

Annual Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2022



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

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A central graphic featuring a white document with a black fountain pen nib at the top. The document is surrounded by various icons: a yellow sticky note, a yellow notepad with a pencil, a blue world map, an orange camera, and a pair of purple-rimmed glasses. The background is a teal color.

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States are responsible for protection of human rights with the help of law enforcement agencies so that people may enjoy their rights without fear or favor. Although, 51 years has elapsed since independence, democracy, voting rights and human rights remain a dream for the mass people of Bangladesh owing to the apathetic attitude of successive governments. The incumbent government's attitude in particular has become authoritarian resulting in two controversial elections in 2014 and 2018. In 2022, the government used members of law enforcement agencies to crackdown on opposition leaders-activists and ordinary citizens. They also filed fabricated cases against opposition's political party's activists and general people; and made mass arrests. Freedom of expression has been severely curtailed in the country and people from all walks of life have been severely victimized and arrested under the repressive Digital Security Act, 2018.



The current scenario of human rights situation in Bangladesh is dreadful, as the government imposing restriction on freedom of expression, controlling political and civil society space and promoting a culture of impunity for security forces and ruling party leaders. Severe political violence, attacks and arrests of journalists, the killing and torture of innocent Bangladeshis by the BSF at the border, and widespread electoral violence has become prevalent in Bangladesh. In this situation, we at HRSS feel that we have a duty to raise awareness at home and abroad. We believe that the contents of this report will help mass people, the civil society organizations and the international communities to 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 prevent repeated commission of offense being acquainted with the updated human rights conditions of Bangladesh.

At the end, I would like to thank all my associates for remarkable contribution in publishing this Annual Report 2022. I express my gratitude to the members of the executive committee who, for this publication, undertook much pain. I hope that your consultation and support will help us to improve the quality of this report and encourage us to play a vibrant role in human rights sector.

Editor

Executive Summary



In the 51 years since gaining independence, Bangladesh has achieved notable milestones; however, there are persistent concerns regarding the full realization of fundamental human rights. Despite constitutional obligations and international legal frameworks, instances of human rights violations persist within the country. These concerns encompass a range of critical areas, including the rule of law, democratic principles, the right to vote, freedom of expression, assembly rights, social security provisions, and women's rights. Regrettably, Bangladesh continues to witness violations of human rights, as reported in the comprehensive assessment of the human rights landscape for the year 2022. The report highlights a concerning pattern of issues such as the obstruction of peaceful assemblies, unjustified legal cases, politically motivated arrests, extrajudicial fatalities, instances of torture within police custody, and illicit conduct exhibited by members of law enforcement

agencies. Furthermore, cases of disappearances following abductions, instances of violence targeting women, and public acts of lynching remain prevalent. The Human Rights Support Society has been diligently monitoring and evaluating these developments, as evidenced by the publication of an annual human rights analysis report. This report is meticulously constructed based on information compiled from various sources, including district representatives and twelve prominent national dailies. The findings of this report for the year 2022 are deeply disconcerting, revealing that the overall condition of human rights in the country has not improved and, to a certain extent, has deteriorated when compared to the preceding year.

According to collected data from prominent national dailies and HRSS investigation unit, a total of 36 people were reportedly extrajudicially killed in 2022. Out of them, 07 were killed in the name of 'crossfire/ so-called gunfights', 07 were tortured to death, 13 shot to death and 09 died in the custody in a total of 32 incidents. At the same time, about 55 persons reportedly died in prison. Moreover, a total of 11 persons have been 'disappeared' by the LEAs (i.e., remained missing for at least 72 hours) according to the members of the victim family in 11 incidents. Out of them, 10 were shown arrested and the remaining 01 returned home.

According to the HRSS report, a total of 2593 women and girls were the victim of violence in the year of 2022. Among them, 1284 females were raped in 2022. Out of them, 552 victims were adults whereas alarmingly 732 (57%) were children under the age of 18. It's a grave concern that 258 (20%) have been victim of gang-rape, 42 were brutally killed after being raped and 08 committed suicide after being raped. Besides, 159 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported, where 70 were killed, 07 committed suicide and 82 women were physically abused over dowry demand. 224 victims have died and 65 committed suicides while 83 got injured in family feud related violence in 372 incidents. Moreover, a total of 531 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment and another 229 girls and women were the victim of an attempt to



rape. Furthermore, 15 girls and women were injured and 03 killed in 15 incidents of acid violence. It is also alarming that 372 children lost their lives and 1232 were physically & mentally tortured and critically injured.

According to the HRSS report in 2022, a total of 253 journalists were the victim of attacks. Among them, two journalists were killed, 165 journalists were injured, 43 threatened, 05 arrested and 38 were assaulted in nearly 169 incidents. Meanwhile, 84 people were arrested, 516 accused and 85 cases were filed in a total of 85 incidents under Digital Security Act 2018. HRSS has also observed the incidents of attacks on minorities in 2022, where at least 12 temples, 43 idols and 16 houses were partially or fully destroyed. Meanwhile, 48 minority people were injured in a total of 28 incidents. Moreover, at least 115 people were killed and 7684 people injured in political violence; where, the vast majority of the victims (around 3141) were from political arrests, most of them (2721) are members of BNP and JAMAAT. Unexpectedly, around 38 people were killed and 83 were injured in a total of 79 incidents of public lynching in 2022.

According to annual report of HRSS, 22 Bangladeshi citizens were killed, 24 injured, 11 shot, and 30 persons arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) in a total of 47 incidents. At the same time, 30 laborers were killed, 607 injured and another 30 were shot in a total of 124 incidents.

It has also been reported that between January and December 2022, at least 52 people died; approximately 1410 people were injured and about 100 persons sustained bullet hits in a total of 195 incidents of election-related violence. Meanwhile, in a total of 147 incidents of inhuman torture and shooting by LEAs, 2257 people were injured, 100 were hit by bullets and 28 people were tortured.

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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Acronyms

AL	Awami League
APBn	Armed Police Battalion
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
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
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
CTU	Counter Terrorism Unit
CTTC	Counter Terrorism an Transnational Crime Unit
DUCSU	Dhaka University Central Student's Union
DB	Detective Branch
DGFI	Directorate General of Forces Intelligence
DMCH	Dhaka Medical College Hospital
DSA	Digital Security Act
DU	Dhaka University
DUJ	Dhaka Union 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

Extra-judicial killings are a severe violation of human rights that have plagued Bangladesh for many years. These killings refer to the unlawful and deliberate deprivation of life carried out by state officials or individuals acting with the authority, support, or acquiescence of the state, without due process of law¹. Extra-judicial killings are a direct assault on the right to life, undermining the principles of justice and the rule of law. In the context of Bangladesh, extra-judicial killings have been a persistent issue. Often justified under the guise of “crossfire” or “encounter” killings, these incidents frequently involve alleged criminals or individuals accused of involvement in illegal activities. However, in the absence of transparency, accountability, and due process, concerns are raised about the misuse of power by law enforcement agencies and the absence of fair trials.

The current situation regarding extra-judicial killings in Bangladesh is a matter of grave concern. Human rights organizations and civil society groups have reported numerous cases of alleged extra-judicial killings in 2022, raising alarm about the excessive use of force and the failure to ensure justice. The prevalence of extra-judicial killings undermines the principles of human rights, the rule of law, and the integrity of the criminal justice system in Bangladesh. It also erodes public trust in law enforcement agencies and can lead to a breakdown in societal order. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach that includes strengthening the rule of law, ensuring independent and impartial investigations, holding perpetrators accountable, and providing support and reparations to the victims’ families. An overview of the extrajudicial killing has been discussed and analyzed below:

1 Prial Jain, “Extra-Judicial Killings,” July 3, 2022, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/extra-judicial-killings/>.



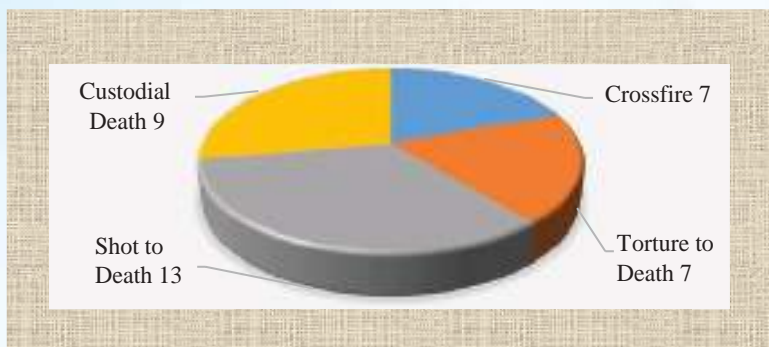


Figure 1 : Statistics of Extra-Judicial Killing

The pie chart demonstrates the human rights scenario in Bangladesh in 2022. According to the people from victim’s family, Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) investigation team and data collected from prominent national dailies, 36 persons (including 03 Rohingya people) were reportedly killed extra-judicially. Among them, 07 were killed in the name of ‘crossfire/ gunfights,’ 07 were tortured to death, 13 were shot to death, and 09 died in custody. Out of them, one was 7 month child named Sumaya, shot by Police in July, and another was a woman named Kulsum Begum, shot by BGB in January on Union Perished Election Day. This is a grave concern that LEAs have killed 07 BNP activists from July to December during their procession and demonstration against ruling party.

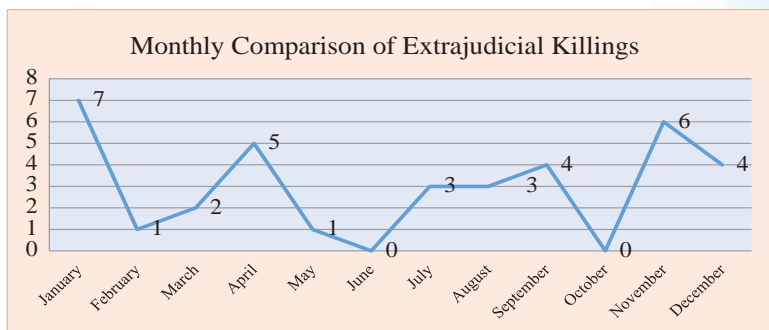


Figure 2: Monthly Comparison of Extra-Judicial Killings



According to the HRSS report, 03 people on an average were allegedly killed by law enforcement agencies each month in 2022. The highest number of people killed extra-judicially in January was 07, than the number significantly decreased in the following month to 1. The number of deaths maintained steady growth next two months to 02 and 05 respectively. After that, the number of extra-judicially killed people hit bottom in the following two months and declined to the lowest number of 0 in June. In the second half of 2022, we see a sudden rise and fall in extra-judicial killings. As October had zero incidents, the number hits the peak in November with 6, before finishing the year with 4 incidents in December. It is concerning that these incidents are so frequent in the country that they happen in 10 of the 12 months a year.

Kinds	Police	RAB	Police And RAB	Db Police	Joint Forces	Coast Guard	BGB	Total
Crossfire	2	4		0	0	0	1	7
Shot To Death	9	0		0			4	13
Torture To Death	6	1		0	0		0	7
Custodial Death	7	1		1				9
Total	24	6	0	1	0	0	5	36

Figure 3: Actors of Extra-Judicial Killing

The table provides updated information about the incidents of extra-judicial killings in the year 2022 by the members of the LEAs. Statistics show that 24 people became victim of extra-judicial killing by the Police, where RAB killed 06 people. However, they are supposed to protect the safety and security of the people. The number of people killed by the Border Guard Bangladesh BGB is also not small. Legally the members of BGB are duty-bound to protect the safety and security of people in the border area, yet they abuse their powers and engage in extrajudicial killings.



Some of the cases of extra-judicial killings are detailed:

Death in Custody

On January 08, 2022, a young man died in police custody at Hatibandha in Lalmonirhat. The deceased was identified as Himanshu (35), son of Bisheshwar Chandra Barman of East Kadma Maldapara area of Velaguri union. According to the locals, police arrested Himanshu from his house at around 12 noon on charges of murdering his wife and brought him to Hatibandha police station. Later in the afternoon, a police team took Himanshu to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Himanshu's father Bisheshwar Varman and locals complained that the man, Himanshu (35), was tortured to death by police.²

On March 10, 2022, a BNP activist of Chattogram's Rangunia upazila died after a team of RAB-7 arrested him in connection with a murder case. The deceased was identified as Nazrul Islam (60) of Rangunia upazila. The victim's family stated that, he was accused in multiple politically motivated cases. According to RAB, the victim was suffering from heart and age-related complications. An unnatural death case was lodged with Panchlaish Police Station in this regard.³

On May 09, 2022, a case was filed in Brahmanbaria court regarding the death of a businessman in the custody of Saraile police station, Brahmanbaria. The deceased was identified as Nazir Ahmed Sapu. It was known that due to a land



Deceased Nazir Ahmed Sapu
(Source: Daily Samakal)

- 2 HRSS Research Desk and, Daily Prothom Alo, "হাতীবান্ধায় পুলিশি হেফাজতে যুবকের মৃত্যু। প্রথম আলো" January 8, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/হাতীবান্ধায়-পুলিশি-হেফাজতে-যুবকের-মৃত্যু>
- 3 The Daily Star, "Man Dies in RAB Custody | The Daily Star," March 10, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/man-dies-RAB-custody-2979251>.



dispute, an accused named Jumman entered businessman Nazir Ahmed Sapu's house on the night of April 21. At that time Jumman was arrested. On receiving the information, the police went to the spot and brought Jumman and Nazir to the police station. Then the businessman Nazeer died in police custody. Nazir Ahmed's wife Shireen Sultana Rima filed the case in the district and session judge's court, naming 15 people including SI Saiful and ASI Saiful of Sarail police station and 4-5 others. District and Sessions Judge Sharmin Sultana Nigar accepted the statement of the plaintiff and reserved the case for order.⁴



Deceased Lebu Mia
(Source: Samakal)

On September 27, 2022, a person named Lebu Mia (50) died in police custody at Bashtail police station in Mirzapur, Tangail. He was the son of Bahar Uddin of Bashtail village. The victim's family claims that Lebu Mia was tortured and killed by the police, while the police claim that he committed suicide by hanging himself. The wife of deceased Lebu Mia claims that her husband was detained without any crime and was tortured and killed at night.

The locals demand a fair investigation and punishment for those responsible. The police deny the allegations of torture and claim that the accusations are false and fabricated.⁵

Death by alleged torture

On January 03, 2022, a man died in police custody in Tongi, Gazipur. The deceased was identified as Asadul Islam Asad, 45, a resident of Ershadnagar area in Tongi. Asad lived with his family in Block 5 of Ershadnagar and operated a local car garage. The family

4 Daily Samakal, "সরাইলে পুলিশ হেফাজতে ব্যবসায়ীর মৃত্যুর অভিযোগ, আদালতে মামলা," May 9, 2022.

5 Daily Jugantor, "পুলিশ হেফাজতে লেবু মিয়ার মৃত্যু নিয়ে রহস্য," October 27, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/599990>.



of the victim accused the law enforcement officials of torture on him leading to death. Jasmine Akhter, wife of the deceased, said that the RAB had beaten him to death. The family claims he was arrested on the basis of false information. The deceased's son, Hafizul Islam, said, "My father was a motor mechanic. He was not involved in drugs trade. He reported that, a 10-member RAB team raided their home around on Saturday saying Asad was involved in drugs trade. At that time, the RAB members physically tortured the victim. As a result, the victim became sick. Later, he was taken to the hospital where he died. Police filed an unnatural death case in this connection with Tongi East Police Station.⁶

On February 21, 2022, a man was allegedly tortured to death by police in Shantiganj, Sunamganj. The deceased was identified as Wazir Mia (40), son of the late Kancha Mia in Shatrurmadan village of the upazila. Dalim Mia, younger brother of the victim, said, "My brother was caught by the police and tortured at the police station.



**Protest in Sunamganj demanding justice for the death in police custody
(source: Prothom Alo)**

⁶ The Daily Star, "Man Dies in RAB Custody | The Daily Star," January 3, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/man-dies-RAB-custody-2930956>.

He was released on bail the next day after being sent to court in a theft case. From then on, he became seriously ill. He died at noon.” Outraged relatives and locals blocked the road with the body of the victim, demanding justice for the policemen involved in the torture.⁷

On April 15, 2022, a youth who allegedly died in police custody on night at Mahendranagar Bangla Bazar under Sadar upaziula in Lalmonirhat. He was picked up by the police from a Pahela Baishakh fair. The deceased was identified as Robiul Islam Khan, 25, son of Dulal Khan of Kazir Chowra village under Sadar upazila, and was a readymade garment worker. A family member of the deceased said, Robiul and other men were arrested by the police on charges of gambling at a fair in the Mahendranagar Bangla Bazar area on the occasion of Pahela Boishakh. Robiul had an altercation with some cops while being dragged into a police van as he insisted that he was innocent. He was badly beaten up by the cops for refusing to enter the police van. He had sustained injuries, which eventually led to his death. As the news of the death spread the agitated locals blocked the Lalmonirhat-Rangpur highway for few hours and demanded the punishment of a sub-Inspector of Sadar police station.⁸

Crossfire/Gunfight

On April 17, 2022, a murder case accused was killed in a gunfight with the Rapid Action Battalion in Golabari area of Burichang upazila in Cumilla. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Raju, son of Sadek Mia of village Bishnupur. Police said that he was involved in drugs peddling and smuggling and he was the prime accused in the murder case of journalist Mohiuddin Sarkar Naeem. Major Mohammad Sakib Hossain, commander of RAB-11, said that acting on a tip-off the elite force conducted a drive

7 Daily Prothom Alo, “সুনামগঞ্জে পুলিশের নির্যাতনে মৃত্যুর অভিযোগে লাশ নিয়ে সড়ক অবরোধ। প্রথম আলো,” February 21, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/সুনামগঞ্জ-পুলিশে-নির্যাতনে-মৃত্যুর-অভিযোগে-লাশ-নে-সড়ক-অবরোধ-১৮>.

8 New Age, “Youth Picked up from Pahela Baishakh Fair Dies in Police Custody,” April 15, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/168139/youth-picked-up-from-pahela-baishakh-fair-dies-in-police-custody>.



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in Golabari area to arrest Naeem's killers. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, miscreants opened fire at them and they had to fire back in self-defence that triggered the gunfight. Raju received bullet injuries during the gunfight, the RAB officer said adding that he was taken to Cumilla Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.⁹



Deceased Raju
(Source: Prothom Alo)

On November 11, 2022, a man named Shaheen Miah alias City Shaheen, who had 23 cases against him and was wanted for murder, was killed in a "gunfight" with RAB-1 in Narayanganj's Rupganj. Shaheen's brother-in-law, Parvez, claimed that Shaheen was picked up from Chonpara around noon and then taken to a place adjacent to Demra College and shot. He provided a video clip purportedly taken by an eyewitness to the media. Although no one could verify the authenticity of the clip. The eyewitness claimed that he saw a group of people carrying a man out of a boat, pressing a gun against his leg, and shooting him. The incident happened at the time of Zohr azaan, and Parvez claimed the video was sent to him at 1:03 pm. Mugda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jamaluddin Mir said Shaheen was declared dead at 4:20 pm, quoting the doctors of Mugda hospital.¹⁰



Deceased Shaheen Miah
(Source: Daily Kalerkantho)

9 New Age, "Suspect Killed in 'Gunfight' with RAB," April 18, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/168312/accused-in-journalist-murder-case-killed-in-cumilla-gunfight>.

10 Daily Star, "Man Killed in N'ganj 'Gunfight' with RAB-1 | The Daily Star," November 11, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/man-killed-crossfire-RAB-3166111>.



On December 10, 2022, two Rohingya men were killed in a gunfight between police and a group of criminals at a refugee camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. The deceased were identified as Salim Ullah (33) and Mohammad Redwan (27), both residents of Balukhali refugee camp. According to the officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station, a team of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) conducted a raid in the camp area on information that 40-50 armed men had gathered there to kill Mohammad Rafiq, chief community leader of Balukhali East Rohingya Camp. The police claimed that as the APBn members reached the spot, the armed men opened fire at them. The APBn members retaliated in self-defence, resulting in the death of the two Rohingya men. A locally-made gun and 70 bullets were recovered from the camp. The incident has raised concerns about the safety of refugees in the camps and the need for greater security measures to be put in place.¹¹

Shot to Death

On July 27, 2022, a seven-month-old baby died amidst election violence in "Ranisankail," Thakurgaon. The name of the child is Sumaiya. She was the daughter of Md. Badsha Mia, resident of the Middangi area. According to the locals, this event happened amidst the Union Parishad Election of the "Bachor" Union in "Ranisankail" upazila. The voting ended in one of the voting booths at 3.00 pm. When the officials published the results, the supporters of the losing party attacked the Police and the officials. To control the situation, Police fired shots into the crowd. Sumaiya was in her mother's embrace when a bullet hit her killing her on the spot. According to the Upazila Health Complex doctor, eleven people were injured in the incident.¹²

11 The Daily Star, "Police-Criminals 'Gunfight': Two Rohingya Men Killed in Cox's Bazar | The Daily Star," December 11, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/police-criminals-gunfight-two-rohingya-men-killed-coxs-bazar-3192866>.

12 Prothom Alo, "ঠাকুরগাঁওয়ে নির্বাচনী সংঘর্ষ, পুলিশের গুলিতে শিশু নিহত। প্রথম আলো," July 27, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/j01pk8ik2q>.





Injured BNP activists in the incident. Deceased Abdur Rahim inset.
(Source: Naya Diganta)

On July 30, 2022, a BNP activist was killed by police fired shots at a demonstration in Kalinath Bazar in Bhola. The victim's name is Abdur Rahim, an activist of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Senior Vice-President of Bhola district BNP Aminul Islam claimed that while they were holding a peaceful demonstration in the Mohajonpatti area protesting the price hike of electricity and day-to-day commodities, Police came and confronted the protest. As a result, a clash occurred between the Police and the activists. Then the Police fired shots at the protesters resulting in the death of Abdur Rahim. More than 50 people on both sides were injured in the clash.¹³

On August 3, 2022, Chhatra Dal President of Bhola district Nur e Alam died in a hospital in Dhaka caused by bullet injuries sustained in a protest three days earlier. On July 31, 2022, BNP organized a

¹³ Prothom Alo, "ভোলায় বিএনপি-পুলিশ সংঘর্ষে নিহত ১, আহত অর্ধশতাধিক। প্রথম আলো," July 31, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/m2nak38pqj>.



Deceased Bhola Chhatradal
President Nur e Alam
(Source: Daily Jugantor)

protest at Mahajanpatti in the Sadr upazila, Bhola to protest the increase in electricity and commodity prices. According to the locals, a clash took place between police and BNP and Police fired upon the crowd. Bhola Chhatra Dal president got shot in the process. He was taken to Comfort Hospital in Green Road for treatment, but the doctors could not help him. BNP went on a strike in Bhola district upon hearing the news of his death.¹⁴



Clash between police and BNP protester. Deceased Shaon in the corner
(Source: Daily Naya Diganta)

On September 1, 2022, a Juba Dal worker was killed during a clash between the Juba Dal and Police in Narayanganj. The name of the

14 Daily Jugantor, "গুলিবিদ্ধ ভোলা ছাত্রদল সভাপতির মৃত্যু," August 3, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/580030/গু>.



Juba Dal worker was Shaon Ahmed (Raja) from the Enayetnagar union in Narayanganj Sadar upazila. According to the locals, a Juba Dal rally was organised to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the party. When the rally was crossing the 2 no rail gate area, the police tried to stop them. A clash took place between the police and the Juba Dal workers. Police fired shotgun on the rally to scatter the rally. Many Juba Dal workers were injured in the process. Shaon died by a bullet according to the doctors.¹⁵

On November 19, 2022, in Bancharampur, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh, a clash between police and BNP leaders and activists resulted in the death of Chhatra Dal leader Rafiqul Islam alias Nayan Mia. He was shot in the stomach and later died under treatment. The deceased Rafiqul was from Bancharampur upazila Sonarampur Union, and he was the vice-president of Sonarampur Union Chhatra Dal of the upazila and former joint secretary of Shibpur Ward Chhatra Dal. The police had gone to arrest BNP leader Sayeduzzaman Kamal, which led to clashes with BNP leaders and workers. During the clash, Chhatra Dal leader Rafiqul



Deceased Nayan Mia in agony (Source: Prothom Alo)

15 HRSS research desk and Daily Samakal, “নারায়ণগঞ্জে পুলিশ-বিএনপির সংঘর্ষে যুবদল কর্মী নিহত,” September 1, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2209129621/নারায়ণগঞ্জ-পুলিশবিএনপির-সংঘর্ষে-যুবদলকর্মী-নিহত>.



Moqbul Hosain died in after being shot by the police in clash between BNP activist and the Police. (Source: Samakal)

was shot and fell to the ground. He was rescued and taken to Bancharampur Upazila Health Complex and later to Dhaka for better treatment but died. Police arrested two BNP workers from the spot. BNP leader Sayeduzzaman Kamal claimed that police fired at their peaceful program without provocation.¹⁶

Death in Prison

Within the context of human rights abuses in Bangladesh, one distressing aspect that requires immediate attention is the occurrence of prison deaths in the year 2022. The loss of lives within the confines of prisons represents a flagrant violation of fundamental human rights and raises significant concerns about the treatment and welfare of individuals who are incarcerated. Prison deaths not only signify a tragic loss of life but also serve as a stark reminder of the need to uphold and protect the rights and dignity of every individual, regardless of their legal status. Every person, regardless of their past actions, deserves to be treated

¹⁶ Daily Prothom Alo, “বাঙ্গারামপুরে পুলিশের সঙ্গে সংঘর্ষের সময় গুলিতে ছাত্রদল নেতা নিহত। প্রথম আলো,” November 19, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ias86c77eo>.



with respect, fairness, and humanity while in detention. The occurrence of prison deaths reflects a failure to ensure the basic rights of individuals in custody, including the right to life, health, and adequate living conditions. *In 2022, a total of 55 cases of prison deaths came to the attention of Human Rights Support Society.*

Some cases are stated below :

On March 17, 2022, two prisoners died in Natore District Jail. They were Anser Ali (46), son of Bhanu Pramanik of Chak Bhanura village in Pabna Sadar, who is an accused in a murder case, and Osman Sheikh (33), the son of Nuru Sheikh of Paschim Haguria village of Dighapatia union of Natore Sadar upazila, who is a convict in a drug case. They died after falling ill and being taken to Natore Sadar Hospital. The jail authorities claimed that they died of natural causes, but Osman Sheikh's family alleged that he was tortured by the jail police. Osman Sheikh was sentenced to jail on March 14 for consuming drugs. Weed was found near him in the jail, but the jail superintendent denied that he was beaten for that. He said he died of illness. Anser Ali was in jail since January last year for a murder case filed with Lalpur Police Station in Natore. He complained of chest pain and died during treatment at the hospital.¹⁷

On March 29, 2022, Mohammad Shahjahan (47), who was a Jubo Dal leader and assistant sports-secretary of Chittagong Metropolitan Jubo Dal, passed away in Chattogram Central Jail. He was undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital when he died. According to Jailer Dewan Mohammad Tariqul Islam,



**Jubo Dal leader Deceased
Mohammad Shah Jahan.
(Source: Samakal)**

17 Daily Prothom Alo, “৮ ঘণ্টার ব্যবধানে নাটোরে দুই কারাবন্দীর মৃত্যু। প্রথম আলো,” March 18, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/৮-ঘণ্টার-ব্যবধান-নাটো-রে-দুই-কারাবন্দীর-মৃত্যু>.

Shahjahan had been arrested on October 19th, 2021 in connection with a case filed with Bayezid Bostami Police Station in Chattogram city. There were six cases against him including an alleged drug case which his colleagues claim was politically motivated. Nasir Uddin, the deputy district magistrate of Chattogram Central Jail confirmed this information. Shahjahan's colleague Mohammad Shahed said that he had been actively involved in politics since the 1990s and was dedicated to his party.¹⁸

On April 9, 2022, a female prisoner named Nadia Jahan Shelly (40) a resident of 5 no ward in Sakhipur upazila, Tangail, died in Tangail jail. Her husband Minhaj Uddin filed a case against the jail superintendent Md Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy jailor and other unidentified officials and employees claiming that his wife's death was due to improper treatment. The woman had been suffering from diabetes and kidney disease while being held as the second accused in an ongoing court case. According to her daughter Sonali Akter, on April 4th Nadia Jahan Shelly appeared before the Sakhipur Cognizance court seeking bail but was denied despite submitting all reports of her physical illness. The judge directed the jail superintendent to provide proper treatment for her as she fell ill but instead, she was kept in general ward without receiving any medical attention. The family held a press conference demanding justice for their loved one who suffered greatly without getting adequate medical care while incarcerated. On April 19th, Minhaj Uddin filed a case with Senior Judicial Magistrate Court accusing prison officials of neglecting his wife's health needs which led to her untimely death.¹⁹

18 Daily Samakal, "কারাবন্দি যুবদল নেতার মৃত্যু," March 30, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2203104179/কারাবন্দি-যুবদল-নেতার-মৃত্যু>.

