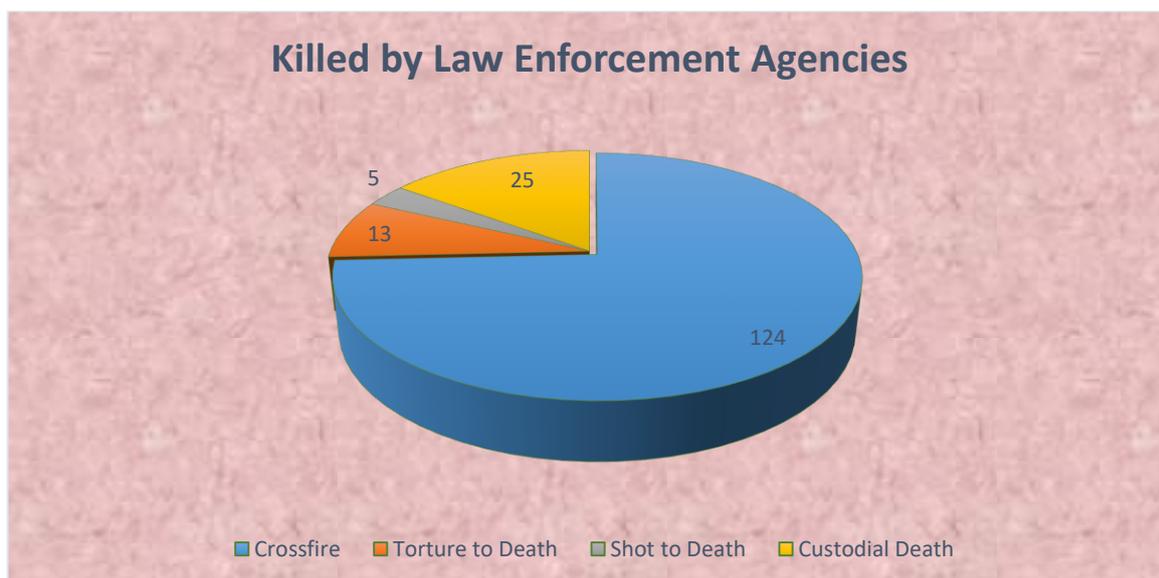
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# Acronyms

AL	: Awami League
BCL	: Bangladesh Chhatra League
BFUJ	: Bangladesh Federal Unit of Journalist
BGB	: Border Guard Bangladesh
BGP	: Myanmar Border Guard Police
BJC	: Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal
BNP	: Bangladesh Nationalist Party
BSF	: Indian Border Security Force
BNHRC	: National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh
CAT	: Committee against Torture
CSW	: Committee on the Status of Women
CHR	: Committee on Human Rights
CERD	: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CRC	: Committee on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW	: Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	: Convention on the Rights of the Child
DACSU	: Dhaka University Central Student's Union
DB	: Detective Branch
DMCH	: Dhaka Medical College Hospital
DSA	: Digital Security Act
DU	: Dhaka University
DUJ	: Dhaka Unit of Journalist
GA	: General Assembly
GD	: General Diary
HRSS	: Human Rights Support Society
HRC	: Human Rights committee
HRC	: Human Rights Council
ICCPR	: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ	: International Court Of Justice
JSD	:Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal
JCD	: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
OC	: Officer- In- Charge
PTI	: Primary Teachers Training Institution
SR	: Special rapporteur
RAB	: Rapid Action Battalion
RU	: Rajshahi University
SI	: Sub- Inspector
UN	: United Nations
UDHR	: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNHCHR	: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UP	: Union Parishad
UPDF	: United People's Democratic Front
VAW	: Violence against Women

## Extra Judicial Killing

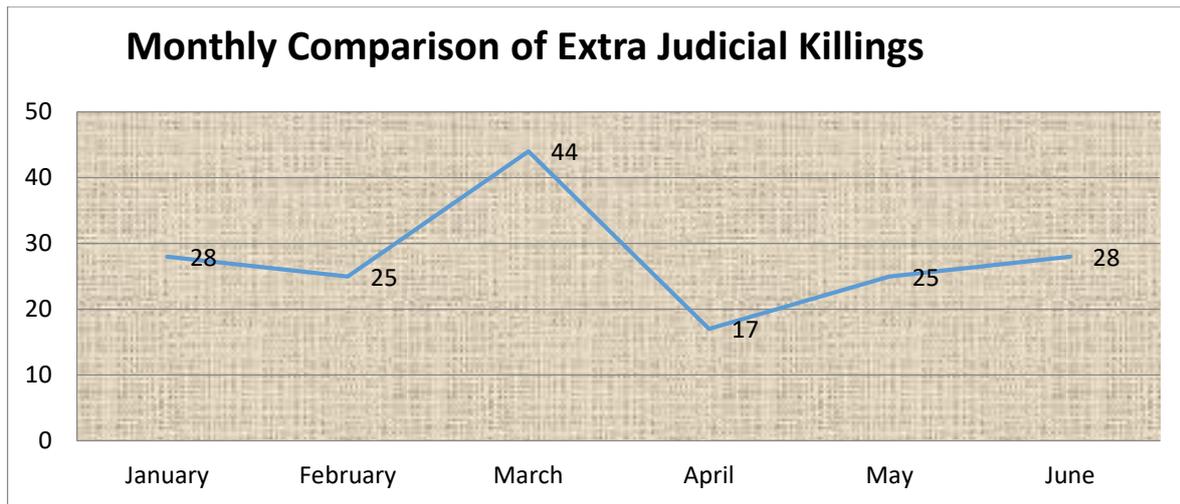
The term “Extra Judicial Killing” means execution without justice. This is an arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life and simply a murder. An extrajudicial killing is the killing of a person by governmental authorities without the sanction of any judicial proceeding or legal process.<sup>1</sup> In Bangladesh, Extra Judicial Killings by law enforcement agencies are now very common. It continue due to the absence of rule of law in the country. So the rights to life and personal liberty are under threat in Bangladesh, despite they are guaranteed by the Article 32 of Bangladesh’s constitution and Article 3 of UDHR. On the other hand, different terminologies have been used by the law enforcement agencies to avoid the liabilities of extra-judicial killing; such as deaths during ‘cross-fire’, ‘encounter’, ‘gunfight’ and infight etc. In the cases of “crossfire or encounters,” however, we find that legal provisions are being totally ignored. Relevant cases of extrajudicial killing have been discussed and analyzed below:



**Figure 1: Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing**

*The pie chart shows information about the extra-judicial killing from January to June 2020: a total of 167 persons were reportedly killed extra-judicially. Among them, 124 were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights’, 13 were tortured to Death, 05 were shot to death, and 25 were died in the custody.*

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



**Figure 2: Monthly Comparison of Extra-Judicial Killings**

The line chart illustrates the scenerio of extra-judicial killing from January to June '20. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report, a total of 167 persons were allegedly killed extra-judicially. On an average, almost 28 people were killed each month. The number of people killed extra-judicially in January and February were almost same but the number increased sharply in March reaching up to pick of 44. On the other hand, the numbers of encounters were dramatically fall in April then the number have gradually increased in the next two months.

Kinds	Police	Rab	Police And Rab	Db Police	Join Force	Coast Gurd	BGB	Army	Total
Crossfire	69	43		3	0	0	9	0	124
Shot To Death	1	0		0			4	0	5
Torture To Death	12	0		1	0		0		13
Custodial Death	25								25
<b>Total</b>	107	43	0	4	0	0	13	0	167

**Figure 3: Actors of Extra-Judicial Killing**

The graph provides updated information about the incidences of extra-judicial killings in the first six month of 2020 by the members of the LEAs. Statistics shows that most of the citizens were almost 107 extra judicially killed by the Police and 43 people were killed by RAB although they are supposed to protect the safety and security of the people. The number of people killed by the Border Guard Police BGB is alarmingly high. Legally the members of BGB are duty bound to protect the safety and security of people in border area.

**Some of the cases of extra-judicial killings are detailed:** On January 15, 2020, two Rohingya men, suspected of being drug dealers, were killed in an alleged gunfight with Rab on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive road. The deceased were identified as Abu Hasim, 30, son of Hossain Sharif and Mohammad Aiyub, 40, son of Shamsul Alam both residents of Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhiya.<sup>2</sup>

On January 19, 2020, a man was found dead in police custody, hours after Tejgaon Industrial Police arrested him under the Digital Security Act, allegedly for harassing a woman. The deceased is Abu Bakar Siddique Babu (45), floor-in-charge of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC). Babu's wife Aleya Ferdousi suspected that Babu was "tortured and killed" at the police station. GM Saif, Babu's colleague at BFDC, said they worked together. At night, police informed their senior officials about Babu's case. Saif suspected that Babu was tortured in custody.<sup>3</sup>

On February 3, 2020, it was accused that a Auto ( vehicle of three wheel) driver died in police custody hours after arrest from Shilkhuli union's Jhal Bazar in VHurungamari upazila of Kurigram. The deceased was identified as Mojaffar Hossain, 30, son of Abdul Ohab in the upazila. The victim's father accused that his son has died in police custody due to torture.<sup>4</sup>

On February 20, 2020, a mother of two died in police custody several hours after she was picked up from home by Detective Branch of police in Gazipur. The deceased was identified as Yasmin Begum, 40, wife of Abdul Hai in Bhawal area. The dead's 17-year-old-son Yasin Arafat Jisan said he saw multiple injury marks on her legs, arms and some other parts of the body.<sup>5</sup>

On March 3, 2020, an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, who was also accused in the murder of a Chhatra League leader, was killed in a so called "gunfight" with police in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila. The dead was identified as Nazrul Islam, 26, son of Abdul Hakim a resident of Abhirampur village in the upazila. Nazrul's brother Omar Faruk said his brother, a first year Kamil student of a madrasa in Lakshmipur, was involved in Shibir politics but not involved in Rakibul's killing. "Two people picked him up from the house around 7:30 pm on March 2. Police killed him that night and branded it as a crossfire incident," he said. "My brother is the victim of political vengeance."<sup>6</sup>

On March 14, 2020, a former Chhatra League leader was died in police custody several hours after police picked him up in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district. The deceased Zahid

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/472584/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/man-dies-police-custody-1856500>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/127805/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AB%E0%A6%BE>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/woman-dies-police-custody-1870441>

<sup>6</sup> Hrss Investigation dest & <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/two-killed-gunfights-1875973>

Hasan, 45, son of late Lal Mohammad, a resident of Joyrampur village in the upazila, was the former vice-president of Chuadanga district Chhatra League. He was also the general secretary of the local Border Youth Development Association and the president of Jayrampur Secondary School. Jahidul's wife, Litty Khatun, claimed that her husband had been beaten to death by police. Rezaul Karim, former district president of BCL, made the same allegation. He said that police had beaten and killed Jahidul Islam in a planned way. We want a fair investigation and trial of the incident.<sup>7</sup>

On April 20, 2020, a suspected drug trader was killed in a "gunfight" with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district. The deceased was identified as Zafor Alam, 30, son of Zebor Molluk, a resident of Nayapara village under Sabrang union. BGB recovered two lakh yaba pills worth around Tk 6 crore and a firearm from the boat, said Lt Colonel Mohammad Faysal Khan, commanding officer (CO) of BGB Battalion-2 in Teknaf.<sup>8</sup>

On April 27, 2020, a suspected criminal was killed in a so called "gunfight" with members of the Rapid Action Battalion in Gazipur city. The dead was identified as Rabiul Islam Rabi, 32, from Tongi. He had been accused in at least 14 cases filed with different police stations on the charges of murder, robbery and illegal arms sale, said assistant director of Rab-1 in Gazipur.<sup>9</sup>

On May 6, 2020, three suspected robbers, including two siblings, were killed in a so called "gunfight" with police in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar. The dead are Nurul Alam, 40, his younger brother Syed Alam, 35, and Abdul Monaf, 20, of Rongikhali area in Hnila union of the upazila. **Prodip Kumar Das**, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, claimed they locked into the "gunfight" around 3:00 am while conducting a raid in the area on information that a group of heavily armed robbers took position there.<sup>10</sup>

On May 8, 2020, a suspected drug trader was killed in what law enforcer called a "gunfight" with members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Cholisia union in Avoyagar upazila of Jashore. The deceased was identified as Maruf Mollah, 26, son of Muslim Mollah, hailed from Buikara village in the upazila.<sup>11</sup>

On June 9, 2020, a pirate accused of at least four cases, was killed in a so called "gunfight" with police at sand field area near ferry ghat of Bhola Sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Shafikul Islam, 40, a resident of the upazila. However, Shafiqul's wife Jasmine Begum claimed

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/289051/%E0%A6%86>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/496825/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/criminal-killed-gunfight-gazipur-1897486>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/3-robbers-killed-gunfight-1900192>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.jagonews24.com/country/news/580261>

that police had shot dead her husband. Sub-Inspector (SI) of Ilisha Police Station Sujan Majhi arrested her husband from a house in the Ilisha Junction area around 8.30 pm on June 8.<sup>12</sup>

On June 27, 2020, the prime accused in the murder case of a Jubo League leader was killed in a reported gunfight with police in Satkani upazila of Chittagong. The deceased was identified as Abdul Hannan Alias Sohel, 32, a resident of Bardona Adorsho para area in the upazila and also the prime accused in Jubo League leader Mosaddekur Rahman murder case. Mosaddek was stabbed to death during an altercation with Sohel as he protested Sohel's criminal activities on June 22, said Md Nezam Uddin, chairman of Satkania Sadar Union.<sup>13</sup>

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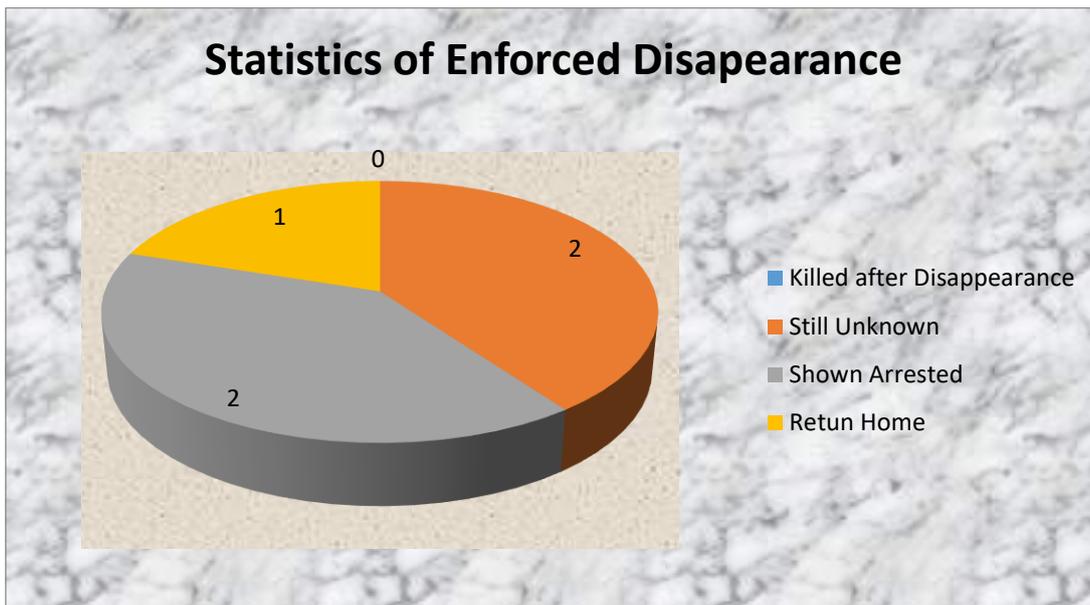
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1661631/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%81>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1665393/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE>

# Enforced Disappearance

Bangladeshi authorities have a history of being involved in arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances. Enforced disappearances have mushroomed in the country since Shiekh Hasina took power in 2009, according to rights groups.<sup>14</sup> In Bangladesh, "Enforced Disappearance" is frequently used as a strategy to spread the feeling of insecurity and fear not only to the close relatives of the disappeared person but also to the communities and society as a whole. Enforced disappearance refers to the act of making someone disappear against his or her will, often suddenly, with a intention of refusal to acknowledge the fate of that person. So it is considered as a crime against humanity and a violation of international law. *According to (Article 01 of ICPED) "No one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance".*

In most of the cases the victims are members of opposite political groups, human rights defenders, Journalists and what so one those who oppose the government. The absence of both political will and a credible criminal justice system to hold personnel of law enforcement agencies to account for enforced disappearances has allowed this State policy to continue. So, the events of "Enforce Disappearance" have already triggered a gravest hurdle in our national life by polluting the political and administrative culture of Bangladesh.