19 Daily Manab Zamin, "টান্ধাইল কারাগারে নারী কয়েদির মৃত্যু, মাশলা বিচারের দাবিতে সংবাদ সম্মেলন," June 2, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=5630>; Daily Jugantor, "কারাগারেলারীযাজ্ঞরিমৃত্যু," April 9, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/539685>.





Enforced Disappearance

Enforced disappearance is a serious violation of human rights that has been a persistent problem in Bangladesh. It is defined as the arrest, detention, or abduction of individuals by state officials or by individuals or groups acting with the authorization, support, or acquiescence of the state, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealing the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person. This practice has been used to stifle dissent, instill fear, and create a culture of impunity in Bangladesh. Enforced disappearance has a long and painful history in Bangladesh, dating back to the country's war of independence in 1971. However, it continues to be a significant problem to this day. Families of victims are often left in a state of confusion, not knowing whether their loved ones are dead or alive. This form of violence also has a chilling effect on free speech and political activism, creating an environment of fear and intimidation. Bangladesh is not a signatory to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which requires states to investigate all allegations of enforced disappearance and to hold those responsible accountable. However, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has documented a large number of cases of enforced disappearance in Bangladesh.

The current situation regarding enforced disappearance in Bangladesh is concerning. The government has been accused of being complicit in the practice, with reports of security forces carrying out abductions and secret detentions. In 2022, several high-profile cases of enforced disappearance were reported in Bangladesh, leading to widespread protests and calls for accountability.



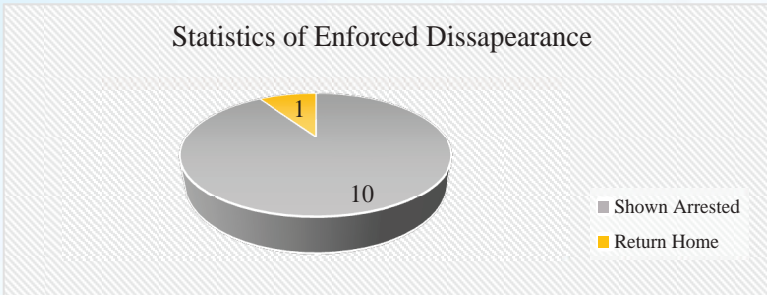


Figure 4: Statistics of Enforced Disappearance

According to the information collected by Human Rights Support Society’s (HRSS) collected information from daily newspapers and victim families’ statement, a total of 11 people suffered enforced disappearance at the hand of law enforcement agency (LEA) (i.e., remained missing for at least 72 hours) in 2022; out of them 10 were shown arrested, and 01 was returned to home.

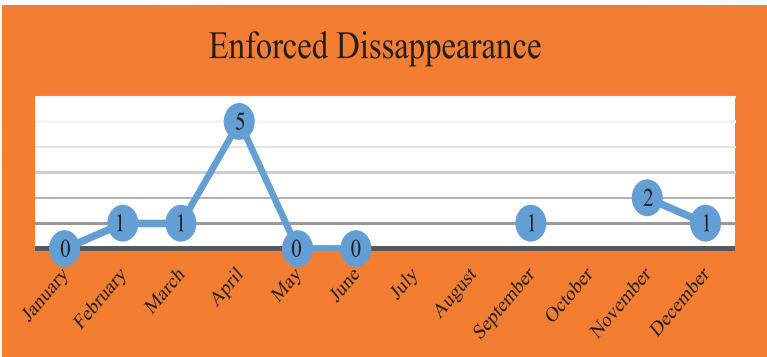


Figure 5 : Monthly Comparison of Enforced Disappearance in 2022.

The incidents of enforced disappearances were pretty low throughout the year. However, we noticed a spike in April when 5 people disappeared in one month.

Selected cases are stated below:



Press conference by Mizanur's family (Source: Naya Diganta)

On April 09, 2022 in Khojpur area of Rajshahi City, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) picked up Mizanur Rahman. He was picked in front of locals. Eye witness Professor Nazrul Islam, Akash Hossain, Sabbir Ahmed, Jihadul Islam told that a civil dressed men abducted him and a man wearing RAB vest was guarding him. Screenshot of a CCTV footage has been attached where it can be seen that he is being abducted. After that his family member went to Rajshahi Metropolitan Motihar police station to file general diary. But police didn't take their GD. On April 12, 2022 family members of the victim arranged a press conference. Where Nawab Sharif (victim's brother) read out a written statement at the press conference. After news published, statement given by us and other organization, RAB has shown arrested and sent to jail April 14, 2022.²⁰

On April 11, 2022, Ifaz Ahmed, a university student had gone missing from Mirpur, Dhaka. He studies in the Computer Science and Engineering department of the Bangladesh University of Business and Technology. He is in second year of his graduation

20 HRSS Investigation desk and Daily Naya Diganta, "র্যাব পরিচয়ে কলেজ ছাত্রকে তুলে নিয়ে যাওয়ার অভিযোগ," April 12, 2022, <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/rajshahi/656922/র্যাব>.



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degree. According to the family Ifaz went out for the Zohor prayer (mid-day prayer) and never got back. A CCTV footage was recovered by the police shows a black microbus following Ifaz just before his disappearance. His parents claim that Ifaz was not involved in any political party nor was he involved in any kind of extremist group. The family of the victim claims that he was taken by the law enforcement agencies of the country. After a long waiting period of 95 days, Ifaz was shown arrested by the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police as confirmed his family.²¹



Ifaz Ahmed
(Source: Manab Zamin)

On April 19, 2022, some people claiming to be members of the law enforcement agency abducted a businessman from Tejgaon, Dhaka. The name of the victim is Mohsin. He is involved in transportation business. His wife Farida Yasmin has filed a case at the police station about his disappearance. According to her, 7-8 people came to their home at night and claimed themselves as members of law enforcement agency. They said they have arrest warrant against Mohsin but they did not show any document. A family member of Mohsin took a picture of one of the IDs that were shown by the men but they forced him to delete the photo. Later Mohsin was shown arrested after 11 days by the RAB-8 as per his wife.²²



Mohsin (Source: Prothom Alo)

21 HRSS investigation desk and Daily Manab Zamin, “একমাসেও খোঁজ মেলেনি বিইউবিটি শিক্ষার্থীর,” May 15, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=2980>.

22 HRSS Investigation desk and Daily Prothom Alo, “ব্যবসায়ী মহসীনের সন্ধান চায় পরিবার। প্রথম আলো,” April 28, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/ব্যবসায়ী-মহসীনের-সন্ধান-চায়-পরিবার>.





Press conference by the family of Md Fayzullah (Source: Jugantor)

On November 10, 2022, A Madrasah teacher was abducted allegedly by the DB police from Char Fasson upazila, Bhola. The name of the teacher is Maulana Md. Fayeziullah (28) son of Moslemuddin, a resident of the Ward No 1, Ewajpur village in Shashibhusan Thana in Char Fasson upazila, Vola. He used to teach in Rawzatul Ulum Kawmi Madrasah of the same area. The father of the victim reported that, on the day of the event, some people came to the village and claimed themselves to be members of the DB police. The men were carrying weapons. They took him to the nearest market and went away in a micro bus which was already present there. The officer in charge of the DB police of Bhola district denied any operations in the area. Faizullah was shown arrested after 11 days DB police confirmed his brother Yousuf.²³

On November 8, 2022, Zakir Hosain a medical officer from Vanga upazila health complex, Faridpur went missing. He is the resident of Bongram, Manikganj. He has been working in Vanga, Faridpur from 2019. On the day he went missing, text messages were sent

23 HRSS Investigation desk and Daily Naya Diganta, "মাদরাসা শিক্ষককে ডিবি পরিচয়ে তুলে নেয়ার অভিযোগ," November 10, 2022, <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/barishal/705201>.



to his wife stating that the phone may be switched off due to no electricity in the area. Another text message was sent to upazila health and family welfare officer, stating that he is going to Dhaka for an emergency. But he did not go home. His wife contacted his workplace to find out he is not there. Then she filed a General Diary at the local police station. After 9 days he was shown arrested by the special branch of Dhaka Mohanagar Police.²⁴



Victim Zakir Hosain.
(Source: Prothom Alo)



Musabbir being picked up by the LEA (Source: HRSS investigation desk)

On 8th December 2022 Azizur Rahman Musabbir, the Secretary of Swechchasebok Dal, Dhaka City north, also an electoral candidate for the seat Dhaka-12 was picked up by some men in civil clothing claiming to be members of the Law Enforcement Agency. He went to the Radical Hosiptal, Uttara to donate blood to one of the members of his political party. His family weren't sure where did

²⁴ Daily Prothom Alo, “নির্ধোঁজের ৯ দিন পর আরেক চিকিৎসককে হেণ্ডারের কথা জানাল পুলিশ। প্রথম আলো,” November 18, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/9f8pn772xz>.

they took him. Because earlier in the march 2022, Musabbir was picked up by DB and remained missing for several days until they showed him arrested in a political case. So, they searched for him all over and got information that he is in Tejgaon police station. In the afternoon after requesting several times the ansar (guard) agreed and went to custody, he then informed his wife Suraiya that Musabbir is there and helped her to reach foods to the custody. Musabbir was later shown arrested on 13th December. He has been in the jail ever since. He was given bail several times since then but was arrested immediately after his bail.²⁵

On December 16, 2022, Jamshed Ali, Organizational Secretary of Dhaka City North 36 no. ward BNP, was allegedly taken by some people from Mohakhali bus stand, Dhaka. He was on his way to Bogura to visit his daughter. The wife of the victim, Sultana Begum searched for her husband in multiple police stations to no avail. She also claimed that no police station would allow her file a General Diary. She also accused the police of misbehaving with her because her husband is a BNP leader. After being held for more than 8 days, Jamshed was shown arrested. He was arrested by the DB police according to his own claims.²⁶

Illegal Detention

Illegal detention by law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh refers to the act of unlawfully detaining someone without proper legal authority or justification. This is a violation of an individual's fundamental rights under the country's constitution and international human rights laws.²⁷ According to Bangladesh law, no person can be detained for more than 24 hours without being produced before a magistrate.²⁸ However, there have been

25 HRSS Investigation desk and Daily Prothom Alo, "শেখসেবক দলের নেতা আজিজুরকে তুলে নেওয়ার অভিযোগ। প্রথম আলো," December 12, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/xikx5h6f1e>.

26 HRSS Investigation desk and Daily Manab Zamin, "৮ দিন ধরে নিখোঁজ বিএনপি নেতা জমশেদ আলী," December , <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=35285>.

27 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "International Standards on Detention | OHCHR," accessed June 4, 2023, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/detention/international-standards-detention>.

28 Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, "Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh - Part III - Fundamental Rights," accessed June 4, 2023, <http://www.commonlii.org/bd/legis/const/2004/part3.html>.



instances where individuals have been held in custody for extended periods with no charges filed against them. In such cases, it is considered illegal detention. The police and other security forces are required to follow due process while arresting and detaining suspects. This includes obtaining an arrest warrant from a court of law if necessary and informing the detainee about their right to legal representation. Any form of torture or mistreatment during detention is also considered illegal under Bangladeshi law as well as international human rights conventions that Bangladesh has ratified. *In Bangladesh there were 13 alleged cases of illegal detentions in the year 2022. Among them 11 people were shown arrested later and 2 were released after a certain period of time.*

Below are some cases of illegal detention in the year 2022

On August 24, 2022, five individuals, including three madrasah teachers, were reportedly taken from their homes in Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia by individuals posing as members of the Detective Branch (DB). The incidents occurred in Jaduboyra, Panti, Bagulat and Jagannathpur union of the upazila between 11 pm and 1 am. Two families filed a general diary (GD) with Kumarkhali Police Station the following morning. The five men were identified as Md. Ayub Ali (35), son of late Salauddin and resident of Bansgram village and a teacher of Bansgram Kamil Madrasah; Md Mostofa Rashed alias Panna (47), son of late Liakat Ali and resident of Wasi village of the Panti union, he is the teacher of Shahidnagar Shailkupa Madrasha; Md Hafizur Rahman (26), son of Md. Altaf Hossain and resident of Bohlbaria village of the Jaduboyra union, he is a teacher in mosque-based child education project of the Lakshmpur district; Md Hasan Ali (35), son of Md Abdul Jalil and resident of Betbariya village of Jagannathpur union; and Md Hannan, son of late Amjed ali and a resident of Mahendrapur village. They were shown arrested two days later. According to sources they were apprehended by RAB.²⁹

²⁹ HRSS Investigation Desk and Daily Prothom Alo, “কুষ্টিয়ায় ডিবি পরিচয়ে পাঁচজনকে বাড়ি থেকে তুলে নেওয়ার অভিযোগ। প্রথম আলো,” August 25, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/7j2s7grmhc>; Daily Prothom Alo, “দুই দিন আগে বাড়ি থেকে তুলে নেওয়া পাঁচজনকে পাওয়া গেল র্যাবের কার্যালয়ে। প্রথম আলো,” August 27, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/i0pvnioxvl>.





Five detained individuals are presented in front of the Media. (Source: Prothom Alo)

On September 11, 2022, a doctor Shakir bin Wali was allegedly arrested from his house by people identifying themselves as members of CID. Shakir, an eye specialist, is the son of AKM Waliullah and a resident of East Hajipara, Rampura. His father Waliullah tried to find the whereabouts of his son at the local police stations but was denied any information. According to Waliullah, he found out about his son's arrest after 2 days. In the meantime, he was held by the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC). They have filed a case against him accusing involvement with the terrorist organization Ansar al Islam.³⁰



Dr Shakir bin Wali
(Source: Samakal)

30 HRSS Investigation Desk and Daily Prothom Alo, “‘আমরা সিআইডি’র লোক’ বলে চিকিৎসক ছেলেকে ভুলে নিয়ে গেল তারা। প্রথম আলো,” October 13, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/capital/s23w7vy20n>; Daily Samakal, “ডা. শাকিরকে মিথ্যা মামলায় ফাঁসানোর অভিযোগ পরিবারের,” October 14, 2022, <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/2209131817/ডা>.



On December 13, 2022, Joint Convenor of Dhaka City South Chhtara Dal Abdur Rahim Bhuiya went missing from Wari, Dhaka. According to his father Abdul Hai Bhuiya, he went out to deal with some business-related matters. But he did not return home. His cell phone was also found off when dialed. After five days of disappearance the Abdur Rahim was released from the City Detective Police headquarters. He had to sign a bond before being released from the police custody.³¹



Victim Abdur Rahim Bhuiya
(Source: Prothom Alo)

31 Daily Samakal, “স্বৈচ্ছাসেবক ও ছাত্রদলের ২ নেতার সন্ধান মিলেছে,” December 16, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2212146598/স্বৈচ্ছাসেবক-ও-ছাত্রদলের-২-নেতার-সন্ধান-মিলেছে>.



Violence against Women

Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights and a global public health issue. It affects women of all ages, ethnicities, and social classes, and can take various forms such as physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. In Bangladesh, violence against women is pervasive and continues to be a significant human rights concern. Eliminating violence against women is a global priority and is recognized by several international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These instruments require states to take action to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including legislative and policy measures, preventive measures, and access to justice for victims. Bangladesh has made significant efforts to address violence against women through the adoption of laws and policies, including the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 and the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2013-2025. However, implementation of these laws and policies remains a significant challenge.

Despite these efforts, violence against women in Bangladesh continues to be prevalent. Human Rights Support Society has come across alarming numbers of reported incidents of violence against women, including rape, acid attacks, and domestic violence in 2022. Violence against women in Bangladesh is a significant human rights concern that requires urgent attention. Bangladesh must take more effective measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable.



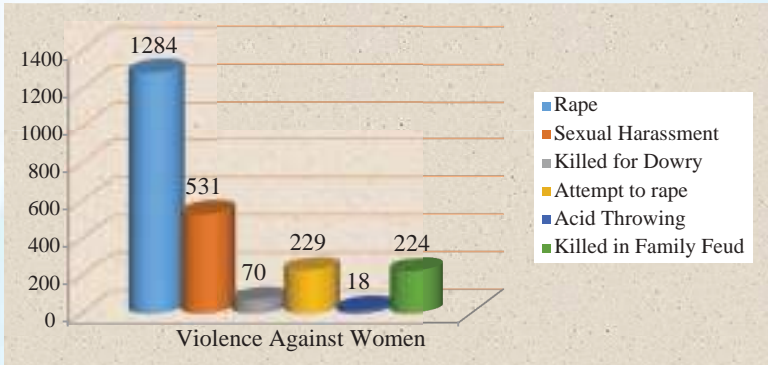


Figure 6: Violence against Women

The major atrocities against women are torture for dowry, family feud, killings, rape, attempt to rape, sexual harassment and stalking, acid throwing and physical and mental abuse. The most common manifestations of violence against women in Bangladesh in 2022 are detailed below:

Rape

Rape is one of the most heinous crimes that can be committed against a person. It is a serious violation of human rights and dignity, and it can have long-lasting physical, psychological, and emotional effects on the victim. Unfortunately, rape continues to be a pervasive crime in Bangladesh, and the situation seems to be getting worse. According to recent reports, the number of rape cases in Bangladesh has been increasing over the years. In 2022 alone, there was a significant number of reported cases of rape, including gang rape and child rape. These cases highlight the urgent need for Bangladesh to address the root causes of this problem and take measures to protect its citizens from such heinous crimes. The rise in rape cases can be attributed to various factors, including a lack of proper implementation of laws, weak law enforcement, social stigma, and patriarchal attitudes that perpetuate gender-based violence. The situation is particularly alarming for women and girls, who are disproportionately



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affected by rape and other forms of gender-based violence. Women in Bangladesh face significant barriers in accessing justice and support services, as they often face social and cultural stigma when reporting such crimes.

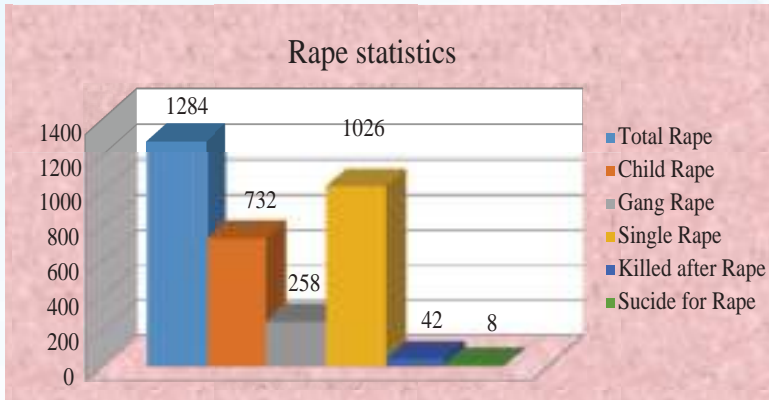


Figure 7 : Statistics of Female Victims of Rape

The graph depicts the frightful scenario of rape in 2022; 1284 females were allegedly raped. Out of them, 258 were subjected to gang rape, whereas alarmingly, 732 were children below 18 (including gang rape). It is also a grave concern that about 42 were brutally killed after being raped, while 08 victims committed suicide after rape.

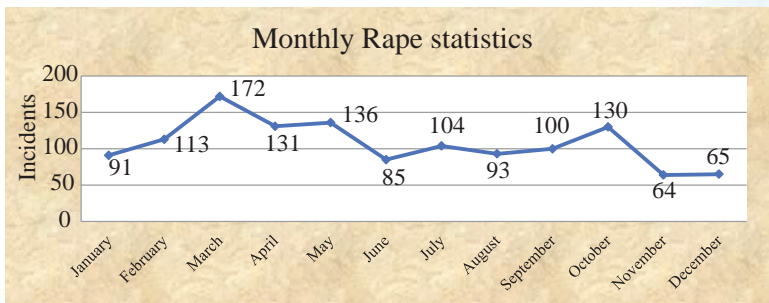


Figure 8 : Monthly Comparison of rape from January to December'22



The above line graph shows data on rape incidents in 2022. During this period, 1284 women and girls were raped, and about 107 females were a victim of rape each month. The number of rapes was 91 in January, then the number steadily increased the following month, and the rape incidents markedly soared to 172 in March. Then the number of rapes reduced moderately in the next month with 131 cases in April. After that, the number of rape incidents fluctuated in the following five months and increased to 130 in October, and then it plummeted to the lowest number of 64 in November.

Reported Rape Cases are stated below:

On February 16, 2022, two young guys reportedly raped a 16-year-old college girl after abducting her from Lalbagh area of Old Dhaka. They then left the girl abandoned in the TSC area of the Dhaka University campus. She was rescued by a passerby who along with police took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Shahbagh police station inspector Mahfuzul Haque said they were informed that two youths-Al Amin and Shuvo-of Lalbagh abducted the girl and confined her to an unknown location for five days. He also said that the Lalbagh police station was informed about the incident and they were verifying the allegations.³²

On March 29, 2022, a young woman was allegedly gang-raped by 4 people including a local UP member in Madhabpur of Habiganj. She was picked up from the Dhaka-Sylhet highway, locked in a house and was raped for two days. Later she was handcuffed and dumped on the side of the highway. She was rescued in critical condition with the help of pedestrians and was admitted to Sadar Adhunik Hospital. According to the victim, she was taken to Billal Mia's house and tortured for two days. Other culprits are Rafiq and Nur Dhan (UP member) tortured her. She came from Chittagong in search of a job in the company and was raped.³³

32 Daily Prothom Alo, "ছাত্রীকে ৫ দিন আটকে 'ধর্ষণের' পর ফেলে গেল ঢাবি এলাকায়। প্রথম আলো," February 17, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/রাজধানীজ-কলজোমাত্রীক-৪-নদি-আটকে-রেখে-দলবদ্ধ-ধর্ষণের-অভিযোগ>।

33 Daily Jugantor, "ঢাকারির সন্ধানে যাওয়া তরুণীকে দুদিন আটকে গণধর্ষণ," March 29, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/535459/ঢা>.



On April 03, 2022, the body of a five-year-old girl, who was raped and killed by her cousin 10 days ago, was recovered from a septic tank at Megha village in Chatkhil Upazila of Noakhali. The deceased was identified as Asma Aktar, daughter of Shahjahan at Megha village in Chatkhil Upazila of Noakhali. Police arrested Shahadat Hossain (22), son of Babul for involvement in the crime. Following his confession, police recovered the body of Asma, wrapped in polythene, from the septic tank, said Gias Uddin, officer-in-charge of Chatkhil police station. During interrogation, Shahadat confessed that he raped the child several times before strangulating her to death. Later, he dumped the body in the septic tank.³⁴

On April 08, 2022, a police sub-inspector (SI) was arrested for allegedly raping a housewife in Kanthalia, Jhalakathi. The accused was identified as Alamgir (SI), working at the Tarabunia investigation center in kanthalia Upazila. According to the details of the case, the housewife of South Chenchri village of the upazila was raped and beaten by the accused SI at her house on the night of April 3.³⁵

On May 06, 2022, a woman entrepreneur and social worker in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur was raped by the former vice-president of Gazipur District Chhatra League. The accused was identified as Shahin Alam, son of Mohammad Wahid Military of Dhanua area of Nagarhaola village in Gazipur union. The victim lodged a written complaint against the BCL leader at Sreepur police station. According to the complaint, the woman traded in various consumer goods. Chhatra League leader Shaheen got acquainted with her through various social activities. Last year, Shaheen took the woman to his private office, saying that she was doing business. At one stage, Shaheen raped the woman.³⁶

34 Dhaka Tribune, "Child Killed after Rape in Noakhali," April 3, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/04/03/child-killed-after-rape-in-noakhali>.

35 Daily Kaler Kantho, "ধর্ষণ মামলায় এসআই গ্রেপ্তার," April 8, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/04/08/1136526>.

36 Daily Jugantor, "ছাত্রলীগ নেতার বিরুদ্ধে নারী উদ্যোক্তাকে ধর্ষণের অভিযোগ," June 6, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/547754/ছাত্র>.



On June 07, 2022, a young man was arrested on the charge of trying to kill a mentally ill girl (17) by setting her body on fire after rape. The accused was identified as Ibrahim Khalil (19), son of Abdur Rahim, resident of Ward No. 1 of Noakhali Municipality.³⁷

On July 1, 2022, a housewife (44) reported a rape allegation against a local Awami League leader in Srinagar, Munshiganj. The name of the accused is Barek Morol(60). He is the former organizing secretary of Vaggokul Union Awami League in Srinagar upazila. The victim complained that since she got married seven months ago, Barek Morol was continuously sending her lewd proposals. On the night of the event, when her husband went out for night prayers, the accused forcibly entered her house and raped her.³⁸

On August 23, 2022, a group of men raped a school teacher at gunpoint in sadar upazila, Cox's Bazar. The incident took place in the Chander Para village in the Jhilongjha union. According to the victim's family, she was coming back home after attending her niece's marriage celebration party when a group of men led by Bedar Mia stopped her on the road and kidnapped her. He and his associates took her to a remote under construction building and gang raped her on gunpoint.³⁹

On September 07, 2022 a case has been filed in the Gazipur court against Sadar Union Parishad chairman of Kapasia upazila of Gazipur district and president of Kapasia upazila Juba League Sakhawat Hossain Pradhan on charges of rape and kidnapping. According to the details of the case, a teenage maid was often raped by the chairman Sakhawat Hossain in the absence of his wife. At one point, when the girl became pregnant, the chairman forced the pregnant girl to marry his house servant. On August 16, the girl was taken to Kapasia Government Hospital and she gave birth to a child. After that the girl claimed the child to be

37 Daily Naya Diganta, "কিশোরীকে ধর্ষণের পর আগুনে পুড়িয়ে হত্যার চেষ্টা," June 7, 2022, <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/chattagram/668816/কদি.১>.

38 Daily Jugantor, "আ.লীগ নেতার বিরুদ্ধে গৃহবধূকে ধর্ষণের অভিযোগ," July 1, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/568561/জ>.

39 Daily Jugantor, "অস্ত্র ঠেকিয়ে স্কুলশিক্ষিকাকে 'সংঘবদ্ধ ধর্ষণ,'" August 23, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/586945/জ>.



of the chairman and revealed everything to the journalists. Then Sakhawat had her taken to an unknown place and forced her to give a statement clearing his name. Later Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) rescued the girl.⁴⁰

On September 5, 2022, a case was filed against the Mayor Puthia Municipality Rajshahi, Al Mamun Khan on the charges of rape. The victim (24) herself filed the case. According to the victim, she came to the mayor one year ago in search of a job. The mayor promised her job and also marriage and had physical intercourse with her several times. After a while the victim refused to agree to the act but the mayor again took advantage of her promising her marriage. Finally, when the victim asked the mayor to keep his promise, he let her know that he won't give her job or marry her.⁴¹

On October 15, 2022, a sub-inspector of police was arrested on charges of rape in Steamerghat, Barishal. The name of the accused is Abul Bashar (47). According to the officer in charge at the police station, the accused police officer met the house on May 5. They became acquaintances. The woman tried to seek help from the police officer regarding a lawsuit. The officer then deceived the woman by telling her he was taking her to his office. Instead, he took her to a hotel room and raped her. A suit was filed against him by the victim. According to the police, he was suspended and sent to jail for his crimes.⁴²

On November 12, 2022, a woman filed a complaint that she was raped after being promised a room in the government shelter project. This happened in Senbag upazila, Noakhali. The victim also claimed that she is being pressurized by the rapist to mitigate the matter without taking it to court. The name of the accused is, Golap Hosen (38). He is the former member of the Union Parishad. The victim is a poor woman who earns her living by teaching kids. According to her, Golap lured her to his house with

40 HRSS desk, Accusation of rape and kidnapping of a housemaid (2022).

41 Daily Jugantor, "মেয়ের বিরুদ্ধে ধর্ষণের অভিযোগ," September 5, 2022.

42 Daily Janakantha, "গৃহবধূকে ধর্ষণ: পুলিশ ফাঁড়ির ইনচার্জ গ্রেফতার," October 15, 2022, <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/bangladesh/news/666688>.



the promise of giving her a room in the government project. After the incident, she informed the Union Parishad Chairman about this but he did not take any action. Even the police did not take any action about the matter. On the other hand, Golap completely denied the accusations against him.⁴³

On December 5, 2022, a female school teacher filed a case accusing her former husband, a police officer of rape in Sadar upazila, Feni. The name of the accused is Md. Alauddin (38), Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of DB branch of Feni district police. He is a resident of Gharuskul Lamajhi area of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila. According to the case filed, the perpetrator and the victim were married before. They got divorced some time ago. But the accused used to visit the victim even after the divorce. In this time, he had raped the victim twice. After that, the victim filed a case at the Feni model police station.⁴⁴

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a prevalent form of gender-based violence that occurs in various forms and settings, including workplaces, educational institutions, public spaces, and online platforms. It refers to any unwelcome sexual conduct, verbal or physical, that makes the victim feel uncomfortable, intimidated, humiliated, or threatened. Sexual harassment undermines the dignity, security, and rights of the victims and creates a hostile environment that perpetuates gender inequality. Unfortunately, Bangladesh is not immune to the global phenomenon of sexual harassment. The country has witnessed a surge in sexual harassment cases in recent years, with many incidents going unreported or underreported due to societal stigma, fear of retaliation, and inadequate legal protection.