**Figure 4: Statistics of Enforced Disappearance**

*According to 'Human Rights Support Society' (HRSS), from January to June 2020 a total of 05 people have been disappeared by the law enforcement agency(LEA); out of them 01 were returned to home, 02 brought before the court and We couldn't addressed what happened to another 02 persons.*

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.dw.com/en/press-freedom-what-happened-to-missing-bangladeshi-journalist-shafiqul-kajol/a-53199732>



**Figure 5 : Monthly Comparison of Enforced Disappearance from January to June'20.**

**Selected cases are stated below:** On March 10, 2020, a Journalist, an accused in a case alongside 31 others under Digital Security Act went missing around 6.45 pm from capital’s Hatirpul area. The victim was identified as Shafiqul Islam Kajol, an editor of Pokkhokal magazine and also a photo Journalist. The victim’s son Monorom Polok said, "We could not establish any contact with him, as his phone was found switched off till now," he also appealed for safe return of his father. Kajol was accused alongside editor-in-chief of Bangla daily Manabzamin and 31 others in a case filed on Monday by Awami League lawmaker Saifuzzaman Shikhor, with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station. The victim family filed a general diary with Chawkbazar Police Station in this regard.<sup>15</sup>

On March 17, 2020, a teacher of government college was picked up by some plaincloths men who identified themselves as members of law enforcement agencies from Jamalpur union’s Chupair village under Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur. The victim Motaher Hossen, 35, son of Hafiz uddin was a 33th BCS cadre and lecturer of Islamic Studies at Narsingdi govt. female college. The victim's elder brother, Mohsin Kabir filed a general diary at the Kaliganj police station in Gazipur in this regard.<sup>16</sup>

On May 6, 2020, a man was picked up by plainclothes people who identified themselves as members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), from his residence in Uttar Badda of Dhaka. The victim was identified as Didarul Bhuiyan an organizer of Rashtrochinta. The victim's wife Dilshan Ara said, "My husband was not a criminal. Why was he picked up all of a sudden before his iftar?," Dilshan said at a press conference held at Rashtrochinta office in the capital. She said a

<sup>15</sup> HRSS research desk & <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/journalist-missing-three-days-1880083>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1645412/%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80>

number of people came in two black minibuses and introduced themselves as RAB members. They seized laptops and other things and said Didarul would be released after interrogation, she added. Hasnat Quaiyum, a member of Rashtrachinta and a Supreme Court lawyer, said the family was forced to record the diary the way police dictated that Didarul left home and did not return since then. Didarul might have picked up for his writing on Facebook about irregularities of relief distribution at Kurigram and Dinajpur, said Rakhil Raha, a member of Rashtrachinta.<sup>17</sup>

On June 18, 2020, identifying themselves as members of law enforcer, a group of plaincloths men picked up a Chhatra Dal leader from Dewara union of Jashore Sadar upazila. The victim was identified as Ibrahim Hossain, general secretary of Dewara union's Chhatra Dal and son of Mahbub Mollah in the upazila. The victim's mother Nurjahan Begum, said a group of plaincloths law enforcer, identifying themselves as members of RAB, forcefully took away her son near their house Lawsan Bazar on June 13.<sup>18</sup>

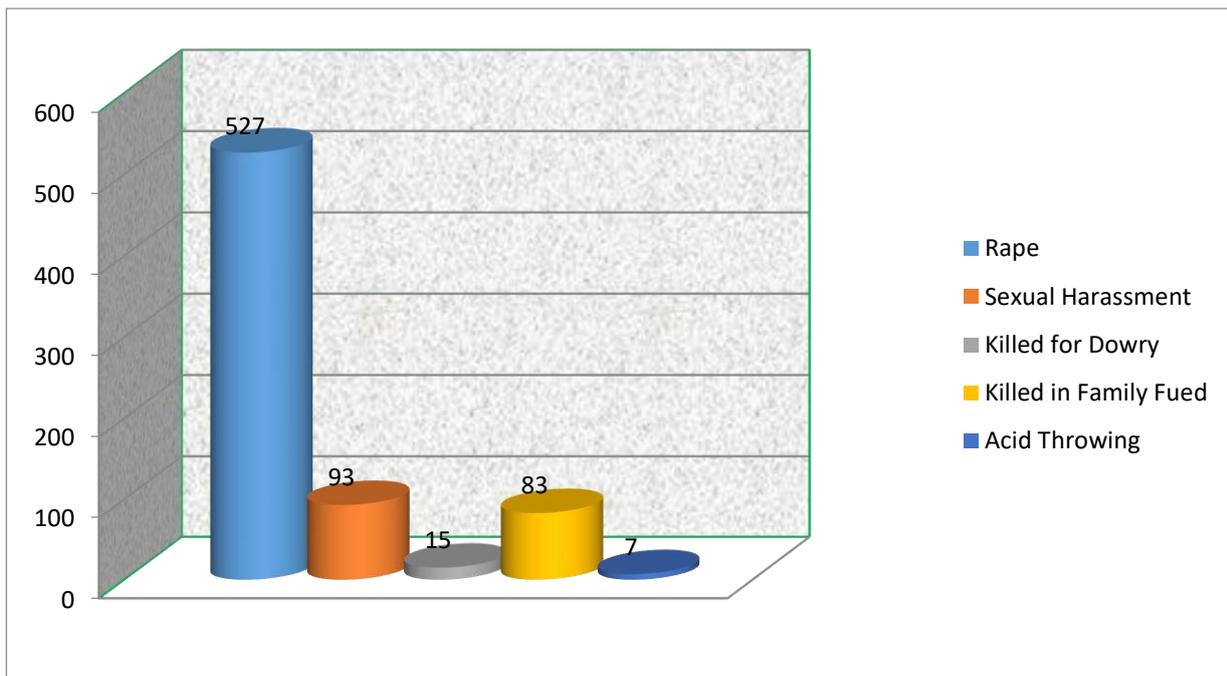
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<sup>17</sup> <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/my-husband-is-not-criminal-says-didaruls-wife>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/509148/%E0%A6%AF>

# Violence against Women

The term “Violence against Women” refers to “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”.<sup>19</sup> Violence against women is one of the main social problems in contemporary Bangladesh. Because, most of the gender-based violence remains unreported due to the impunity, stigma, shame and political shelter surrounding it. The nature of violence commonly committed, are physical and psychological torture, sexual harassment, assault, rape, dowry-related violence, trafficking, coerced suicide and murder, acid throwing and family feud related violence. Questioning of the husband, failure to perform household work and care of children, economic problems & refusal to manage dowry are considered the main reasons for gender-based violence in Bangladesh. The HRSS data show the frightful scenario of violence against women in our country and the situation becoming worst day by day. Rape, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence, family feud violence and acid violence are increasing to a greater extent because mainly of political shelter and delaying judicial system.



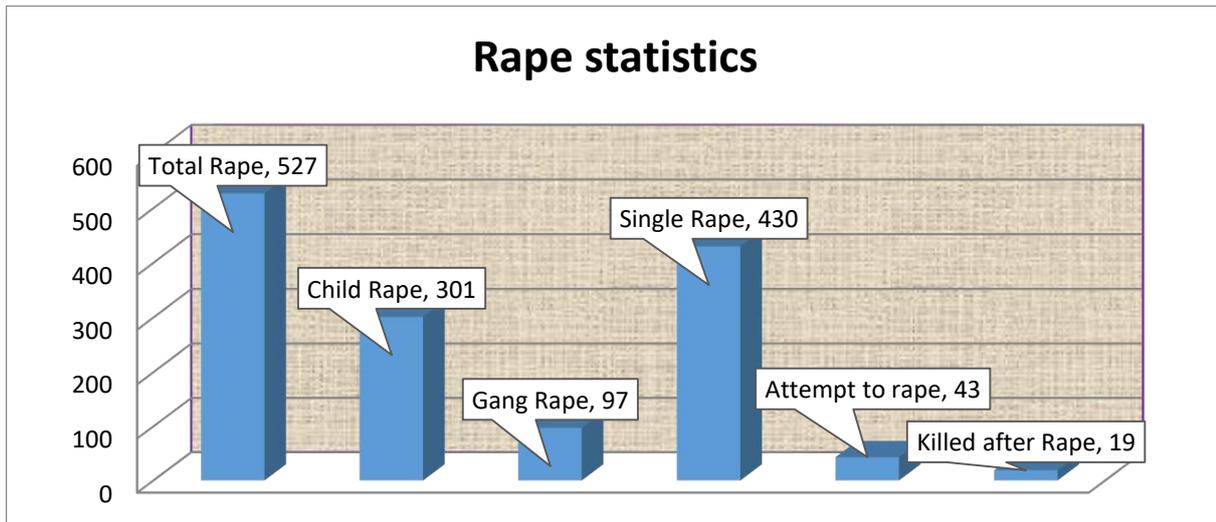
**Figure 6: Violence against Women**

*The major atrocities against women are torture for dowry, killings, rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid throwing, physical and mental abuse, and killed in family feud the most common manifestations of violence against women in Bangladesh between January and June'20 are detailed below:*

<sup>19</sup> General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993

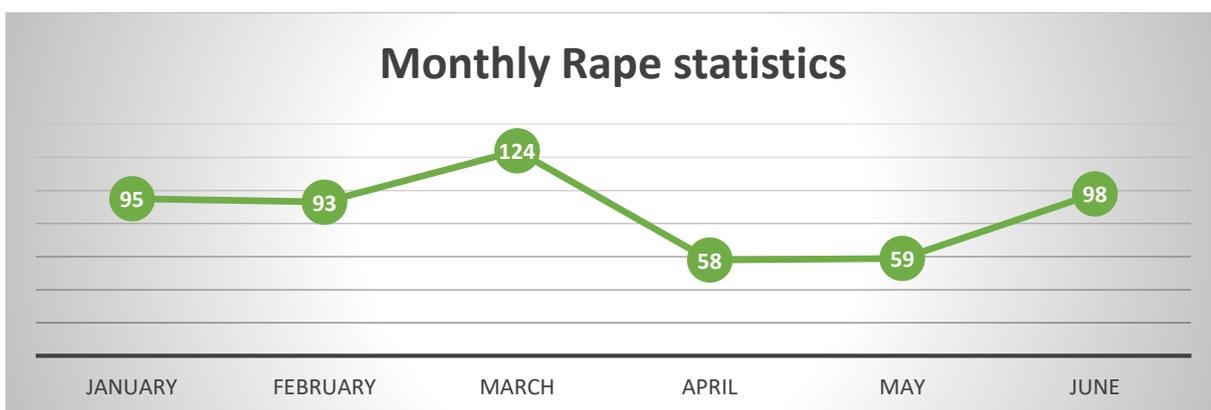
# Rape:

The increasing rate of rape is an alarming phenomenon in Bangladesh and it portaits the vulnerable condition of women in the society. It is a heinous offense. Section 376 of the Penal Code, 1860 states: “whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment for life”. It may be mentioned that sometimes rape is followed by murder, particularly when gang rape takes place.



**Figure 7 : Statistics of Female Victims of Rape**

According to the source of Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the column graph provides information about ‘Rape’ from January to June ’20; a total number of 527 females were allegedly raped. Out of them, about 430 were victims of single rape and nearly 97 subjected to gang rape, whereas alarmingly 301 were children below the age of 16 (including single and gang rape). Approximately 19 were brutally killed after being raped.



**Figure 8 : Monthly Comparison of rape from January to June'20**

The above graph shows data of rape incidents during the first six month of 2020. During the first six months of 2020, about 88 female were victim of rape each month. In January the number of rape was 95 than the number became highest in march. Thereafter the number of rape reduce rapidly in the next two months then it increased to 98 in June.

**Reported Rape Cases are stated below:** On January 5, 2020, police arrested three people for alleged abduction and gang-rape of a teenage girl in Jashore. The arrestees were identified as Al Afsan alias Pushpa, son of Abdul Quddus of Shankarpur, Raihan Hossain, son of Abdur Rashid, and Shakil, son of Sohrab Hossian of Kharki Hamzapara in the district town. A group of miscreants abducted the girl from Bakchar area when she was going to the district town by a rickshaw on 1 November. They took her to a garden at Doctorbari and forced her to take drugs. Later, five miscreants raped the girl in turns, after that, she was taken to the house of one of the rapists where four more people raped her. Finally the girl was dropped at General Hospital as she felt sick.<sup>20</sup>

On January 5, 2020, a second-year student of Dhaka University was allegedly raped and tortured in the capital's Kurmitola area. Quoting the victim, Some of her friends who rescued her told that she was walking from Kurmitola bus stop to a friend's house in a nearby area around 7:30 pm. Soon after getting down from the university bus, someone grabbed her from behind, gagged her and took her to an isolated place nearby. She was raped and tortured there. she fainted at the time and regained consciousness after 10:00 pm. Then we rescued her after being informed and brought her to the DMCH.<sup>21</sup>

On February 10, 2020, Rajshahi court remanded a student of Rajshahi University (RU) for two days on charges of raping and blackmailing a female student of the university after taking video clips in a Hostel of Kazla Shakopara area. The main accused, Mahfuzur Rahman Sharod (22), is a second-year student of economics. Four of Sharod's associates Rafsan, 22, Plabon, 21, Jibon, 25 and Joy, 22, were arrested by Rajshahi police. According to the case statement, on January 24, Mahfuzur Rahman took the girl to a hostel and raped her while his associates filmed it. They then tried to use the video clip to blackmail Tk 50,000 from her.<sup>22</sup>

On March 7, 2020, a speech-impaired seven-year-old girl was raped in the city's Kamrangirchar area. Aunt of the girl told that the child left home at afternoon without informing her mother and remained missing until around 1:30am, when the family found the girl beside a road nearby their house. She was bleeding profusely, the aunt added. Family members and police suspect that the perpetrator(s) abandoned the girl after raping her.<sup>23</sup>

On March 23, 2020, a housewife was gang-raped allegedly by Chhatra League activists in Char Sujanagar Bhabanipur area in Sujangar upazila of Pabna. The main accused was identified as Sumon Khan, 20, joint secretary of Sujanagar municipality unit BCL. The victim woman, 30, of

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<sup>20</sup> <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/207480/Three-held-over-%E2%80%98gang-rape%E2%80%99-of-teen>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/dhaka-university-student-raped-tortured-capital-1850191>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=212575&cat=9>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/7-year-old-raped-capital-1877704>

Santhia upazila, said she was going to her sister's house with her brother-in-law on March,22, in Kuladi village of Pabna Sadar upazila. When she reached Sujanagar Bazar some BCL men halted them and beat up her brother-in-law, after that they took her to a wheat field and raped her there. The victim filed a case against five BCL men, including joint secretary of Sujanagar municipality unit BCL.<sup>24</sup>

On April 18, 2020, a man allegedly raped a schoolgirl in the toilet of Dharbila community health centre in Pabna. Police arrested accused Abdur Rahman, 40, from Dharbila village. The police source said the girl was playing near her house, at that time the accused took the seven-year-old girl to the toilet by tempting her with toys and raped her.<sup>25</sup>

On May 1, 2020, a 8-year-old girl was tied to a tree and her mother was allegedly gang raped being threaten to death at Shovosondha sea beach in Taltoli upazila of Borfuna. The accused are Motorcycle driver Jahirul Akon, 28, son of Alamgir Akon, in the upazila and his associates Emdadul, Nazrul, Shohag and Saidul.The victim filed a complaint with Taltoli Thana in this regard.<sup>26</sup>

On May 6, 2020, police arrested a young man for allegedly strangulating a schoolgirl after rape from Barhatta upazila of Netrakona district. The dead was identified as Moni Akter, 11, a fifth-grader of a local school and the daughter of Abdul Mannaf, a resident of Lamapara village in the upazila. The accused Sultan Mia, 26, confessed that he took the girl from her way and violated her.Then, he strangulated her to death in fear of divulging the rape incident,said the police source.<sup>27</sup>

On June 10, 2020, a unfortunate father of rape victim demand justice on the street with a banner of his daughter's picture, because police couldn't arrest the culprits after two months of the incident in Potia upazila of Rajshahi. The victim was identified as Eva Khatun daughter of ricksaw puller Salim Hossain in the upazila. Eva committed suicide by hanging herself because of stigma on April 9.<sup>28</sup>

On June 25, 2020, a man was arrested on charges of raping a seven-year-old girl in Sirajganj's Kamarkhand upazila.The accused was identified as Monirul Islam, 25, of Jamtoil Sheikhpara village of the upazila. The accused took the girl to his house, luring her with money and raped her there. The victim's grandfather filed the rape case against Monirul in this connection.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=218846&cat=1/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%83>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/schoolgirl-raped-pabna-1894144>

<sup>26</sup> HRSS investigation desk & <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/303391/%E0%A6%AC>

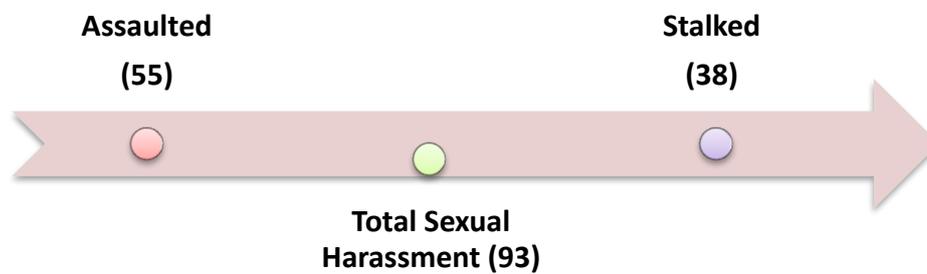
<sup>27</sup> <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=255793>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/157238/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/man-held-raping-7-yr-old-sirajganj-1920569>

# Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is illegal and unwelcome sexual behaviour that is offensive, humiliating or intimidating and it can be written, verbal and physical. Sexual harassment can occur in many different social settings for instant the workplace, the home, school, college, street or even in social media etc. It includes: touching, grabbing or making other physical contact without consent, making comments that have a sexual meaning, asking for sex or sexual favours, making sexual gestures or suggestive body movements and insulting with sexual comments. Most Bangladeshi social institutions permit, even encourage, the demonstration of unequal power relations between the sexes. In other words, harassment of women in Bangladesh is culturally accepted, tolerated and in certain prescribed forms and given contexts, legitimized. According to the Human Rights Support Society report, in Bangladesh, 102 females were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from January to June'20.



**Figure 9 : Statistics of Sexual Harassment**

According to information gathered by HRSS, a total of 93 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment from January to June '20. Of them, 55 were assaulted and 38 stalked.



**Figure 10 : Monthly Comparison of Sexual Harassment from January to June'20**

**Some important incidents are described below:** On January 17, 2020, a female student of evening programme at Cumilla University filed a written complaint against a teacher for harassing her sexually as well as for destroying all the evidences she had on her mobile phone set in favour of her allegation. The teacher is Ali Rezwan Talukder, head of the university's English department. The student also wrote in her allegation that she and Ali Rezwan Talukder were connected on

social media. Ali used to call her to go to his room and proposed her for an illicit relation in exchange of giving her good grades in the exams. On the other hand, the accused said the student was 'mentally imbalanced', and she was the one who wanted an illicit relationship in return of academic favours, but he never responded to her call. "Failing to get facilities, she has been spreading this information against me," said Ali Rezwan. "I'm embarrassed."<sup>30</sup>

On March 9, 2020, it was accused that at least 50 trainees have been sexually harassed by four trainers of Primary Teachers Training Institution (PTI) in Potia of Chattogram. One of the trainers brought this allegation against four of his colleagues. The accused trainers are physical training instructor Farooq Hossain, Sabuj Kanti Acharya of arts and crafts, Jasim Uddin of general department and IT's Rabiul Islam.<sup>31</sup>

On May 11, 2020, police arrested a father on charge of sexually harassed his own daughter from south Rajib Bary village of Kisorganj upazila in Nilphamari. The accused father was Abdullah, 45, in the upazila. The victim filed a case of sexual harassment under the Women and Child Abuse Prevention Act against her father as the sole accused.<sup>32</sup>

On May 22, 2020, mob beat up a doctor for sexually harassing and molestating an eight- year old girl at health complex of Basail upazila in Tangail. The accused doctor was identified as Subodh Kumar Das, deputy assistant community medical officer of Basail upazila health complex.<sup>33</sup>

On June 11, 2020, police arrested a BCL leader for sexually assaulting and attacking a college student and her elder sister in Gowronodi upazila of Barisal. The accused was identified as Arif Mia, 24, former sport secretary of Govt. Gowronodi college Chhatra Sangsad and member of BCL college unit. The victim's elder sister filed a case with Gowronodi police station against Arif in this connection.<sup>34</sup>

On June 16, 2020, Police detained a hospital staffer who was accused of sexually harassing a Covid-19 patient from Khulna city's Hafiz Nagar area. The accused Nazrul Islam, a ward boy of Khulna Diabetic Hospital, reportedly sexually harassed a 25-year-old woman who was being treated there. The victim lodged a complaint, and a case was filed under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act in this regard.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/208069/Sexual-harassment-allegation-brought-against>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1643826/%E0%A6%AA>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/151000/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87>

<sup>33</sup> <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=227854&cat=9/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1662029/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%B0>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/sexual-harassment-patient-hospital-staffer-held-case-filed-khulna-1915669>

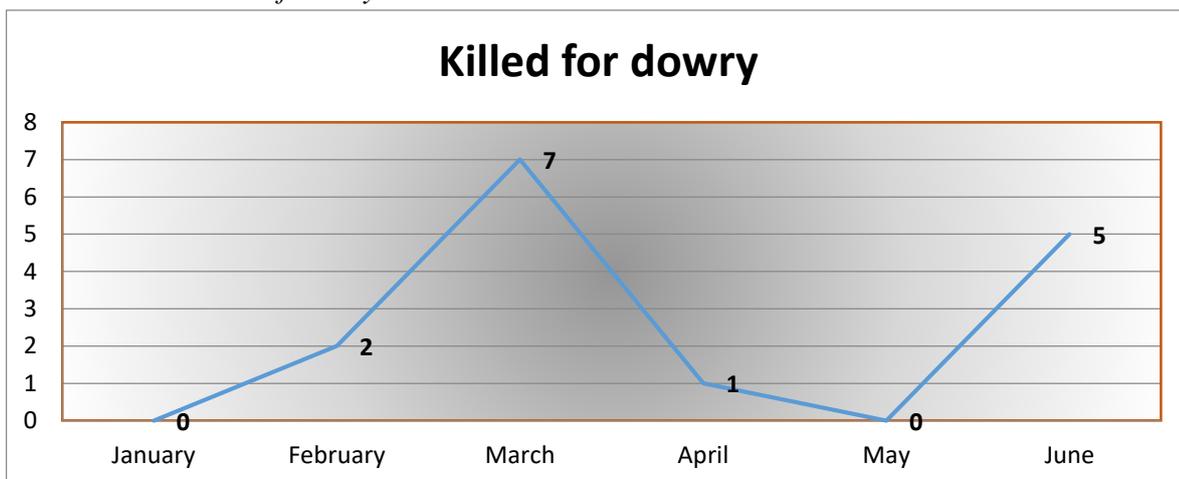
# Dowry-Related Violence

Sections 11(a), (b) and (c) of the Prevention of Repression against Women and Children Act 2000 (Amended in 2003) provides various punishments against perpetrators for committing dowry-related crimes. Although, taking or giving dowry is illegal, punishable with imprisonment and /or fine according to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980. It is noticed that dowry-related violence against women is increasing in an alarming rate both in rural and urban area of Bangladesh. In Bangladeshi law, dowry has been given an extended meaning, whatever is presented whether before or after marriage under demand, compulsion or pressure as consideration for the marriage can be said to be dowry.<sup>36</sup> In spite of the existing laws, dowry-related violence has increased ramarkably from January to June'20.



**Figure 11 : Statistics of Dowry Related Violence**

The graph shows that a total of 39 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported from January to June'20. Out of them, about 15 were killed and 24 women were physically abused over dowry demands as victims of dowry-related violence.



**Figure 12: Monthly Comparison of killed for dowry from January to June'20**

<sup>36</sup> The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000

*The above line graph shows information about dowry related killing between January and June, 2020. From the beginning of 2020, the number of killing have increased gradually and reached to peak of 07 in April then it fall dramatically in the following months and became zero in may. However, the number increased rapidly to 05 in June.*

**Some important incidents are given below:** On January 12, 2020, a housewife was stabbed and tortured allegedly by her dowry greedy husband in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila. The victim, Farzana Akther Happy, 28, daughter of Yakub Ali of Debpur village in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila, is now undergoing treatment at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital with severe stab injuries all over her body including face. Meanwhile, victim's brother filed a case with Madhabpur Police Station accusing his sister's husband Shafiqul Islam Babu, 33. According to the case statement, Babu asked Happy to bring Tk 2 lakh from her father. As she refused to do so, Babu first beat her mercilessly with stick and then stabbed her indiscriminately with a kitchen knife and fled the scene.<sup>37</sup>

On February 4, 2020, a housewife was tortured and burnt with petrol's fire by her husband and in-laws being failed to provide dowry in Amin Bazar Begun Bari area of Savar. The victim was identified as Rekha Akter, 22, wife of Badsah Mia in the area. The victim's brother-in-law filed a case in this regard.<sup>38</sup>

On March 2, 2020, a housewife was brutally tortured and her head shaved off allegedly by her dowry-greedy husband and in-laws in Dinajpur town. The victim was identified as Sohagi, 19, daughter of Abu Sayem of Songloni village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila. Police arrested four people including Sohagi's husband Jony Islam Sumon, 23, of Daptaripara area under Dinajpur municipality, Sumon's father Hafiqul Islam, mother Jabina Begum and sister Sumi Begumin in this connection.<sup>39</sup>

On April 25, 2020, a housewife was beaten to death over dowry demand by her dowry greedy husband in Pachbibi upazila of Jaipurhat district. The deceased was identified as Bithi Akter wife of Mustafizur Rahamn, a resident of Bakila village in the upazila.<sup>40</sup>

On June 5, 2020, the wife of a Rapid Action Battalion officer filed a case against him on charge of torture on her for dowry and abortion. The victim was identified as Israt Rahman, wife of assistant superintendent of police Nazmus Shakib now posted at the RAB headquarters. Israt's lawyer said that Nazmus Shakib had been torturing Israt for dowry since their marriage three years

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/housewife-stabbed-dowry-1853209>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/128066/%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%81>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/womans-head-shaved-dowry-1875139>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/301600/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%81>

ago and was now forcing her to have an abortion. The victim's family said they have already paid a good amount in the past three years and now the officer is demanding more.<sup>41</sup>

On June 7, 2020, a assistant teacher of primary sschool beat up wife, including his father-in-law over dowry demand in Gowripur Upazila of Mymensingh. The victim was identified as Afhroja Akter Rekha daughter of Abdul Kuddus from Ramkrisnapur village in the upazila. On the other hand, the accused husband Mahbub Alam was son of Abdur Rahim of Pajuhati village in the same upazila. The victim lodged a complaint with Gowripur police station in this regard.<sup>42</sup>

On June 27, 2020, a housewife shared her story along with six photos showing several wounds on her body on social media from Dhaka. The victim Sumaiya Hassan, wife of Jahid Hassan Ontor, said that her husband, father-in-law, and mother-in-law were continuously torturing her while demanding dowry. Her in-laws encouraged her husband, to beat her by saying that she would give them money if he did so, she added.<sup>43</sup>

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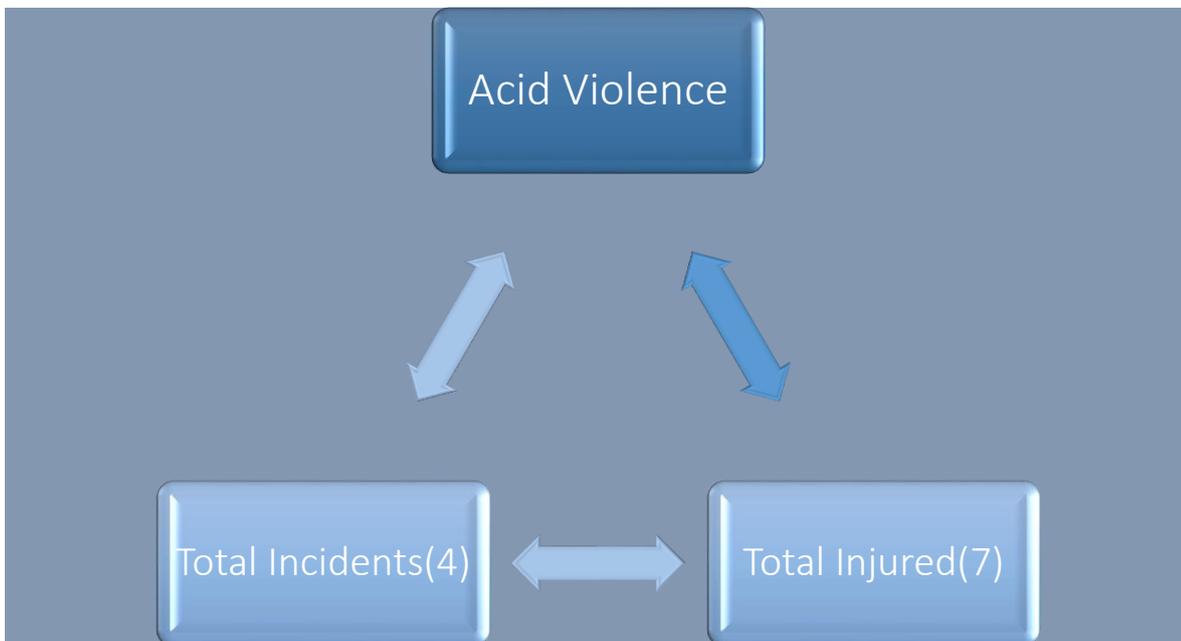
<sup>41</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/107701/rab-officer-sued-for-torturing-wife-for-dowry>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/313454/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8C>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2020/06/27/woman-tortured-by-husband-in-laws-takes-to-social-media-for-justice>

## Acid Violence

Acid violence is considered one of the barbaric form of violence against women in Bangladesh. It is also called acid throwing or vitriolage. Acid violence defined as the act of throwing of strong corrosives on face and body of a person with the intention of causing permanent disfiguration, intense pain, scarring and sometimes blindness.<sup>44</sup> Section 4 of the Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2002 prescribes death penalty or rigorous imprisonment for life including a fine of taka not more than one lakh if anybody causes death or makes an attempt to cause death to any child or woman by using any burning substance. Despite having stringent legal provisions, women are repeatedly facing acid violence. The perpetrators are mostly men and adolescent boys and the majority of the victims are women and many of them are girls and young females. The law made it punishable offense to use, buy, produce, sell, import or transport acid without a license. However, a majority of the acid attacks on women occurs due to the refusal of the proposal of love, marriage or sex scandals or over land disputes.



**Figure 13: Attacks Using Acid on Women and Girls**

*The chart shows the scenario of using acid on women and girls. About 04 incidents of acid violence were reported from January to June '20, of them almost 07 women/girls were injured after throwing acid.*

**Some important cases are cited below:** On March 27, 2020, a husband threw acid on his sleeping wife and burnt her face in Sirajganj's Raiganj Upazila. The victim was identified as Shanu Khatun,

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.banglajol.info/index.php/IMCJ/article/view/17744>

21, daughter of Ashraf Ali Paramanik of Amsara village in the upazila. The accused husband Motaleb Hossain, threw acid on his wife's face because of quarrel between them.<sup>45</sup>

On May 25, 2020, mask wearing miscreants burnt a mother and her two daughters with acid while they were sleeping in Keroya village of Lakshmipur's Raipur upazila. The victim were identified as Anowara Begum and her two daughters Sumaiya Akter, 26, and Sumi Akter, 17, in the upazila.<sup>46</sup>

On June 23, 2020, miscreants burnt the faces and bodies of four members of the same family, including a two-month-old baby, with acid thrown in Bagmara Upazila of Rajshahi. The injured were identified as Afzal Hossain, 38, his wife Jasmine Akhter, 32, daughter Molly Khatun, 8, and two-month-old daughter Afsana Khatun of Shuvodanga union's Bigacha village in the Upazila.<sup>47</sup>

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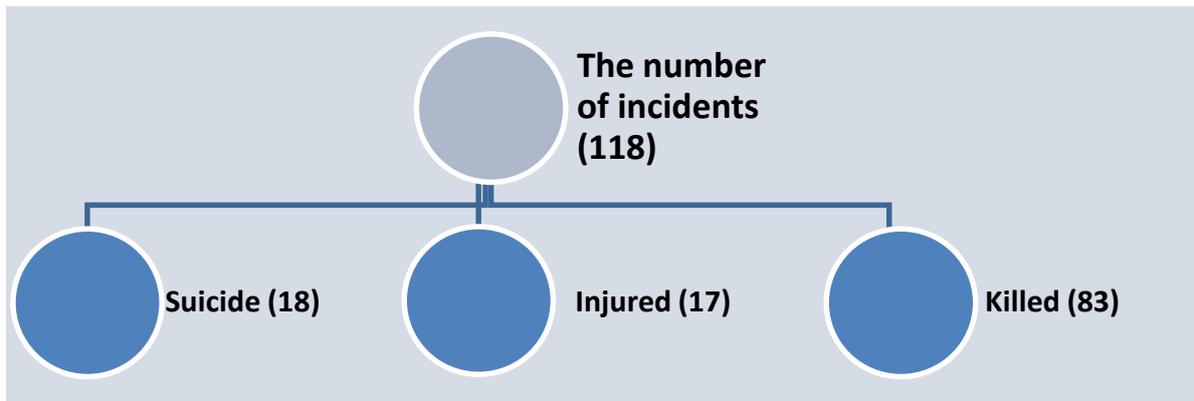
<sup>45</sup> <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=219347&cat=1/%E0%A6%98%E0%A7%81>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/310021/%E0%A6%88>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1664606/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%81>

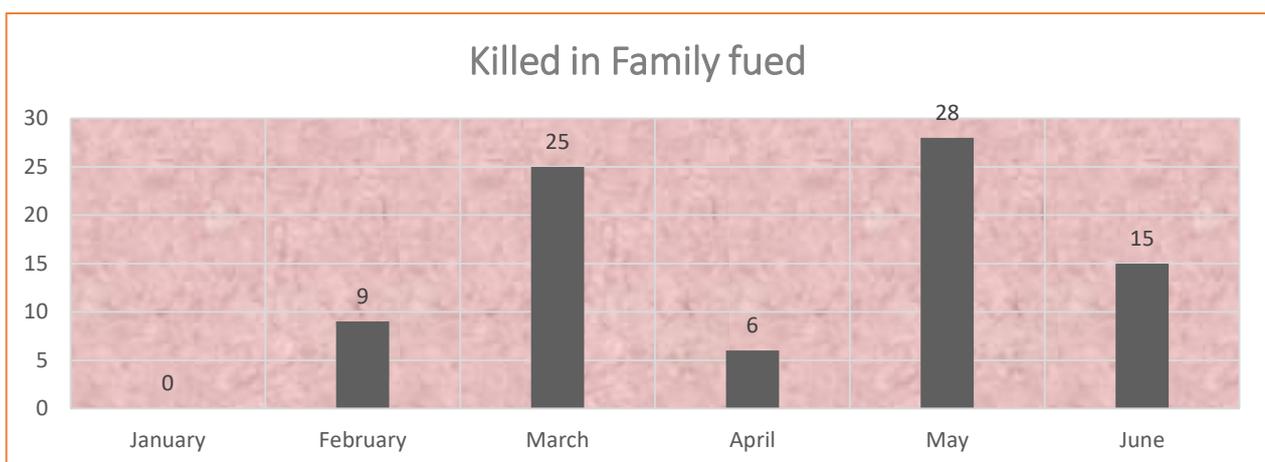
## Family Feud Related Violence

Family feud related violence in Bangladesh has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic, like many other countries of the world. Family feud is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, murder, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one against another partner. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of family feud is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other. However, some data on family feud related violence are given below from January to June'20:



**Figure 14 : Statistics of family feud**

The above chart demonstrates the worse situation of women in Bangladesh. According to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) about 83 women were killed in the family feud, 17 females have been injured and 18 females committed suicide in a total of 118 incidents of the family feud from January to June '20.



**Figure 15 : Monthly Comparison of killing from January to June'20**

**Some important incidents are stated below:** On January 23, 2020, a cruel husband burnt his wife's body with hot curry in Kashinathpur union's Kolagachi village of Pabna's Shathia upazila.

The victim was identified as Masura Khatun daughter of Sonai Mulla of Shibrambari Kollanpur village and the accused husband was Roton Ali, resident of Kolagachi village in the upazila.<sup>48</sup>

On February 23, 2020, a cruel husband burnt and killed his pregnant wife after puring Keroshing in old Hatkhola area of Jhenaidah city. The deceased was identified as Munni Akter alias Pinki, 25, daughter of late Munna Mia, of old Hatkhola area of Jhenaidah city. The accused husband are Sohrab Hossain alias Showrob, son of Abdus Sattar of the same area. Kasol Begum, the dead's mother filed case with Jhenaidah sadar potice station in this regard.<sup>49</sup>

On March 7, 2020, a housewife was strangled to death by her husband for asking to remarry her along with Cabin and Denmahor in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila. The dead was identified as Shurovi Aktar, 19, daughter of Delower Hossain, in Charmunduria area of Madaripur Sadar upazila. The accused husband Jashim Uddin son of Jalil Uddin, was a resident of Padda Kormajtola in Pathorghata Thana of Barguna.<sup>50</sup>

On April 15, 2020, police arrested a cruel husband on charge of trying to kill his wife by beating and stabbing with sharp weapon in Chaddogram upazila of Comilla. The victim was identified as Shamima wife Abul Khayer of Shuvhopur union's Shathbaria village in the upazila. The victim filed a case against her husband and in- law with Chaddogram police station in this regard.<sup>51</sup>

On May 20, 2020, a Jubo league lesder allegedly beat up his wife to death in Gupalpur union's Betuabag village under Begumganj upazila of Noyakhali district. The dead was identified as Nazma Akter daughter of Eshak Mia in the upazila..The dead's father said after marriage, they knew Momin was drug addicted and he used to beat and torture his daughter almost every night being drug addicted.<sup>52</sup>

On June 13, 2020, police detained a man for allegedly killing his wife in Sadar upazila of Panchagarh. The detained Delwar Hossain, 35, is a resident of Domni Sorkarpara area in the upazila. Police sources said Delwar often beat up his wife Josna Begum over trifling matter. As a sequel, Delwar hit on Josna's head following an altercation, and later, She died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangla-diganta/474384/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%81>

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/482550/%E0%A6%9D%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=216213&cat=9>

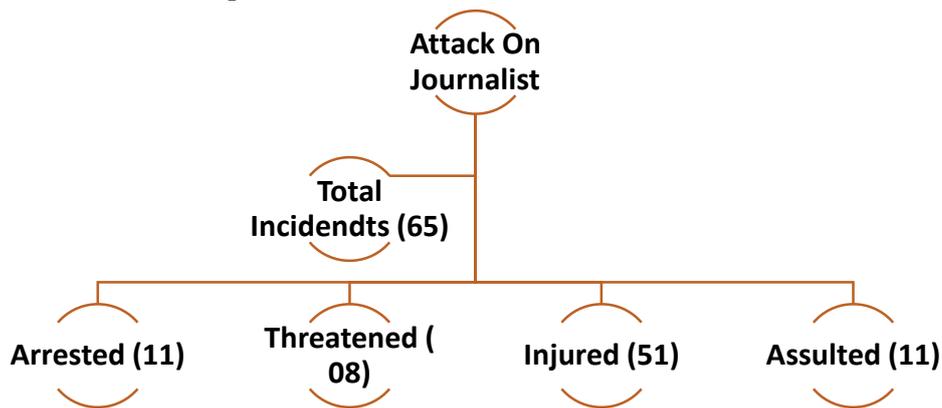
<sup>51</sup> <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=222158&cat=9/%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8C>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/news/308857/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=260463>

# Attack on Journalists

Bangladesh has a track record of media suppression. In the 2020 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Bangladesh ranked 151 out of 180 countries.<sup>54</sup> Bangladeshi editor and photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol disappearance is symbolic of Bangladesh's ongoing crackdown on free speech during covid-19 pandemic, under a draconian "fake news" law called the Digital Security Act. Many journalists including editors have been charged with various offenses under the act. On the other hand, UDHR states in Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.<sup>55</sup> Regarding this fact, threats, physical attacks, and other forms of harassment are very common for journalists in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, individuals are not always able to disparage the government publicly without the fear of reprisal. Moreover, 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. The numbers of attacks on journalists, according to Human Rights Support Society report is increasing day by day. The chart below provides information about the total number of attack on a journalist.