43 Daily Prothom Alo, "নোয়াখালীতে 'আশ্রয়ণের ঘর' দেওয়ার কথা বলে নারীকে ধর্ষণের অভিযোগ। প্রথম আলো," November 12, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/zjp48i60q2>.

44 Daily Manab Zamin, "ফেনীতে পুলিশ কর্মকর্তার বিরুদ্ধে শিক্ষিকার ধর্ষণ মামলা," December 5, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=32560>.



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In 2022, Bangladesh witnessed numerous incidents of sexual harassment, ranging from verbal abuse to physical assault. These incidents occurred in various settings, including public transportation, workplaces, and educational institutions.



Figure 9 : Statistics of Sexual Harassment

According to information gathered by HRSS, 531 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment in 2022. Of them, 290 were assaulted, and 241 were subjected to stalking

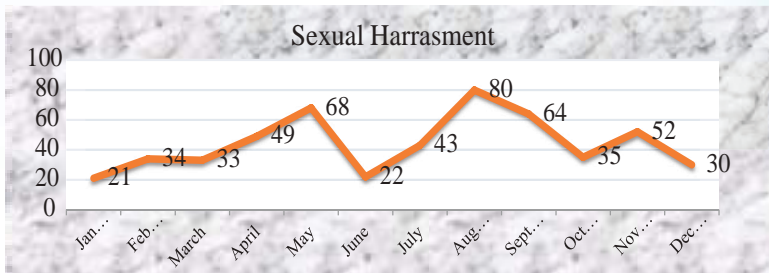


Figure 10: Monthly Comparison of Sexual Harassment in 2022

The number of incidents of sexual harassment fluctuated throughout the year. The figure above shows a steady rise in cases from January (21) to May (68). After that, there is a noticeable decline in June with 22 cases. However, the number quickly rises in the next two months, peaking in August with 80, before steadily falling at the end of the year.

Some important incidents are described below:

On February 03, 2022, Intern doctors went on strike over alleging sexual harassment against a doctor at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital. The accused was identified as Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman, medical officer of the obstetrics and gynecology department of Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital. According to the intern doctors, the accused doctor treated not only the female intern doctor but also the relatives of the patient. An inquiry committee was formed on the basis of the allegations.⁴⁵

On March 23, 2022, a case was filed against a teacher for sexually harassing a schoolgirl in Lakhai, Habiganj. According to police and case sources, the victim was a 2022 SSC candidate of Bamai Government Model High School in Lakhai Upazila. The accused was identified as Muminul Haque, an assistant teacher in a government model high school in the upazila. Students of the school staged a protest by blocking the road demanding expulsion and punishment of accused teacher Muminul Haque.⁴⁶



The students are demanding arrest of the culprit teacher Muminul. (Source: Jugantor)

45 Daily Jugantor, "মেডিকেল অফিসারের বিরুদ্ধে যৌন হয়রানির অভিযোগ ৬ নারী ইস্টার্ন চিকিৎসকের," February 3, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/516413/মডেলি>.

46 Daily Jugantor, "শ্রেণিকক্ষেই ছাত্রীকে যৌন হয়রানি, শিক্ষক বরখাস্ত," March 23, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/533755/শ্রর>.



On April 15, 2022, two members of the Comilla district Detective Branch (DB) were suspended for harassing two teenagers in Comilla's Nagar Udyan, by capturing videos, hurling abuses and spreading the video on social media. The duo were sitting and chatting at the park on Pohela Boishakh when one of the DB members walked towards them while filming a video. The officers made them stand and pestered the teenagers with questions. The video that became viral on Facebook created much hype.⁴⁷

On May 11, 2022, an expatriate's wife was tied to a tree and tortured for not agreeing to the member's lewd proposal in Kalihati Upazila of Tangail. The accused was identified as Mosharraf Miah (48), a UP member of Ward 4 of Nagbari Union in Kalihati Upazila of Tangail. Officer in charge of Kalihati Police Station Mollah Azizur Rahman said the housewife was rescued after receiving the news. The abused housewife said that for a long time UP member Musharraf had been giving her inappropriate offers in different ways at different times. A case was filed in this connection.⁴⁸

On June 01, 2022, a nurse was sexually harassed by the owner of the Cure Hospital and Diagnostic Center in Raipur upazila Lakshmipur. The accused were identified as Mizan Muni, (65), the owner the Cure Hospital and Diagnostic Center and Asaduzzaman (doctor). Hospital owner Mizan Muni and duty doctor Asaduzzaman have been doing inappropriate behaviour with the women workers at the Cure Hospital and Diagnostic Center. The woman was embarrassed and stopped him again and again. But still Mizan Munshi continued to harass her.⁴⁹

47 Dhaka Tribune, "2 DB Members Suspended in Comilla for Harassing Teenagers," April 15, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/crime/2022/04/15/2-db-members-suspended-in-comilla-for-harassing-teenagers>.

48 Daily Jugantor, "মেম্বরের কুপ্রস্তাবে রাজি না হওয়ায় প্রবাসীর স্ত্রীকে গাছে বেঁধে নির্যাতন," May 11, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/549901/ম>.

49 Daily Prothom Alo, "নার্সকে যৌন হয়রানি, হাসপাতালের মালিকের বিরুদ্ধে মামলার নির্দেশ। প্রথম আলো," June 1, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/নার্সকে-যৌন-হয়রানি-হাসপাতাল-মালিকের-বিরুদ্ধে-মামলার-নির্দেশ>.



On July 1, 2022, a human rights activist was tortured in Muradnagar upazila, Cumilla. The victim, Mariam Begum, is an NGO employee and a human rights activist. She works for International Legal Aid Foundation. The victim claimed that associates of the Union Parishad Chairman Zakir Husain tortured and molested her in front of the chairman himself. On the day of the event, they called her to a Shalish (Dispute settlement session) and accused her of not voting for the UP chairman in the last election. Then the chairman's nephew, with his men, assaulted and molested her on the spot.⁵⁰



Snippet from the video of Human Rights activist tortured (Source: Samakal)

On August 20, 2022, news broke out of a university teacher sexually harassing a female student of his department at Dhaka University. The teacher's name is Md. Enamul Haq, who is an assistant professor of the Department of Music at the university. According to the victim, the harasser called her to a restaurant and made inappropriate proposals to her. The girl rejected the proposal and stormed out. But the teacher kept disturbing her through phone calls. She then recorded some of the conversations and presented them as evidence to the chairman of the department.⁵¹

50 Daily Samakal, "কুমিল্লায় শালিশে নারী মানবাধিকারকর্মীকে মারধর, শ্রীলতাহানি," July 1, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2207119952>.

51 Daily Prothom Alo, "ছাত্রীকে যৌন হয়রানির অভিযোগে ঢাবি শিক্ষককে শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম থেকে অব্যাহতির সুপারিশ। প্রথম আলো," August 20, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/capital/nfzulw03u>.



On October 4, 2022, a court sent a police officer to jail because of sexual harassment in Burichang Upazila, Cumilla. He was accused of sexually harassing a college girl in that area. The name of the accused is Abdul Malek. On September 17, the girl came to the market to buy medicine for her mother. She had to get on an auto rickshaw to go to the store. The police officer was already on board the auto-rickshaw. He kept her from getting off the vehicle and forced her to roam around the city for two hours. At this time, he sexually harassed her.⁵²

Dowry-Related Violence

Dowry-Related Violence is a common form of violence against women in Bangladesh, which has been prevalent for centuries. It is a crime that often leads to physical, psychological, and emotional harm to women, and sometimes even to death. Unfortunately, the year 2022 was no exception, as it continued to be a serious problem in Bangladesh. The historical context of Dowry-Related Violence in Bangladesh can be traced back to the socio-cultural practices that encourage or enforce the exchange of dowries during marriage. The practice of dowry is deeply ingrained in the society and is considered a part of tradition and culture. However, this has led to a situation where the bride's family is expected to provide a substantial amount of money or property to the groom's family as part of the marriage contract. When the bride's family is unable to fulfill these demands, they often face threats and violence.

The situation regarding DRW in Bangladesh is alarming. Despite the existence of laws criminalizing Dowry-Related Violence, perpetrators often go unpunished due to weak law enforcement, social stigma, and a lack of awareness among the public.

52 Daily Manab Zamin, “কুমিল্লায় কলেজছাত্রীকে ‘যৌন হয়রানি’, এএসআই কারাগারে,” October 5, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=23640>.



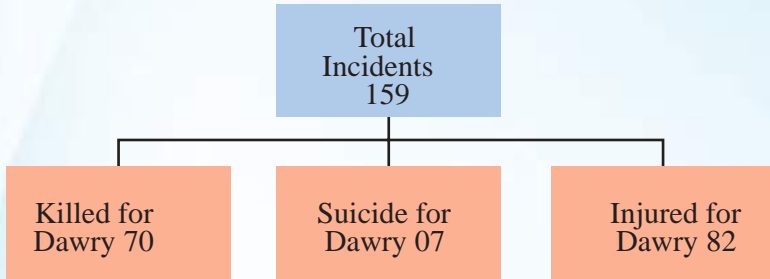


Figure 11 : Statistics of Dowry Related Violence

The figure shows that a total of 159 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported in 2022. Out of them, about 70 were killed, 07 committed suicide, and 82 women were physically abused over dowry demands as victims of dowry-related violence.

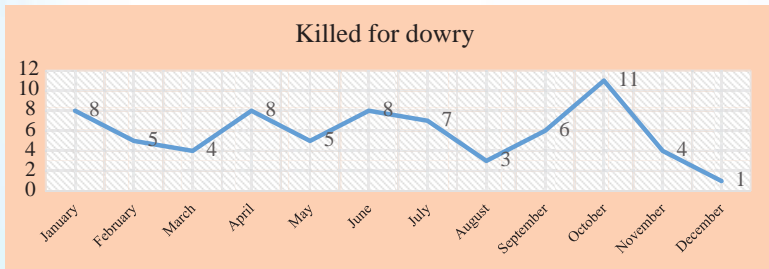


Figure 12: Monthly Comparison of killed for dowry from January to December'22

The above line graph illustrates information about dowry related killing in 2022. The number of killings was 08 in January than the number slightly decreased in the following two months to 05 and 04 respectively. The numbers of killings incidents vacillated in the following four months and plummeted to 03 in August. After that, the number slightly increased in the following month and the killing incidents markedly soared to the peak of 11 in October, then it fall dramatically in the last two months of the year.



Some important incidents are given below:

On February 03, 2022, two sisters were beaten and burnt because of dowry money in Gurudaspur upazila, Natore. The victims were identified as Sukhi and Sumi, daughters of Hazrat Mollah. The accused were identified as Alamgir, Sukhi's husband and Sabuj, Sumi's husband.



One of the victim sisters in Natore. (Source: Kalerkantho)

The incident took place in Hazrat Mollah's house. Hazrat Mollah said his two daughters were tortured for dowry and were evicted from their home.⁵³

On March 04, 2022, Police recovered a hanging body of a housewife from Madarsi village in Uzirpur upazila, Barisal. The deceased was identified as Nupur Akhter (20), daughter of Nazrul Islam of Asokathi village in the adjoining Gournadi upazila. According to the relatives, Nupur was killed by her husband Milon Mia because of dowry and then her body was hung. Nupur was tortured every day as she could not bring the money from her father's house.⁵⁴

53 Daily Kaler Kantho, "যৌতুকের টাকা না পেয়ে দুই বোনকে পুড়িয়ে হত্যাচেষ্টার অভিযোগ," February 5, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/02/05/1117615>.

54 Daily Samakal, "উজিরপুরে যৌতুক না পেয়ে গৃহবধূকে হত্যার অভিযোগ," March 4, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/220399597/উজিরপুরে-যৌতুক-না-পেয়ে-গৃহবধূকে-হত্যার-অভিযোগ>.

On April 24, 2022, a Rangpur court accepted a case filed against a judge of Rangpur Senior Judicial Magistrate Court-2, under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act over torturing his wife for dowry. The accused was identified as Debanshu Kumar, judge of Rangpur Senior Judicial Magistrate Court-2. The victim was identified as Dr. Hridayita Sarker. According to the case statement, Judge Debanshu Kumar Sarkar got married with Dr. Hridayita Sarkar on May 11, 2015. Debanshu and his family members demanded a dowry of Tk 30 lakh at the wedding. After a few days of marriage, Debanshu again started demanding dowry to buy a new car. Due to this, she (Hridayita) was tortured several times.⁵⁵

On April 27, 2022, a youth beat up his wife to death for dowry in Indurkani Upazila of Pirojpur. The deceased was identified as Sumi Akhter, 18, daughter of Milon Mollah, was a student of class 10 at Balipara Secondary School. According to police, Sumi Akhter (18), was at her husband's house at Bepsabunia village when husband Hridoy Hawlader tortured her to death. After killing her, the husband tried to portray the incident as a suicide case and poured poison into her mouth. Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Indurkani police station, said that they had arrested Hridoy and his mother.⁵⁶

On May 29, 2022, a housewife who was eight months pregnant was beaten to death for dowry in Raipura, Narsingdi. The deceased was identified as Lutfa Begum, (25), daughter of Ekram Hossain of Matiur Nagar area of Raipura upazila. The incident took place at Begmabad village in Maheshpur union of the upazila .The accused were identified as Nuruzzaman Mia(33), husband of the deceased and son of Billal Hossain of Begmabad village in the same Upazila.⁵⁷

55 The Daily Star, "Court Accepts Case Filed against Rangpur Judge by Wife over Torture | The Daily Star," April 24, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/court-accepts-case-filed-against-rangpur-judge-wife-over-torture-3011411>.

56 Dhaka Tribune, Youth arrested for killing 10th grader wife for dowry in Pirojpur, issued April 22, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/04/27/youth-arrested-for-killing-10th-grader-wife-for-dowry-in-pirojpur>.

57 Daily Samakal, "নরসিংদীতে অষ্টমসত্তা গৃহবধূকে হত্যার অভিযোগ, স্বামী আটক," May 22, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2205113845/নরসিংদীতে-অষ্টমসত্তা-গৃহবধূকে-হত্যার-অভিযোগ-স্বামী-আটক>.



On June 11, 2022 the police arrested a man for torturing his school teacher wife for dowry in Nalitabari upazila, Sherpur. The victim was identified as Lakshmi Rani, a teacher of Panchgaon Government Primary School of Nalitabari Upazila in Sherpur. The accused was identified as According to the case statement, Titu demanded dowry money from his wife after marriage and constantly torturing physically and mentally for dowry money. Lakshmi Rani wanted justice so that no one is subjected to such torture.⁵⁸

On July 14, 2022, a panel mayor of a municipality tortured his wife because she could not pay the dowry of their marriage in Nalchity upazila, Jhalakathi. The victim's name is Reshma Begum, and she had to be taken to the hospital. According to Reshma, her husband, Polash Talukdar, used to torture her for dowry-related issues. He borrowed a lot of money from her father but did not pay them back. Moreover, he forced Reshma to get more money from her father as a dowry.⁵⁹



Reshma Begum receiving treatment, Polash Talukdar (inset). (Source: Manab Zamin)

58 Daily Janakantha, "সৌভূকের জন্য শিক্ষিকা স্ত্রীকে নির্যাতন," June 18, 2022, <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/details/article/654251/সৗ>.

59 Daily Manab Zamin, "নলছিটি পৌর প্যানেল মেয়রের বিরুদ্ধে স্ত্রী নির্যাতনের অভিযোগ," July 14, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=11546>.

On October 20, 2022, an allegation surfaced about a husband forcing his wife into prostitution due to unpaid dowry in Kamal Nagar, Lakshmipur. The name of the accused is Md. Shohag (22). Reports stated that Shohag married a girl in Kamalnagar upazila five months ago. There was an agreement of BDT 50,000 dowry during the marriage. He put pressure on his wife to pay the dowry after the wedding. After two months of marriage, he tricked his wife into coming to Dhaka with him. He drugged her and smuggled her into a drum to his sister's house near Kolkata, India. When the victim's brother filed a case at the police station, Shohag returned her to her house unconscious. When she came to her senses, she confirmed that she was forced into prostitution in Kolkata. The victim's family managed to lure Shohag by bluffing him about the dowry money. Then they captured him and handed him over to the police.⁶⁰

On November 18, 2022, a husband was accused of beating his wife because of dowry in Dhunot upazila, Bogura. The name of the perpetrator is Ujjal Mahmud (30). He is the son of Joynul Islam, a resident of Pukhuria village under Vandarbari Union. According to the police report, Ujjal married Kajuli Khatun three years ago. Kajuli is the daughter of Lokman Hosen, a resident of Chalunja village in Shibganj upazila. She works as an ASI (Assistant Sub-Inspector) in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in the Natore district. The couple have a fourteen-month-old child. Ujjal has been pressuring his wife to pay a hefty dowry since they got married. She paid him ten lakh TK's as a result. But he demanded five lakh TK's extra. When she failed to pay the additional amount, Ujjal and his family members tortured her severely. Kajuli became injured and had to go to hospital to receive treatment.⁶¹

60 Daily Kalerkantho, "যৌতুকের টাকা না পাওয়ার ক্ষোভে স্ত্রীকে যৌনপন্থীতে বিক্রি," October 8, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/10/20/1195173>.

61 Daily Kaler Kantho, "যৌতুকের দাবিতে নারী পুলিশ সদস্যকে নির্যাতন, স্বামী গ্রেপ্তার," November 18, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/11/18/1204554>.



Acid Violence

Acid violence is a heinous crime that leaves victims with lifelong physical and emotional scars. Unfortunately, Bangladesh has a long history of acid violence, with women being the primary victims. The year 2022 was no exception, as acid attacks continued to occur, highlighting the urgent need for action to prevent this devastating crime. The roots of acid violence in Bangladesh can be traced back to socio-cultural factors such as gender inequality, lack of education, and patriarchal attitudes. Acid attacks have been used as a weapon of revenge, control, and punishment against women who refuse proposals of marriage, demand divorce, or seek independence. Despite efforts to curb this practice, acid violence remains a significant problem in Bangladesh.

The situation regarding acid violence in Bangladesh is concerning. Despite the existence of laws criminalizing acid attacks and regulating the sale and use of acid, the perpetrators often go unpunished due to weak law enforcement and a culture of impunity.

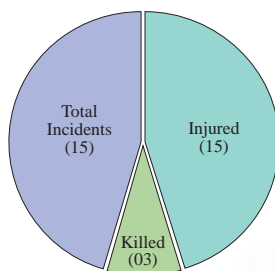


Figure 13 : Attacks Using Acid on Women and Girls

The chart shows the scenario of using acid on women and girls. 15 incidents of acid violence were reported in 2022. In these incidents, 03 women were allegedly killed, and 15 women/girls were injured after throwing acid.

Some important cases are cited below:

On February 02, 2022, a husband threw acid on his ex-wife and burnt half of her body in Saturia, Manikganj. The victim was identified as Sathy Akter (19), a garment worker and daughter of Abdus Sattar of Katakhalı Ferajipara area of Dhankora union of Saturia upazila. The accused was identified as Naim, son of Nizam Uddin of Betila area of Manikganj Sadar Upazila. The victim's mother Julekha Begum demanded exemplary punishment for the incident.⁶²

On March 03, 2022, a husband and his relatives were accused of throwing acid on a housewife in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali. The victim was identified as Tanaya (20), daughter of Jalil Hawladar of Gupta's Hawla village in Panpatti union of Galachipa upazila. Tanay's left eye was severely damaged by the acid. The incident took place at the house of Tanay's father in Gupta's Hawla village. After the incident, the locals rescued the girl and admitted her to Galachipa Hospital.⁶³

On March 29, 2022, a husband threw acid on his wife and burnt her body for not paying for drugs in Mizmiji Painadi area of Siddhirganj in Narayanganj. The victim was identified as Rozina Akhter, (38), daughter of Abdul Chhamad. She was admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. The accused was identified as Zahirul Islam (48), son of Alauddin of Mizmiji Painadi area of Siddhirganj in Narayanganj.⁶⁴

On May 05, 2022, a young girl sustained serious burn injuries from an acid attack by a person in Betagi area of Rangunia upazila in Chattogram. The victim was identified as Yasmin Akter, (20), daughter of Abul Bashar of Betagi area in Rangunia. The accused was identified as Nurul Azim (28), son of Ruhul Amin of Khantakhata area of Raikhali union of Chandraghona police station in Kaptai.⁶⁵

62 Daily Jugantor, "নারীকে এসিড নিক্ষেপ, সাবেক স্বামী গ্রেফতার," February 2, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/516005/নারী>.

63 Daily Kaler Kantho, "এসিডে বলসে দেওয়া হলো গৃহবধুর চোখ-মুখ," March 3, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/03/03/1125531>.

64 Daily Jugantor, "যে কারণে গার্শেন্টসকর্মী স্ত্রীকে এসিড মারল স্বামী," March 29, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/535524/যে-কারণে-গারমেন্টসকর্মী-স্ত্রীকে-এসিড-মারল-স্বামী>.

65 Daily Kaler Kantho, "'আজিম এসিড ছুড়ে পালিয়েছে৷"; বলসে গেল ইয়াসমিন," May 5, 2022, <https://>





Victim Yasmin on the right and perpetrator Nurul Azim on the left.

(Source: Kalerkantho)

On June 11, 2022, a woman sustained burn injuries in an acid attack in Khusiura village of Dowarabazar upazila, Sunamgnaj. The victim was identified as Sorufa Begum, (35), wife of Saudi Arabia expatriate Mozammel Haque and mother of three children. Quoting her family, Debdulal Dhar, officer-in-charge of Dowarabazar Police Station, said, “Someone threw acid on her while she went out of the house to bring water from the tube well. She was admitted to the burn unit at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital with burns on her face.”⁶⁶

On July 14, 2022, a housewife became an acid attack victim in Hatibandha, Lalmonirhat. The victim’s name is Mahmuda Begum (25). Six years ago, she married Hamidul Islam, son of Atowar Rahman of the same Upazila. On the day at 10 pm, her father-in-law Atowar threw acid on her with the help of her other in-laws. Her body got seriously injured due to this. The villagers rescued her and took her to the hospital.⁶⁷

On December 18, 2022, a housewife became a victim of acid violence in Kalikapur village in Koyra Upazila, Khulna. The name

www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/05/05/1143523.

66 The Daily Star, “Woman Suffers Burn Injuries in Acid Attack | The Daily Star,” June 11, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/woman-suffers-burn-injuries-acid-attack-3044386>.

67 Daily Samakal, “শ্বশুরের অ্যাসিডে ঝলসে গেল পুত্রবধুর শরীর, নন্দন গ্রেপ্তার,” July 14, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2207121732>.

of the victim is Rabeya Khatun (46). Her husband's name is Rezaul Sana. They are residents of Kalikapur village in Koyra upazila. The relatives of the victim stated that, this was done because of previous enmity with some of the neighbor. While Rabeya was passing by the road in front of the house of Jahangir Sana, some men threw acid on her face.⁶⁸

On December 22, 2022, a women suffered an acid attack by a perverted aggressor in Dattapara villagr, in Karamja union in Sathia upazila, Pabna. Both the victim and the attacker are residents of the same village. The name of the attacker is Yousuf (55). According to her son, the victim borrowed some money from the perpetrator by giving some of her land to him as a mortgage. The criminal used to come to her house often, using this alibi. He has been trying to seduce the victim to get physical advantages from her. But the victim has been refusing. After failing so many times, the perpetrator attempted to rape the victim, and when the victim resisted him, he used acid on her. Police has apprehended the criminal from the spot.⁶⁹

Family Feud

In Bangladesh, the year 2022 witnessed a tragic and alarming number of cases involving the death of women in family feuds. These incidents, marked by violence and brutality, represent a grave violation of human rights and highlight the urgent need for comprehensive action to address this pressing issue. Family feud-related violence not only results in the loss of precious lives but also inflicts severe physical, emotional, and psychological harm on women. These acts of violence within familial settings perpetuate a cycle of abuse and reinforce patriarchal norms, where women are subjected to discrimination, control, and subjugation. Such violence constitutes a clear violation of fundamental human rights, including the right to life, security,

68 Daily Prothom Alo, "কয়রায় গৃহবধুকে অ্যাসিড নিক্ষেপের অভিযোগে মামলা। প্রথম আলো," December 21, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/wk8h91n99d>.

69 Daily Jugantor, "কুপ্রস্তাবে রাজি না হওয়ায় অ্যাসিডে ঝলসে দিল নারীর মুখ," December 22, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/627573>.



and dignity. Every woman has the right to live free from violence, coercion, and fear within her own home and community. The loss of life due to family feud-related violence is an affront to these rights and undermines the principles of equality, justice, and respect for human dignity. *HRSS has found that 224 victims have died and 83 women got injured in family feud related violence in 372 incidents. Among them 65 were suicide cases.*

Some important cases are cited below:

On July 2, 2022, Police recovered a dead body of a house wife in Soraipara ward of Chaottogram City Corporation. The name of the deceased is Rehnuma Ferdous (25). Police recovered her body from the house of 12 no. Soraipara ward councilor Nurul Amin. Rehnuma was married to Nurul Amin's Son Nawshadul Amin. The family of the victim claimed that this was a murder. They said that Nawshad and his mother tortured Rehnuma for dowry and gift related issues. They held multiple Shalish (dispute settlement proceedings) regarding this. Victim's father Tareq Aziz claims that, Naowshad's family killed Rehnuma and now, they are trying to cover this as a suicide. He also claims that they have found torture marks on Rehnuma's neck. There were hairs in her palms. The Officer In charge at the local police station said they are looking into the case.⁷⁰

On September 9, 2022, a fourth-year student of folklore studies department of Islamic University in Kushtia was killed at village Kathuli of Gangni upazila in Meherpur. The name of the victim was Tasnim Jahan Urmi(24). The police arrested her husband, Ashrafuzzaman Prince, and her father-in-law, Shafiul Islam Hashem, for their alleged involvement in the murder. A murder case has been filed against some people, including the duo, with the Gangni police station. The family of the victim claimed that, Tasnim Jahan Urmi was strangled to death by her husband Prince, who used to torture her due to disputes over his drug addiction. He then tried to hang her from the ceiling of their bedroom. Several injury marks

70 Daily Samakal, "চসিক কাউন্সিলরের পুত্রবধূর মরদেহ উদ্ধার, পরিবারের অভিযোগ হত্যা," July 2, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2207120086>.



were found on Tasnim's body, including her throat, indicating that she might have been killed. Tasnim was found hanging from the ceiling in her room at about 10:30 pm on Friday by local people. She was taken to Gangni upazila health complex for treatment where the doctor on duty declared her dead.⁷¹

On October 5, 2022, an allegation came up against a Union Parishad member and panel chairman for beating up and breaking his wife's hand in Jibon Nagar Upazila, Chuadanga. The name of the accused is Abdul Kader (40). The name of the victim is Suraiya Khatun (30). The locals reported that Suraiya and Abdul Kader married six years ago. However, Kader kept Suraiya in her father's house because he already had a wife and children. Suraiya claimed that Abdul Kader has been neglecting his duties as a husband for six years. She filed a case against her husband because of this. After her husband got released from jail, he threatened her and forced her to divorce. On the day of the event, the accused went to the victim's house and started pushing her to agree to divorce. When she refused, he beat her up and broke her hand.⁷²

On November 4, 2022, Aman allegedly killed his wife and attempted to burn her body in Sharatala village in Sadar upazila, Narail. The name of the victim is Asia Begum (22). She is the daughter of Ekhlas Shikdar of the same village. The name of the accused is Rony Shekh, son of Litu Shekh. According to the locals, the couple got married four years ago. They never got along after their union. Quarrelling was a common occurrence in their life. Rony was involved in an extra marital affair also. On the day of the event, Rony killed his wife by cutting her throat and attempted to burn the body. But the villagers saw the smoke and intervened. They found the body while Rony successfully fled the scene. A case was filed at the local police station and police were trying to arrest him.⁷³

71 NEW AGE, "Husband, Father-in-Law Arrested over Killing of IU Female Student," September 9, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/print/article/180762>.

72 Daily Naya Diganta, "সাবেক প্যানেল চেয়ারম্যানের বিরুদ্ধে স্ত্রীকে পিটিয়ে হাত ভেঙে দেয়ার অভিযোগ," October 5, 2022, <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/khulna/696530/সাবেক-প্যানেল-চেয়ারম্যানের-বিরুদ্ধে-স্ত্রীকে-পিটিয়ে-হাত-ভেঙে-দেয়ার-অভিযোগ>।

73 Daily Samakal, "নড়াইলে গৃহবধূকে গলা কেটে ও পুড়িয়ে হত্যা," November 4, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2211139985>.





Attack on Journalists

Freedom of the press is a cornerstone of any democratic society, and journalists play a critical role in ensuring transparency and accountability. In Bangladesh, the Constitution and laws provide some level of protection for journalists, but in practice, journalists are often subjected to harassment, intimidation, and violence. The year 2022 saw an increase in attacks on journalists in Bangladesh, which has raised concerns about the state of press freedom in the country. The Bangladeshi Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression, including the freedom of the press. The country also has laws that protect journalists from harassment and intimidation. However, in practice, journalists face many challenges, including arbitrary detention, physical violence, and censorship. The Digital Security Act (DSA), in particular, has been used to target journalists who criticize the government, leading to self-censorship and a culture of fear.

The attacks on journalists in Bangladesh have far-reaching consequences for the country. Without a free and independent press, the public is left without a reliable source of information, and the government is left unchecked. The attacks on journalists also have a chilling effect on other media professionals who may be hesitant to report on sensitive issues or speak out against the government. The chart below provides information about the total number of attack on journalist.

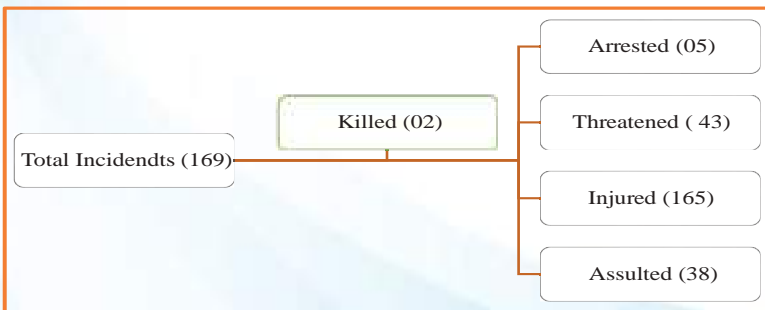


Figure 14 : Attack on Journalists



In 2022, a total of 253 journalists were the victim of attacks by law enforcement agencies, members of the ruling party, influential people, and miscreants this year. The graph illustrates the frightful situation of journalists in Bangladesh. According to HRSS's documented statistics, 02 Journalists, Mohiuddin Sarkar Naeem in Comilla and Hasibur Rahman Rubel in Kushtia, were killed, around 165 Journalists were injured, 43 were threatened, whereas 05 arrested, and 38 were assaulted in 169 incidents in 2022. Also, one journalist was killed by UNO's car, and the other 04 journalists' dead bodies were recovered. Moreover, 9 cases under Digital Security Act were filed against journalists, with 21 different cases on different issues.

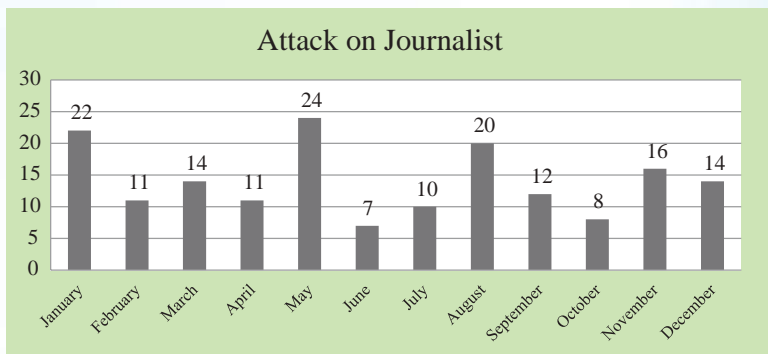


Figure 15 : Monthly Comparison of Attacks on Journalists in 2022

The above column graph provides information about the monthly scenario of the attack on journalists in 2022 in Bangladesh. It was a gruesome situation for journalists as they were attacked every month due to their professional activities.

According to the HRSS report, 14 incidents occur on average every month in 2022. The highest number of attacks on journalists were in January, May, and August, with 22, 24, and 20, reported incidents respectively.

Selected cases are as described below:

On January 29, 2022, four journalists were injured by some miscreants while collecting news on UP elections in Thakurgaon. The injured journalists are Tanvir Hossain Tanu, district correspondent of independent television, Mainuddin Talukdar Himel, correspondent for RisingBD website, Sohel Rana, correspondent of NewsBangla24 and Doinik Bhorer Akash, and Zahid Hasan of Daily Mail. The accused were identified as the supporters of Awami League candidate Nobel Kumar Singh. Later, Thakurgaon Press Club organized a human chain protesting the attack on journalists on duty.⁷⁴



Injured journalists (from left) Sohel Rana, Tanvir Hasan Tanu and Mainuddin Talukdar Himel (Source: Dhaka Tribune)

On March 28, 2022, some BCL leaders and activists snatched a journalist's mobile phone and beaten him up for performing his professional duties. The victim was identified as Omar Asif, a university representative of a local online portal in Mymensingh. The incident took place in front of the security branch adjacent to the university stadium around 5:15 pm. At that time they started killing Asif. During the beating, his phone was snatched and he was verbally abused. Eyewitnesses said that the injured Omar Asif was taken to the university's health care center for treatment.⁷⁵

74 Dhaka Tribune, "4 Jounos Injured While Reporting on UP Polls in Thakurgaon," January 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/01/29/4-journos-injured-while-reporting-on-up-polls-in-thakurgaon>.

75 HRSS research desk and The Daily Star, "20 Jounos Injured in Attack Outside Barishal Court | The Daily Star," February 2, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/20-journos-injured-attack-outside-barishal-court-2952931>.



Human Rights Situation 2022

On April 14, 2022, a journalist was shot dead by miscreants at Shankuchail in Burichang upazila of Comilla on the Bangladesh-India border. The deceased was identified as Mohiuddin Sarkar Naeem, 28, son of Mosharraf Hossain Sarkar of Ulua village in Malapara union of Brahmanpara upazila. Mohiuddin was working as a staff reporter for the Comilla local newspaper Daily Comilla Dak. After rescuing him in a bullet-riddled condition and taking him to the Burichang Upazila Health Complex, the police found the identity card of the newspaper in his pocket. Locals said the shooters were drug dealers and smugglers.⁷⁶



Deceased Mohiuddin Sarkar.
(Source: Kalerkantho)



Some of the injured Journalists in Dhaka college- New Market Clash.
(Source: ManabZamin)

⁷⁶ Daily Kaler Kantho, "কুমিল্লায় দুর্বৃত্তদের গুলিতে সংবাদকর্মী নিহত," April 14, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/04/14/1138202>.



On April 20, 2022, at least eight newsmen, including a photojournalist of The Daily Star, were attacked and injured while performing their duties during the clash between New Market employees and students of Dhaka College in the capital's New Market area. The injured are Prabir Das, photographer of The Daily Star; Asif Zaman, senior reporter at Deepto TV; Imran Lipu, cameraperson at Deepto TV; Al Amin Razu, reporter at Ajker Patrika; Taifur Rahman Tuhin, reporter at SA TV; Kabir Hossain, cameraperson at SA TV; Jasim Uddin Mahir, senior reporter of online news portal Dhaka Post; and Shahed Shafiq, senior reporter of Dhaka Tribune. The injured said, both parties involved in the clash assaulted them whenever they tried to take photographs or video footages of the violence.⁷⁷

On May 16, 2022, a local journalist was seriously injured in an attack by miscreants in Daudkandi upazila of Cumilla. The victim was identified as Moktar Hossain (45), son of late Nurul Islam of Tujarbhangra village and Daudkandi upazila correspondent of daily Manabzamin. The incident took place at around 2.30pm near the entrance of the upazila. After the initial treatment, his condition became serious and the doctor on duty sent him to the Upazila Health Complex, Gauripur.⁷⁸



Journalist Azim Nihad was strangled by this man named Mostak Ahmad in Cox's Bazar (Source: Prothom Alo)

77 The Daily Star, "Eight Journos Attacked by Students, Shopkeepers | The Daily Star," April 20, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/eight-journos-attacked-students-shopkeepers-3008066>.

78 HRSS research desk and Daily Manab Zamin, "সব্রাসী হামলায় মানবজমিনের দাউদকান্দি প্রতিনিধি গুরুতর আহত," May 16, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=3297>.



On June 25, 2022, a case was filed under Digital Security Act against two journalists for spreading defamatory remark about the Court. The accused were identified as Nasim Uddin (45), a journalist of News 24 Television and Bangladesh Pratidin and Nazmul Hasan Nahid, the news collector of Gurdaspur Upazila of 71 TV and the managing editor of Chalanbil IP TV. According to the court sources, during the trial work of Additional District and Sessions Judge Court of Natore, a video of a peon of the court sleeping behind the seat of the lawyers was shared on social media Facebook by journalists Nasim Uddin Nasim and Nazmul Hasan Nahid. When the video came to the attention of the court, a case was filed under Digital Security Act against them. Later, Journalist Nasim Uddin was brought to the Natore senior Chief Judicial Magistrate Court from Thana at around 5 pm on Saturday. Court judge Mehedi Hasan ordered journalist Nasim to be jailed without bail. At that time, the court judge issued an arrest warrant for the arrest of another journalist.⁷⁹



**Deceased
Hasibur
Rahman
Rubel.
(Source:
Naya Diganta)**

On July 3, 2022, Police recovered a dead body of a journalist near an under-construction bridge in Kumarkhali, Kushtia. The victim was Hasibur Rahman Rubel, who worked with multiple news outlets, namely Crime Vision BD, Daily Amader Notun Somoy, and Daily Kushtiar Khobor. He was also the general secretary of the District Reporters Club, Kushtia. According to his family, he

79 Daily Prothom Alo, “আদালতে ভিডিও ধারণের অভিযোগে সাংবাদিক কারাগারে। প্রথম আলো,” June 25, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/আদালতে-ভিডিও-ধারণা-অভিযোগে-সং-সাংবাদিক-কারাগারে>.

received a call at 9.00 pm on July 3 while working in his office. He left the office, telling the clerk that he would return soon, but he went missing for three days. The deceased's wife said, Police failed to act rapidly to rescue the deceased. Police could not identify any clear motive behind this murder⁸⁰.

On August 2, 2022, two journalists were assaulted while covering news about corruption in buying medical machinery in Taltola, Dhaka. The victims are employees of DBC news, staff reporter Saiful Islam and Camera person Azad Ahmed. Abu Daud, a colleague of the victims, informed that the formers were reporting the corruption of the Victor Trading Corporation in buying medical machinery. The owner of the corporation Kawsar Bhuiya and his goons assaulted the reporters, broke their cameras and deleted the video footage of the report.⁸¹



Injured journalist Anisur Rahman from Lalmonirhat. (Source: Samakal)

80 The Daily Star, "Kushtia Journalist Found Dead, 5 Days after Going Missing," July 7, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/kushtia-journalist-found-dead-5-days-after-going-missing-3066261>.

81 Daily Prothom Alo, "সংবাদ সংগ্রহে করতে গিয়ে হামলার শিকার ডিবিসির দুই সাংবাদিক । প্রথম আলো," August 2, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/1rxnx1bsgx>.



On August 12, 2022, four on-duty journalists became the victim of a brutal assault by the son of an Awami League leader in the Panchagram Union of Lalmonirhat. Abdur Rob, a journalist for the Daily Prothom Alo; Anisur Rahman, a journalist for Jamuna TV; Mahfujul Islam, a Journalist for Ekhn Television; Ahsan Sakib, a camera person for Jamuna TV; all were at the receiving end of this assault. Saheb Mondol, son of Panchagram Union Awami League president Azizur Rahman Mondol assaulted the victims with the help of 20-25 of his associates.



Saheb Mondol leading the attack on the journalists (Source: Prothom Alo)

According to the locals, Sultan Mondol, another son of the Awami League leader and the president of 2 no. ward Juba League, fled with the wife of a person named Badrul Islam on the previous day. The husband filed a case at the police station in this regard. The journalists went to collect news of this incident when the brother of Sultan Mondol attacked them and destroyed their cameras.⁸²



Journalist injured during a clash in Dhaka College. (Source: Naya Diganta)

82 Daily Prothom Alo, “আ.লীগ নেতার ছেলের নেতৃত্বে লালমনিরহাটে ৪ সাংবাদিকের ওপর হামলা। প্রথম আলো,” August 8, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/i045h8zu3o>.



Injured Camera Person Rubel Islam.
(Source: Prothom Alo)

On September 05, 2022, two journalists were injured in an attack while they were working in Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), Rajshahi. The identity of the victims is Bulbul Habib and Rubel Islam. Both of them work for ATN News channel. According to Bulbul, they were filming the negligence of the BMDA officers when coming to the office in the morning. Suddenly the Executive Director Abdur Rashid came up and misbehaved with them. After some time, some people came and beat them up and broke their cameras.⁸³

On October 7, 2022, some miscreants attacked and brutally beat up a journalist in Vongura upazila, Pabna. The victim's name is Sirajul Islam Apon (25), the district correspondent of the Daily Protidiner Sangbad and a resident of Ashtomonisha village in the Vongura upazila. Apon was stopped and beaten brutally by six men at quiet area called Kalkati. Later, he was seen lying on the ground by a van driver who informed the villagers of him, and then the villagers took him to the hospital.⁸⁴

83 Daily Prothom Alo, "টেলিভিশনে লাইভ চলাকালে দুই সাংবাদিককে মারধর, ক্যামেরা ভাঙচুর। প্রথম আলো," September 5, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/5ihqrbkf9h>.

84 Daily Jugantor, "সাংবাদিককে পিটিয়ে হত্যা চেষ্টা," October 7, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/603054>.





Injured Journalist Apon. (Source: Jugantor)

On November 3, 2022, five journalists were held and tortured by government officials in the district commissioner's office in Jhinaidaha. The victims are Ali Hasan, Baharul Islam, Mehedi Hasan, Samrat Hossen and Baharul Islam. According to the victims, they were covering news of a human chain outside the district commissioner's office when they heard noises coming from the third floor of the building. They found out that a dispute settlement was going on there under the supervision of RDC Anisul Islam. Some villagers from the Modhurhati union submitted complaints about their chairman Altaf Hosen. At one point in the settlement, a clash occurred between the two parties. The journalists tried to record videos of the incident when senior assistant commissioner Partha Pratim Shil became enraged by this. He rushed the journalists to stop taking videos and made them delete the recorded footage. In the meantime, administration officers Salma Selim, Rajibul Islam Khan, and Shariful Haque arrived at the scene. Then they took the journalists to the office of the Additional district commissioner and harassed them there. They made the journalists sign a bond assuring that no news of this incident would be published in any newspapers.⁸⁵

85 Daily Prothom Alo, "সংবাদ সংগ্রহে করতে গিয়ে হামলার শিকার ডিবিসির দুই সাংবাদিক। প্রথম আলো."

On December 4, 2022, some followers of the Union Parishad Chairman beat up a journalist and destroyed his equipment in Angaria Union, Sadar upazila, Shariatpur. The journalist's name is Shariful Alam Emon, a district correspondent of Daily Kaler Kantho. The attackers were identified as the Union Parishad Chairman Anwar Hossain and Alimul Molla, son of Gias Uddin, a union parishad member. The attackers are all residents of the Angaria Union. According to the locals, the journalist, he along with some of his colleagues, went inside the Union Parishad office to investigate corruption and mismanagement of the government's employment project for the poor.⁸⁶



In December a journalist of Mohona TV channel was attacked on account of publishing news. (Source: Prothom Alo)

86 Daily Kalerkantho, "প্রকল্পে অনিয়ম, বক্তব্য চাওয়ায় ৫ সাংবাদিকের ওপর হামলা," December 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/12/04/1209803>.





Digital Security Act

The right to freedom of expression is a fundamental human right that is enshrined in international human rights treaties and is essential for the functioning of a democratic society. However, in Bangladesh, the Digital Security Act (DSA) has been used to curtail freedom of expression and silence critical voices. The year 2022 witnessed a significant escalation in the use of the DSA to target individuals and organizations that exercised their right to free speech. The DSA, which was enacted in 2018, has been criticized for its vague and overbroad provisions, which allow for arbitrary and excessive restrictions on freedom of expression. Under the DSA, individuals can be arrested and charged for a wide range of offences, including criticism of the government or its officials, which are often based on flimsy evidence or false allegations. The DSA also grants the government extensive powers to monitor and intercept digital communications, including those of journalists and human rights defenders.

The impact of the DSA on freedom of expression in Bangladesh has been severe. Journalists, bloggers, and activists who speak out against the government or its policies have faced intimidation, harassment, and arrest. Media outlets have been shut down, and social media platforms have been censored or blocked. The chilling effect of the DSA has also led to self-censorship, as individuals fear retribution for expressing their opinions online. The contemporary situation of freedom of expression in Bangladesh in relation to the DSA is a cause for concern. The government has used the DSA to clamp down on dissent and stifle critical voices, undermining the country's democratic principles and human rights obligations. The lack of accountability and transparency in the implementation of the DSA has created a climate of fear and uncertainty, which is detrimental to the country's development and progress.



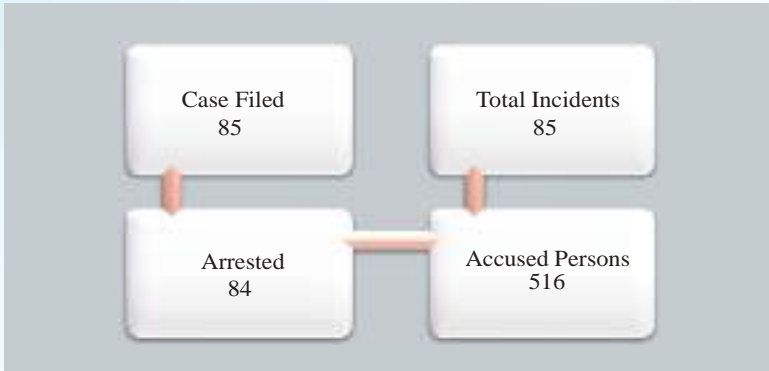


Figure 16: Statistics of Arrest in Digital Security Act

According to the Human Rights Support Society’s information in 2022, 85 cases were filed, 516 persons accused and 84 persons were arrested under “Digital Security Act 2018” from different areas of the country in a total of 85 incidents.

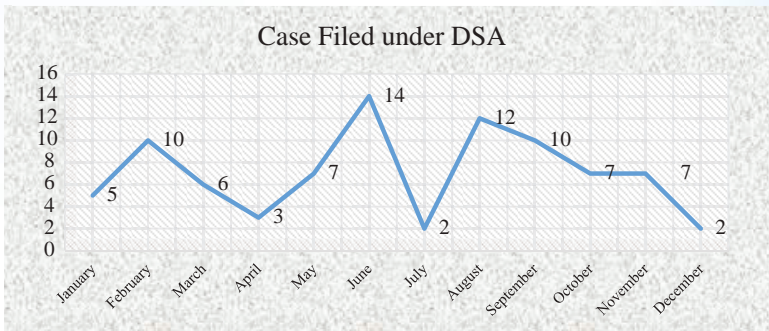


Figure 17 : Monthly comparison of Case Filed in the Digital Security Act

Based on the data provided by the above table, we can see that there is a considerable variation in the number of cases filed each month. The month with the highest number of cases filed was June with 14 cases, followed closely by August with 12 cases, September with 10 cases and February with 10 cases. These months account for more than half of the total cases filed against

journalists in 2022. On the other hand, the months with the lowest number of cases filed were July, April, and December, with only 2, 3, and 2 cases filed, respectively. It is worth noting that while the number of cases filed against journalists varies from month to month, there is still a significant number of cases filed each month, with no clear trend of a decrease over time. This suggests that the Digital Security Act of Bangladesh continues to be used to target dissidents and limit freedom of the press.

The trends in the implementation of the Digital Security Act 2018 shows that 68% (58 out of 85) of filed cases this year involved either criticizing an Awami League leader, the image of Bangabandhu or the Prime Minister/her family members. Of them, 39% of the total cases accounted for criticizing the image of Bangabandhu or The Prime Minister/her family members and 29% for criticizing Awami League Leaders. Naturally, this has impacted the number of plaintiffs of the cases where a whopping 82% of people who filed the cases belong either to Awami League or the Law Enforcement Agencies. The accused of these cases are mostly the general people consisting about 49%. Other victims of the DSA include members of opposition parties 12% and Journalists 15%. The overall data indicates a scenario where the DSA was used mostly to defend the image of the ruling party and against the mass peoples, journalists and members of the oppositions. This scenario entails an overall environment of fear in the country sustained by the systematically biased use of the Digital Security Act 2018.

Some important cases are stated below:

On January 22, 2022, Upazila Swechchhasebak Dal joint convener arrested in Panchagarh under Digital Security Act for spreading defamatory information about the government and the court on social media Facebook. The accused was identified as Ibrahim Hossain (26), Panchagarh Sadar Upazila Swechchhasebak Dal joint convener and a resident of Gofapara area of Panchagarh Sadar Union. Sub-Inspector (SI) of Sadar Police Station Mazaharul





Arrested Ibrahim Hossain.
(Source: Prothom Alo)

Alam filed a case against him under the Digital Security Act. The case was filed under Section 31 of the Digital Security Act of 2018.⁸⁷

On February 22, 2022, a case was filed under Digital Security Act against seven people for publishing and circulating false, defamatory and offensive information. The accused were identified as Bangladesh Pratidin Editor Naem Nizam; its publisher Moynal Hossain Chowdhury; news portal Bangla Insider chief-editor Syed

Borhan Kabir; and admin, narrator, video maker and technician of Facebook page Viral Protidin. Barrister M Sarwar Hossain filed the case with the Cyber Tribunal of Dhaka.⁸⁸

On March 01, 2022, a Dhaka court lawyer sued under the Digital Security Act in Rangpur's Badarganj for a Facebook post that allegedly insulted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her family members. The accused were identified as Waliu Rahman Dolan of Badarganj upazila, practices at District and Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka. Faruk Hossain Madhu, councillor of Badarganj municipality, filed the case at Badarganj Police Station.⁸⁹

On March 03, 2022, a lawyer was arrested in a case filed under the Digital Security Act in Faridpur for publishing a satirical video of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's youngest daughter Sheikh Rehana and Nixon. The accused were identified as Shah

87 Daily Prothom Alo, "ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা আইনের মামলায় স্বেচ্ছাসেবক দলের নেতা গ্রেপ্তার," January 22, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ডিজিটাল-নিরাপত্তা-আইনের-মামলায়-স্বচ্ছসেবক-দলের-নেতা-গরপ্তার>.

88 HRSS research Desk and NEW AGE Bangladesh, "DSA Case Filed against Bangladesh Pratidin Editor, 6 Others," February 15, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/162827/dsa-case-filed-against-bangladesh-pratidin-editor-6-others>.

89 The Daily Star, "Lawyer Sued under DSA for 'Insulting' PM | The Daily Star," March 1, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/lawyer-sued-under-dsa-insulting-pm-2972706>.



Newaz Hasan, 38, a former member of the convening committee of Bhanga municipal unit Krishak League and a supporter of Awami League Presidium member and former lawmaker Kazi Zafarullah. Mehedi Parvez (45) of Bhanga Court Para area, a follower of Mojibur Rahman Chowdhury Nixon filed the case against Shah Newaz and some unnamed persons.⁹⁰

On April 03, 2022, a Dhaka court sent four people to jail in a case filed under the Digital Security Act for making indecent remarks against local MP Mr. Mansur Rahman in Rajshahi. They were on six-week interim bail from the high court. The accused in the case were- Azahar Ali Khan, chairman of Pananagar Union Parishad, Kahidul Islam, general secretary of the newly announced committee of the union Awami League, Abu Emdadul Haque, former headmaster of Pananagar Bi-directional High School and local businessman Mahabur Rahman Laltu. Mr. Mansur Rahman's personal assistant Shafiqul Islam Tarafdard filed the case with the Durgapur Police Station on January 30 under the Digital Security Act, naming four people.⁹¹

On June 01, 2022, Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, the former Vice Chancellor of Begum Rokeya University and the Chairman of the Jatio Nirbachan Porjobekkhon Porishod (JANIPOP) had been charged with the Digital security Act for Controversial comments on talk show. BNP Chairperson's adviser Monirul Haque Chowdhury and talk show host Hasina Akhtar also accused in the case. Abdullah Al Mahmud Sahid, convener of Comilla Metropolitan Jubo League, filed the case in the Chittagong Divisional Cyber Tribunal. Regarding the case, the lawyer of the plaintiff Sheikh Iftexhar Saimul Chowdhury said that the case was filed against the accused under Sections 25, 29 and 31 of the Digital Security Act.⁹²

90 Dhaka Tribune, "Faridpur Pro-AL Lawyer Arrested in DSA Case," March 3, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/03/03/faridpur-pro-al-lawyer-arrested-in-dsa-case>.

91 Daily Prothom Alo, "রাজশাহীতে ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা আইনের মামলায় ইউপি চেয়ারম্যানসহ ৪ জন কারাগারে। প্রথম আলো," April 3, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/রাজশাহীতে-ডিজিটাল-নিরাপত্তা-আইনের-মামলায়-ইউপি-চেয়ারম্যানসহ-৪-জন-কারাগারে>.

92 Daily Kaler Kantho, "ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা আইনে মামলা, সাবেক ছাত্রলীগ নেতা গ্রেপ্তার," June 1, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/06/01/1151522>.



On June 07, 2022, a Dhaka tribunal sentenced a Jahangirnagar University student to seven years imprisonment in a case under the ICT Act for making derogatory remarks on Facebook about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The victim was identified as Shamsul Alam Babu, a student of Government and Politics Department at JU. He was also fined Tk 1,000 in default of which he will have to spend one more month in jail. Following the verdict, Shamsul was sent to jail. According to the case documents, Shamsul on August 5, 2015, made derogatory comments about Bangabandhu and the PM on a Facebook post of another JU student Morshedur Rahman, sparking outrage among students of the university. The following day, Yaqub Ali Mia, chief security officer at the JU, filed a case with Ashulia Police Station against Shamsul under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.⁹³

On July 27, 2022, The Chattogram Cyber Tribunal sentenced a school teacher to eight years in prison under the Digital Security Act for making derogatory remarks against Islam. The victim, in this case, is Subrata Das, a local school teacher in Hatia. Advocate Misbah Uddin of the tribunal claimed that the court was able to prove the charges against the victim. Subrata was sentenced to 8 years in prison and a 20,000 BDT fine with additional six months in jail if the fine is not paid.⁹⁴

On August 24, 2022, a local Awami League leader filed a case at the Rangpur Cyber Tribunal, accusing the dismissed lieutenant colonel Hasinur Rahman and the Sweden-based news agency Netra News of disseminating “defamatory” information about the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI). District Awami league president and lawyer Elias Ahmed filed this case. He complained that the news outlet called Netra News published a report Called “Aynar Ghare Bandi DGFI-er Gopan

93 The Daily Star, “JU Student Jailed for 7yrs in ICT Case | The Daily Star,” June 7, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/ju-student-jailed-7yrs-ict-case-3041136>.

94 Daily Samakal, “ফেসবুকে ধর্ম অবমাননা: তথ্য প্রযুক্তি আইনে স্কুলশিক্ষক দেবব্রতকে ৮ বছরের কারাদণ্ড,” July 4, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2207120416>.





File photo of the press conference organised earlier when the RAB official went missing.
(Source: The Business Standard)

Bandishala” where they defamed and made derogatory remarks about the states institution. This is why he felt compelled to file the case. However, Hasinur Rahman was a victim of enforced disappearance who shared his experiences in that report. Netra News extensively reported the cases of enforced disappearances and claimed that the state intelligence DGFI is involved in these cases. This report sparked a mixed reaction in all levels of the country.⁹⁵



Tasnim Khalim, Editor of
Netra News. (Source: online)

On August 31, 2022, police arrested Jhumon Das under the Digital Security act for posting controversial contents on facebook. This event took place in Noapara village, Shalla upazila, Sunamganj. According to the officer in charge at the police station, Jhumon Das has posted controversial texts regarding Mosques and Hindu

95 New Age, “Netra News, Hasinur Sued under DSA,” August 23, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/179297/netra-news-hasinur-sued-under-dsa>.