**Figure 16 : Attack on Journalists**

*The graph illustrates frightful situation of journalists in Bangladesh. According to HRSS's documented statistics, around 51 Journalists were injured, nearly 08 threatened, whereas 11 arrested and 11 assaulted in nearly 65 incidents during the first six months of 2020.*

**Selected cases are as described below:** On January 22, 2020, the authority of Comilla University temporarily expelled two students including a Chhatra League leader for assaulting a journalist on the Campus. The victim was identified as Tibro Banik Sajib, the university correspondent of Daily Business Bangladesh and a member of the university journalist council. The accused students are Chhatra League's university unit deputy social service secretary Muntasir Hridoy, expelled for three months and Raju Ahmed expelled for two months. Both of the expelled students are third-year students of the accounting and information system department of the university.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.dw.com/en/press-freedom-what-happened-to-missing-bangladeshi-journalist-shafiqul-kajol/a-53199732>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/200110423/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82>

On February 01, 2020, journalists were attacked, confined and intimidated at some centres while many of them were obstructed from discharging their professional duties during covering the Dhaka city election at various polling centres. Among the injured Mostafizur Rahman Sumon, a crime reporter at online news portal Agami News, was attacked while taking photos of a gathering of Awami League activists in Rayerbazar area in the morning. Sheikh Hasan, Chief Photographer of Bangla daily Kaler Kantha were attacked by the followers of AL-backed councillor candidate of ward no. 4 Md Jahangir Hossain at Madartek School. Meanwhile, AL supporters snatched the mobile phone of Faisal Ahmed, a reporter at The Daily Star, as he was taking a video when AL supporters were forcing voters to vote for boat at Ideal School and College in Rampura. Meanwhile, two journalists were assaulted at Faridabad madrasa polling centre in old Dhaka allegedly by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League. The journalists are Mahabub Momtaji, staff reporter at Bangladesh Pratidin and Nurul Amin, staff reporter at The Businesses Standard.<sup>57</sup>

On February 09, 2020, a journalist was critically injured by a notorious terrorist and drug lord Masum's supporter Parvez Ahmed Foyez gang in Nabiganj Upazila of Sylhet. The victim was identified as Kibria Chowdhury, correspondent of Noyadigonto and joint secretary of Nabiganj press club. A case has been filed in this regard.<sup>58</sup>

On March 14, 2020, a journalist was sentenced to one-year imprisonment by a mobile court under a taskforce of Kurigram district administration after he was arrested from his home on charges of possessing narcotics. The victim was identified as Ariful Islam, 36, Kurigram correspondent of Bangla Tribune. Ariful's wife Mansarina Mitu, however, said her husband was innocent and that he became "a victim of vindictiveness by the district's deputy commissioner for writing against irregularities and corruption". Meanwhile, the victim's colleagues said online newspaper Bangla Tribune ran a news report in May last year, written by Ariful, saying that the DC re-excavated and renovated a pond in Kurigram, using money from government funds and donations from individuals. Later, the DC named the pond "Sultana Sorobor" after herself. The report made the DC angry, said Ariful's colleagues, adding that Ariful also wrote several other reports on alleged irregularities by the district administration.<sup>59</sup>

On March 31, 2020, a son of Upazila Awami League leader carried out medieval atrocities on a journalist and lived this incident on facebook in Borhanuddin Upazila of Bhola. The injured journalist was identified as Sagor Chowdhury. The accused Nabil was a son of Upazila Awami

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<sup>57</sup> HRSS research desk & <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/dhaka-city-elections-2020-journos-beaten-1862263>

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=212211&cat=9>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/journo-taken-home-dead-night-jailed-1880836>

League president and UP chairman Jasim Uddin Haider. The injured journalist said Burhan Uddin police station didn't file case in this incident.<sup>60</sup>

On April 1, 2020, a UP chairman and his supporter beat up three journalists for spreading news against irregularities and corruption, in the distribution of government relief among the low income people in Auskandi union of Nabigang Upazila. The victim were identified as Shah Sultan Ahmed, correspondent of Dainik Protidin and ex- president of Nabigang Journalist Forum, Muzibur Rahman, correspondent of Dainik Amar Sangbad and Bulbul Ahmed, correspondent of Channel S. The main accused Muhibur Rahman Harun is Auskandi UP chairman. According to locals, UP Chairman Muhibur Rahman Harun has recently distributed government relief. But even though he was supposed to give 10 kg of rice, he gave 5 kg.<sup>61</sup>

On May 06, 2020, five photojournalists were assaulted by traders in Saheb Bazar area of Rajshahi city. The injured journalists are Shahidul Islam Dukhu of the daily Prothom Alo, Ajam Khan of daily Jugantor, Mukul Hossain of daily Rajshahi Sangabad, Milon Sheikh of daily Barta and Mostafiz Roky of Banglar Janapad. Witnesses said Rose Cosmetics Center shop owner Nuruzzaman and his employees physically assaulted a photojournalist when he was taking pictures of the shops opened at 12 noon violating the ongoing government ban.<sup>62</sup>

On June 26, 2020, an editor of a national daily and a reporter were sued under Digital Security Act for publishing a conspiracy and false news against prime minister Sheikh Hasina's political adviser HT Imam, Awami League and National parliament in capital city. The accused were identified as AMM Bahauddin, editor of daily Inqilab and Stalin Sarker reporter of daily Inqilab. The case was filed with Gulshan police station by lawyer Soumitra Sarkar.<sup>63</sup>

On June 28, 2020, a journalist and human rights activist was victim of terrorist attack at Nagerchala Bazar in Sakhipur Upazila of Tangail district. The victim was identified as Abul Hasham Durjoy, Tangail district correspondent of Palli TV and vice chairman of a Human Rights organization's central committee named unity for human rights of Bangladesh foundation. The victim claims that he has recently lodged a written complaint with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Liberation War Affairs about the non-freedom fighter Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail) constituency MP Adv. Jubayerul Islam VP Jubayer and Upazila Awami League president, Kutub Uddin. For these reasons, he was attacked by terrorists.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=219924&cat=9/%E0%A6%AD%E0%A7%8B>

<sup>61</sup> <https://shubhoprotidin24.com/?p=9443>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=255897>

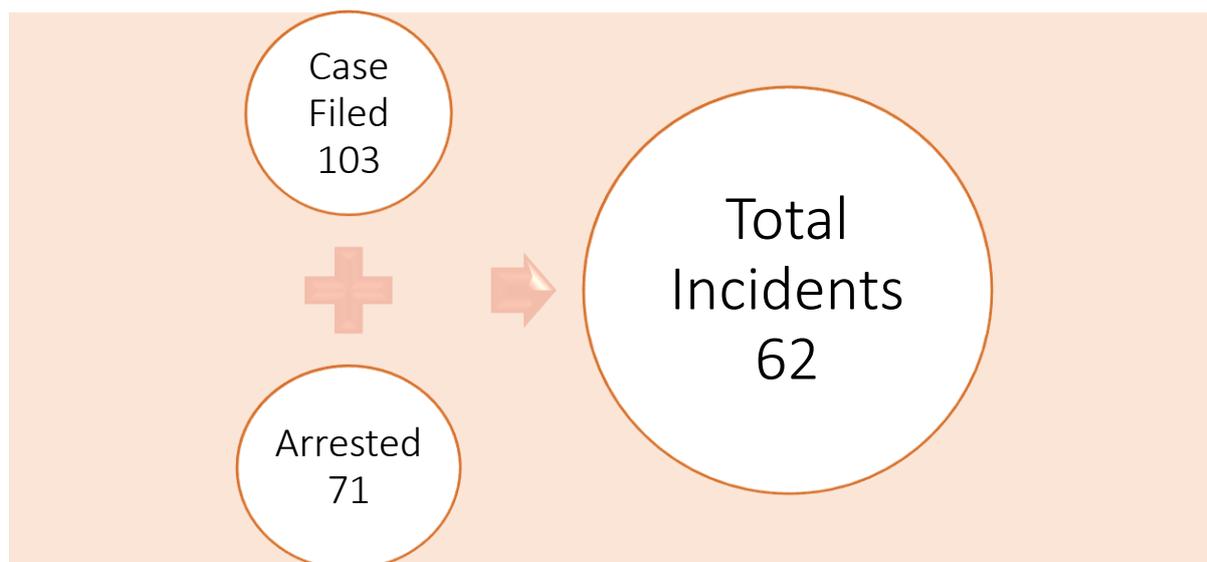
<sup>21</sup> <https://www.samakal.com/bangladesh/article/200628419/%E0%A6%B8>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.dailyinqilab.com/article/303359/%E0%A6%B8>

## Digital Security Act:

Freedom of expression has been limited in Bangladesh, as the government passed the “**Digital Security Act**”, designed to monitor all electronic and social media communications. This new law was supposed to address abusive provisions in the Information and Communication Technology Act. Meanwhile, hundreds continued to face charges for their social media commentary by members of the law enforcement agencies. Human rights groups remained under pressure, due to restrictions on accessing foreign funding. Journalists reported threats and intimidation to prevent any criticism of the government. The ordinary people have lost all hope and are reluctant to speak their minds due to the culture of impunity, lack of accountability and an ineffective justice delivery mechanism. This issues are the major concerns for freedom of opinion and expression in Bangladesh.

*According to the Human Rights Support Society’s information in the first six months of 2020, a total of 103 cases were filed and 71 arrested under “Digital Security Act 2018” from different areas of the country in a total of 62 incidents.*



**Figure 17: Statistics of Arrest in Digital Security Act**

**Some important cases are stated below:** On January 10, 2020, police arrested a Baul singer on charge of hurting muslim sentiment in a case filed under Digital Security Act, from Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh. The accused was identified as Baul singer Shariat Sarker, 40, a resident of Jamurki area in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail. Mohammad Faridul Islam filed the case with Mirzapur Police Station on January 9, accusing Shariat of making comments during a performance that hurt his “religious sentiment”.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-arrested-baul-be-produced-court-today-1853758>

On February 4, 2020, two cases were filed against a Baul singer for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through making derogatory comments on Allah in a music programme at Dholartengor village in Kalihati of Tangail. The accused was identified as Baul singer Rita Dewan. Md Imrul Hasan, a member of Dhaka Lawyers' Association, filed a case with the cyber tribunal while another case was filed with Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Court by actor and director Russel.<sup>66</sup>

On February 12, 2020, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested a publisher in a case filed under Digital Security Act in November, 2018, from his publication office in capital's Fokirapul area. The arrestee was identified as Nur Mohammad owner of Gaurdian publication. Mahmudul Hasan, deputy managing director of Guardian Publications, said a team of RAB along with two white cloth men detained Nur Mohammad and ask us why he didn't take bail? We say, he (Nur Mohammad) didn't know about the case.<sup>67</sup>

On March 10, 2020, Manabzamin Editor-in-Chief and 31 others had been sued under the Digital Security Act on charge of "publishing false news and circulating it on social media". Saifuzzaman Shikhor, a ruling party lawmaker from Magura-1, filed the case with Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Police Station. Among the accused are **Matiur Rahman Chowdhury**, Al Amin, a staff reporter of the daily who wrote the story, and some who shared the news on social media.<sup>68</sup>

On March 22, 2020, Police arrested a physician, for allegedly spreading rumour about coronavirus through an audio clip circulated via Facebook messenger in Chattogram. The arrested doctor Iftekhar Mohammed Adnan, was a health secretary of Chattogram metropolitan Jubo Dal and a resident of Pachlaish thana's Mayor Goli.<sup>69</sup>

On April 20, 2020, two editors were sued under Digital Security Act for curculating news against embezzlement and irregularities of government relief for the unemployed and miserable people in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon district. The accused were identified as Towfiq Imroz Khalidi, chief editor of BD News 24.Com and Mohiuddin, acting editor of Jago News 24. Com. A Swechchhasebak League leader filed a complaint under Digital Security Act with Baliadanga police station. The Bangladesh federal unit of journalist (BFUJ) and Dhaka unit of journalist (DUJ) leaders expressed deep concern and resentment in this regard.<sup>70</sup>

On May 2, 2020, three journalists were sent to jail by a Narsingdi court in a case filed under the Digital Security Act over quoting a police official without contacting him. The journalists are

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<sup>66</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/98582/another-baul-singer-sued>

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/miscellaneous/479903/%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BF>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/manabzamin-editor-sued-under-digital-security-act-with-31-others-1878913>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/news/291663/%E0%A6%9A>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/496816/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%81>

Ramjan Ali Pramanik, 45, news editor of local daily Dainik Grameen Darpon, Shanto Banik, 35, a reporter of the newspaper, and Khandaker Shahin, 32, publisher and editor of web portal "Narsingdi Pratidin". Inspector Johirul Alam, in-charge of Ghorashal Police Outpost, filed the case with Palash Police Station.<sup>71</sup>

On May 6, 2020, eleven people, including a cartoonist, journalists and writer, were sued under the Digital Security Act, on charge of "spreading rumours ,unrest and chaos among the people" at Ramna Police Station. The accused were identified as Cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore, writer Mushtaq Ahmed, Swedish-Bangladeshi journalist Tasneem Khalil, blogger Asif Mohiuddin, Didarul Islam, a member of politico-civic organisation called Rashtrachinta, Minhaj Mannan Emon, managing director of BLE securities and shareholder-director of Dhaka Stock Exchange, Shahed Alom, Sayem Julkernain, AsikImran, Phil Sumakher and Shopon Owahid. Abu Bakar Siddique, Rab-3 Assistant Director filed a case with the Ramna Police Station.<sup>72</sup>

On June 15, 2020, police arrested a lecturer of Begum Rokeya University for her derogatory comment on Facebook over the death of Awami league leader and former health and home minister Mohammad Nasim from her house at Sarderpara in Rangpur. The accused was identified as Sirajam Murina, Bangla department teacher of Begum Rokeya University. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, registrar of the university filed a case against her under the Digital Security Act. Abu Monnaf Al Kibria Tusher, president of the university unit Chhatra League, also submitted a written complaint to police with similar allegations, shortly before the arrest. Tajhat Police Station inspector (investigation) Rabiul Islam said that Sirajam Munira wrote that the country had become free of Mohammad Nasim following his death, but she deleted the post soon and begged apology. Meanwhile, many of her followers took screenshot of the post. However, many other teachers and academicians, criticised over the government action against the teacher.<sup>73</sup>

On June 18, 2020, police arrested a teacher of Rajshahi University on allegation of criticising former health minister and ruling Awami League presidium member Mohammed Nasim on Facebook from campus quarters. The arrestee was identified as Kazi Zahidur Rahman, an associate professor of computer science and engineer department of Rajshahi University and assistant provost of Mother Box Hall. He was also information and research secretary of Narail district Awami League. Tapos Kumar Saha, a lawyer, filed the case with Motihar Police Station under Sections 25, 29 and 31 of the DSA.<sup>74</sup>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/digital-security-act-3-journos-sent-jail-1898920>

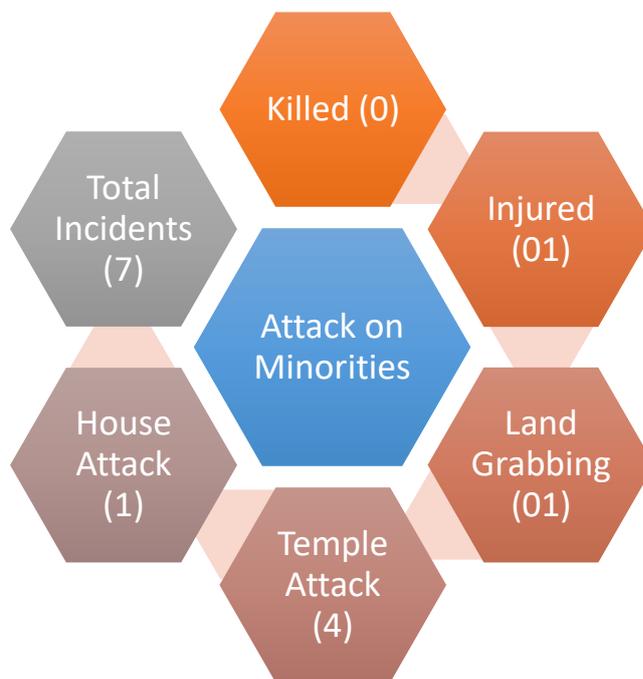
<sup>72</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1654926/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A7%80>

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/108391/rokeya-university-teacher-held-over-fb-post>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/bangla/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%80>

## Attack on Minorities

Like other countries ethnic and religious minorities are the most persecuted and oppressed group in Bangladesh. The seeds of violence against the minority communities are inherent within the structures of the modern system which has turned human beings into **vote banks and vote constituencies**. Lack of accountability and transparency of the state machinery only makes the situation worse. Article 27 of The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language”. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights mentions explicitly in article 2 (2) that “the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”



**Figure 18: Statistics of Attacks on Minority**

*The above graph provides information about the incidences of attacks on minorities. It shows that at least 04 temples were partially or fully destroyed, 01 land grabbing and 11 minority member were injured in 07 incidents.*

**Important cases are stated below:** On January 30, 2020, miscreants damaged idols of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of wisdom, at Chatalpar Degree College in Nasirnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria district. “Some Hindu students of the college returned home after completing the decoration of the Saraswati idol around 11:00 pm. Next morning, I and my colleague Narendra

Sutradhar saw the idol broken as we were preparing to perform the puja,” said Suranjit Das, a teacher of Chatalpar Degree College. Legal action will be taken in this regard after investigation,” said Ranjan Kumar, in-charge of Chatalpar police outpost.<sup>75</sup>

On February 13, 2020, a minority family accused of encroaching their land and beating up critically by Upazila Chhatra League president and his men in Koira upazila of Khulna. The accused was identified as Shafikul Islam Tinku, son of Haider Ali and president of Koira upazila Chhatra League. The victim was identified as Brozen Roptan,45, wife Moina Roptan, daughter Shumi and brother Chapol Roptan in the upazila.<sup>76</sup>

On May 20, 2020, unidentified miscreants burnt down allegedly the music room of a Baul in Derai upazila of Sunamgang. The victim was identified as Baul Ranesh Thakur a notable disciple of Baul Shah Abdul Karim. "Hearing people shouting, I woke up and saw that the room was burning. I believe someone torched it as I used to sing in the room. But I have no idea who would do this," Ranesh said.<sup>77</sup>

On June 27, 2020, police arrested a UP chairman for allegedly breaking down a temple's wall under construction in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur district. The accused was identified as Aftabuzzaman Aftab, chairman of Alombiditor union. Kanak Chandra, general secretary of the temple management committee, filed a case against the chairman in this incident.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/two-saraswati-idols-defaced-bbaria-dinajpur-1861612>

<sup>76</sup> <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=212830&cat=9/%E0%A6%95>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/baul-raneshs-music-room-torched-1904254>

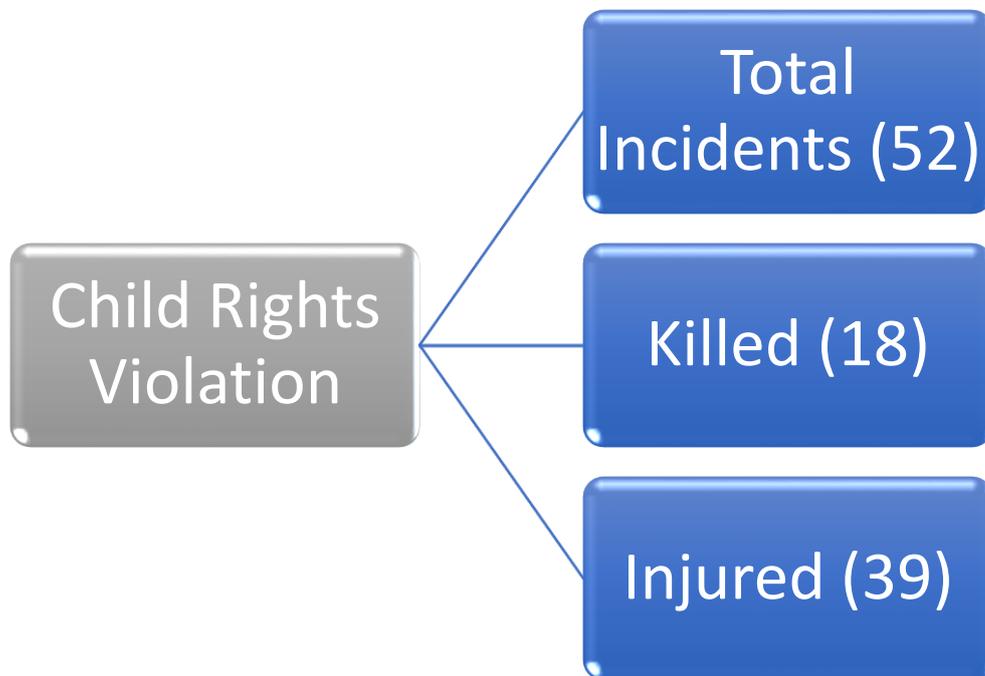
<sup>78</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/320626/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%82>

# Violence against Children

Bangladesh is a developing and densely populated country in southern Asia with about half of the populations are under the age of 18, who are considered as children and more than 20 million of them are under the age of 5. The children have basic rights to education, balanced diet, health and nutrition, protection, participation, recreation, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Unfortunately, violation of these child rights is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh, because most of the people are not conscious of the rights of children. The rights of children are violated in Bangladesh, due to poverty, ignorance, lack of social consciousness, and discrimination.

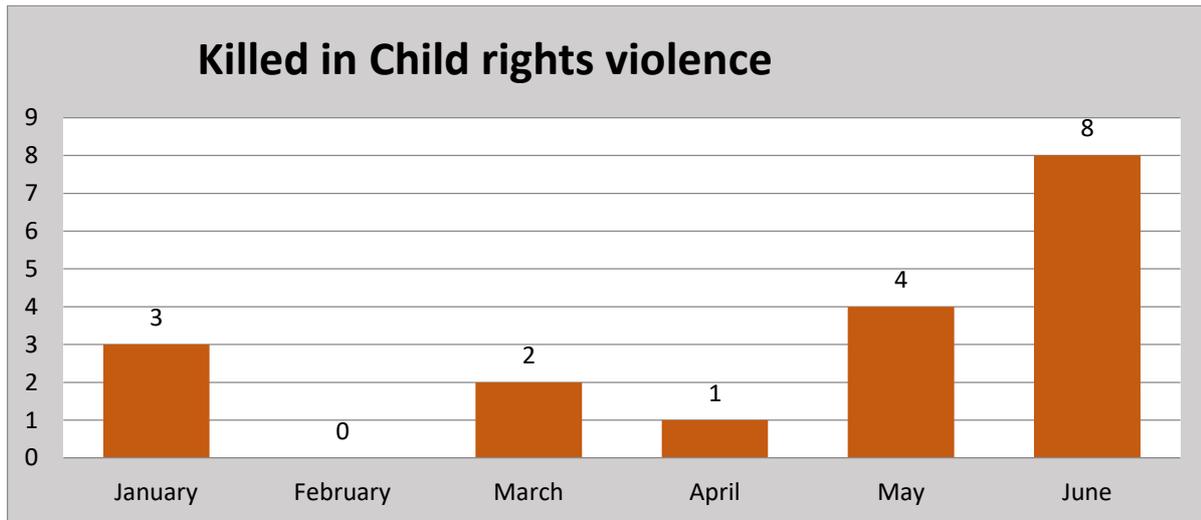
Article 2(1) of The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that: “States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.”

Bangladesh has ratified many international conventions in order to protect children from all kinds of violence and torture and to ensure their rights. But, the laws and policies regarding child rights such as child labor, physical punishment, violence against girls, sexual exploitation, imprisonment of children with adults, trafficking, child marriage, and other aspects of child protection are routinely violated in Bangladesh. In most cases, people are not aware of the laws and take this violence as a common matter.



**Figure 19 : Statistics of Violence against Children**

*According to human rights support society’s report, the graph presented above regarding violence against children from January to June’20 shows that 18 children were killed and 39 children’s have been critically injured in a total of 52 incidents.*



**Figure 20 : Monthly Comparison of Child killing from January to June'20**

The column graph illustrates the real scenario of child killing in Bangladesh during the first six months of 2020. The number of killing was high in January then dropped to lowest point in February. Thereafter the number of child killing fluctuated in the following months and climbing rapidly to a peak of 08 in June.

**Some important cases are stated below:** On January 14, 2020, police arrested two men for tying a schoolboy to a tree and torturing him throughout the night on charges of theft at Dhumaitari village in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha. The arrestees were identified as Rana Miah and Abbas Miah, resident of the same village. The victim eight-grader schoolboy was accused of stealing a cow of one Raja Mia, but the boy rejected the allegation.<sup>79</sup>

On January 21, 2020, a teenager boy was tortured by tying to an electricity pole after wearing shoelaces and brooms around his neck on charge of theft in Laxmipur sadar upazila. The victim was identified as Nirob Hossen son of late Kiron Hossen in the upazila. Shopkeeper Rashad, Kamal butcher and others including Ismail Hossen butcher tortured the teenager with the accusation of theft. The victim’s grandmother filed a case against 12 persons in this regard.<sup>80</sup>

On February 5, 2020, it was accused of torturing two teenage boys by tying them to chain against the officers and staffs of Sheikh Rasel child training and rehabilitation center in Rupertoli area of Barishal city. The victim were identified as Zisan and Hazrat of the rehabilitation center. One of the victims Hazrat said, “Zisan had fled for fear of being beaten by a older brother of center named Mehedi. And this older brother tied them to a chain at the direction of Sir. Basudeb Debnath,

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/96519/schoolboy-tortured-two-held>

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=209230&cat=9>

project deputy director of the child training and rehabilitation center, said if any of the staffs misbehave with the children, the higher authorities will be informed.<sup>81</sup>

On March 22, 2020, a schoolboy was allegedly beaten and stripped naked by tying to a tree in Aralia village of Baluakandi union in Munshiganj's Gazaria upazila. The victim was identified as a seven grade student at a local Mohammadia pre-cadet and lower-secondary school and son of Ahsan Ullah. The accused hahparan, Shahajul, Sabbir, Ibrahim are the children of influential families in the area.<sup>82</sup>

On April 17, 2020, a homemaker was kicked out of the house after being tortured and injured by a feminist leader on charge of stains in the fridge in capital's Uttara area. The accused Saida Sultana Ani was a student of BUET and also a former leader of Chhatra Union. She also speech about women's rights and violence against women in different television talk show. The tortured girl described the inhumane incident on social media and filed a complaint with Uttara west thana.<sup>83</sup>

On May 01, 2020, a video of teenager, tortured being tied to a tree, has gone viral on social media at Kerani para in Birgang upazila of Dinajpur. The victim was identified as Md. Mihaz, 15, son of Saidul Islam and a student of Faridpur, Gorosthan madrasah of Dinazpur Sadara. The victim's father lodged a case against Abu Bakar Siddiq, 45, his wife Mrs. Romena Begum, 40 and brother in law Md. Asraful Islam, 25, with Birgang police station.<sup>84</sup>

On June 8, 2020, a madrasah boy was beaten to death for picking mangoes from tree in Katalipara upazila of Gopalganj district. The deceased was identified as Amanullah Sheikh, 18, an eighth grader at Kushla Alia madrasah and son of Zakir Hossain Sheikh, a resident of Chourkhuli village in the upazila. Amanullah was allegedly beaten by his cousins Babu Sheikh and Delwar Sheikh for the allegation of picking mangoes from tree.<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/wholecountry/128240/%E0%A6%AC>

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/more-news/490088/%E0%A6%97>

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.jagonews24.com/national/news/574683>

<sup>84</sup> <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/200521382/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%81>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1661522/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8B>

## Border Killing

As Bangladeshi people are killed in border area by BSF & BGP, border dispute is considered prime issue of conflict among Bangladesh, India and Myanmar. Bangladesh has a 4156 kilometer common border with India and a 271 kilometer border with Myanmar. Bangladesh always tries to maintain good relationship with them. Nevertheless, human rights violations are regularly taking place in the border area of Bangladesh at the instance of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). We have repeatedly noticed that India has been violating treaties, and killing, torturing, abducting, beating, stoning etc. to the people for trivial matters near the border area, which is a clear violation of international law and human rights.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding and related treaties signed between India and Bangladesh, if citizens of the two countries illegally cross the border, it would be considered trespass and as per law, those persons should be handed over to the civilian authority.<sup>86</sup> Human rights defenders blamed impunity, lack of accountability, and soft approach from the Bangladesh side are the main reasons for the continuation of those killings.

### Border Violence By BSF

Number of  
Incidents  
(34)

Killed(24)

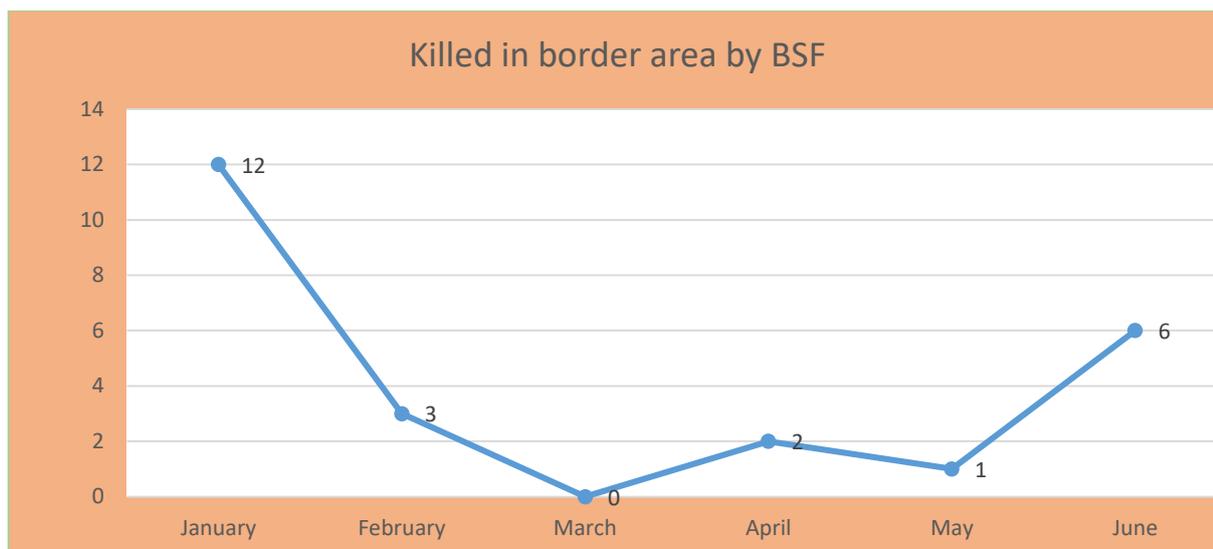
Injured(06)

Arrested(12)

**Figure 21: Violence in Border by BSF between January and June '20**

The given bar chart provides data on the border killings and injuries. According to HRSS between January and June '20, roughly 24 Bangladeshis citizen were killed, 06 injured, and 12 persons were arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) in a total of 34 incidents.

<sup>86</sup> <http://odhikar.org/violations-in-the-border-area> .



**Figure 22: Monthly comparison of killing in border area from January to June'20**

**Some important cases are mentioned below:** On January 11, 2020, a Bangladeshi youth was beaten to death allegedly by members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Burimari border in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat. The deceased, Abu Sayeed, 26, is son of Benzir Rahman of Bamondol area in the upazila. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), locals and victim's family members said BSF beat Sayeed suspecting him as a smuggler while he was working on a tobacco field near the border and left his body near an electric pole.<sup>87</sup>

On January 23, 2020, Indian's Border Security Force (BSF) reportedly killed three Bangladeshi nationals, said to be cattle traders along the Porsha border in Naogaon district. The dead in were identified as Md Mofizul, 35, of Chak Bishnupur village; Ronjit Kumar, 32, of Bijli village; and Kamal Hossain, 34, of Patapukur in Porsha upazila. Shahinur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Porsha Police Station, told that the three cattle traders were gunned down when they, along with some others, were bringing in cattle from India.<sup>88</sup>

On February 1, 2020, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) detained five Bangladeshis along Khorchaka border in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi. They are Rajon Hossain (25); Sohel (27); Kabil, (25); Shahin (35); and Shafiqul (30). Paba's Haripur Union Parishad Chairman Rejab Al Hasan Monjil said the detainees went to graze their cows in the border area, when BSF took them away. All of them are residents of Gamabona village in Paba upazila. One of them was tortured by the BSF members, he said quoting locals.<sup>89</sup>

On February 7, 2020, a Bangladeshi man died at a hospital in Cooch Behar in India who was tortured by members of Border Security Force (BSF) of India along Durgapur border of Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat district. The deceased was identified as Delwar Hossain, 28, son of

<sup>87</sup> <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/207805/Bangladeshi-beaten-dead-by-India%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98BSF%E2%80%99>

<sup>88</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/bsf-kills-4-bangladeshis-noagaon-jashore-1858090>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/bsf-detains-five-bangladeshis-rajshahi-border-1861954>

Khaybar Ali of the area. "BSF detained Delwar from Durgapur on 20 January and beat him mercilessly," said Lt Col SM Towhidul Alam, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion-15.<sup>90</sup>

On April 19, 2020, a Bangladeshi SSC examinee was shot dead allegedly by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Rotonibary Proadhanpara border of Panchagarh Sadar upazila. The victim Shimon Roy, 17, son of Paresh Chandra Roy, was a student of Panchagarh Government Technical School and College. The dead's father said he and his son were erecting fence around their jute field near 762 no: piler of international border around 3:00 pm. Suddenly, a BSF man entered inside Bangladesh territory and asked them to leave the place. As they protested saying that they were on their land, one of the BSF man shot the boy in his abdomen, father added.<sup>91</sup>

On April 24, 2020, five Bangladeshi nationals, including a member of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), were injured in a shotgun firing of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Patgram upazila's Burimari land port of Lalmonirhat. The injured were identified as BGB member Khokon Mia of Burimari BGB camp, Md. Rashidul Islam, 35, Md. Araf Hosan, 18, Azizul Islam, 60, Firoza Begum, 65 of Burimari area.<sup>92</sup>

On May 23, 2020, an unarmed Bangladesh national was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Jaflong border at Gowainghat upazila in Sylhet district. The deceased was identified as Kala Mia, 37, a stone quarry worker and a resident of Nayabosti area of the upazila.<sup>93</sup>

On June 10, 2020, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot to dead a Bangladeshi and dumped in the Ichhamati river along Agradhulot border in Sharsha upazila of Jashore. The deceased was identified as Shariful Islam, 25, son of late Ishak Ali, a resident of Ramgang village in the upazila. The victim's wife Modina Khatun and uncle UnusAli said, Shariful was shot dead by BSF of Jawdanga camp as he went the frontier to bring cattle.<sup>94</sup>

On June 29, 2020, a Bangladeshi youth, who was shot and wounded allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila, died at a hospital in Sylhet. The deceased was identified as Jewel Miah, 29, son of Afzal Miah of Badaghat area in Tahirpur upazila. Jewel Miah died while collecting the timber and tree trunks from the Jadukata river during flash flood.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/209089/Tortured-by-BSF-Lalmonirhat-youth-dies-in-Indian>

<sup>91</sup> <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=222867&cat=1/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82>

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1652684/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE>

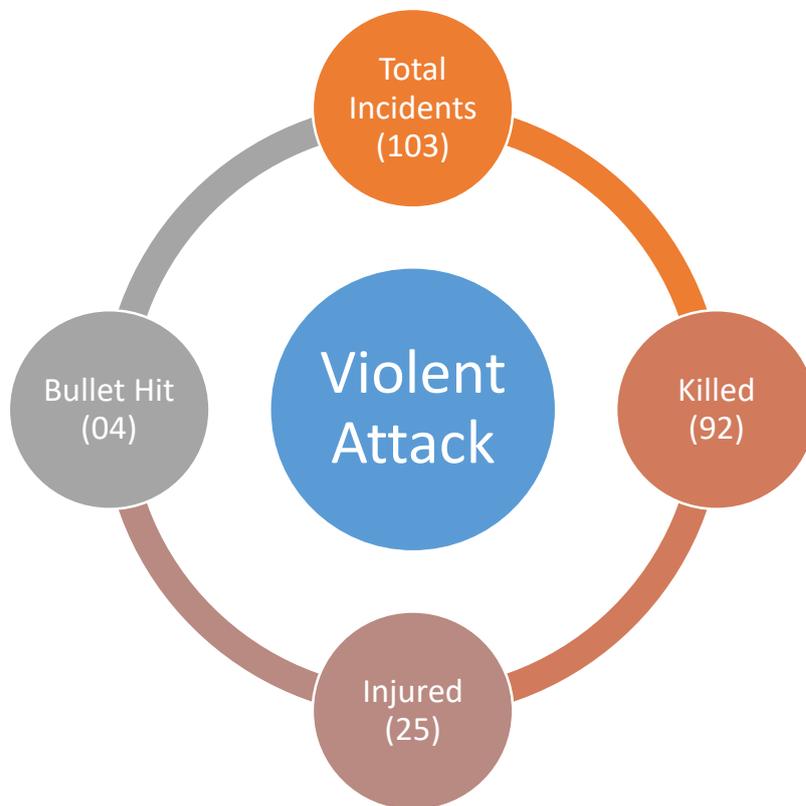
<sup>93</sup> <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=257597>

<sup>94</sup> <https://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=230589&cat=9>

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/injured-bsf-firing-youth-dies-1922197>

## Violent Attack

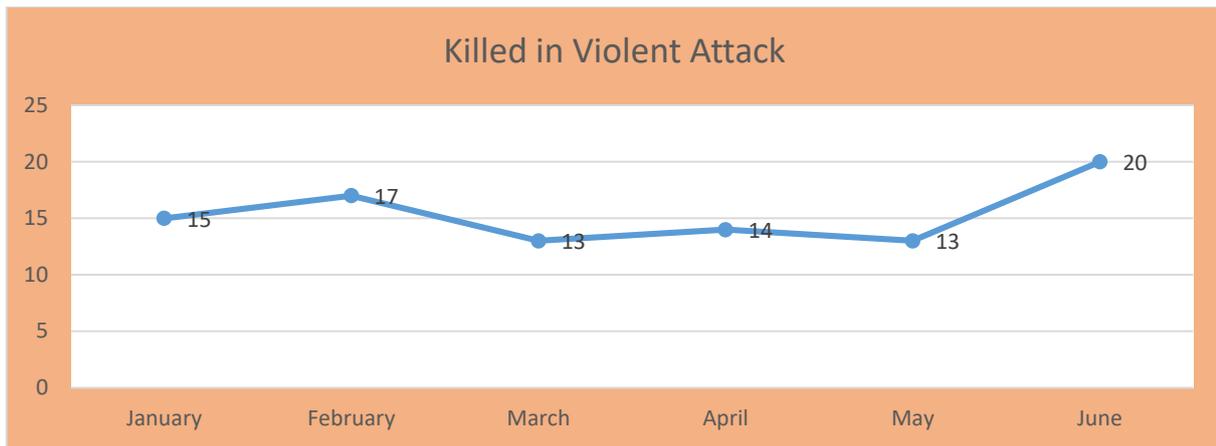
The term “Violent Attack” refers to, an unlawful physical attack upon another; an attempt or offer to do violence to another, with or without battery, as by holding a stone or club in a threatening manner.<sup>96</sup> Violent attacks against civilians are a rising concern in Bangladesh. Recently, Bangladesh has experienced a wave of violent attack against civilian people, politician, atheists, secular bloggers, academicians, gay rights activists, foreigners, and members of religious minorities in several times. Article 3 of UDHR states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. So the state is obliged to protect its citizens from all kinds of criminal attack in accordance with human rights and international law. ‘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. HRSS tried to document all kinds of violent attack took place from January to June'20.