Temples on his facebook wall. This post has generated tension between the hindu and the muslim community. This is why a case has been filed against him. However, the victim's family members denied this allegation. Jhumon's mother and wife both claimed that he did not write anything controversial in his facebook wall. Jhumon Das was arrested previously for posting derogatory remarks about



Arrested Jhumon Das for posting controversial texts in facebook.
(Source: Prothom Alo)

Mamunul Haq, a religious leader of the group Hefajat-e-Islam. His post ignited communal riots in the area. He was sentenced to at least six months in prison for his previous post.⁹⁶

On September 10, 2022, a leader of the left-leaning organization Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, was arrested by the police in Sreemangal, Sylhet for allegedly “hurting religious sentiment” through a Facebook post, under the Digital Security Act. The name of the victim is Pritom Das. The arrest was made in response to a case filed by Mahbub Alam Bhuiyan, a resident of Sreemangal, who accused Pritom of undermining the country's sovereignty. Pritom is a member of the central coordination committee of Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, which is a component of “Gonotantro Mancha”, a newly formed alliance of seven organizations.⁹⁷

On September 13, 2022, a student of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology was arrested under the Digital Security Act from the university campus. The name of the student is Zahidur Rahman (22). The relatives of the victim reported that,

96 Daily Prothom Alo, “ঝুমেন দাশকে আবার গ্রেপ্তার, ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা আইনে মামলা। প্রথম আলো,” August 31, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/iggfth0hrcr>.

97 The Daily Star, “Digital Security Act: Activist Held for ‘Hurting Religious Sentiment’ | The Daily Star,” August , <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/digital-security-act-activist-held-hurting-religious-sentiment-3115661>.

some Chhatra League leaders called Zahid to the guest room. Then they interrogated him about his personal messages for three hours. They beat him up brutally in this time. Later he was handed to the security officer of KUET. They accused the victim of making derogatory and insulting remarks about the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and of India. Then the university authority filed a case against him and his friends who were involved in the chat.⁹⁸

On October 5, 2022, police arrested a leader of the female wing of the opposition party, Mohila Dol, in Beravanga, Rajbari. The name of the victim is Sonia Akter Smriti. She was arrested under the digital security act for posting derogatory remarks about the Prime Minister on her Facebook wall. A local Awami League Leader, Shamsul Arefin Chowdhury, filed the case when he saw the post on Facebook. Ali Newaz Mahmud Khaiam, a BNP leader and former parliament member, said that the police arrested Sonia at midnight from her home. She has two small children. This type of activity is akin to the works of Pakistani invasive force's



Sonia Akter Smriti in custody. (Source : Prothom Alo; Naya Diganta)

98 Daily Manab Zamin, “তিন ঘণ্টা পেটানোর পর কুয়েট ছাত্রের বিরুদ্ধে আইসিটি মামলা,” August , <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=20691>.



action during the war of liberation. The Awami league supporters constantly insult the BNP leader, but nothing happens to them.⁹⁹

On October 20, 2022, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), a specialized unit of Bangladesh police, filed a case against four people. Superintendent of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) under Chattogram Metropolitan Police Naima Sultana filed the suit under the Digital Security Act and the Special Powers Act at Khulshi police station of the city. The accused are Babul Akter, a former police officer, his father, Abdul Wadud Mia, his brother, Habibur Rahman Labu, and journalist Ellias Hossain. PBI submitted a chargesheet on the murder case of Mahmuda Khanam Mitu that included her husband, Babul Akter.

The condemnation of Babul created a controversy in social media. A youtube Journalist Elias Hossain made a documentary on this situation, accusing the PBI of manipulating the investigation of the case. The chief of PBI, Banaj Kumar Majumder, also responded by filing a lawsuit for defamation against the people who contributed to the documentary on September 27, 2022. Earlier that month, Babul Akter filed a case against the PBI for custodial torture of him to extract a confession. According to the statement of the PBI, an effort is being made to harm the state's reputation and cordial relationship with India through the video made by Elias Hossain.¹⁰⁰



Acused journalist Elias Hossain (Source : Youtube)

On November 6, 2022, the court approved a two-day remand of the general secretary of the female faction of BNP, Mohila Dal in Dhaka. She was arrested earlier that day under the Digital security

99 Daily Prothom Alo, "প্রধানমন্ত্রীকে নিয়ে 'আপত্তিকর' পোস্ট, রাজবাড়ীতে মহিলা দল নেত্রী শ্রেণ্ডার । প্রথম আলো," October 5, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/88new4rxf3>.

100 Daily Ittefaq, "বাবুল আজরসহ 8 জনের বিরুদ্ধে পিবিআই পুলিশ সুপারের মামলা," October 20, 2022, <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/617361/বাবুল-আক্তারসহ-8-জনরে-বরিয়ুধ-পিবিআই-পুলিশ>.

act for making provocative remarks on the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The former parliament member Sultana Ahmed was accused of making insulting and inappropriate remarks about the Prime Minister in front of some media outlets on November 1. The president of Gopalganj Chatra League Abdul Hamid filed the case at the Paltan Police station. After arresting her the police presented her to the court and requested a seven-day remand. Then the court approved a two-day remand of the victim.¹⁰¹



Arrested Mohila Dal leader Sultana Ahmend. (Source: Kalerkantho)

On November 17, 2022, news surfaced of a case filed under the digital security act against author and online activist Pinaki Vattachrya and two others in Dhaka. The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police filed the case on October 15. The other victims of the case are Mofizur Rahman and Mushfiqur Sajal. Mofizur is a former leader of Chhatra Dal, the student faction of BNP. Police accused them of spreading false information about the law enforcement agencies

101 Daily Prothom Alo, “প্রধানমন্ত্রীকে ‘কটুকির’ মামলায় মহিলা দলের নেত্রী সুলতানা রিমাভে । প্রথম আলো,” November 6, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/tgmhcsnat9>.



of the country. They claim that these people tried to defame the police by spreading false information in the social media regarding a operation in Mirpur. Police arrested Mofizur Rahman from his house on October 15. The other two are currently staying abroad. So, police could not arrest them. Arrested Mofizur was taken under remand for two days by the police.¹⁰²



Online activist Pinaki Vattacharya
(Source: Prothom Alo)

On December 12, 2022, a case was filed under the Digital Security Act against a leader of Mohila Dal in Lakshmipur district. The name of the leader is Nayan Begum. She is the Organizational Secretary of the Lakshmipur District Mohila Dal, a faction of the opposition political party BNP. The victim is also a female councilor of the reserved seat in Cahararmani Union Parishad. The case was filed



Journalist Union hold gathering demanding the abolishment of the DSA
(Source: Samakal)

102 Daily Prothom Alo, “পিনাকী ভট্টাচার্যের বিরুদ্ধে ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা আইনে মামলা। প্রথম আলো,” November 17, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/u2hhtvok66>.

by Ahsanul Kabir Ripon, sports and youth secretary of the district Awami League. According to the case details, the victim criticized the Prime Minister, the Road, Rail and Bridge minister and the Awami League in her recent speeches, which did not sit well with the Awami League party members of the district. So, they filed a case against her under the Digital Security Act'18.¹⁰³



Student leader Nurul Haq and Dr. Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, two of the many victims of DSA in the year 2022. Cases have been filed against them for alleged criticizing Political figures. (Source: Daily Naya Diganta and Kalerkantha)

103 Daily Jugantor, “মহিলা দলের নেত্রীর বিরুদ্ধে আইসিটি মামলা,” December 12, 2022, <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/bangladesh/news/671739>.





Attack on Minorities

Minority rights are an integral part of the international human rights framework, and every individual, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or beliefs, is entitled to all human rights. Bangladesh is a party to several international human rights treaties that explicitly recognize the rights of minorities, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. However, the reality on the ground paints a different picture, with minorities facing discrimination, violence, and persecution. The year 2022 was marked by a series of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, including the Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian communities. These attacks took many forms, from mob violence and forced conversions to land grabbing and property destruction. These attacks not only violate the fundamental rights of minorities but also undermine the very fabric of Bangladesh's pluralistic society. It is essential for Bangladesh to ensure that minorities are safe and protected, not only because it is their duty as a signatory to international human rights treaties but also because it is vital for Bangladesh's reputation in the international arena. These incidents of violence against minorities have drawn widespread condemnation from the international community, tarnishing Bangladesh's image and raising concerns about the country's commitment to human rights.

The contemporary situation of minorities in Bangladesh is a cause for concern. According to reports, minorities continue to face discrimination and violence, with their rights to freedom of religion, expression, and association being curtailed. The government's response to these incidents has been inadequate, with many perpetrators going unpunished, leading to a climate of fear and mistrust.





Figure 18 : Statistics of Attacks on Minority

The above graph provides information about the incidents of attack on minorities. It shows that 48 minority persons were injured in a communal violence in 2022. Likewise, at least 43 idols as well as 12 temples and 16 houses were partially or fully destroyed in a total of 28 incidents.

Important cases are stated below:



Vandalized idols. (Source : Kalerkantha)

On January 15, 2022, some Saraswati idols were vandalized in Shakpura union of Boalkhali upazila of Chittagong. Miscreants smashed 35 Saraswati idols which were made on the occasion of the upcoming Saraswati Puja. These idols were made by potter Basu Dev Pal for sale.¹⁰⁴

On February 08, 2022, four members of the same family were injured in an attack by the people of a defeated member candidate in Tahirpur in Sunamganj on the charge of not voting for their candidate in the Union Parishad (UP) elections. It has been alleged that the idol of the village temple was vandalized at that time. Four injured were admitted to Tahirpur Upazila Health Complex. The victims were identified as Suresh Burman (45), his wife Kelon Rani Burman (35), son Shipan Burman (17) and daughter Ritu Nari Burman (26), at Tukergaon village of Baradal South Union in Tahirpur Upazila. The victims reported that the attackers were the supporters of the defeated candidate Alauddin.¹⁰⁵



Vandalized temple in Tahirpur. (Source: Prothom Alo)

104 Daily Prothom Alo, “বোয়ালখালীতে প্রতিমা ভাঙচুরের অভিযোগ। প্রথম আলো,” January 15, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/বোয়ালখালীতে-প্রতিমা-ভাঙচুরের-অভিযোগ>।

105 HRSS research desk and Daily Prothom Alo, “ইউপি নির্বাচনে ভোট না দেওয়ার অভিযোগ তুলে মারধর, আহত ৪। প্রথম আলো,” February 8, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ইউপি-নির্বাচনে-ভোট-না-দেওয়ার-অভিযোগ-তুলে-মারধর-আহত-৪>।





Vandalized idols in Banaripara.
(Source: Prothom Alo)

On February 16, 2022, the idol of the temple was vandalized at Kadambari Bazar in Bisharkandi Union of Banaripara Upazila. Unidentified miscreants broke the lock of Battala Public Kali Mandir adjacent to Kadambari Bazar and broke Kali and Mahadev idols. Nikhil Biswas, the president of the temple, filed a case against the unidentified miscreants at Banaripara police station.¹⁰⁶

On March 06, 2022, unidentified miscreants vandalized the idols of a temple in Faridpur. The incident took place on Saturday (March 5) in Diknagar village of Ward 4 of the municipality. Sanjay Saha, a resident of Diknagar village, said that the miscreants vandalized the idol of Mahadev at the temple of Mahadev located on the house of Govinda Saha, a resident of Diknagar village.¹⁰⁷



Demolished church in Jaipurhat
(Source: Prothom Alo)

On April 05, 2022, a youth was arrested on charge of demolishing idol at a church in Kalai upazila of Jaipurhat. The youth, Jannatul Ferdous, 22, allegedly demolished an idol at Mother Teresa Church at Haatshekha Adarsha village of the upazila. Local people said

106 Daily Prothom Alo, “বানারীপাড়ায় মন্দিরের প্রতীমা ভাঙচুর। প্রথম আলো,” February 16, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/বানারীপাড়ায়-মন্দির-প্রতীমা-ভাঙচুর>.

107 Dhaka Tribune, “Hindu Temple Vandalized in Faridpur | Dhaka Tribune,” March 6, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/03/06/hindu-temple-vandalized-in-faridpur>.

that the youth came to the church in the morning and demolished an idol there. Later, villagers detained him and informed police.¹⁰⁸



Vandalized houses in Narail (Source: Prothom Alo)

On May 6, 2022, Police arrested a teen for his alleged involvement in vandalizing an idol of Hindu goddess Saraswati at Fultala MM College in Khulna. The arrested was Anik Mandal, 17. Fultala police station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ilias Talukder said Anik entered the college campus at around 12 pm and smashed the head of Saraswati, Hindu goddess of knowledge. At that time, an office staff of the college caught him in the act. Upon receiving information, police arrested Anik.¹⁰⁹

On June 12, 2022, a Hindu house in Chitalmari upazila in Bagerhat came under attack from an infuriated Muslim mob over an

108 Daily New Age Bangladesh, “Youth Arrested on Charge of Demolishing Idol at Church,” April 27, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/167272/youth-arrested-on-charge-of-demolishing-idol-at-church>.

109 Dhaka Tribune, “Teen Arrested over Desecrating Hindu Idol in Khulna,” May , <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/05/06/teen-arrested-over-desecrating-hindu-idol-in-khulna>.



earlier altercation regarding derogatory remarks by India's ruling BJP leaders about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The house of Dipak Sarkar, 33, at Chingari village in the upazila was attacked by a group but no one was hurt as the residents managed to flee, said Bagerhat Superintendent of Police KM Ariful Haque. The attackers later blocked a road in Kunia area but police took control of the situation by detaining Dipak Sarkar, he said. Bimal Sarkar, a 70-year-old neighbour of Dipak, said: "Some hundreds of people attacked the house, vandalized it, and set fire to one part of it. The members of neighbouring Hindu families took shelter at their Muslim neighbour Anis Rahman's house out of fear." Lenin Mozumdar, Biva Rani and some other Hindu neighbours of Dipak said they were immensely frightened since the attack.¹¹⁰



Vandalized temples in Narail (Source: Jankantha)

On July 15, 2022, mass people vandalized the Hindu community's houses, shops, and temples in Lohagara, Narail. After the Juma prayer (the weekly prayer of Muslims), a massive outburst of rage took over the locals in that area when news of insulting the Prophet on a Facebook post broke out. The accused was Akash Saha (18). The angry mob attacked his house and, upon not

110 Dhaka Tribune, "Bagerhat Hindu House Attacked over Altercation on India's Prophet Comment Issue," June 12, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/06/12/bagerhat-hindu-house-attacked-over-altercation-on-indias-prophet-comment-issue>.

finding him, vandalized his father's shop. This turmoil continued till 11 pm when Hindu temples, homes, and businesses suffered the attack. Police had to use tear shells and other riot control measures to calm the situation. The Officer in Charge (Police), Haran Chandra Paul, said that two hundred policemen were deployed to control the situation. The Police are trying to arrest the perpetrators.¹¹¹



Vandalized idols in Manikganj in August.
(Source: Prothom Alo)

On August 19, 2022, Some Land Grabbers attacked the Munda community for control over some disputed lands in Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira. A large team consisting of at least 200 goons attacked the community. Twelve people from the Munda community were injured in this attack. Fanindra Nath Munda, a victim of the attack, reports that a dispute was in place on the control over eight bighas of

land between the Munda community and the sons of Abdul Gofur Sardar, a powerful landlord in the area. They have been threatening the Munda community. A case is in the process in the court regarding the dispute. But the brothers Rashidul and Ebadul attacked anyways. On that day, the two brothers gathered men from villages, surrounded the Munda community, and attacked them. When some people in the community tried to escape,

111 Jugantor, "হিন্দু সম্প্রদায়ের বাড়ি-ঘরে হামলা, অগ্নিসংযোগ, আটক ১," July 16, 2022, <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/bangladesh/news/659098>.



they were beaten severely. The goons destroyed the crops of the disputed lands. Executive Director of Munda Organization in the Sundarbans, Krishnapad Munda, has issued a statement demanding justice for this attack.¹¹²



Injured people of The Munda community. (Source: SomoyNews)

On September 9, 2022, supporters of the elected Union Parishad Chairman attacked and vandalized some houses of the Hindu minority in Bauful Upazila, Potuakhali. The event took place in 3 no ward of the Nazirpur-Taterkathi Union right after the result of the Union Parishad election was published. According to one of the victims, Sudhir Debnath, at least three houses were wrecked by the supporters of the newly elected chairman S. M. Mohsin. This attack was carried out because the minority people of that area did not vote for him.¹¹³

112 Daily Samakal, "লাঠিয়াল বাহিনী নিয়ে মুন্ডা সম্প্রদায়ের ওপর হামলা," August 19, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2208127555/লা>.

113 Daily Janakantha, "নৌকায় ভোট দেয়ায় হিন্দু বাড়িতে হামলা। এলাকা ছাড়ার হুমকি," September 9, 2022, <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/bangladesh/news/663762>.

On October 16, 2022, a group of men vandalized a Hindu temple and broke the idols in Shailkupa upazila, Jhenaidah. Police found the perpetrators to be Dinar Hossen Bishsash and his associates. Dinarul is the son of Motiar Rahman, the convener of the upazila Awami League and the current union parishad chairman. The perpetrator himself is the former Chatra League president of Shailkupa upazila. According to police, Dinar used to run a gambling and prostitution hub in one of the village's houses. Police have cracked down on these illicit locations recently. So, to take revenge, Dinar gathered up some of his men and secretly vandalized the nearest Hindu temple at night to make the area unstable and put the police through a rough time.¹¹⁴



Press Conference of the victims. (Source: Manab Zamin)

On December 25, 2022, a minority family came out with the allegation of torture and blackmail against the Union Parishad Chairman and Juba league leader in Shailkupa, Jhinaidaha. The names of the family members are, Tanmoy Majumdar, Chinmoy kumar Majumdar, Tushar Kanti, Amola Rani Majumdar, and Taposhi Majumdar. The identity of the perpetrator is Shafikul Islam Shimul, Juba League leader and and Chairman of the Bogura

114 Daily Prothom Alo, "পুলিশকে শায়েস্তা করতে প্রতিমা ভাঙচুর করেন ছাত্রলীগের সাবেক নেতা। প্রথম আলো," October 16, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/brddji25ul>.



Union Parishad. The victims claimed that Shimul forced one of the family members Tanmoy to give fingerprint so that he can RAB their assets. The accused also tortured him and threatened Tushar Kanti of his son's life. He also filed false cases to harass the minority family.¹¹⁵



A temple in Fulbari was burned to the ground in August. (Source: Prothom Alo)

115 Daily Manab Zamin, “যুবলীগ নেতার বিরুদ্ধে সংখ্যালঘু নির্বাচনের অভিযোগে সংবাদ সম্মেলন,” December 25, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=35416>.



Violence against Children

Children have always been the most vulnerable members of society, and their protection has been a major concern for human rights advocates worldwide. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, child rights have been an integral part of the international human rights framework. However, despite the efforts of the international community, children's rights continue to be violated in many parts of the world, including Bangladesh. The year 2022 was marked by several alarming incidents of child rights abuses in Bangladesh. These abuses ranged from child labor to child marriage, child trafficking, and violence against children. Such violations have long-lasting consequences on children's lives, leading to poverty, illiteracy, poor health, and a lack of opportunities. Bangladesh has made some progress in promoting children's rights, such as the introduction of the Children Act 2013 and the National Child Policy 2011. However, the implementation of these policies has been a challenge due to inadequate resources, weak law enforcement, and social and cultural attitudes that condone child rights violations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation for children in Bangladesh, with reports indicating an increase in child labor, child marriage, and child trafficking. The closure of schools has left many children vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, while the economic fallout of the pandemic has pushed many families into poverty, forcing children to work to support their families.



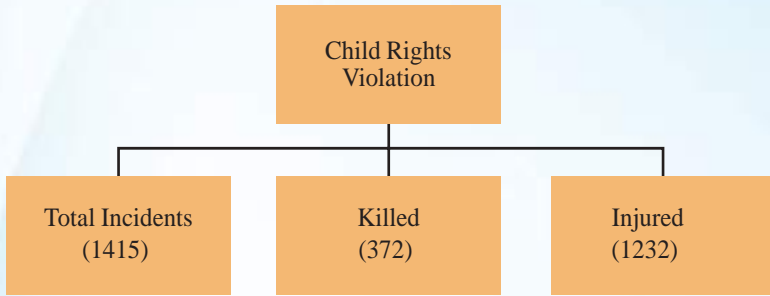


Figure 19 : Statistics of Violence against Children

According to Human Rights Support Society's report, the graph presented above regarding violence against children in 2022 shows that 372 children were killed and 1232 children were tortured and critically injured in a total of 1415 incidents.



Figure 20 : Monthly Comparison of Child killing from January to December'22

Based on the data provided, it's clear that violence against children remains a significant problem in Bangladesh in 2022. The counts show that 362 children were killed in various forms of violence over the course of the year. These include physical abuse, political and electoral violence, sexual violence, and other types of violence as well. The numbers show that violence against children was a persistent issue throughout the year, with at least 13 children being killed in January and 44 children being



killed in both July as well as in November. There are also some fluctuations in the numbers from month to month. For example, there is a noticeable increase in deaths in February, March, and April, with 30, 30, and 27 deaths respectively. In contrast, May and June saw a relative decrease in the number of deaths, with 22 and 17 deaths respectively. Overall, the numbers show that violence against children in Bangladesh is a serious problem that is affecting a significant number of children throughout the year. It highlights the need for continued efforts to prevent violence, protect children's rights, and provide support for victims and their families.

Some important cases are stated below:

On January 19, 2022, a six-year-old child was brutally tortured by an influential person of Madhabgul village in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar district. The victim was identified as Habibur Rahman Munna, son of Alim Uddin, a rickshaw puller from Madhabgul. The victim's mother Reena Begum filed a complaint against neighbor Ainul Islam (60) at the police station.¹¹⁶

On February 04, 2022, a 12-year-old girl was brutally tortured at Palash in Narsingdi. The accused was identified as Rakib Mia, son of Matiur Rahman of Atiyagaon village in Ghorashal municipal area of the upazila. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Palash Police Station Mohammad Ilias said when the child started bleeding profusely through the anus, the family members took her to Palash Upazila Health Complex. Later, the doctor on duty at the health complex informed the police about the incident of anal rape. Accused Rakib Mia was arrested from Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur district and a case was being processed at the police station.¹¹⁷

On March 05, 2022, a domestic worker was brutally tortured by a couple at the Bashundhara Residential Area in Dhaka. The victim

116 Daily Jugantor, "ছয় বছরের শিশুর ওপর এ কেমন নির্যাতন," January 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/510861/ছয়-ব>.

117 HRSS research desk and Daily Kaler Kantho, "পলাশে শিশুকে পাশবিক নির্যাতন," February 4, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/02/04/1117382>.



was identified as Liza Akhter (14). The sick domestic worker was rescued and brought to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) Hospital. Police arrested the couple from capital's Vatara. The accused were identified as Tanjim Hashem Tanni and her husband Ezaz Saklayen.¹¹⁸

On April 04, 2022, the body of a child was recovered from the septic tank 10 days after the disappearance from Megha village in Badalkot union of Chatkhil upazila of Noakhali. The deceased was identified as Asma Akhter (8), daughter of Shahjahan of Megha village. The arrested Shahadat confessed to the police that he killed Asma (8) by suffocation and then raped her. The victim's father filed a general diary (GD) at the Chatkhil police station.¹¹⁹

On April 10, 2022, a teenage boy was tortured after being tied to a tree on suspicion of stealing betel nuts at Dakkhin Harimoni area of Harati Union in Lalmonirhat's Sadar upazila. A video of the boy's torture went viral on social media Facebook. The victim was identified as Ayon Chandra(13), son of Mintu Chandra of



Teenage boy tortured for stealing. (Source: The Daily Star)

118 Dhaka Tribune, "Dhaka Couple Arrested for Torturing Minor House Help," March 6, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/03/06/dhaka-couple-arrested-for-torturing-minor-house-help>.

119 Daily Manab Zamin, "চাটখিলে নিখোঁজের ১০ দিন পর শিশুর লাশ উদ্ধার, খেণ্ডার ১," April 4, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=322430&cat=9S>.



Dakkin Harati village under sadar upazila. Locals said Priyanath Roy and his son Robin Chandra Roy in the same village forcefully picked up the teenager from his house, tied him to a tree and beat him up for hours on suspicion of stealing betel nuts. Later, locals rescued him when he fell ill and sent him to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. The victim's father Mintu Chandra filed a case at the police station in this matter.¹²⁰

On May 13, 2022, a teenager was chained to a tree and subjected to inhumane torture for three days on the charge of theft in Boalia village of Sadar Union of Galachipa Upazila of Patuakhali. The incident took place in Galachipa Sadar Union on May 9. The victim was identified as Munna (16), son of Shah Jahan Commander of Ward No. 9 of the same union. The accused were identified as Hazrat Ali, teenager's aunt Mumtaz (45), cousin Tanya (30) and neighbor Shamim (40). The victim's stepmother filed a case at the Galachipa police station.¹²¹



Teenager chained and tortured.
(Source: Jugantor)

On June 02, 2022, the hanging body of a domestic worker was recovered from the residence of Additional Inspector General of Police in Ramna area of the capital. The deceased was identified as Mousumi Akter (14). Ramna police station duty officer SI Mofizur Rahman confirmed the matter.¹²²

- 120 The Daily Star, "Suspected of Stealing Betel Nuts, Teenager Tortured Being Tied to Tree | The Daily Star," April 10, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/suspected-stealing-betel-nuts-teenager-tortured-being-tied-tree-3001861>.
- 121 Daily Jugantor, "চুরির অপবাদে শিকলে বেঁধে কিশোরকে নির্যাতন," May 13, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/550617/>.
- 122 Daily Prothom Alo, "রাজধানীতে অতিরিক্ত পুলিশ মহাপরিদর্শকের বাসা থেকে গৃহকর্মীর ঝুলন্ত লাশ উদ্ধার। প্রথম আলো," June 2, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/রাজধানীতে-অতিরিক্ত-ডাআইজরি-বাসা-থেকে-গৃহকর্মীর-ঝুলন্ত-লাশ-উদ্ধার>.





In December a woman hacked five kids on account of a family feud in Noakhali. (Source: Naya Diganta)

On July 4, 2022, a school teacher tortured two minor students resulting in their admission to the ICU of a local hospital. The names of the victims were Tanzila Akhtar and Nishi Chowdhury. Both are 14 years old. The victim's mothers said, the accused teacher Jashim is known for his aggressive behaviors toward the students. On the day of the event, he saw the two children play with glitters after school. He got angry at them for this and beat them up severely using a cane stick. As a result, the students got injured, requiring intensive treatment in the hospital.¹²³

On August 22, 2022, two 13-year-old boys were violently beaten while tied to a pole by the police, and they even went so far as to shave one of the boys' heads. This event occurred near the Lalkhan Bazar in Chattogram City. The victims had resided with their parents in Lalkhan Bazar's Motijharna neighborhood. One of them is a seventh-grade pupil. Locals claim that Motijharna, Lalkhan Bazar, Magistrate Colony, and nearby communities occasionally experience thefts. When the police were out on patrol on Friday, they noticed three kids, including the two victims, talking together close to Lalkhan Bazar Government Primary School. Later, the three police officers pursued the kids, caught two of them, and transported them to Jilapi Pahar in the neighborhood. One of them had their head shaved and was bound to an iron pole. The police constables were withdrawn after this incident when a video became viral.¹²⁴

123 Daily Jugantor, "২ শিক্ষার্থীকে আইসিইউতে পাঠানো সেই শিক্ষক সাময়িক বরখাস্ত," July 4, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/569413/>.

124 NEW AGE, "Police Torture 2 Boys after Tying Them to Pole," August 22, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/179093/article/35972>.





Two boys tied up and tortured by police. (Source: New Age)

On September 2, 2022, a teenager named Mohammad Jewel (16) was allegedly been beaten to death in Ramu, Cox's Bazar. He was the resident of Borodepa Headman Para village of Khuniapalong Union of Ramu Upazila. The victim was an employee of Shikdar Poultry Farm, owned by Md Rafiq, and it is claimed by the locals that he was beaten to death for demanding money that was due to him from the farm.¹²⁵



In September a child was tortured by some members of the youth gang in Rajshahi (source: Samakal)

On October 2, 2022, a father killed his daughter to frame his opposition in Kulaura, Moulovibazar. The victim is a 12-year-old girl called Popy. The culprit is her father, Digindo Nom. According to the police, He lured his daughter at midnight

125 Daily Jugantor, "বকেয়া বেতন চাওয়ায় কিশোরকে পিটিয়ে হত্যা," September 2, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/590682/বকেয়া-বেতন-চাওয়ায়-কিশোরকে-পিটিয়ে-হত্যা>.