**Figure23: Statistics of Violent Attacks**

*The above chart shows information about the violent attacks on armless civilians during the first six months of 2020. Statistics shows, a total of 103 incidences of violent attack happened and 92 were killed in those attacks, 25 seriously injured and around 04 were hit by bullet.*

<sup>96</sup><https://www.dictionary.com/browse/assault#:~:text=noun,onslaught%3A%20an%20assault%20on%20tradition.&text=an%20unlawful%20physical%20attack%20upon,club%20in%20a%20threatening%20manner.>



**Figure 24 : killed in Violent Attack from January to June'20**

*Some of the incidences have been stated below:* On January 10, 2020, a Union Parishad (UP) member was stabbed to death by some miscreants at Mandarbaria in Jhenaidah’s Maheshpur upazila. The deceased Swapan Hossain, 30, was a member of No 7 ward and son of Amzad Ali of the upazila. A group of miscreants stabbed Swapan indiscriminately over previous enmity when he was standing in front of his house, leaving him dead on the spot, said the police source. Milton Mia, brother of Swapan, was slightly injured while he was trying to save his brother.<sup>97</sup>

On January 22, 2020, a woman was strangled to death with a rope by some unidentified miscreants at her house in Manikganj district. The deceased was Mahmuda Begum, 45, wife of Zahirul Islam, resident of South Sewta area. The couple lived in the second floor of their five-story building. Jyoti Akter, 20, daughter of dead, said that three unidentified persons kept her confined to an adjoining room after tying hands, legs, covering eyes and mouth and she heard her mother screaming before the miscreants went away.<sup>98</sup>

On February 15, 2020, Miscreants stabbed allegedly a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader to death at Shubdebpur village in Bochaganj upazila of Dinajpur. The deceased, Majnur Rahman, 32, son Obaidur Rahman of Dhontola village, was general secretary of Bochaganj upazila unit JCD. Shafiqul Islam, general secretary of Bochaganj upazila unit BNP, said unidentified criminals waylaid Majnur while he was crossing Shubdebpur village and stabbed him indiscriminately with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured, he added.<sup>99</sup>

On February 22, 2020, a group of unidentified criminals shot dead a local Awami League leader and left five others critically injured in Bandarban Sadar upazila. The dead, Ba Chaw Nu Marma, 50, was president of ward unit AL in Jamchhari area of the upazila. The injured are Mong Kyaw Ching Marma, La Mong Ching Marma, Redase Marma, Ushwe Thoai Marma, and Kya Prue Marma. Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bandarban Sadar Police Station, said a group of

<sup>97</sup> <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/207740/UP-member-stabbed-dead-in-Jhenaidah>

<sup>98</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/97438/miscreants-kill-woman-confining-daughter>

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/278609/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6BE>

unidentified criminals opened fire at a tea stall in Jamchhari Bazar area around 7:00 pm, leaving Ba Chaw dead on the spot and several other injured.<sup>100</sup>

On March 13, 2020, some miscreants shot dead a school teacher in Kosba Majail union of Pansa upazila in Rajbari district. The deceased was identified as Asadul Bari Khan, 42, assistant teacher of Shengram High School of Kustia's Khoksha upazila and son of late Khorshed Khan, in the upazila. Family member claimed that support of Jaz Ali Biswash killed Asadul because of previous enmity.<sup>101</sup>

On April 28, 2020, two activists of United People's Democratic Front were shot dead by miscreants at Madhyabanchara in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari. The deceased were identified as Sudibya Chakma, 35, son of Birendra Mohon Chakma and Angel Chakma alias Babu, 37, son of Sushil Chakma of the Upazila. A group of armed miscreants attacked the house of Dilip Chakma where Sudibya and Angel were playing chess, said the police source.<sup>102</sup>

On May 19, 2020, some unidentified miscreants stabbed to death with knife a Awami League leader in Sahmahmudpur union of Chadpur sadar upazila. The dead was identified as Azizur Rahman Bhutro Khan, former assistant president of Sahmahmudpur union's Awami League.<sup>103</sup>

On June 14, 2020, miscreants hacked to death a Jubo League leader in a broad daylight in Akashtara area of Bogura. The deceased was identified as Abu Taleb 32, general secretary of Jubo League Subgram Bandor committee and son of Abdus Samad, in the area. Police and relatives couldn't say the cause of the murder.<sup>104</sup>

On June 19, 2020, a man was shot dead by a group of miscreants at Kazipara in Sadar upazila of Rajbari. The victim is Shaheed Sheikh, 55, son of late Ibrahim Sheikh, of Kholabaria village in the upazila's Pachuria union. Quoting witnesses, Pachuria Union Parishad Chairman Kazi Alamgir said three men were involved in the murder. "The trio interrupted Shaheed's road with a motorbike in Kazipara area when he was returning from Khankanapur Bazar. The miscreants shot him there and fled the scene." Shaheed died on the spot, he added.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/al-leader-shot-dead-bandarban-1871827>

<sup>101</sup> <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=217303&cat=9/-/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE>

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/105308/two-updf-men-shot-dead-in-khagrachhari>

<sup>103</sup> <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/200523577/%E0%A6%86>

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/315880/%E0%A6%AC>

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/man-shot-dead-criminals-rajbari-1917377>

## Political Violence

Political violence has become a permanent feature in the political landscape of the country, since the revival of the parliamentary system in 1991. At present, all major political parties have their own-armed cadres whose prime responsibility is to strengthen their ‘political base’ and to counter the cadres of rival group. As a result, politics has become more dependent on muscle power. And a new breed of ‘politicians’ with money and armed support is increasingly replacing old-fashioned politicians. Political violence emerges from a deep-rooted political culture of intolerance, antagonism, revenge and arrogance.<sup>106</sup> The main causes of political violence are underlying differences and rifts along the lines of ideological, political, religious and institutional dimensions. Political violence results in distrust, institutionalisation of violence as a legitimate means of political expression and socialisation of violence-politics for the new generation of party loyalists. However, 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.

Political Violence			
<b>Number of Incidents</b> (88)	<b>Injured</b> (964)	<b>Bullet hit</b> (12)	<b>Killed</b> (16)

**Figure 25: Statistics of Political Violence**

*Figures presented above explains the situation of political violence in Bangladesh from January to June'20. According to HRSS, a total of 16 people were killed, 12 bullet hit, and almost 964 people were injured due to clash over political interests in a total of 88 incidents. Most of the political violence occurred among the groups of the ruling party over political dominance or tender.*

<sup>106</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/097152310801600106>



**Figure 26: Monthly Comparison of Killing from January to June'20**

**Selected cases are as follows:** On January 22, 2020, BCL handed over four students to the police through the hall administration after beating them with stamps and rods on suspicion of being involved in the politics of Chhatra Shibir from Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall of Dhaka University. The victims were identified as Sanwar Hossain, a third-year student of the political science department, Md Mukim Chowdhury, a second-year student of the tourism and hospitality management department, Minhaj Uddin, a student of the Islamic History and Culture Department of the same year and Afsar Uddin, a student of Arabic Department of the university. The 12-student organization alliance led by Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) vice-president (VP) Nurul Haque has called for a demonstration on campus to protest the incident.<sup>107</sup>

On January 26, 2020, at least 15 people, including two journalists were injured in a clash between supporters of BNP mayor candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation and those of an Awami League-backed councillor candidate during campaigning in the capital's Wari. Among the injured at least 10 people took first aid at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. BNP's DSCC mayor candidate Ishraque Hossain blamed the ruling party activists for the incident and said that the attack was made to ruin the election atmosphere. But AL supporters alleged that their rivals were chanting provocative slogans against them, leading to the clash.<sup>108</sup>

On January 30, 2020, at least 8 supporters, including a central leader of BNP were injured by opponent attack during election campaigning in the capital's Tezgaon bus stand area. Among the injured, BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, were admitted to Islami Bank

<sup>107</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1635676/%E0%A6%A2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF>

<sup>108</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/al-bnp-men-clash-during-campaign-1859554>

central hospital. Besides, Golam Sarwar, Saiful Islam Firoz, Morshed Alam of Swechhasebak Dal, Raju Ahmed of Chhatra Dal and several others were slightly injured.<sup>109</sup>

On February 20, 2020, a man was stabbed to death and his brother injured allegedly by rival groups over a previous feud at Buzrukbari village in Bogura Sadar upazila .The dead, Apel Mahmud, 30, was from Palashbari village in the upazila and an activist of Gokul union BNP unit, his brother Al Mamun, 40, was also an activist of the same unit. Police source said about 10 people, led by one Mizanur Rahman, swooped on the two brothers with sharp weapons as he (Mizanur) had a long-standing rivalry with Mamun, who is accused of killing a follower of Mizanur in 2018.<sup>110</sup>

On February 27, 2020, at least five students of Dhaka college were allegedly injured in a clash with the students of City college of capital city. The injured were identified as Tanvir, Nihal, Safwan, Rahat and Sowat all of them are student of eleventh grade.<sup>111</sup>

On March 5, 2020, at least 20 people were injured when two groups of Chittagong University's Bangladesh Chhatra League unit clashed over establishing supremacy at AF Rahman Hall.The fight had begun between Md Abdullah, member of "Bijoy group" a BCL faction comprised allegedly of followers of Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, and Arman member of "Concord group" a faction comprised allegedly of followers of Chattogram City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, at the Alaol Hall over sharing room no.238. Police and witnesses said the dormitory and its adjacent area had turned into "a battleground" during the clash and many rooms were vandalised and valuables looted.<sup>112</sup>

On March 20, 2020, two Chhatra League leader were allegedly injured by rival group over establishing supremacy in front of district hospital of Pirojpur district. The injured were identified as general secretary of 8 No: word Chhatra league of the municipality, Md. Rahel Hawlader,24, son of Sahjahan Hawlader from Krisnonagar area and former member of sadar upazila chhatra league, Md. Sajib Sheik, 25, son of Mojibor Sheik of the same area.<sup>113</sup>

On April 2, 2020, former Jubo league leader was reportedly killed by a rival group over catching fish in the pond in Chanandi union's Saddam Bazar under Hatia upazila of Noakhali district. The

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<sup>109</sup> <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/first-page/476629/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D>

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/man-stabbed-death-bogura-1870816>

<sup>111</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1642053/%E0%A6%A2%E0%A6%BE>

<sup>112</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/20-injured-cu-bcl-factions-clash-1876834>

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/291481/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF>

deceased was identified as Chanandi union's former general secretary of Jubo league, Mahbubur Rahman, 35, son of Abul Khayer in the upazila.<sup>114</sup>

On May 11, 2020, two Awami League activists were killed and three others injured in an attack by members of a rival group of the ruling party in Jhenaidah's Shailakupa upazila. The dead were identified as Obhi Hossain, 25, and his cousin Laltu Hossain, 45, from Dhuliapara village in the same upazila. Locals said there was a long-standing rivalry between two groups of local AL men, led by Mokbul Muhuri and Abdur Rashid Khan, in Dhuliapara village over establishing supremacy.<sup>115</sup>

On June 15, 2020, a former Bangladesh Chhatra League leader was stabbed to death by the rival group of BCL over long-standing enmity at Handial area of Chatmohar upazila in Pabna. The deceased was identified as Habibur Rahman Habib, 21, son of Abdur Razzak, of village Handial Nikeripara of Chatmohar upazila, and also the former organizing secretary of Handial union unit of BCL. Chairman of Handial union Parishad Md Jakir Hossain said that Habib had long-standing enmity with Russel Ahmed, secretary of the union unit of BCL, over establishing supremacy in the area, that might be the reason behind the murder.<sup>116</sup>

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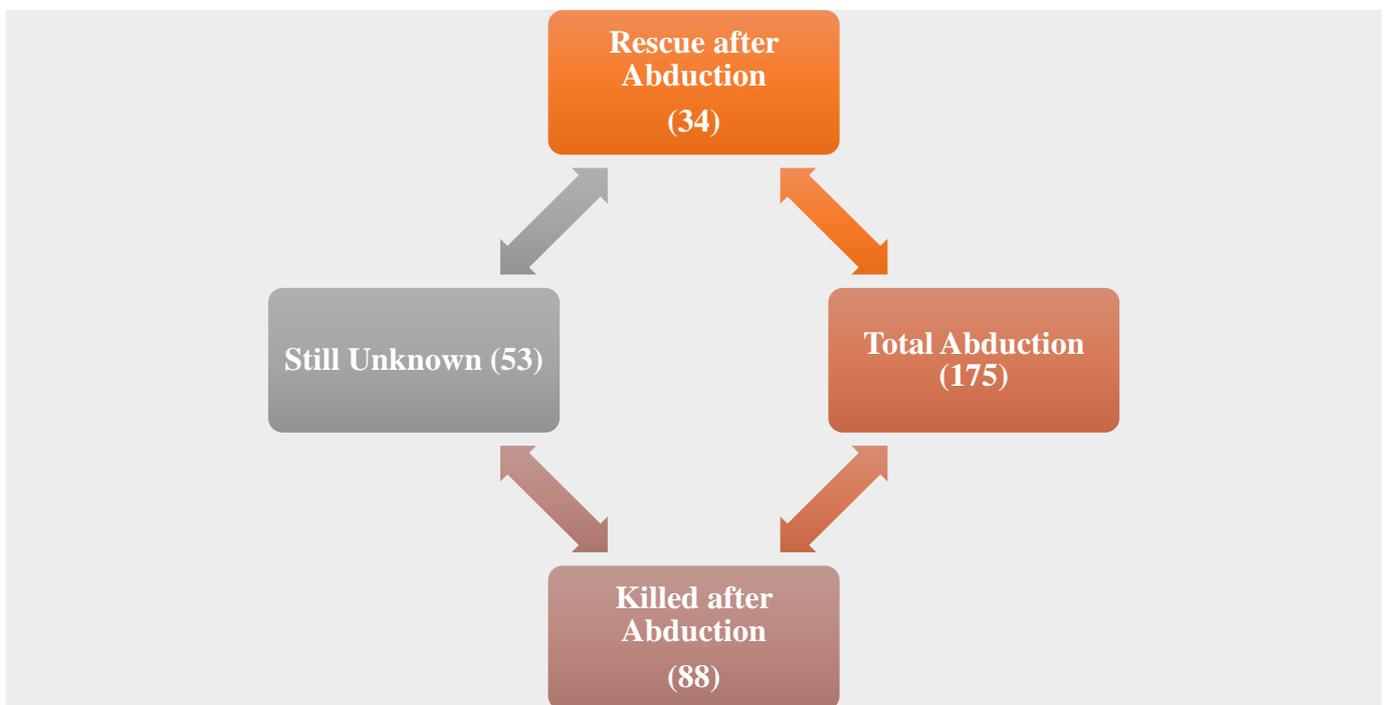
<sup>114</sup><https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1648581/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF>

<sup>115</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/two-al-men-killed-infighting-1901776>

<sup>116</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/108464/bcl-leader-stabbed-dead-by-rivals-in-pabna>

# Abduction

According to the Penal Code Provision, section 362, 1860, a person is said to commit the offense of abduction when by force compels or by any deceitful means induces any other person to go from one place to another. Abduction means the crime of taking away of a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.<sup>117</sup> Now a days, abduction, kidnapping, killing after the abduction, etc. are common occurrences in Bangladesh. Moreover, the number of abduction has increased in our country which has taken much attention of the security agendas, the human rights organizations and the government as well but no strong policies have ever been formulated to address this inhumane practice.<sup>118</sup> Nobody could confidently predict his safe return after going outside of his resident. However, HRSS report demonstrates that, the occurrences of abduction have increased all over the country during the first six months of 2020. The graph below provides information about the total number of abduction.

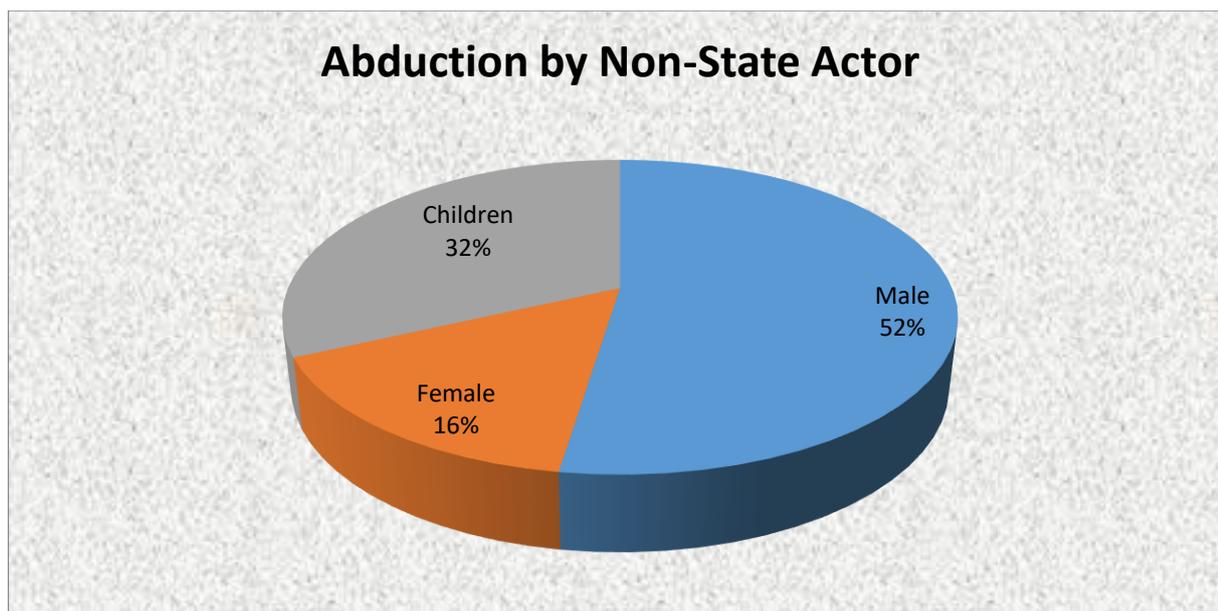


**Figure 27: Statistics of Abduction between January and June'20**

The above chart describes information about abduction cases between January and June'20 in Bangladesh. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), a total of 175 people were abducted and among them 88 killed after the abduction, 53 still unknown and nearly 34 people were rescued by law enforcement agencies after the abduction.

<sup>117</sup> <https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/abduction>

<sup>118</sup> [https://www.academia.edu/32028842/Abduction\\_in\\_Bangladesh\\_.docx](https://www.academia.edu/32028842/Abduction_in_Bangladesh_.docx)



### 28: Categories of abduction

The above pie chart illustrates information about abduction. According to information gathered by HRSS from January to June '20, a total of 175 people were abducted in the different area of the country, among them approximately 87 male, roughly 26 female and almost 53 were children.

**Selected cases are as follows:** On January 4, 2020, a missing minor boy was hacked to death at Paikerdol in Puraton Para area of Natore Sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Hasan, 10, son of farmer Mozaffar Hossain of the area. The boy went out of home on December 29 and since then he remained missing, said police and family members.<sup>119</sup>

On January 10, 2020, police recovered the body of a college girl from a paddy field, three days after she had gone missing, in Shyamnagar upazila of Shatkhira. The deceased was identified as Mariam Khatun, 21, daughter of Abdul Kader, of Vurulia union's Bollovpur village in the upazila. Victim's father filed a General Diary with local Police Station in this regard.<sup>120</sup>

On January 15, 2020, a lawyer of Supreme Court had gone missing from Capital's Rampura area. The victim was identified as Shahidul Haque, Lawyer of Supreme court. The victim's wife Fatema Begum, filed General Diary (GD) with Khilgaon Police station and told that her husband left the house at around 1.15 pm on 14 January. Later he withdrew money from Rampura Banasree Pubali Bank and proceeded to the Judge's Court. After that, he did not return home.<sup>121</sup>

<sup>119</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/missing-boy-hacked-dead-1849693>

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1633673/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF>

<sup>121</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1634560/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81>

On February 19, 2020, an armed gang abducted a union parishad (UP) member from his house in Rangamati's Kaptai upazila. The victim is Mong Ching Marma, 45, a member of ward no 5 under Raikhali union and also a former activist of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS). Mong's wife Sama U Marma said a group of 10 to 12 armed men entered their house by breaking open the door and picked up her husband.<sup>122</sup>

On February 26, 2020, a teenager girl remained missing for 6 days in Shyllet district. The victim was identified as Akhi Akter, daughter of Sumi Akter, in Jhalopara school road of south Surma. The missing girl's mother filed General Diary(GD) with South Surma police station in this regard. She also said, I received a call from a unknown number (01301314767). After that, I contacted the number again and again but it was switch off.<sup>123</sup>

On March 13, 2020, a couple was wandering in search of their missing boy in the streets of Sylhet city. The victim was identified as Saiful Islam Musa, 12 , son of Anser Ali and Shipa Begum in Gobindra Nagor village of Chatok Upazila. The boy went missing on March 6, 2020, on the way to Islami Institute of Chatok Upazila's Tazpur village. The victim father filed a General Dairy in this regard.<sup>124</sup>

On March 14, 2020, police recovered a half-milted body of a girl, 15 days after she went missing from Kaligang Upazila of Jhenaidha district. The deceased was identified as Keya Khatun, daughter of Samaul Haque Samad from Trilochonpur village and eight grade student of Balia Banga Dakhil madrasah. Family members claim Keya Khatun was killed in a cold blood.<sup>125</sup>

On March 30, 2020, a student of Dhaka University had gone missing after coming home on Corona pandemic's holiday from his village in Manikgang. The victim was identified as Saiful Isalm, 26, son of Tahazuddin and student of Social Science dept: of DU. The victim causin Ahidul Isalm said, "Saiful found missing from his house suddenly on 27<sup>th</sup> March around 10. pm after that his phone found switch off".<sup>126</sup>

On April 25, 2020, police recovered dead body of a child from pond, 1 day after he went missing from Sakhipur Upazila of Tangail district. The deceased Suson, 11, was a son of Annas Ali from Upazila's Gorbari village and third grade student of Gorbari Govt: primary school. Kakrajan UP

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<sup>122</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/rangamati-member-abducted-1870369>

<sup>123</sup> <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=214688&cat=9>

<sup>124</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/288719/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF>

<sup>125</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/first-page/288729/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF>

<sup>126</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/covid-19/294114/%E0%A6%95>

chairman, Torikul Islam Biddut said, “the deceased parents informed him, someone had killed their child and left him in the pond due to enmity”.<sup>127</sup>

On May 9, 2020, a child was killed after being abducted, due to refusal of paying TK 3 lakh ransom in sadar Upazila of Gazipur district. The deceased child was identified as Sarmin Sultana, 6, daughter of Jahangir Alom, a resident of Nalgaw area of Kapasia Upazila. Police arrested two youths named Mahbub and Rabbi in this incident.<sup>128</sup>

On May 9, 2020, police recovered the body of a one and a-half-year-old girl from a septic tank, four days after her missing in Sadar Upazila of Laxmipur district. The deceased was identified as Rahima Akhter, daughter of Foyez Ahmed Monu, a resident of Purba Rajapur village in the Upazila. Locals said Rahim went missing from her house on May 5. Family members of the deceased lodged a GD with Chandraganj Police Station after they failed to find her on that night at 10.00 pm.<sup>129</sup>

On June 4, 2020, police recovered dead body of a HSC examinee, who was killed for demanding TK 50 lakh ransom, from a Purakhali canal of Ovoinagor Upazila in Jashore. The deceased was identified as Nuruzzaman babu, 20, son of Imran Gazi, a resident of Purakhali village and HSC student of Dhopadi SS college in the Upazila. The deceased father lodged a GD with Ovoinagor police station in this regard.<sup>130</sup>

On June 27, 2020, a garment worker was killed by some unidentified assailants who reportedly kidnapped him from Gona village of Manikganj's Singair Upazila. The deceased is Amir Hossain, alias Lalon Deoan, 38, son of late Harunur Rashid, who was a freedom fighter. Amir worked at Britannia Garments and Packaging Factory in Hemayatpur of Savar. The victim's brother Habib Dewan claimed his brother was picked up by some unknown miscreants in a white microbus around 9:30 pm on 26th June night, after that Amir's body was found at a jute field in Singair in the following morning.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>127</sup> <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/dhaka/497977/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF>

<sup>128</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/305647/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%81>

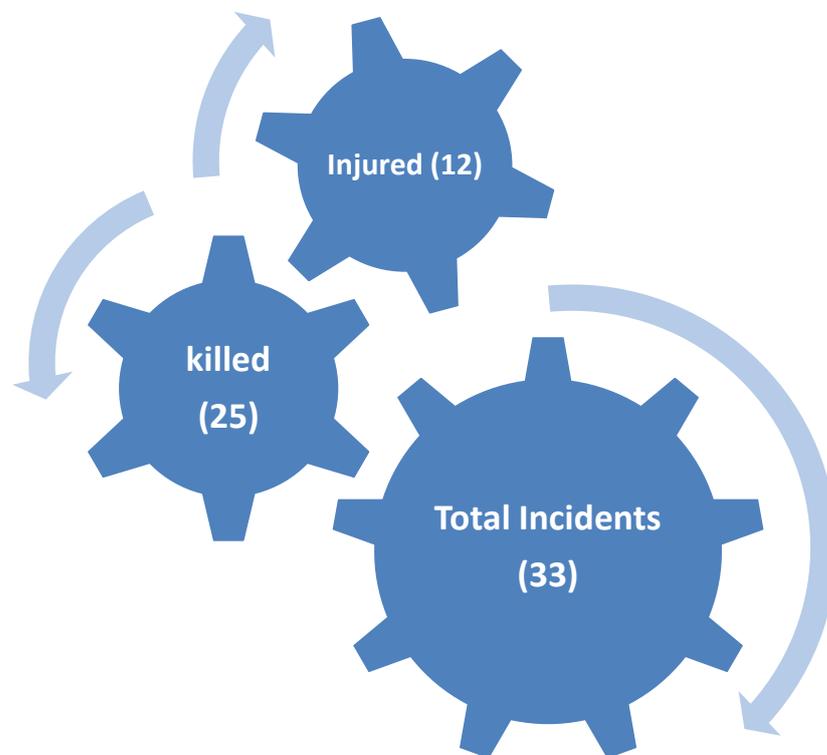
<sup>129</sup> <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=256082>

<sup>130</sup> <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/502559/%E0%A6%AF>

<sup>131</sup> <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/06/27/man-killed-reportedly-by-kidnappers-in-manikganj>

# Public Lynching

Lynching and mob violence have continued in different parts of the country causing serious concerns over the violation of rights and posing a threat to the overall law and order situation.<sup>132</sup> Public lynchings have become a national epidemic in Bangladesh due to the habitually impatient and overenthusiastic character of its citizens. The term is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob in order to punish an alleged transgressor or to intimidate a group. 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. Consequently, the incidents of public lynching have increased in an alarming rate in Bangladesh. However, HRSS believes that everyone has right to be considered as innocent until proven guilty by the court.



**Figure 29: Statistics of Public Lynching from January to June'20**

*The supplied chart describes information about the public lynching cases from January to June 2020. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 12 people were injured and nearly 25 people were reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total of 33 incidents.*

<sup>132</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/121110/lynching-mob-violence-continues-in-bangladesh>



**Figure 30 : Monthly Comparison of Public Lynching**

**Some important cases are given below:** On January 12, 2020, three men were beaten to death by a mob over a suspicion of trying to steal cattle in Prembagh village in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore. Police, unable to identify the victims immediately, said the three were aged between 35 to 45 years. Police and locals, said some people attempted to steal three cows from the house of one Khorshed Ali in Gaidgachhi village of the upazila around 4:00 am when the owner came to see them. After announcing from the mosque the mob chased them and managed to seize them near Mazumdarpara Rail Crossing. Two men were beaten to death on the spot and the other one died on the way to a hospital.<sup>133</sup>

On January 23, 2020, a man was killed and the other injured in a mob beating on suspicion of trying to steal cattle at Chandrapur village in Jhikargachha upazila of Jashore. The deceased were identified as Illias Hossain, 35, son of Fazlur Rahman of Krisnanagar village and the injured Abdul, 30, son of Kalu Mia was a resident of Mollikpur village in the upazila.<sup>134</sup>

On February 12, 2020, two robbers were killed and the other one injured by mob beating on Charge of killing an expatriate youth in Sapergara area of Pakua upazila under Cox's Bazar district. The deceased were identified as Jamal Uddin, 30, son of Alamgir Prokas Nagu Mia, Kawser, 28, son of Najim Uddin Prokas Ledu Mia, both of the resident of Shapergara area in the upazila and the injured Nasir Uddin, 25, son of Nurul Islam, of Barbakia union's Paharia area.<sup>135</sup>

On March 3, 2020, locals handed over a Mawlana (religious scholar) to police after giving him good beating on charge of breaking down two arms of his wife for dowry at Modhochar Baruitari

<sup>133</sup> <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/207883/Three-lynched-on-suspicion-of-stealing-cattle>

<sup>134</sup> <https://www.samakal.com/whole-country/article/200110481/%E0%A6%97>

<sup>135</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/277620/%E0%A6%95>

village in Bhurungomary upazila of Kurigram. The accused was identified as Mawlana A H M Sowaib Hossain Siddique, son of Abdul Hai Mia, of Modhochar Baruitari village in the upazila.<sup>136</sup>

On April 23, 2020, a suspected robber was killed by mob beating in Araiহার upazila of Narayanganj district. The deceased was identified as Juwel, 38, son of Al-Amin, a resident of Brammondi union's Lashkordi village.<sup>137</sup>

On May 7, 2020, a local Awami League leader was beaten to death by some youths following an altercation reportedly over irregularities in relief distribution at Garduara in Hathazari Upazila of Chattogram. The deceased was identified as Bakhtiar Shikder, 48, general secretary of Garduara union unit Awami League and son of Manir Ahmed of the upazila.<sup>138</sup>

On May 22, 2020, mob beat up a doctor for molestating a eight- year old girl at health complex of Basail upazila in Tangail. The accused doctor was identified as Subodh Kumar Das, deputy assistant community medical officer of Basail upazila health complex.<sup>139</sup>

On June 8, 2020, a college student was lynched by a mob shortly after he stabbed a youth to death at village Bajua of Dacope in Khulna. The dead are Nilotpal Raptan, 28, son of Sukumar Raptan and the lynched one is Emran Hossain Emon, 19, son of Badol Sheikh. Both are residents of the village. The police source said Nilotpal and Emran locked in an altercation over grazing a cow and, as a sequel, Emon stormed into Nilotpal's home and stabbed Nilotpal in his belly repeatedly, leaving him to spot dead. Locals caught Emran while he had been fleeing the scene and began beating him later he succumbed at Dacope Upazila Health Complex.<sup>140</sup>

On June 9, 2020, two suspected muggers were killed and the other one injured in a mob lynching in Esan Gopalpur union's Kacharirtek area of Faridpur Sadar Upazila. The deceased were identified as Md. Horon, 35 and Akash, 38, both are the resident of Mollabari road area of Faridpur city. Besides, the injured Khokon Khandoker, 36, was a resident of the city's east Khabaspur area.<sup>141</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/countrynews/284852/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%B0>

<sup>137</sup> <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=223364&cat=1/%E0%A6%86>

<sup>138</sup> <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=255921>

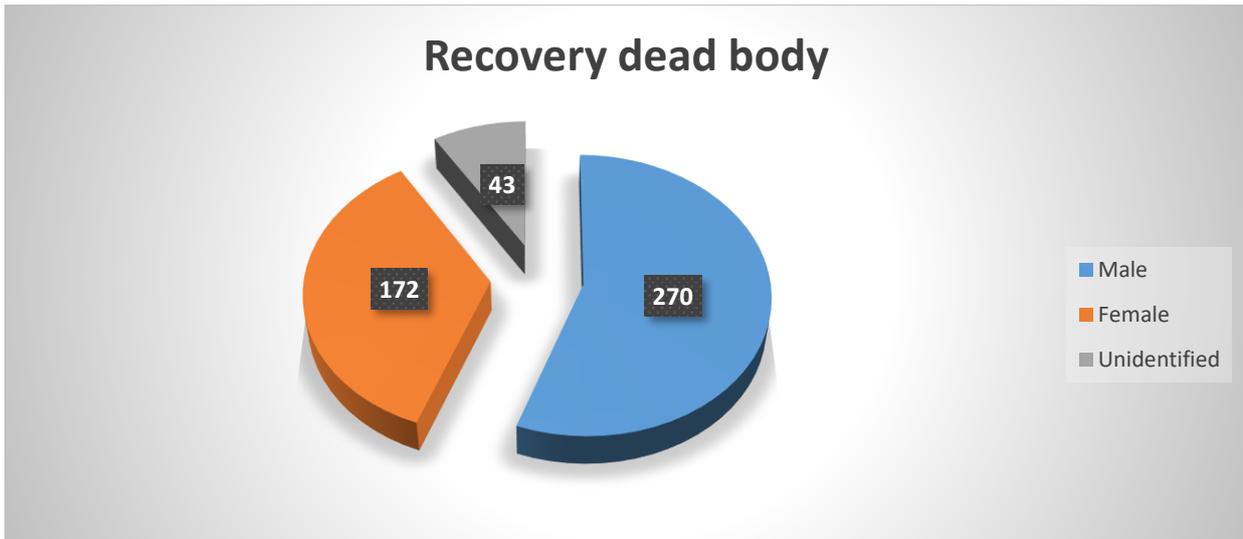
<sup>139</sup> <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=227854&cat=9/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE>

<sup>140</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/108028/youth-lynched-after-killing-another-in-khulna>

<sup>141</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1661701/%E0%A6%9B%E0%A6%BF>

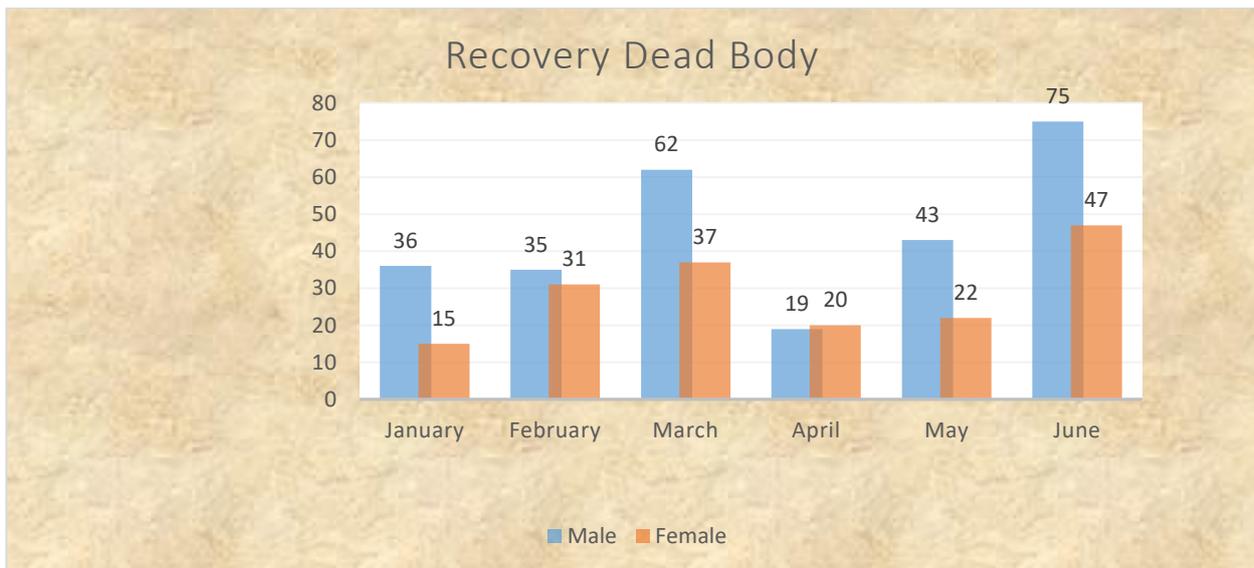
# Recovery of Dead Body

Article 3 of the Universal declaration of human Rights declares that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”.<sup>142</sup> Nevertheless, due to different reasons including worsening of law and order situation, unidentified dead bodies are found at different places of the country. Sadly, most of the perpetrators of these incidents are not identified. On the other hand, sometimes the identification of dead bodies are not found.



**Figure 31 : Categorization of Recovery of Dead Body**

The given pie chart provided information according to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), from January to June '20, a total of 485 dead bodies were found in different areas of the country, among them 270 bodies were male and 172 bodies were female and 43 bodies were unidentified.