Mahiya Mahi a 7-year-old child was killed for ransom in Cox's bazar
(Source: Prothom Alo)

and strangled her with her veil. Then he bought a packet of biscuits and left it beside the window of his enemies to frame them. Later, police found out that he had purchased the packet. The victim was also a physically challenged child. The family members say that Digindo is a drug addict, and a few days before the event, he got into trouble with some other residents of the same village. He wanted to take revenge on them by framing them for his daughter's murder.¹²⁶



Alina Islam Ayat, victim of abduction.
(Source: Ittefaq)

On November 25, 2022, police recovered parts of the dead body of a five-year-old child in EPZ area in Chattogram city. The name of the victim is Alina Islam Ayat. She was the daughter of Sohel Rana a resident of South Haliashar Nayar Hat area of the city. Police arrested a young boy named Abir Ali (19) based on the investigation. He abducted the little girl in order to extract ransom from her parents. But the girl started to resist and shout so he killed her. After that he butchered the body into six pieces and put them in three different bags. He threw those bags into different parts of a canal that leads to the ocean. The locals claimed that he developed these criminal ideas by watching crime shows like "Crime Patrol" and "CID" on the cable television.¹²⁷

126 Daily Jugantor, "প্রতিপক্ষকে ফাঁসাতে নিজের মেয়েকে হত্যা," October 2, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/601695>.

127 Daily Ittefaq, "৬ টুকরো করে সাগরে ভাসিয়ে দেওয়া হয় শিশু আয়াতের লাশ," November 25, 2022, <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/621787/৬-টুকরো-৷-করো-সাগর-ভাসিয়ে-দেওয়া-হয়-শিশু-আয়াতের-লাশ>.



On December 1, 2022, Police recovered the dead body of a child from the river in Raninagar upazila, Naogaon. The name of child is Ibrahim (6), son of Hazrat Ali from the Shridhargurooni village. Police has arrested the suspected murderer. The name of the accused is Ibrahim Sonar (30). He lived in the same village also. The family of the child reported that, Ibrahim had gone missing from November 10. They filed a general diary at the local police station. The killer also asked for ransom to the child's family using letters and mobile phone. The police were able to apprehend the killer by using technology and local informers.¹²⁸



In November Tanha Akhter (8) was raped and killed by a young man in Chadpur. (Source: Kalerkantho)

128 Daily Samakal, “বেলুন ফটানোয় শিঙকে হত্যা করে পুতে রাখেন দোকানি,” December 1, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2212144199>.



Human Rights Violations in Border

The border between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar has been a site of tension and conflict for many years. One of the most pressing issues is the killing of civilians, often referred to as “border killings”. These incidents occur when Indian or Burmese border guards, known as the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Police (BGP), shoot and kill Bangladeshi citizens who are attempting to cross the border illegally. *In 2022, total 51 incidents tookplace where 23 people were killed combinedly by BSF and BGP with 31 more getting injured.* It is worth noting that most of the border violence takes place in the Bangladesh-India Border. The border between India and Bangladesh is one of the most heavily guarded in the world. It spans over 4,156 kilometers and is populated by millions of people on both sides. Many people living near the border have relatives on the other side and cross frequently for work, trade, and family visits. However, due to the strict visa requirements, many people attempt to cross the border illegally. This has led to a high number of border killings, with estimates suggesting that more than 1,000 people have been killed in the last decade.¹²⁹ The consequences of these killings are far-reaching and devastating. Families are left without their loved ones, and the communities on both sides of the border are affected. The killings have also strained relations between India and Bangladesh. Many Bangladeshis view the BSF as an occupying force, and there have been protests and diplomatic tensions over the issue. In addition, the killings have fueled anti-India sentiment in Bangladesh.

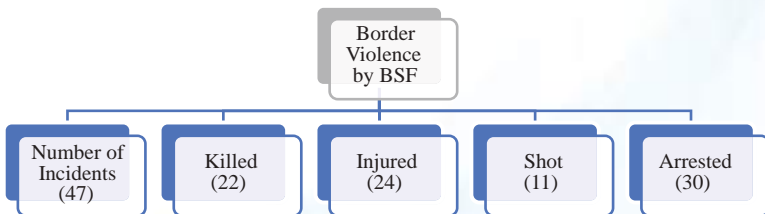


Figure 21 : Violence in Border by BSF between January and December '22

129 Dhaka Tribune, “Bangladesh Sees Highest Border Deaths in 10 Years | Dhaka Tribune,” December 22, 2020, <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2020/12/22/bangladesh-sees-highest-border-deaths-in-10-years>.

According to the findings of HRSS in 2022, 22 Bangladeshis citizen were killed, 24 injured, 11 shot and 30 persons were arrested by BSF (Indian Border Security Force) in a total of 47 incidents. Moreover, 07 Bangladeshi citizens were killed and another 06 persons were injured by Indian citizen at the border area. The bodies of 02 minors were recovered from the Digla Kura River in a BSF chase and 02 Bangladeshi dead bodies were recovered from the border area.

On the Bangladesh Myanmar border, one Rohingya people was killed, five Bangladeshi citizen and two Rohingya people were injured. On the other hand, 18 Bangladeshi fisherman were arrested, one went missing and another fisherman was shot by Myanmar's border guard force (BGP).

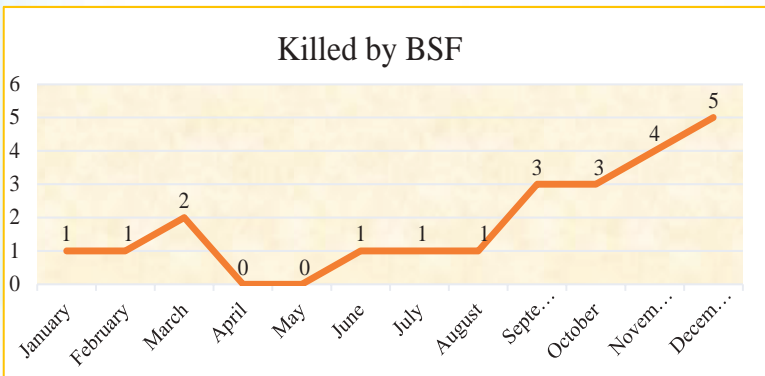


Figure 22 : Monthly comparison of killing in border in 2022

Looking at the numbers of Bangladeshi citizens killed by the BSF at the India-Bangladesh border in 2022, there is a notable variation in the monthly figures. The numbers show that there were no reported killings in April and May, while the months of September through December saw a significant increase in the number of reported killings, with a total of 15 deaths in those



four months alone. Overall, the data suggests that the issue of border killings remains a persistent problem, with at least one person being killed in each month except for April and May. The fact that the numbers vary from month to month indicates that there may be some external factors at play, such as changes in security measures, political tensions, or seasonal patterns in border crossings.

Some important cases are mentioned below:

On January 08, 2022, a Bangladeshi youth was shot dead allegedly by Indian Border Security Force personnel in the border of Krisnaswada under Sapahar upazila in the northern district of Naogaon. The deceased was identified as Maqbool Hossain alias Salauddin (30), son of Alauddin Hossain of Krisnaswada village in Goala union of Sapahar upazila. Villagers said that a group of seven to eight people, including Mokbul, had gone to Pannapur area of West Bengal on Friday night to bring cattle. On their way back, BSF members from the Bamundanga camp in India spotted them and opened fire near the border pillar no. 269, leaving Mokbul dead on the spot. Locals saw his body lying 20-25 metres inside the Indian territory.¹³⁰

On March 06, 2022, a Bangladeshi man was shot dead by the members of India's Border Security Force (BSF) along the border in Kushtia's Daulatpur upazila. The deceased was identified as Liton Biswas, 35, a resident of Bilgathua Mathpara village. Locals said a group of people, including Liton, was returning to the village from India through the border at night. At one point, BSF troops of Meghna camp of Hoglabaria in Nadia district opened fire on them, leaving Liton dead.¹³¹

130 HRSS research desk New Age Bangladesh, "Bangladeshi Youth Shot Dead in Naogaon Border," January 8, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/159446/bangladeshi-cattle-trader-shot-dead-by-bsf-along-naogaon-border>.

131 HRSS research desk and Dhaka Tribune, "Bangladeshi Allegedly Shot Dead by BSF along Kushtia Border," March 6, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/03/06/bangladeshi-allegedly-shot-dead-by-bsf-along-kushtia-border>.





Hasanur Rahman (25) was killed near the Satkhira border by BSF (Source: Kalerkantho)

Nur Kalam (26), Md. Hossain (22), Hasmat (25), Md. Akbar (23), Nazim Ullah (19), Rafiq (20), Sabbir (25), Md. Helal (25), Rezaul Karim (18), Ramzan (18) and Jamal (21). BGP did not return 18 Bangladeshi fishermen 24 days after their seized.¹³²

On May 28, 2022, India's Border Security Force (BSF) handed over the body of a Bangladeshi man, who was shot dead by Indian Khashias five days ago, to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). The



Muntaz Ali (35) was shot to death by BSF near Chuadanga border. (Source: Nayadiganta)

deceased was identified as Kabir Hossain (32), of Champkanagar village under West Jaflong union in Sylhet. Locals and police said Kabir along with his two friends entered India on May 23. Khasi people opened fire on them that day, leaving Kabir hit by bullets. However, his friends managed to return to Bangladesh. Kabir's body was found at the Indian border near Mayabati waterfall.¹³³

132 Daily Prothom Alo, "সাগর থেকে ধরে নেওয়া ১৮ বাংলাদেশি জেলেকে ফেরত দেয়নি মিয়ানমার। প্রথম আলো," April 8, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/সাগর-থেকে-ধরে-নেওয়া-১৮-বাংলাদেশি-জেলেকে-ফেরত-দেয়নি-মিয়ানমার>.

133 The Daily Star, "BSF Hands over Body of Bangladeshi Shot Dead by Khashias in India | The





Two children died during a chase near the border by the BSF. Their bodies were also taken by the BSF. (Source: Jugantor)

On July 5, 2022, villagers recovered the dead body of a young man from a river near the Patari border in Sapahar, Naogaon. The victim's name is Ramzan Ali (32), Son of Joan Ali from Patari village. According to the locals, Ramzan was a cattle trader. He was crossing the border illegally along with other traders when BSF fired at them. He got shot in the process. While his companions got away, it was impossible at that moment to recover his body. Later, villagers found his body floating in the river.¹³⁴

On August 31, 2022, The Border Security Force of India killed a Bangladeshi man near the Shingnagar border in Shibganj Upazila, Satkhira. The name of the victim is Md. Vodu. He is the son of Tajuddin, a resident of Munshipara village in Monakosha Union of Shibganj upazila. According to the locals, two Bangladeshi were shot by the BSF while crossing the border. One of them died on the spot another was able to cross the border. The other person was Ohidur, a resident of the same village as the dead. The locals claimed that the dead body was still inside the Indian border.¹³⁵

Daily Star," 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/bsf-hands-over-body-bangladeshi-shot-dead-khashias-india-3033806>.

134 The Daily Samakal, "বিএসএফের গুলিতে বাংলাদেশি যুবক নিহত হওয়ার অভিযোগ," July 5, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2207120565/বিসএফের-গুলিতে-বাংলাদেশি-যুবক-নিহত-হওয়ার-অভিযোগ>।

135 Daily Prothom Alo, "চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ সীমান্তে গুলিতে এক বাংলাদেশি নিহত। প্রথম আলো," August 31, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/zropz72r0k>.





Deceased Minarul Islam, victim of border shooting. (Source: Prothom Alo)

On September 8, 2022, a 17-year-old Bangladeshi student, Minarul Islam Minar, was allegedly shot and killed by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near the Dainur border in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, Dinajpur. Minar is the son of Jahangir Hossen, a resident of Khanpur village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila. The incident occurred when the victim and others allegedly crossed into Indian Territory,

and approached the barbed wire fence where the BSF reportedly opened fire, killing Minarul on the spot.¹³⁶

On October 9, 2022, BSF killed a young Bangladeshi man at the Khaitala bazaar border in sadar upazila, Shatkhira. The name of the victim is Abu Hasan (27). The incident happened near pillar no. 9 of the border. The victim is Haidar Ali's son, a south



Deceased Abu Hasan victim of border shooting. (Source: Naya Diganta)

136 Daily Prothom Alo, “দিনাজপুর সীমান্তে বিএসএফের গুলিতে বাংলাদেশি স্কুলছাত্র নিহত। প্রথম আলো,” September 8, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/briog2fncs>.



Kushkhali village resident. His received news that the BSF forces shot his son at the border. He hurried to take him to the hospital, but the doctor declared him dead.¹³⁷

On November 09, 2022, two Bangladeshi men died by the BSF near the Lohakuchi border in Aditmari upazila, Lalmonirhat. The names of the victims are Waskuruni (30) and Aynal Haq (28). They were the residents of Mohishtuli and Jharerjhar village respectively. The villagers reported that the victims were cattle merchants. On the day of the event, they went to the Lohakuchi border to smuggle some cows to Bangladesh with the help of some Indian cattle merchants. At this time some BSF members of the 75th battalion of the Kaimari Battar Camp started shooting at them. Waskuruni and Aynal died by their bullets. Later their companions carried their bodies to their homes.¹³⁸

On December 29, 2022, two Bangladeshi youths were shot and killed by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near the Hatibandha border in Lalmonirhat, Bangladesh. The incident occurred near the Dolapara Border in Borokhata Union. The two young men were Sadik Hosen (22), son of Hafijar Rahman, resident of East Fakirpara Village of the Fakirpara Union and Nazir Hosain Manglu (36) son of Abdus Samad, resident of Dolapara village of the Borokhata union. The locals reported that they were trying to smuggle cattle across the border from India. The BSF took notice of their presence and conducted an Open fire on them. The two died in the spot after being hit by bullet.¹³⁹

137 Daily Naya Diganta, "সাতক্ষীরা সীমান্তে বিএসএফের গুলিতে বাংলাদেশী যুবক নিহত," October 9, 2022, <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/khulna/697455>.

138 Daily Prothom Alo, "লালমনিরহাট সীমান্তে বিএসএফের গুলিতে ২ বাংলাদেশি নিহত। প্রথম আলো," November 9, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/8u4pauvsf>.

139 Daily Prothom Alo, "লালমনিরহাট সীমান্তে বিএসএফের গুলিতে নিহত ২। প্রথম আলো," December 29, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/cr662gla8m>.





Political Violence

Bangladesh, a country with constitutionally a democracy, has been plagued by political violence for decades. This violence has taken many forms, from mass protests and strikes to targeted attacks on political opponents and activists. The roots of political violence in Bangladesh are deep and complex, and they are intertwined with issues of poverty, inequality, corruption, and governance.

The history of political violence in Bangladesh can be traced back to the country's struggle for independence from Pakistan in 1971. The brutal war that claimed the lives of millions of people and left deep scars on the country's collective psyche. Since then, political violence has been a recurring theme in Bangladesh's history, with periodic outbreaks of unrest and violence. In recent years, Bangladesh has witnessed a rise in politically motivated violence, which has had a profound impact on the country's development and stability. This violence has taken many forms, including targeted attacks on political opponents, journalists, and activists, as well as the use of force by the government to suppress dissent. The human and economic costs of political violence in Bangladesh are significant. It has resulted in the loss of lives, the displacement of people, the destruction of property, and the disruption of economic activity. It has also undermined the country's democratic institutions and eroded public trust in the government.

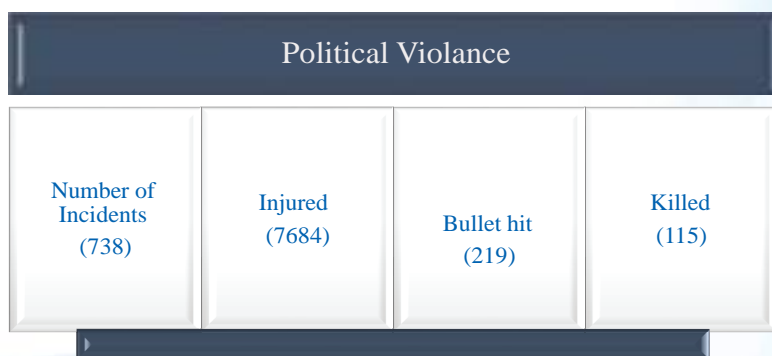


Figure 23 : Statistics of Political Violence

The figure presented above illustrates the situation of political violence in Bangladesh in 2022. According to HRSS, a total of 115 people were killed, 219 bullet hit, and 7684 people were injured due to clash over political interests in a total of 738 incidents. Most of the political violence occurred among the groups of the ruling party over political dominance. It is a grave concern that 07 BNP activists have been killed by LEAs from July to December during their processions and demonstrations against ruling party.

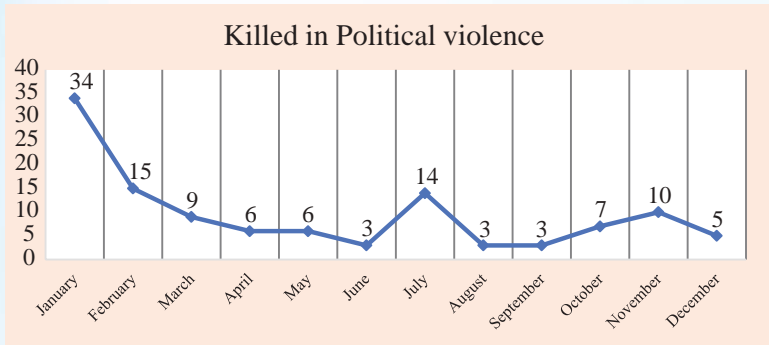


Figure 24 : Monthly Comparison of Killing from January to December'22

The above line graph shows the data of killed in political violence in 2022. During this period a total of 115 political people have been killed in political violence. About 10 people were killed each month in political violence. The number was highest in January at 34, then the number drastically decreased in the following four months and the incidents markedly declined to the lowest in June at 03. Then the number of the killed in political violence in July and November were little high at 14 and 10 respectively compared with the deaths in the other months of the second half of the year.

Selected cases are as follows :

On February 12, 2022, at least 13 leaders and activists of both the ruling Awami League and the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party were injured in a clash over removal of a



fence at Barthi union of Gaurnadi upazila in Barishal. Shortly afterwards, supporters of both sides chased, with locally made sharp weapons. At that time, the house of BNP leader Aziz Fakir was vandalized.¹⁴⁰



A Juba League worker's hand chopped off by the rival group. (Source:Prothom Alo)

On February 25, 2022, BNP leader and truck worker leader was stabbed to death by Awami League leader at Shibganj in Bogra. The deceased was identified as Shahidul Islam(55), son of late Afaz Uddin of Belai village in Kichak union and president of BNP's 5 no ward of Kichak union in Shibganj upazila and general secretary of Inter-district Truck Workers Union Kichak port. The culprit was identified as Abu Sayed who hacked the victim over dispute during the meeting. Abu Sayed is the general secretary of Kichak Union Awami League and President of Inter-district truck union.¹⁴¹

140 NEW AGE Bangladesh, "13 Injured in Barishal AL-BNP Clash," February 12, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/162521/13-injured-in-barishal-al-bnp-clash>.

141 Daily Jugantor, "বৈঠক চলাকালে বিএনপি নেতাকে খুন করল আ.লীগ নেতা," February 25, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/524206/ব>.



Jubo League and BNP activist clash. (Source : Dhaka Tribune)

On March 05, 2022, at least 26 people including police were injured when a clash broke out between Jubo League men and BNP activists in Patuakhali. The clash took place in front of the local BNP office. Witnesses said that more than a hundred BNP leaders and activists gathered in front of the party office to protest the recent price hike of commodities. Another procession organized by Jubo League marched through the same area. Supporters of the two groups clashed on the spot and threw brick chips at each other. Leaders and activists of Jubo League broke into the BNP office and vandalized furniture.¹⁴²



Scenes of BNP-Juba League Clash in Potuakhali. (Source: Jugantor)

142 Dhaka Tribune, "Jubo League, BNP Clash Leaves 26 Injured in Patuakhali," March 5, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/03/05/jubo-league-bnp-clash-leaves-26-injured-in-patuakhali>.



On March 26, 2022, a Juba League activist was stabbed to death and another one was critically injured in Jashore town. The deceased was identified as Rumman (28), son of Liakot Patwari of the Talikhola Madrasa area. The injured-Arif Hossain Shakil (28), son of Babu, lived in the same area. Locals said Rumman had been in a dispute with some members of the same organisation over establishing supremacy in the area. As a sequel to their long rivalry, eight to ten men attacked Rumman and his associate Shakil, leaving them critically injured.¹⁴³



Awami League party members attacks BNP Foundation Day rally in Faridpur.
(Source: Samakal)

On April 14, 2022, two people were killed and two others injured in clashes between two local factions of Awami League over toll collection in Jhenaidah. The incident took place near Chowgachha bus stand in Kotchandpur town. The deceased were identified as Jibon Hossain (20) of Akherkendrapara in Kotchadpur town and Akhter Hossain (21) of Elangi village in the upazila. The injured were identified as Sabbir Hossain and Sohag Hossain. Four injured people were taken to Kotchandpur Upazila Health Complex where two supporters of the mayor were declared dead.¹⁴⁴

143 NEW AGE BD, "Juba League Activist Killed in Jashore," March 26, 2022, <https://www.new-agebd.net/article/166458/juba-league-activist-killed-in-jashore>.

144 The Daily Star, "2 Killed as AL Factions Clash over Toll Collection in Jhenaidah | The Daily Star," April 14, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/politics/news/2-killed-al-factions-clash-over-toll-collection-jhenaidah-3004881>.



Wailing of the relatives of people died in Jhenaidah (Source: Daily Star)

On May 02, 2022, at least four people were killed and 15 others injured in a clash between two Awami League factions



An Awami League leader was beaten by the party's rival faction leaders in Chattogram

in the Jhaudia union of Kushtia's Sadar upazila, over establishing dominance. The deceased were identified as Kashem Ali (50), son of late Hussain Ali of Asthanagar village, Laltu Mondal (30), son of Dad Mondal, Rahim Malitha (50), son of Abdul Malitha and Matiar Mondal (40), son of Afzal Mondal. Injured people were admitted at Kushtia Sadar Hospital.¹⁴⁵

On June 07, 2022, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Chattogram Medical College unit allegedly attacked Junaid Saki and his co-activists while he was leaving the hospital after visiting the patients injured in the fire at BM Container Depot in Sitakunda

145 Daily Kaler Kantho, "কুষ্টিয়ায় আ. লীগের দুই গ্রুপের সংঘর্ষ, ঘটনাস্থলেই নিহত ৪," May 2, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/05/02/1143272>.



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upazila of Chattogram. According to eye witnesses, a group of BCL activists chanting Joy Bangla slogan, launched an attack on Junaid Saki and a few others. Saki, the chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon, suffered injuries on his nose and one of his hands.¹⁴⁶



Injured Junaid Saki.
(Source: Mnab Zamin)

On July 1, 2022, a clash took place between Bangladesh Awami League (BAL) and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Activists in Shonagazi, Feni, resulting in the injury of at least 30 peoples. District Executive Member of BNP, Alal Uddin Alal has stated that, on Friday, they were going to distribute relief goods among the flood affected people of Doulatpur in Fulgazi, Feni. As they were preparing for the event on the day, people from Awami League, Juba League and Chhatra League attacked the preparation meeting suddenly. About 30 people were injured in the clash. 20 of which were critical.¹⁴⁷

On August 26, 2022, at least 50 Bangladesh Nationalist Party activists were injured in a clash between BNP and Awami League in Shrinagar upazila of Munshiganj. According to the eyewitnesses, the BNP activists started a rally at 10 am to protest against the recent price hike. At the same time a group of Awami League activists also came to the same area with a procession. Hafizul Islam Khan, a BNP politician said that the Awami League members attacked their rally unprovoked and they also received support from the police. However, the Awami League representatives denied this claim.¹⁴⁸

146 The Daily Star, “‘BCL Attack Leaves Junaid Saki, 7 Others Injured at CMCH’ | The Daily Star,” June 7, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/bcl-attack-leaves-junaid-saki-7-others-injured-cmch-3041661>.

147 Daily Manab Zamin, “বিএনপি’র ত্রাণ বিতরণকে কেন্দ্র করে আগুয়ামী লীগের হামলা, ফুলগাজীতে ১৪৪ ধারা জারি,” July 3, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=10216>.

148 Daily Prothom Alo, “বিএনপির মিছিলে ছাত্রলীগ-যুবলীগের হামলা, আহত অন্তত ৫০। প্রথম আলো,” August 26, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/u842bbf88i>.





Awami League activists allegedly attacking the BNP activists in front of police.
(Source: Prothom Alo)

On September 13, 2022, some Chhatra League leaders and workers brutally beat up a student of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology for making antigovernment remarks in a chat with his friend. The victim was identified as Zahidur Rahman, a second-year student of the ECE department of the university. He is a residential student of room 117 of the DR. M. A. Rashid Hall. He lives in Indranarayanpur village in Sonapur Union in Tozumuddin Upazila, Vola. Zahidur's brother stated that, Zahidur was also involved in Chhatra League. It is highly unlikely that he would say such things about the government or the government head. He was beaten down brutally by the Chhatra League and later handed over to the police. They also filed a case against him under the digital security act.¹⁴⁹

On September 18, 2022, BNP leader Tabith Awal and several others were injured in an attack allegedly carried out by ruling Awami League activists during a candlelight vigil in Banani. The BNP was protesting against the recent killing of three activists during demonstrations against the price hike of essentials. The attackers used sticks and brick chunks to assault the BNP

¹⁴⁹ Daily Samakal, "পেটালো ছাত্রলীগ, মামলা দিয়ে শিক্ষার্থীকে পুলিশে দিল কুয়েট প্রশাসন," September 13, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2209131592/৫-৮>.



activists. Tabith was seriously injured in the attack. The Banani Police Station Officer-in-Charge said that AL activists chased the BNP away during the demonstration, but he was unaware of any injuries. The attack occurred after BNP Standing Committee Member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain finished his speech.¹⁵⁰



Injured Barkatullah Bulu and Tabith Awal (Source: Daily Star)

On October 9, 2022, two Awami League leaders died in a clash between two party factions in Shingra upazila, Natore. The names of the deceased are Aftab hossen, general secretary of 1 no. Ward Awami League, and Rahul Amin, a former member of Sukaks Union Parishad. This incident resulted from a twenty-year-long conflict over the control of the Bamihal area between Aftab Hossen and Foridul Islam, the current Union Parishad member of the Shukash Union. According to the eyewitnesses, Aftab and Ruhul attacked one of the houses of Foridul on that day. To retaliate, Foridul and his companions attacked them back at the Bamihal market. As the conflict escalated, many got seriously injured, including Aftab and Ruhul Amin. Later they were declared dead by the doctors of the local hospital.¹⁵¹

150 The Daily Star, "Tabith Hurt in Attack on BNP Event | The Daily Star," September 18, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/tabith-hurt-attack-bnp-event-3122001>.

151 Daily Prothom Alo, "নাটোরে আ.লীগের দুই পক্ষের সংঘর্ষে সাবেক ইউপি সদস্যসহ দুজনের মৃত্যু। প্রথম আলো," October 10, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/pzdekufoxk>.

On November 12, 2022, Awami League and Chhatra League joined forces to attack on some members of the Shecchasebak Dol in Shibchar upazila, Madaripur. According to the victims, they arranged a discussion meeting to plan the upcoming assembly of the division. While the discussion was going on the local chairman and upazila Awami league leader Fazlur Rahman Munshi lead an attack on the meeting. Ten people were injured in this attack.¹⁵²



A BNP activist being attacked in a clash. (Source: Jugantor)

On December 8, 2022, the father of a Juba Dal leader was allegedly killed at the hands of Awami League workers in Wari, Dhaka. The name of the victim is Millat Hossain (67). He was the father of Faysal Mahub Mizu, joint convenor of Wari Thana Juba Dal, BNP. This event took place in 38 no. ward in Wari thana. According to Faysal, on the day of the event, about 70 Awami League workers came to his house to assault him just before 12:00 AM at night. When they failed to find Faysal they vandalized his house, and neat up his family members. His father was among the injured. He got hit in the head and started bleeding severely. He suffered a stroke and died soon after. Faysal has expressed deep grief and demanded justice for his father's death.¹⁵³

152 Daily Jugantor, "কিশোরগঞ্জে যুবদল-পুলিশ সংঘর্ষ, গুলি আহত ৩০," November 8, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/first-page/613485>.

153 Daily Manab Zamin, "যুবদল নেতাকে বাসায় না পেয়ে বৃদ্ধ পিতাকে পিটিয়ে হত্যার অভিযোগ," December 8, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=33085>.





A Chatradal Leader died when Chhatra League-Juba League attacked a procession in Narayanganj. (Source: Naya Diganta)



Election Violence and Vote Rigging



Bangladesh has a long history of election-related violence and allegations of vote rigging. The country has been grappling with political instability and polarization, which has often led to violent clashes between political parties and their supporters during election periods. The issue has gained prominence in recent years, with incidents of violence and vote rigging reported during local government and national parliamentary elections. In the most recent national election held in 2018, allegations of widespread vote rigging and irregularities were made by the opposition parties. There were reports of ballot stuffing, intimidation of voters, and restrictions on opposition campaigning, leading to a low voter turnout. These allegations were widely covered in the media and sparked protests and violence in some parts of the country. Moreover, the pandemic-related restrictions have further complicated the election process, with virtual campaigning and remote voting becoming necessary. The issue of election violence and vote rigging is a significant challenge for Bangladesh's democratic institutions, and there is a pressing need to address the underlying factors that contribute to this trend.

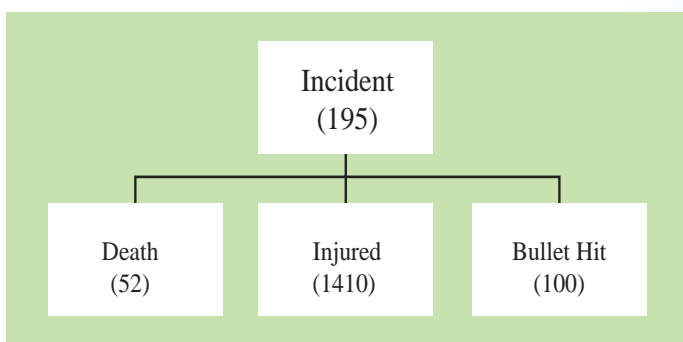


Figure 25 : Statistics of Election Violence in 2022

The above chart demonstrates the volatile condition of Bangladesh's election system with unnatural deaths and injuries of so many people in Bangladesh. HRSS found that at least 52 people were died, approximately 1410 people injured and about 100 persons sustained bullet hit. Moreover, 05 general people were shot to death by BGB & police during Union Perished Election Day. Out of them, one was 7-month child named Sumaya shotted by Police in July and another was woman named Kulsum Begum who was shot by BGB in January 2022.

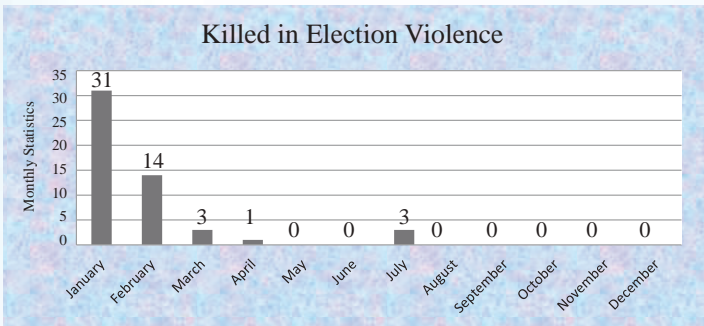


Figure 26 : Monthly comparison of killing in Election Violence in 2022

Based on the figures provided, there seems to be a downward trend in the number of deaths due to election violence in Bangladesh in 2022. The highest number of deaths occurred in January with 31 deaths, followed by February with 14 deaths. This suggests that the first two months of the year were particularly volatile in terms of election violence. Overall, the data suggests that electoral violence in Bangladesh is a serious issue, but measures taken to address the problem can be effective in reducing the number of deaths due to election violence. The sustained decline in election violence-related deaths from March to December is a positive trend that should be encouraged and built upon in the coming years.



Selected cases are as follows :

On January 5, 2022, following the fifth phase of the union parishad election in Bogura's Gabtali upazila, four individuals lost their lives due to firing by BGB, after an attack on the on-duty magistrate and law enforcement personnel. The victims were identified as Md Alamgir Hossen (40) a professional rickshaw puller, Abdul Rashid Pramanik (60) a day laborer who went to the bazar to buy some groceries, Kulsum Begum (50) a polling agent, and Khorshed Ali Akand (68) another day laborer who went to the bazar to sell some vegetables. All of the victims are residents of Gabtali Upazila. Additionally, three individuals were wounded by gunfire. The deceased in this incident were general people suffering collateral damage of an election violence. The Supporters of the chairman candidate Younus Ali Fakir (Symbol-Boat) instigated the violence, targeting the presiding officer, Ansar members, and law enforcers



Scenes of violence during Sarutiya
UP election in January.
(Source: Prothom Alo)



Injured in election violences in Mothbariya. (Source: Samakal)

On February 22, 2022, a UP member was killed in an attack by the opposition at Chaugachha in Jashore district. The deceased was identified as Thandu Biswas (50), a member of Ward No. 4 of Patibila Union. The incident took place in Patibila market. According to the sources, former members Ruhul Amin and Thandu Biswas participated in the UP elections on November 11 from Ward No. 4 of Patibila Union. Thandu Biswas won the election. New UP member Thandu Biswas went to the market for tea as usual at the evening. There suddenly 30/40 people attacked with bamboo sticks, shovels and native weapons. Thandu Biswas was fatally injured after being stabbed by the attackers. She was referred to Jashore Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated. But the doctor on duty declared him dead.¹⁵⁷

157 HRSS research desk and Daily Kaler Kantho, “চৌগাছায় প্রতিপক্ষের হামলায় নয়া ইউপি সদস্য নিহত, আটক ৫,” February 22, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/02/22/1122773>.





In Noakhali in January, a neutral candidate was harassed and attacked by the ruling Awami League supporters. (Source: Kalerkantho)



Injured people during election violence in Gopalganj. (Source: Bangla Tribune)

On March 01, 2022, twenty-five people were injured, including 15 who sustained gunshot wounds, in a clash between supporters of an elected chairman and a defeated candidate in Gopalganj. The incident took place in Chandradighalia village of Shuktail union under Gopalganj Sadar upazila. Several houses were attacked and vandalized at the time. One of the injured, 25-year-old Mithun Mollah, was taken to Dhaka in critical condition. The others received treatment at different local hospitals.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁸ Dhaka Tribune, "15 Shot in Gopalganj Post-Polls Violence," March 1, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/03/01/15-shot-in-gopalganj-post-polls-violence>.





Injure people in the Gopalganj clash. (Source: Dhaka Tribune)

On May 06, 2022, at least 50 people from both sides were injured in the bloody clash between two winning and losing candidates in the post-election violence in Kendua Upazila of Netrakona. The incident took place in Brahmanjat village of Kandiura union of the upazila. Among the injured in the clash were former UP members of Brahmanjat village Nazim Uddin (60), Azizur Rahman (45), Abu Taher (55), Salim (40), Ratan Mia (45), Upazila Awami League Vice President Shahjahan Mia (55), Russell (30), Mahbub (30), Golam Rabbani (30), Sultan (50), Jasim Uddin (52) of Zafarpur village, Ferdous (45), Habibur Rahman Habi (65) and Nurul Haque (40) of Bezgati village. They were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Other injured were receiving treatment at Kendua Upazila Health Complex and locally.¹⁵⁹



Firoz with his hammer-inflicted wounds. (Source: Prothom Alo)

159 Daily Jugantor, "নির্বাচনী সহিংসতার জেরে সংঘর্ষ, আহত অর্ধশত," May 6, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/547747/নগ্নিবাচ>.

On July 27, 2022, supporters of the Awami League beat up a man using a hammer in Baufol, Patuakhali. The victim, Firoz, is a supporter of the opposition candidate to the Awami League in the Nazirpur Union Parishad election. The eyewitnesses of the event reported that Firoz runs a hardware store in the market. The local Awami League supporters locked his store, preventing him from doing business due to election-related enmity. When he tried to reopen it, 10/12 Awami league supporters led by Abu Bakkar beat him up with a hammer. In the Union Parishad election, the accused, Abu Bakkar, is an active worker of the Nowka (“Boat,” the Awami League emblem).¹⁶⁰

On October 29, 2022, a violent clash occurred between two rival opposition parties’ supporters in Khoksha upazila, Kushtia. The locals reported that Awami League candidate Babul Akter was running his election campaign when some of his supporters engaged in an argument with the supporters of the rival candidate Motahar Hossain Khokon. The altercation turned into a physical confrontation between the two groups when they passed the Gorai river to reach Osmanpur village. Some houses and shops suffered vandalization in the conflict. Some people from both groups got injured. The UNO visited the spot to mitigate the situation, but his entourage was attacked too. A case was filed at the local police station in this matter.¹⁶¹



Miscreants burn the house of a UP election candidate in Naogaon.
(Source: Prothom Alo)

160 Prothom Alo, “স্বতন্ত্র প্রার্থীর কর্মীকে হাতুড়িপেটা। প্রথম আলো,” July 28, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/t6fkdg0wt>.

161 Daily Jugantor, “২ প্রার্থীর সমর্থকদের মধ্যে সংঘর্ষ, ইউএনও’র গাড়ি ভাঙচুর,” October 30, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/second-edition/610793>.



Human Rights Situation 2022

On December 6, 2022, One Union Parishad member was brutally battered by a membership candidate in Domar upazila, Nilphamari. The name of the victim is Abdul Khalek. He is the resident of Jorabari union of the same upazila. The identity of the assailant is Aatur Rahman Saju, he lives in the same union as Abdul Khalek. According to the victim, before the District Parishad election, Saju gave him BDT 20,000 as a “gift”. But since Saju failed to win the election, he has now demanded the money back. On this issue he beat up the victim inside the union parishad office perimeter.¹⁶²

On December 28, 2022, a family of a councilor candidate suffered an attack from the opposition in Rangpur city. In Rangpur City Corporation election, the current councilor of the 26 no ward Saiful Islam Fulu and his family was at the receiving end of the attack. The attackers were the supporter of another candidate Shahazada Arman, who is also the general secretary of the Kotowali Thana Awami League.¹⁶³



Scenes of violence in UP election in Mymensingh. (Source: Naya Diganta).

162 Daily Samakal, “ভোট না দেওয়ায় টাকা ফেরত চেয়ে ইউপি সদস্যকে মারধর,” December 6, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2212145022>.

163 Daily Naya Diganta, “হামলার প্রতিবাদে মানববন্ধন করতে গিয়ে পুলরায় হামলা শিকার, আহত ১০,” December 28, 2022, <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/rangpur/716450/৯>.





Public Lynching

Public lynching, a violent form of mob justice, has become a recurring issue in Bangladesh in recent years. It involves a group of people attacking and killing an individual based on perceived wrongdoing, often without a fair trial or legal process. The reasons behind public lynching can vary from accusations of theft or robbery to suspicion of being involved in a crime. It is a disturbing trend that raises serious concerns about human rights violations and the rule of law in Bangladesh.

The pattern of public lynching cases in Bangladesh suggests that it is often carried out in public places, with bystanders actively participating in the violence. In many cases, social media has played a role in spreading false information and inciting violence against the accused. Moreover, public lynching cases often target vulnerable groups such as religious minorities, migrant workers, and marginalized communities. The rise in these incidents highlights the need for urgent action to address the underlying factors that contribute to this trend and to ensure that justice is served through lawful means.

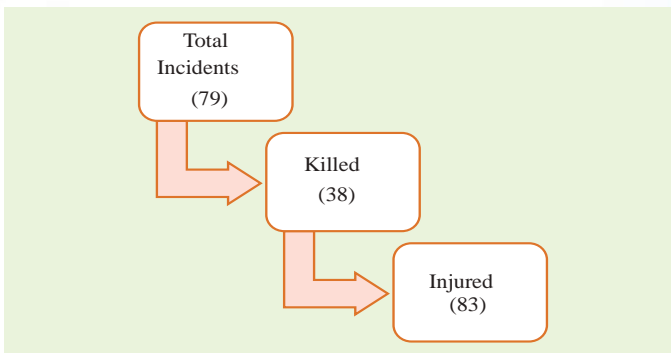


Figure 27 : Statistics of Public Lynching from January to December'22

The supplied chart above describes information about the public lynching cases in 2022. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) data, about 83 people were injured and nearly 38 people reportedly killed due to public lynching in a total of 79 incidents.

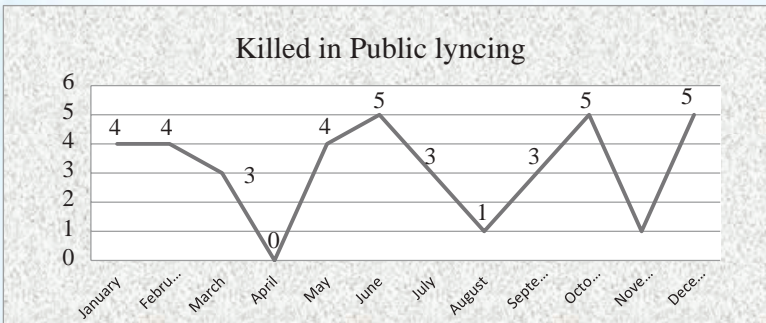


Figure 28 : Monthly Comparison of Public Lynching

The graph showing the number of people who died each month in public lynching in Bangladesh in 2022 is a cause for concern. The numbers suggest that public lynching remains a serious issue in the country, with several incidents occurring each month. Looking at the graph, we can see that the number of deaths from public lynching varies from month to month. January and February had the same number of deaths, with 4 each. In March, the number of deaths decreased slightly to 3. April had zero deaths, but this was followed by an increase in May, which saw 4 deaths. June had the highest number of deaths, with 5 reported incidents. The numbers decreased again in July and August to 3 and 1 deaths respectively. September had 3 deaths reported, followed by another increase in October to 5 deaths. November saw a decrease to 1 death, followed by a final increase in December to 5 deaths. The fluctuations in the numbers suggest that efforts to combat the problem have not been entirely effective, and more needs to be done to address the underlying factors driving mob violence.



Some important cases are given below:

On February 23, 2022, a young man was beaten to death on suspicion of being a thief in Titas, Comilla. The incident took place at Noagaon village in Ziarkandi upazila. The deceased was identified as Mahbubur Rahman alias Tarzan(25), son of Shah Alam Bhuiyan of Noagaon village under Ziarkandi union of the upazila. Sudhin Chandra Das, officer-in-charge of Titas Police Station, said legal action will be taken if any complaint is received from the family of the deceased.¹⁶⁴

On March 03, 2022, two robbers were killed and one was injured in a mass beating at Bonparil village in Hatipara union of Manikganj Sadar upazila. On their way back after robbing the house of a former UP member, they were beaten by the people. The identity of one of the dead had been found. His name was Mintu Mia (38), son of late Miraj Miah of Sonabaju village in Nawabganj district. Police could not confirm the identity of the other. The injured man was identified as Juel Rana (35). Upon receiving the news, the police rushed to the spot and brought the three robbers to Manikganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition. The doctor on duty there declared the two robbers dead.¹⁶⁵



Injured Juel Rana (Source: Prothom Alo)

164 Daily Kaler Kantho, “তিতাসে চোর সন্দেহে পিটিয়ে হত্যা!,” February 23, 2022, <https://www.kaler-kantho.com/online/country-news/2022/02/23/1123168>.

165 Daily Prothom Alo, “মানিকগঞ্জে ডাকাতির অভিযোগে গণপিটুনি, দুই যুবক নিহত। প্রথম আলো,” March 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/মানিকগঞ্জ-ডাকাতির-অভিযোগে-গণপিটুনি-দুই-যুবক-নিহত>.

On March 17, 2022, a man, who went to meet his ex-wife in Gaibandha, was allegedly lynched to death by an angry mob on suspicion of being a robber. The victim was identified as Sakhawat Hossain, son of Abdur Razzak of Gaibandha town. Police said that local residents mistook Sakhawat as a robber and thrashed him to death when he went to Tari village in Kholahati of Sadar upazila to meet his former wife in the early hours of the day. Sakhawat was rushed to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital where he died of his injuries.¹⁶⁶

On May 06, 2022, a young man was beaten and strangled to death on suspicion of being a thief in Shajahanpur of Bogura. The deceased was identified as Rabiul Islam Meherul (38), son of Habibur Rahman of Damrul village of Bhatra union in Nandigram upazila. The incident took place in Shakpala area of the upazila. Police and locals said that Mehrul was involved in drug and petty theft in the area. Abdullah Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Shajahanpur Police Station, said that transporter Abdul Gani and his family members beat and strangled autorickshaw mechanic Mehrul on suspicion of being a thief. The victim's father filed a murder case in this connection.¹⁶⁷

On June 11, 2022, a rural electricity worker was allegedly beaten to death while disconnecting the illegal connection. The incident took place on Friday (June 10) night in Bhairpukur area of Atmul Union of Shibganj Upazila. The deceased was identified as Abdul Hannan, son of Mozammel Haque of Jalshuka village of Khottapara union of Shajahanpur upazila of Bogra. He was working as an office assistant in Peerab subzonal office of Palli Vidyut Samiti. Five others including the assistant general manager of the organization were injured in the attack. The injured persons were – Assistant General Manager (AGM) of Palli Vidyut Samiti Rakibuzzaman and four linemen respectively Pintu Pramanik, Vikas Chandra, Farooq Hossain and Azizul Haque.¹⁶⁸

166 Dhaka Tribune, "Gaibandha Man Lynched after Being Mistaken for Robber," March 17, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/03/17/gaibandha-man-lynched-after-being-mistaken-for-robber>.

167 Daily Jugantor, "চোর সন্দেহে যুবককে পিটিয়ে হত্যা," May 6, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/548027/ত র>.

168 Daily Prothom Alo, "অবৈধ সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করতে যাওয়া পল্লী বিদ্যুৎকর্মীকে 'পিটিয়ে হত্যা'। প্রথম আলো," June 11, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/অবৈধ-সংযোগ-পিটিয়ে-হত্যা-পল্লী-বিদ্যুৎকর্মীকে-পিটিয়ে-হত্যা>.



On July 28, 2022, a man died in public lynching in Shebgonj, Bogura. The victim's name is Kamal Uddin Mandal Comet (34). The locals reported that, the victim is the son of Jafrul Islam, a resident of Jagannathpur village in Gobindaganj Upazila of Gaibandha District. He was a vagabond in the village and also associated with theft in small shops and households. He was caught stealing from a bicycle garage from Shebgonj, Bogura not long ago. On the event day, he came to that area again and acted suspiciously. Due to prejudice, the public caught him and beat him up badly. He died on the spot. Later his body was sent to the hospital morgue.¹⁶⁹

On August 10, 2022, a government food controlling officer became the victim of public lynching in Roumari, Kurigram. The name of the victim is Ishk e Abdullah (54). The locals reported that Abdullah tried to marry an underaged girl on that day. He manipulated the girl into a relationship with him and then came to marry her despite having another wife and children. He showed false documents to manipulate the girl's family. When the villagers found out about a possible child marriage, they surrounded him and beat him up.¹⁷⁰

On October 2, 2022, angry mobs beat up a young man for stealing a goat in Ranishankail Upazilla, Thakurgaon. Name of the victim is Habibullah Habib. He was identifying himself as the secretary of religious affairs of Pirganj pouru Awami Juba League. The owner of the goat said that, she saw two men grabbing her goat and going away with it on a motor cycle. Then she shouted and with the help of her neighbours she was able to catch the thieves. Locals reported that, upon asking, the thieves said they were stealing the goat for a picnic.¹⁷¹

169 Daily Jugantor, "চুরি করবে সন্দেহে এক ব্যক্তিকে পিটিয়ে হত্যা!", July 28, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/577578/>.

170 Daily Samakal, "‘বাল্যবিয়ে’ করতে এসে গণধোলাইয়ের শিকার খাদ্য কর্মকর্তা," August 10, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2208126052/বাল্য-বিয়ে-করতে-এসে-গণধা-লাইয়ের-শিকার-খাদ্য-কর্মকর্তা>.

171 Daily Janakantha, "ছাগল চুরির সময় যুবলীগ নেতাকে গণধোলাই দিলো জনতা," October 21, 2022, <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/bangladesh/news/665754>.





Habibullah being beat up by the public. (Source: Janakantha)

On November 16, 2022, an old man died because of public lynching in Nachol Upazila, Chapai Nawabganj. The name of the victim is Shukuddi. The locals informed that he went to steal mangoes from a mango orchard in the Khandura village of Kosba Union Parishad. The guards caught him in the act and beat him up severely. Later the victim died because of the lynching. The police arrested two guards named Asaduzzaman Shamim and Hasan Ali.¹⁷²

On December 26, 2022, two people were killed in public lynching in Lohagara upazila, Narail. This incident took place in the Birigram village in Sadar Upazila, Narail. One of the dead body could be identified with a National ID card found in his pocket. The name of that person is Asadul Sheikh (36), son of Gofur Sheikh. He was a resident of Daria Baroidanga village, in Fakirhat Upazila, Bagerhat. The other body could not be identified by anyone. The locals claimed that, these two people were members of a five men group who were trying to steal cows from the village. The public got alerted and then chased them. These two got caught and the angry mob beat them to death.¹⁷³

172 Daily Samakal, “‘চোর’ সন্দেহে একজনকে পিটিয়ে হত্যা, আটক ২,” November 16, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2211141790>.

173 Daily Jugantor, “গরুচোর সন্দেহে ২ জনকে পিটিয়ে হত্যা!,” December 26, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/628719/s>.





Labour Rights

Bangladesh has a long history of labor exploitation and abuse, starting from the British colonial period to the present day. The country has been known for its low-cost labor and has built its economy on the back of the garment and textile industries, which account for a significant portion of its exports. Despite this, labor rights have long been ignored, with workers subjected to long hours, low wages, and unsafe working conditions. In recent years, there have been some positive developments in labor rights in Bangladesh. The country has ratified several international labor conventions, including the ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The parliament has also passed new labor laws that guarantee workers' rights, including the right to form unions and engage in collective bargaining.

However, despite these developments, the situation for workers in Bangladesh remains challenging. The country's labor laws are not always enforced, and workers continue to face low wages, long hours, and unsafe working conditions. There have been several instances of factory fires and collapses that have resulted in the loss of many lives. One of the major challenges that Bangladesh faces in addressing labor unrest is the payment of wages. Many workers in the garment industry are not paid on time, leading to protests and strikes. The government and other stakeholders are working to address this issue by creating a wage board to set minimum wages and enforcing penalties for non-compliance.

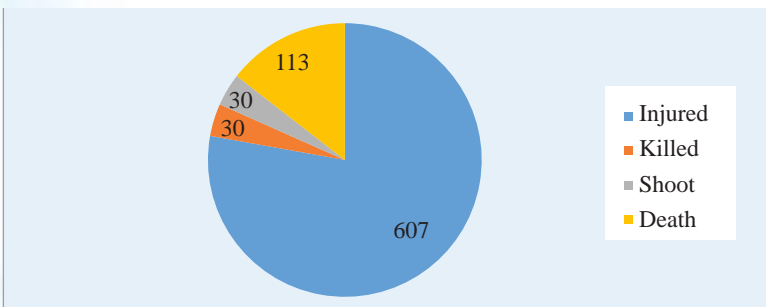


Figure 29 : Statistics of Labour Rights Violation



The given pie chart contains information according to Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), in 2022, 30 labors were killed, 607 labors injured and the other 30 shot in a total of 124 incidents mostly in the industrial areas of the country. In the meantime, 113 labors were dead in their workplace for unhealthy environment and lack of personnel protective equipment.

Selected cases are as follows :

On February 01, 2022, at least 10 employees of an RMG factory were injured in a clash in Gazipur. Police fired sound grenades, shotgun shells and tear gas to disperse the workers, according to Gazipur Metropolitan Police (GMP) Deputy Commissioner. The injured workers were-Shahinur Akhter(18), Nur Mohammad(25), Taslima(26), Zia(25), Monirul(24), Safina Akhter(18), Mukti Akhter(32), and Kamal(23). They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Tongi Shaheed Ahsanullah Master General Hospital.¹⁷⁴



Garment workers protesting for due wages in Naraynganj. (Source: Samakal)

174 Dhaka Tribune, "15 Injured in Clash between RMG Workers and Police in Gazipur," February 1, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/02/01/15-injured-in-clash-between-rmg-workers-and-police-in-gazipur>.

On March 30, 2022, a teenage worker was allegedly beaten to death at Salti Restaurant in Barabazar area of Netrokona district town. The deceased was identified as Ismail, son of Abdul Berek of Bargara village under Sadar upazila. Police arrested another employee named Al Mamun in the incident. The body was taken to Netrokona Adhunik Sadar Hospital at night and the on-duty doctor declared him dead.¹⁷⁵



Deceased labor Ismail. (Source: Kaler Kantho)

On April 24, 2022, at least 20 people were injured as in a clash between police and garment workers when the latter blocked Nabinagar-Chandra highway at Palashbari in Ashulia demanding Eid bonus and additional leave. A group of workers of Skyline Group took to the street in front of their factory and staged demonstrations, halting vehicular movement on Nabinagar-Chandra highway. On information, industrial police and Ashulia police went to the spot and asked the workers to go back to their workplace, triggering a chase and counter-chase between police and workers. Police fired rubber bullets, lobbed tear gas to disperse them, leaving 20 people injured.¹⁷⁶

175 Daily Kaler Kantho, “নেত্রকোনায় রেস্তোরাঁয় কিশোর শ্রমিককে পিটিয়ে হত্যার অভিযোগ,” March 30, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/03/30/1133740>.

176 NEW AGE Bangladesh, “At Least 20 RMG Workers Hurt in Clash with Police in Savar,” April 24, 2022, <https://www.newagebd.net/article/168895/at-least-20-rmg-workers-hurt-in-clash-with-police-in-savar>.





Textile workers block roads in demand of due wages in Boalkhali Chittagong.
(Source: Samakal)

On July 1, 2022, a housemaid was killed in Noakhali. The victim's name is Mahinur Akhter (20), daughter of Nurul Haq, a resident of Talibpur village in Begamganj, Noakhali. The victim's family claimed that Mahinur started working in a house called "Shantanalay" one year ago. She used to communicate with the family through her mobile phone. She informed her family that the family she worked for used to torture her regarding minor mistakes. On the event day, Nasim Uddin Babu, the head of the accused family, called the victim's elder brother Mamun Hosen, telling him to come to Noakhali Sadar Hospital. Upon arriving at the hospital, Mamun found his sister's dead body and hit marks on her neck. According to them, Mahinur was tortured and killed by the family she worked for.¹⁷⁷



On August 09, 2022, the tea garden workers of Bangladesh went on strike across all 167 tea gardens in the

Garments workers protest in front of police in Tongi (Source: Dhaka Tribune)

¹⁷⁷ Daily Samakal, "নোয়াখালীতে গৃহপরিচারিকাকে হত্যার অভিযোগ," July 1, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2207119857/নোয়াখালীতে-গৃহপরিচারিকাকে-হত্যার-অভিযোগ>।

country. Something like this has never happened in the history of Bangladesh. The workers' main demand was to increase their wages from daily BDT 120 to BDT 300. Acting General Secretary of Cha Shramil Union (BCSU) Nripen Pal said an agreement to increase the daily wages of the tea garden labourers took place a few months ago. But the authority only decided to increase BDT 14 from the previous amount, which is very insignificant in today's inflated market situation. The strike of the tea garden labourers forced the authorities to consider their wages. After the Prime Minister of Bangladesh interfered, the wage was increased to BDT 50, making it BDT 170. Although this is not the demanded amount, the workers stopped their strikes and returned to work, hoping for a better increase in the future. The tea labourers of Bangladesh suffer a great degree of poverty. They work hard daily, earning a very small amount in wages.¹⁷⁸



Tea Garden workers show three fingers in tune to their demand for Tk 300 in cash wage. (Source: The Daily Star, left; Samakal, Right)

178 The Daily Star, "Tea Workers' Strike Ends. What's next? | The Daily Star," September 3, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/tea-workers-strike-ends-whats-next-3110056>.



On December 22, 2022, the police rescued a housemaid from a torturing family in Banani, Dhaka. The name of the torture victim is Tania Begum. She was rescued by the police from the 7th floor of house no 83, Road no 23 of the Banani residential area. Police took the house lady Samina Alam for torturing her housemaid but after a while they let her go as the family of the victim



When the Police rescued Tania with her mouth taped and body injured. (Source: Prothom Alo)

were too scared to file a legal complaint against the perpetrator. The victim described that Samina used to torture her frequently over the smallest of things. They even glued her hands together and taped her mouth during the torture so that the sound of the torture does not go out. On the day of the event, a neighbor heard some noise from the apartment and called 999. The police came to investigate and found Tania in a severely vulnerable condition. The human rights organizations have expressed their concerns that the perpetrator may get away with this because of their monetary and social connections.¹⁷⁹

179 Daily Prothom Alo, “গৃহকর্মীকে নির্যাতনের প্রমাণ পেয়েও নির্যাতনকারীকে ছেড়ে দিল পুলিশ। প্রথম আলো,” December 22, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/4j3shooj0y>.



Inhuman Torture by Law enforcement Agencies

Resort to torture by law enforcement agencies is a grave violation of human rights and a disturbing issue that continues to persist in Bangladesh. Torture, both physical and psychological, is a method employed by some law enforcement agencies to extract confessions, intimidate individuals, or exert control over suspects. This practice not only undermines the principles of justice, fairness, and human dignity but also leaves a lasting impact on the victims.

In Bangladesh, reports of torture by law enforcement agencies have been a matter of concern for many years. Victims, including criminal suspects, political dissidents, and marginalized groups, have often been subjected to brutal acts that include beatings, electrocution, sexual violence, and other forms of torture. These acts are in clear violation of both domestic and international human rights laws, which guarantee the right to life, liberty, and security of the person, as well as the prohibition of torture.