**Figure 32: Monthly Statistics of the Number of Dead Bodies Found from January to June' 20**

<sup>142</sup><http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

*Selected cases are as follows:* On January 06, 2020, police recovered dead body of a university student from bamboo bush of Halsha union's Nabinkrisnapur village in Natore sadar upazila. The deceased was identified as Kamrul Islam, 23, son of Afaz Uddin, in the upazila. He was also student of a private university of Natore name Rajshahi Science and Technology. Kamrul's father Afaz Uddin, said his son Kamrul had a love affair with a neighboring college student. He may have been killed because of this relationship.<sup>143</sup>

On January 09, 2020, police recovered a Jubo league (JL) leader's body from Mostafapur area in Sadar Dakkhin Upazila of Cumilla. Deceased Khairul Alam Sadhan, 50, was the son of late Sultan Mahmud of Bhubanghar Village, and the convener of Muradnagar Upazila JL. Family members said Khairul left for Muradnagar from his Banashree residence in Dhaka on January 9, morning with Tk 2 lakh.<sup>144</sup>

On February 07, 2020, police recovered the hanging body of a policewoman from a rented house in Uttara Police Lines area of Mymensingh. The deceased is constable Sweety Akher, 22 wife of constable Hafizur Rahman and a resident of Mohonganj upazila of Netrakana. She was attached to Mymensingh police lines. The police source said she may be suicide because of family feud.<sup>145</sup>

On February 14, 2020, a hanging body of a doctor found in a director's room of Matuil's Friendship Hospital in the capital city. The deceased was identified as Dr. Mobarok Karim, 33, a resident of Bhola's Lalmahon upazila. He was an anesthesiologist at Bardem-2 Hospital in Segunbagicha.<sup>146</sup>

On March 3, 2020, police recovered the body of a young woman from Hotel Holiday Inn of Kuakata in Patuakhali. The deceased was identified as Eshita Begum, 18, wife of Razzak, of Keshabpur in Jashore. Quoting sources at Hotel Holiday Inn, police said that Eshita came to Kuakata with her husband on February 29. On Monday afternoon, Razzak went out of the hotel locking the room. The hotel workers knocked at the door but did not get any response and informed the police.<sup>147</sup>

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<sup>143</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1632914/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%81>

<sup>144</sup> <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=238123>

<sup>145</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1638646/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE>

<sup>146</sup> <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/dhaka/480429/%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8>

<sup>147</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/101215/2-young-women-found-dead>

On April 23, 2020, police recovered throat-slit bodies of four members of a family from their home in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila. The victims are Fatema Begum, 40; her daughters Noora, 16, and Irin, 11; and son Fadil, 7; of Abdar area. Fatema's husband Kajal Miah is an expatriate in Malaysia. She used to live at the house for around 20 years, said Arif, Fatema's brother-in-law.<sup>148</sup>

On May 12, 2020, police recovered a half-milted body of a captain from a house of six- storey building in capital's New Eskaton area. The deceased was identified as Asad Chowdhury Alias Liton, 46, former captain of a private ship company. The police source said he may de died because of heart attack.<sup>149</sup>

On May 16, 2020, police recovered the bodies of a couple and their one and a half year old daughter from their house in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur. The deceased are Hafizul Islam (30), his wife Fatema Begum (25) and their daughter Humaira of Balapara village. Afzalul Haque Raju, chairman of Borobil Union Parishad, said Fatema and her daughter were found with wounds on their throats on a bed, while Hafizul's body was found hanging from the ceiling inside their house.<sup>150</sup>

On June 5, 2020, police recovered the bodies of a couple and their daughter from their house in Dilalpur area of Pabna Sadar upazila. The deceased were identified as Abdul Jabbar, 60, a former official of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, his wife Chumma Khatun, 50, and their daughter Sanjida Khatun, 24. The police suspected that robbers stabbed them to death and looted their valuables from their house two or three days ago.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>148</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/4-family-found-dead-home-1896235>

<sup>149</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/capital/306935/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE>

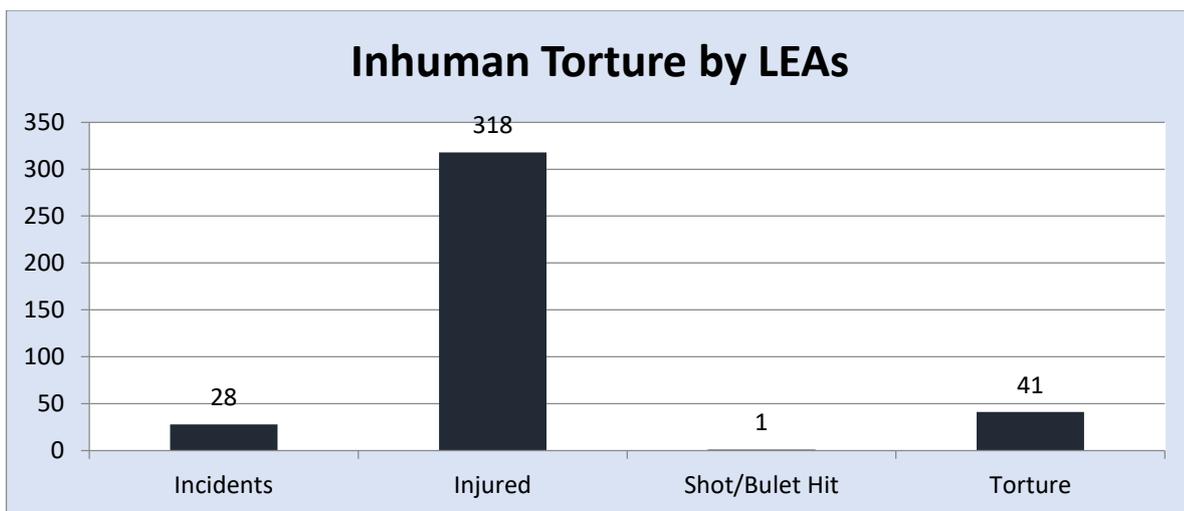
<sup>150</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/3-family-found-dead-rangpur-1903126>

<sup>151</sup> <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=258984>

## Inhuman Torture by Law enforcement Agencies:

Torture and criminal misconduct of members of the law enforcement agencies have taken an endemic turn and it has become institutionalised in Bangladesh.<sup>152</sup> The law enforcing agencies are mainly responsible for maintaining the law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens and prevention and detection of crime to establish rule of law in a state. However, HRSS report shows inhuman torture by the law enforcing agencies in Bangladesh has been increasing severely for the last few years. Despite it having ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture in 1998, Bangladesh has a dismal record, with torture a common practice that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable members of society.<sup>153</sup> Violating all rules and regulations, security forces used torture to spread fear and silence dissent, to coerce confessions to extract bribes, while not sparing ordinary citizens. Indiscriminate beatings, pouring boil water, removing the nail and electric shock and cripple forever through shooting from the blank point are used as a cruel tools of torture by law enforcement agencies.

However, to restore the faith of public in the law enforcement agencies, the incumbent must take a strict steps and make it evident in practice that the moral failure of the members of the law enforcement agencies will not go unpunished and the inherent nature of torture in the law enforcement system must be contained. The scenario of inhuman torture in Bangladesh, documented by HRSS, over the period of the first six month of '20 is detailed below:



**Figure 33: Statistic of Inhuman Torture by Law enforcement Agencies**

*The above column graph shows the frightful scenerio of people facing due to impunity of Law Enforcement Agencies. According to HRSS, in the first six months of 2020,, 318 were injured, 01 bullet hit and 41 tortured in a total of 28 incidents.*

**Selected cases are stated below:** On January 26, 2020, a stone worker was killed and another 20 people including 8 police members injured in a clash between law enfocement agencies and stone

<sup>152</sup> <http://www.newagebd.net/article/18627/torture-by-law-enforcement-agencies-must-be-incriminated>

<sup>153</sup> <https://www.omct.org/press-releases/urgent-interventions/bangladesh/2019/07/d25476/>

workers over stone extraction at Bhozonpur area in Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh. The deceased was identified as Zumer Uddin, 60, in the upazila.<sup>154</sup>

On March 14, 2020, it was accused of picking up a businessman from his business establishment and beaten him up allegedly by a member of police, being failed to buy a land of his choice in Polash upazila of Narsingdi district. The victim was identified as Morshad Ahmed, 40, cloth businessman in the upazila and the accused Jotirmoy Shaha Apu, was a additional police super of Mohammadpur Zone.<sup>155</sup>

On March 28, 2020, it was accused of beating up reportedly a union Chhatra league leader not covering his face with mask, against a In-charge, assistant In-charge and some Constable of Sheikhati police outpost in Norail. The victim was identified as Manik, former president of Sheikhati union's Chhatra league. The accused are In-charge, SI Anamul, assistant In-charge, ASI Alamgir and some Constables of Sheikhati police outpost. Monirul Islam Sardar, president of the Sheikhati Market Committee, said six to seven policemen beat Manik for about an hour for not wearing a mask. We, the people of the market committee, requested the police but they did not listen to us.<sup>156</sup>

On May 7, 2020, at least 12 people were injured in clashes between police and readymade garment workers who demonstrated for reopening of their factory, arrears, and full wages instead of 65 percent of the basic, blocking the busy Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Tangail highways for hours in Gazipur. Police said that the workers of Bando Fashions Ltd and Green Sweater Ltd in Signboard area and ABA Fashions Ltd in Gachha area, Mohammadia Fashion and Style Craft of Lokkipura, among others, took to the streets. The clash ensued when police tried to disperse them. Witnesses said that the police fired teargas shells, rubber bullets and charged baton while workers also pelted stones at the police turning the area into a battlefield.<sup>157</sup>

On June 16, 2020, three police officers and a constable had been withdrawn and attached to Jashore police line because of torturing a college student in Jashore sadar upazila. The victim was identified as Imran Hossain, 23, son of Nesar Ali, of Shahbazpur village in the upazila. The withdrawn are SI Anichur Rahman, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Sajdar Rahman and Sumresh Kumar Saha, and Constable Md. Faruk Hossain.<sup>158</sup>

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<sup>154</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1636457/%E0%A6%AA>

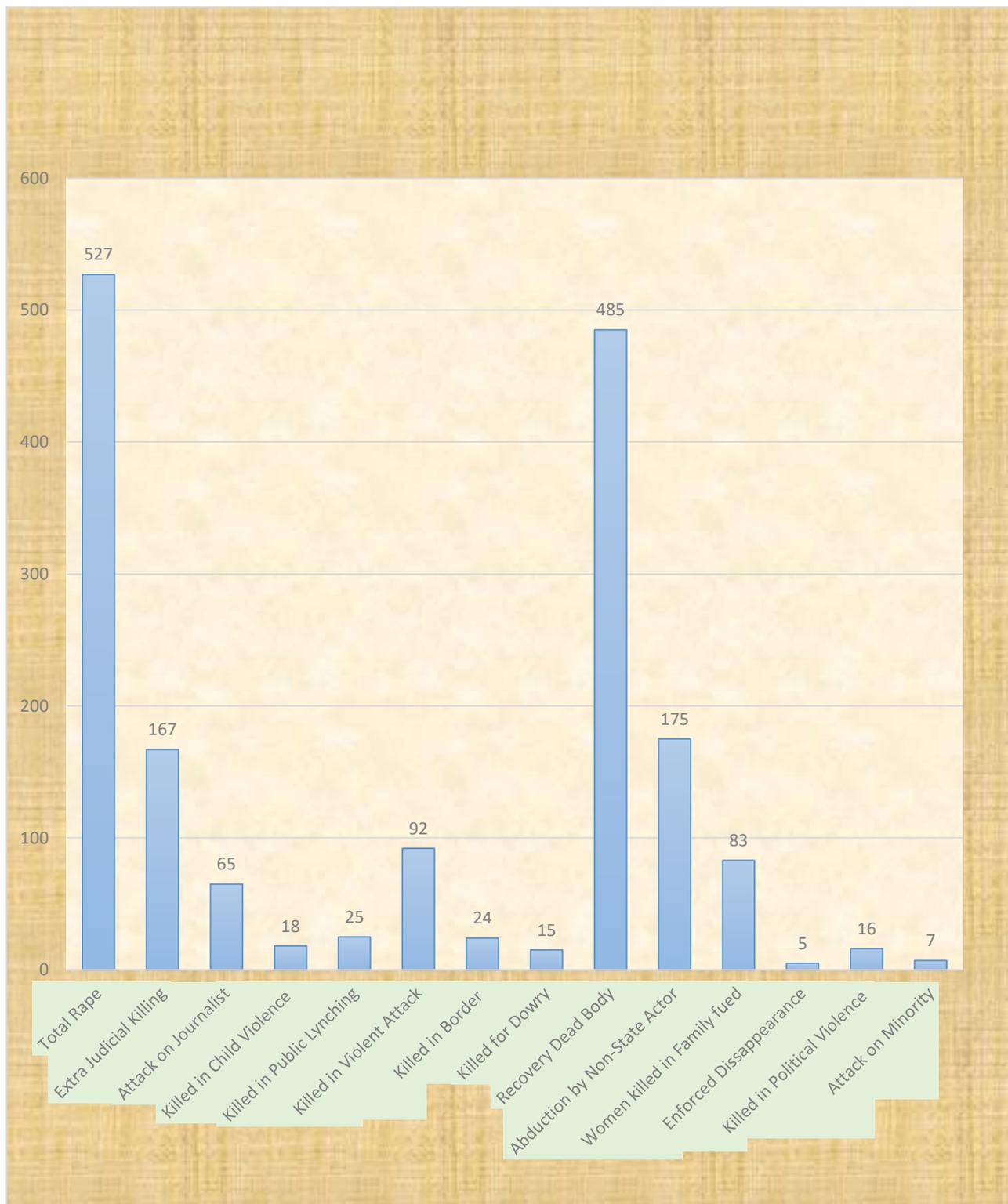
<sup>155</sup> <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/289056/%E0%A6%9C>

<sup>156</sup> [https://www.jagonews24.com/country/news/569194?fbclid=IwAR3J3o6au\\_4Q\\_kdydTm2CokjAcODv1ankWDFY9y5oR6RbKTutuCBPbgT0UI](https://www.jagonews24.com/country/news/569194?fbclid=IwAR3J3o6au_4Q_kdydTm2CokjAcODv1ankWDFY9y5oR6RbKTutuCBPbgT0UI)

<sup>157</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/article/105862/12-injured-as-police-clash-with-rmg-workers>

<sup>158</sup> <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1663040/%E0%A6%AF>

## Half Yearly Human Rights Report 2020, At a Glance



**Figure 34: Human Rights Situation of Bangladesh from January to June 2020**

## Conclusion

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Human rights are moral principles or norms, that mention certain standards of human behavior, and are regularly protected as legal rights in national and international law. It also commonly understood as universal and inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because he or she is a human being, and which are inherent in all human beings irrespective of their nation, location, language, race, sex, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. But infringement of human rights is a major concern in Bangladesh. Human rights violation has become endemic throughout the country and remedies for breaches are almost non-existent. This is because of the failure of the government authorities to show respect to the life and property of the citizens. As a result, all kinds of human rights violations and unlawful activities such as: extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, restriction on freedom of expression, assembly and association, domestic violence, rape and child abuse, border killing, torture, targeted killings, and arbitrary arrests are regularly taking places in Bangladesh. 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.

On the other hand, the existing government assumed power through uncontested and controversial general elections in 2018 which lead to serious political violence. The government, in order to continue its regime, undertook repressive measures against the oppositions. The rule of law has been compromised. Meanwhile, the government has initiated drastic and draconian measures against the leaders and activists of the opposition political parties. Consequently, a political vacuum has developed.

In these circumstances Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) urges to the incumbent government to take the necessary measures to improve the situation and ensure the fundamental rights and basic human rights of all citizens. At the same time, we appeal to every conscious citizen, journalist, civil society, political leaders, national and international organizations and UN agencies to keep effective role to protect human rights violation and improve the prevailing appalling situation of Bangladesh. Certainly, this mission is challenging but achievable. We believe relentless effort would ensure improvement of over all human rights condition in Bangladesh.

## Recommendations

Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data illustrates that human rights situation isn't at satisfactory level in Bangladesh during the first six months of 2020. Therefore, the government along with the respective authority should receive this situation into consideration by taking appropriate steps to establish equitable and just society. To improve the situation HRSS recommend the following highly effective procedures.

- With a view to ensuring accountability and transparency of the members of law enforcement agencies, a national committee with representations from civil society, registered rights groups, professionals and journalists need to be included to monitor the activities of LEAs. Sub-committees at district and Upazilla level also need to be formed.
- Actions should be taken to end structural and cultural violence against women from all spheres of life. Moreover, in order to ensure safety and security of women, children and members of minority communities, immediate appropriate measures should to be taken by the concerned authorities. Proper environment should be ensured so that the victims can come up with appropriate complaints against the perpetrators.
- The Government must stop enforced disappearances perpetrated by law enforcement agencies and bring the law enforcement agencies who are involved in this heinous crime, before the law. At the same time, the state must take necessary steps to identify the victims of forced disappearance and hand them over to their families. HRSS urges the government to comply with the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance adopted by the United Nations.
- All types of oppressive and abusive laws, including the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (amendment 2009 and 2013), and the Digital Security Act, 2018 must be repealed. Cases filed under these oppressive laws against everyone must be withdrawn; and all wrongfully arrested persons under these Acts must be escaped. The government should be respectful to the freedom of expression of all citizens. Print, Electronic and online media should be allowed to work freely even though it goes against the government.
- The Judiciary and the Administrative Authorities must ensure justice to all minorities' communities. Restructure all damaged temples and places for worship that were subjected to attack and end all potential attacks on places of worships irrespective of race, sex, color, religion and any other social standings. And ensure fundamental rights of all citizens guaranteed by the Constitution of Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh.
- The Bangladesh government should establish a judicial inquiry commission to look into all violations of international human rights law by the Border Security Force. The government should invite both Indian and Bangladeshi nationals to come up with complaints and credible evidences to the lawfully constituted inquiry commission. The inquiry should be transparent and time bound. Specifically, the committee should have statutory power to ensure privacy and protection of the witnesses.

## Half Yearly Statistics, 2020

Type of Human Rights Violation		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Violence Against Women	Sexual Harassment	12	9	66	2	2	2	93
	Rape	95	93	124	58	59	98	527
	Killed for Dowry	0	2	7	1	0	5	15
	Killed for Family Feud	0	9	25	6	28	15	83
	Acid Violence	0	0	2	0	2	3	7
Killed in Child Rights Violence		3	0	2	1	4	8	18
Extra-judicial Killing	Crossfire	20	19	26	14	20	25	124
	Shot to death	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
	Torture to death	2	2	3	2	3	1	13
	Custodial death	6	4	10	1	2	2	25
	Total	28	25	44	17	25	28	167
Abduction		33	22	60	7	21	32	175
Enforces Disappearance		0	0	3	0	1	1	5
Attack on Minority		2	1	1	0	2	1	7
Border Disputes	Killed	12	3	0	2	1	6	24
	Injured	2	0	0	0	1	3	6
	Arrested	2	5	4	0	0	1	12
Attack on Journalists	Injured	13	10	6	17	2	3	51
	Threatened	1	3	1	2	0	1	8
	Assaulted	1	2	0	2	6	0	11
	Arrested	0	0	1	0	8	2	11
Political Violence	Killed	0	2	3	1	5	5	16
	Injured	257	160	137	28	157	64	803
Digital Security Act	Case Filed	9	4	44	6	26	14	103
	Arrest	7	4	10	4	31	15	71
Violent Attack	Killed	15	17	13	14	13	20	92
	Injured	2	12	1	2	1	7	25
Killed in Public Lynching		9	4	5	1	2	4	25
Recovery Dead Body		54	76	113	40	71	131	485
Torture by LEA	Injured	50	115	4	5	124	20	318
	Shot / Bullet Hit	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Torture	2	0	37	0	0	2	41