The current situation regarding torture by law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh is distressing. Despite legal safeguards and constitutional provisions against torture, cases of abuse and torture continue to be reported. Victims often face significant barriers in accessing justice, and the lack of accountability for perpetrators contributes to a culture of impunity. Human rights organizations and civil society groups have consistently called for stronger measures to address this issue, including the establishment of independent oversight mechanisms and the strict enforcement of existing laws. This scenario of inhuman torture in Bangladesh, documented by HRSS, over the period of the 2022 is detailed below:



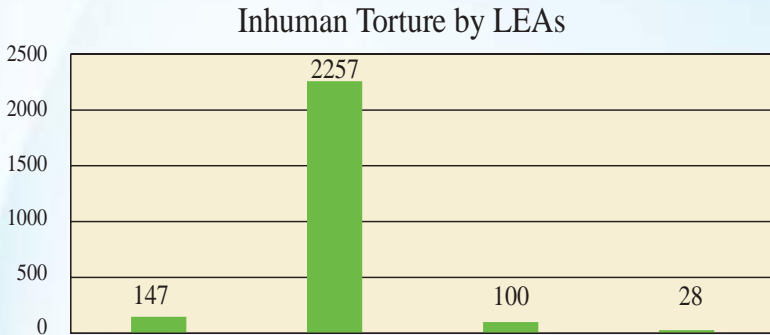


Figure 30 : Statistic of Inhuman Torture by Law enforcement Agencies

The above column graph shows the frightful scenario of people facing due to impunity of Law Enforcement Agencies. According to HRSS in 2022, 2257 were injured, 100 bullet hit and 28 tortured in a total of 147 incidents.

Selected cases are stated below:

On February 11, 2022, a woman alleged that her husband was detained at Rajbari Sadar police station and tortured by the police and she was threatened with rape. She lodged a formal complaint with the IGPs Complaints Cell at the police headquarters. The name of the complainant woman Tapsi Rabeya in Banibah Union of Rajbari Sadar. She studied at a private university in the capital. Tapasi's husband Mehedi Hasan also studied at the same private university in the capital. Tapasi complained that, "the police had not questioned any of the people who would benefit from killing Abdul Latif. An audio record of the murder had been leaked but Investigators have no interest in verifying that. On the contrary, my husband and I were detained at the police station and tortured. I want justice for those responsible".¹⁸⁰

¹⁸⁰ Daily Prothom Alo, "ধানায় স্বামীকে নির্যাতন, স্ত্রীকে ধর্ষণের হুমকির অভিযোগ। প্রথম আলো," February 11, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/ধানার-আটকে-রঞ্জে-স্বামীকে-নির্যাতন-স্ত্রীকে-ধরষণের-হুমকির-অভিযোগ>। গ.





Police charge batons to disperse Sarbadaliya Chhatra Oikya Parishad activists who blocked Nilkhet crossing in Dhaka on Sunday to press their demands, including raising the maximum age limit for applying for government jobs. (Source: New Age)

On February 11, 2022, at least 23 people were injured in a clash between the police and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in front of BNP's central office in the Naya Paltan area. According to Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Senior Joint General Secretary of BNP, many of the activists were injured in the attack, and more than 20 leaders and activists, including BNP Dhaka South Member Secretary Rafiqul Alam Majnu. BNP leader Kazi Imtiaz Ahmed Tipu and Matshajibi Dal Joint Convener Jahirul Islam Bashar were detained.¹⁸¹

On March 04, 2022, a woman constable was accused of beating and kicking a plaintiff in a case in Gazipur. The victim was identified as Laboni Akhter. Laboni who was three months pregnant, had to go through an abortion because of that. The incident took place inside Kashimpur police station. The victim Laboni (24) was admitted at the maternity ward of Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital under police guard.¹⁸²

181 Dhaka Tribune, "More than 20 Injured in Clash between Chhatra Dal and Police," February 7, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/02/07/more-than-20-injured-in-clash-between-chhatra-dal-and-police>.

182 Daily Kalerkantho, "ধানায় অন্তঃসত্তার পেটে কনস্টেবলের লাথি, গর্ভপাত," March 4, 2022, <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2022/03/04/1125851>.





**A BNP worker is being arrested from procession by the Police.
(Source: Prothom Alo)**

On May 29, 2022, at least 20 people from both sides were injured, including 4 people who were shot in a clash between Awami League and BNP leaders over threatening the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the BNP conference in Gabtali, Bogra. Police fired five rounds of rubber bullets from shotguns to bring the situation



**Police charges baton on a protest rally organized by Juba Dal in Jessore.
(Source:Kalrekantho)**



under control. BNP activists claimed that at least four of them were shot and 15 people were injured. Those who were shot - Harunur Rashid, former convenor of Gabtali Paur Youth Dal, MR Hasan, President of Upazila Chhatra Dal, Ashiq Islam, President of Durgahata Union Chhatra Dal and Rakibul Islam, Convenor of Upazila Swecchasebak Dal.¹⁸³

On June 25, 2022, four police officers, including Bogura's Sariakandi police station's officer in charge was sued for allegedly torturing and framing a local trader in two false cases for bribe. The accused were identified as Mizanur Rahman (OC, Sariakandi police station) and sub-inspectors Robiul Karim, Md Mahbub Hasan and Robiul Islam. According to the case statement, SI Robiul Islam has been harassing Hanzala due to previous disputes for over a year. OC Mizanur Rahman proposed that Hanzala give the OC Tk 3 lakh to settle the dispute and stop Robiul Islam from harassing him further. However, when Hanzala did not agree, Sariakandi police took his motorbike into their custody despite it having all legal documents. On May 21, SI Robiul Karim took Hanzala into police custody. Sariakandi police seized his belongings and locked him up. The following day, officers physically tortured him on the OC's orders. They also included his name in two cases. Police produced him before the court and sent him to jail.¹⁸⁴

On July 18, 2022, Police tortured a prisoner in Narshingdi district prison. The name of the prisoner is Lizon Molla. According to his mother, on June 12, her son was arrested by the Police with extortion charges against him. He was presented to court on two occasions, latest of which is on July 18. On that night some police in the prison beat up her son at night breaking the prison rules. The next day the Police denied her an audience with her son.¹⁸⁵

183 Daily Jugantor, "আ.লীগ-বিএনপির সংঘর্ষে ৪ গুলিবিদ্ধসহ আহত ২০," May 29, 2022, <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/556296/আ.লীগ>.

184 The Daily Star, "Police Officials Sued over Alleged Torture | The Daily Star," June 25, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/police-officials-sued-over-alleged-torture-3055771>.

185 Daily Samakal, "নরসিংদী কারাগারে হাজতিকে নির্যাতনের অভিযোগ," July 25, 2022, <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/2207123322/নরসিংদী-কারাগারে-হাজতিকে-নির্যাতনের-অভিযোগ>.





A procession by Ganasanghati Andolon to protest price hike is being breached by the police. (Source: Prothom Alo)

On August 7, 2022, police attacked the procession of the progressive student organizations intended to protest against price hike in Shahbag, Dhaka. Saikat Arif, general secretary of Chatra Parishad claimed that they came under attack while rallying in the street to protest against the recent increase of fuel prices. At least ten members of the progressive student organizations were injured in that event. The officer in charge at shahbag police station denied commenting about this matter.¹⁸⁶



Police charging batons on the protesting students. (Source: Daily Star)

186 The Daily Star, "12 Injured as Police Charge Batons on Rally Protesting Fuel Price Hike | The Daily Star," August 7, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/12-injured-police-charge-batons-rally-protesting-fuel-price-hike-shahbagh-3090081>.



On October 26, 2022, police cracked down on a rally of district Shechchasebok Dal in Kazir Deuri area of the Chittagong City area. Police arrested eight people from the rally and 10-12 people got injured in the clash. According to Motiur Rahman, a Shechchasebak Dal leader, Disrtict Shechchasebak Dal South has recently formed a partial convener committee. They wrere holding a rally to celebrate this event. Member Secretary Jamir Uddin was leading the rally on the day. When they reached the Kazir Deuri area of the city, polite attacked them. They shot 10-12 rounds of warning shots to dismantle the rally. At least twelve people got injured in the process.¹⁸⁷



Police arresting activist from the Shechchasebak Dal protest. (Source: Prothom Alo)

On November 07, 2022, police charged on a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) rally in Kishorganj. At least 20 people including the police were injured in the process. Majharul Islam, general secretary of district BNP claimed that police deterred a Jubodal rally while it was joining a seminar arranged to celebrate the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. Police prevented the rally from chanting slogans at first. When the situation got heated, they charged

187 Daily Prothom Alo, “বেচ্ছাসেবক দলের মিছিলে লাঠিপেটা ফাঁকা গুলি, সংঘর্ষে পুলিশসহ আহত ১২। প্রথম আলো,” October 26, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/74jmcwvvnq>.





Jubadal activists suffered heavy battering by police.(Source: Prothom alo)

on the rally to scatter it. They used rubber bullets and beat up the BNP activists in the rally. Eighteen BNP activists were injured in the process including president of Jubodal, Khasrujjaman Sharif, senior president Mushtaq Ahmed, General Secretary in charge Sajjad Hossain, Joint General Secretary Abdullah Al Mamun and leader of Shechchasebak dol Jobayer.¹⁸⁸



Police using brute force to breach the precession of Leftist Democratic alliance.(Source: Prothom Alo)

188 Daily Prothom Alo, “কিশোরগঞ্জে বিএনপি নেতা-কর্মীদের সঙ্গে পুলিশের সংঘর্ষ, আহত ৩০। প্রথম আলো,” 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/pi0csswxk8>.



On December 21, 2022, a BNP leader, who is in the prison for political cases, received inhuman treatment from the police in Kalia. The leader is Md. Ali Azam, president of Boali Union BNP. Upon the death of his mother, he was released on parole to attend the funeral and lead the ceremonial Janajah prayer. While he was completing the rituals of the prayer, the police kept the shackles and restraints on him. This was dubbed as an inhumane treatment of the prisoner, who is in prison for politically charged cases.¹⁸⁹



Ali azam leading his mother's funeral prayer while in chains. (Source: Manab Zamin)

189 Daily Manab Zamin, "হাতকড়া-ডাভাবেড়ি নিয়েই মায়ের জানাজা পড়ালেন বিএনপি নেতা, সমালোচনার ঝড়," December 21, 2022, <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=34883>.



Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh

The Rohingya crisis has emerged as one of the most pressing human rights challenges in recent years, with profound implications for both Bangladesh and the international community. Originating from Myanmar, the Rohingya people have faced systematic discrimination and persecution, resulting in a mass exodus from their homeland and seeking refuge in neighboring countries, particularly Bangladesh. The context of the Rohingya crisis is rooted in long-standing tensions and conflicts in Myanmar. The Rohingya, an ethnic Muslim minority, have faced decades of marginalization, denial of citizenship, and severe human rights abuses. In 2017, the crisis escalated as a result of targeted violence and military operations, leading to a large-scale displacement of Rohingya communities and their forced migration to Bangladesh. The international community responded to the Rohingya crisis with a mixture of sympathy, condemnation, and humanitarian aid. Many nations expressed concern over the widespread human rights violations and called for an end to the violence against the Rohingya. Humanitarian organizations and neighboring countries, including Bangladesh, provided essential assistance, shelter, and support to the displaced Rohingya population.

In Bangladesh, the Rohingya crisis has presented significant challenges. The country has generously hosted a massive influx of Rohingya refugees, with over a million seeking shelter in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. While Bangladesh has shown commendable hospitality, the sheer scale of the crisis has strained resources, infrastructure, and social cohesion. The Rohingya refugees face numerous challenges, including limited access to healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities. They are also vulnerable to human trafficking, exploitation, and environmental hazards.

Efforts to address the Rohingya crisis require a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Bangladesh, as the host country,



faces the challenge of providing for the immediate needs of the Rohingya population while advocating for their safe repatriation to Myanmar with full dignity, rights, and protection. The international community must continue to support Bangladesh in its efforts to ensure the well-being and rights of the Rohingya, as well as work towards a long-term solution that addresses the root causes of the crisis and ensures justice for the Rohingya people.

According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), in 2022, Police and BGB killed 03 Rohingya people extra-judicially in the name of 'crossfire/gunfights. Police arrested at least 1880 Rohingya from camp and different place of the country. At the same time, the terrorist groups attacked on Rohingya people and killed 30 as well as injured at least 20 Rohingya, most of them were leaders (Majhi) of the Rohingya community. Nearly 1062 shelters and facilities, including hospitals and learning centers, were destroyed in the fire in two events in January and February 2022. Moreover, 359 Rohingya's fled from camp and 638 Rohingya's came to Bangladesh from India. The Government of Bangladesh try to relocate 100000 Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char. The authority has taken eight steps to relocate 7761 Rohingya to Bhasan Char in 2022. From December 2020 to 2022, they already have relocated 32000 Rohingya from Cox's Bazar Rohingya camp to Bhasan Char in 17 steps. United Nations data showed that 348 Rohingya were thought to have died at sea in 2022.

Some Significant cases are stated below :

On January 9, 2022, a massive fire engulfed Shafiullah Kata Rohingya camp No 16 in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya, destroying over 1,000 shanties. The fire was suspected to have originated from a gas cylinder at a residential house in the camp. Although there were no reported casualties, the fire gutted over 1,000 establishments including houses, learning, and medical centers in the camp. The camp's B and C blocks were completely gutted. Eight firefighting units reached the scene from Teknaf and Cox's Bazar to bring the



fire under control. The fire was eventually brought under control. Multiple fires have been reported at the camps that house the Rohingyas who fled military prosecution in Myanmar in 2017. In March last year, a huge fire broke at the Balukhali refugee camp claimed at least 15 lives, injured hundreds, and left thousands of Rohingyas homeless. The continuous fire accidents have further worsened the already dire living conditions in the camps, and international aid organizations have been called upon to take swift action to improve the situation.¹⁹⁰



**A massive fire destroyed several establishments at a Rohingya camp
(Source: Dhaka Tribune)**

On April 6, 2022, 287 Rohingyas, including two women, were arrested for breaking the rules and leaving the camp. Teknaf and Ukhiya Police Stations conducted raids and arrested them on Wednesday. Cox's Bazar District Police Superintendent Mohammad Hasanuzzaman confirmed the information, stating that 79 Rohingyas were detained from Teknaf and 208 from Ukhiya. A total of 473 Rohingyas have been detained from the two

¹⁹⁰ Dhaka Tribune, "Fire Tears through Rohingya Camp in Ukhiya Doused, over 1,000 Houses Raged," January 9, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/01/09/fire-guts-houses-at-rohingya-camp-in-ukhiya>.

upazilas until April 6. According to Hasanuzzaman, the tendency of Rohingyas to break the rules and leave the camp has increased, and efforts to control it are ongoing.¹⁹¹



A few of the detained Rohingyas (Source: Prothom Alo)

On May 12, 2022, 29 Rohingyas who entered Bangladesh illegally from India were arrested by law enforcement in Moulvibazar and Cox's Bazar districts. Eighteen Rohingyas, mostly women and children, were arrested by police in Moulvibazar from the bus terminal area. During interrogation, they confessed to crossing the Kulaura border to reach one of the Rohingya camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya. The detainees included at least 10 children.¹⁹²

On August 10, 2022, two head Majhis of the Rohingya camp management committee were killed by terrorists in Ukhiya Balukhali shelter camp (Camp-15) in Cox's Bazar. The deceased are Abu Taleb (50) and Syed Hossain (40). According to police and eyewitness reports, members of Myanmar's armed group Arakan

191 Daily Prothom Alo, "নিয়ম ভেঙে ক্যাম্পের বাইরে আসায় ২৮৭ রোহিঙ্গা আটক। প্রথম আলো," April 6, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/নরসিং-ভাঙা-কামারপুর-বাইরে-আসায়-২৮৭-রোহিঙ্গা-আটক>.

192 Dhaka Tribune, "29 Rohingyas Coming from India Arrested in Moulvibazar, Cox's Bazar," May 12, 2022, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/nation/2022/05/12/18-rohingyas-detained-for-illegally-entering-bangladesh-from-india>.





The detained Rohingyas at Moulvibazar police station. (Source: Dhaka Tribune)

Salvation Army (ARSA) shot the two Majhis dead in a dispute over refugee camp residents' demands, dominance and drug trade. After observing Ashura last night, some Rohingyas were hanging out in front of a shed in the mountain settlement of the shelter camp, and some armed terrorists shot there randomly. Abu Taleb and Syed Hossain fell on the ground after being shot. The police rescued the two Rohingya Majhis who were shot and took them to the MSF hospital of the local Jamtoli shelter, where one of them was declared dead. The other was taken to Kutupalong MSF Hospital, where he later died.¹⁹³

On October 15, 2022, two Rohingya leaders were hacked to death by terrorists at the Tasnimarkhola (Camp-13) shelter camp in Ukhia Upazila of Cox's Bazar. The two deceased leaders were identified as Anwar (38) and Md. Yunus (38). The incident occurred in front of a shop in the shelter block. The Rohingya leaders of Tasnimarkhola refugee camp claim that the two were killed for working in favor of repatriation. Some of the attackers were reportedly members of Myanmar's armed group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). In the last three months, at least 11 Rohingyas who were in favor of repatriation have been

193 Daily Prothom Alo, "উখিয়া আশয়শিবিরে গুলিতে দুই রোহিঙ্গা নেতা নিহত। প্রথম আলো," August 10, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/94qq186jxn>.

killed in various shelters in Ukhia and Teknaf. The attackers were a terrorist group of 15-20 people who were chasing the two. Yunus died on the spot, while Anwar was rescued and admitted to the MSF hospital but later died during treatment.¹⁹⁴

On October 27, 2022, two residents of C-Block of Kutupalong Camp No. 17, Ayat Ullah (40) and Yasin (30), were shot dead by a group of 15 to 20 miscreants who made an armed attack on the C-Block in the early hours of the day. According to ADIG Syed Harunur Rashid, who is in charge of security in the camp, the attackers shot Ayatullah and Yasin outside the house and fled. Yasin died on the spot, while Ayatullah died on the way to the hospital. Salamat Ullah, the brother of deceased Ayat Ullah, claims that his brother used to work in Camp-5D and spoke against various activities of active criminals in the camp, and cooperated with the administration. He believes that the criminals may have come wearing masks to commit the murder. Hasan, the brother of the deceased Yasin, alleges that the miscreants had previously cut off the hands and legs of one of the brothers of Ayat Ullah, and his brother Yasin used to keep an eye on the movements of the criminals and inform the administration. Hasan believes that the criminals targeted and killed Yasin for this reason.¹⁹⁵

On December 10, 2022, two Rohingya men were killed in a gunfight between police and a group of criminals at a refugee camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. The deceased were identified as Salim Ullah (33) and Mohammad Redwan (27), both residents of Balukhali refugee camp. According to the officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station, a team of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) conducted a raid in the camp area on information that 40-50 armed men had gathered there to kill Mohammad Rafiq, chief community leader of Balukhali East Rohingya Camp. The police claimed that as the APBn members reached the spot, the armed men opened fire at them. The APBn members retaliated in self-defense, resulting in

194 Daily Prothom Alo, "উখিয়ায় 'প্রত্যাশনের পক্ষে কাজ করা' দুই রোহিঙ্গা নেতাকে কুপিয়ে হত্যা। প্রথম আলো," October 15, 2022, <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ykbe7wa0hg>.

195 Daily Ittefaq, "দীর্ঘ হচ্ছে রোহিঙ্গা ক্যাম্পে খুনের তালিকা," October 29, 2022, <https://www.ittefaq.com.bd/618335/দীর্ঘ-হচ্ছে-রা-রোহিঙ্গা-ক্যাম্পে-খুনের-তালিকা>.



the death of the two Rohingya men. A locally-made gun and 70 bullets were recovered from the camp. The incident has raised concerns about the safety of refugees in the camps and the need for greater security measures to be put in place.¹⁹⁶

On December 26, 2022, at least 180 ethnic Rohingya are feared dead after their boat, which left Bangladesh in November, is thought to have sunk. The UNHCR cited unconfirmed reports that the “unseaworthy” boat probably sank after it went missing. Relatives have lost contact and presume all are dead. More than 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar live in crowded camps in Bangladesh, with limited access to work. Traffickers often lure them to make perilous journeys with promises of work in Southeast Asian countries. Last week, up to 20 people died of hunger or thirst on a boat stranded at sea for two weeks off India’s coast. Earlier in December the Sri Lankan navy rescued 104 Rohingya adrift off its northern coast. The UNHCR has urged countries in the region to help mitigate the humanitarian crisis.¹⁹⁷

196 The Daily Star, “Police-Criminals ‘Gunfight’ :Two Rohingya Men Killed in Cox’s Bazar | The Daily Star.”

197 The Daily Star, “180 Rohingyas Feared Dead | The Daily Star,” December 26, 2022, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/news/180-rohingyas-feared-dead-3205211>.



Annual Human Rights Report 2022

At a Glance

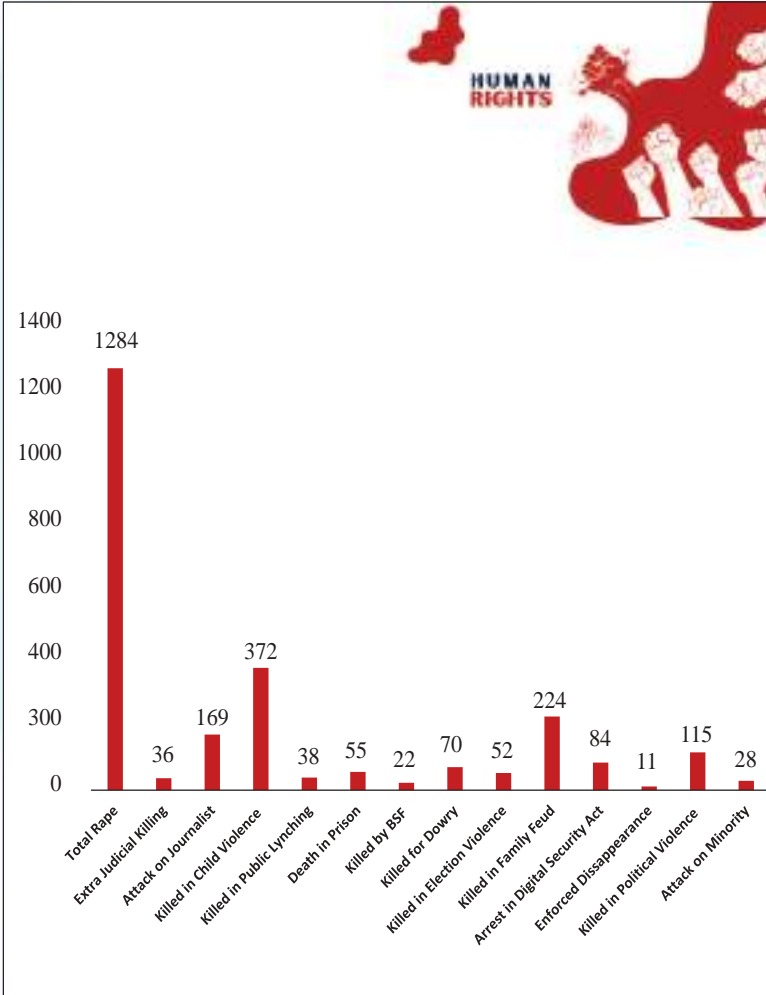


Figure 31 : Human Rights Situation of Bangladesh from January to December 2022



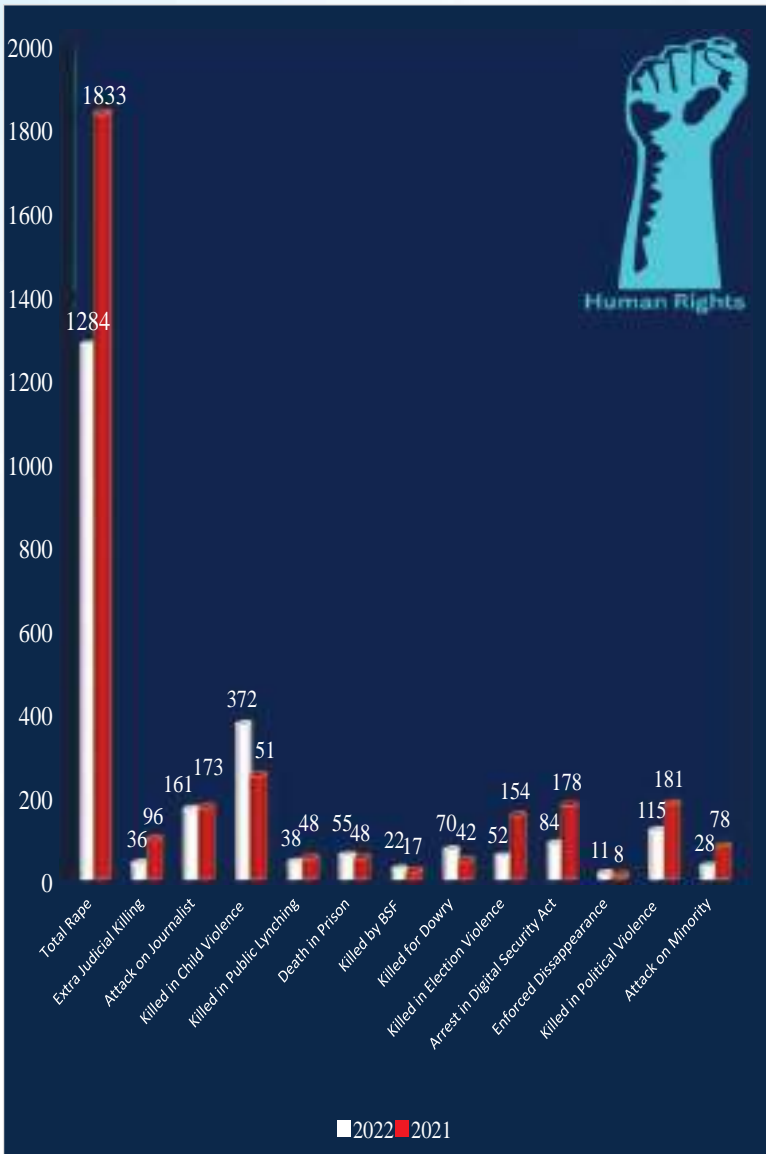


Figure 32 : Human Rights Report Yearly Comparison between 2021 and 2022

Recommendations

The human rights situation in Bangladesh in 2022 was deeply troubling, with widespread violations across various categories. The findings presented in this report highlight the urgent need for comprehensive measures to address these abuses and safeguard the rights and dignity of all individuals in the country. The incidents of extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances, political and election violence, rape, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence, acid violence, attacks on journalists, and violations under the Digital Security Act are alarming. These violations undermine the rule of law, erode public trust, and perpetuate a culture of impunity. It is crucial for the government to take immediate action to hold perpetrators accountable, ensure justice for the victims, and establish robust mechanisms to prevent such abuses in the future. Human Rights Support Society conveys the following recommendations in order to improve the overall human rights situation of the country.

- Ensure the safety and protection of journalists, including strict accountability for attacks and threats against them. Strengthen legal protections for press freedom and ensure that journalists can carry out their work without fear of reprisals. Establish a mechanism for journalists to report incidents of intimidation or attacks and provide them with adequate support. Review and amend the Digital Security Act 2018 to ensure compliance with international human rights standards and ensure that the government does not use law to stifle freedom of expression. Protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions online without fear of surveillance or censorship. Engage in dialogue with civil society organizations and stakeholders to address concerns regarding the Digital Security Act.
- Conduct thorough and impartial investigations into all reported cases of extra-judicial killings and hold the perpetrators accountable. Implement comprehensive training programs for law enforcement agencies on the proper use of force and

adherence to human rights standards. Strengthen oversight mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability within law enforcement agencies.

- Establish an independent commission to investigate cases of enforced disappearance and provide justice to the victims and their families. Ensure that all detained individuals are promptly brought before a judge and given access to legal representation. Ratify and implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- Take effective actions to hold peaceful, participatory and free and fair election at all levels, whether it is national or local. The election commission may encourage dialogues among the parties to prevent election violences and associated casualties.
- Strengthen the political participation of all the parties by creating an environment where freedom of movement is enjoyed by all and none are suppressed by fear.
- Strengthen measures to protect the rights of minority communities, including their physical security and freedom of religion. Promote interfaith dialogue and understanding to foster harmony and respect among different religious and ethnic groups. Establish mechanisms to address communal violence promptly and hold the perpetrators accountable
- Engage in diplomatic dialogue with neighboring countries to address border violence and ensure the protection of border communities. Strengthen border security measures to prevent human rights violations and ensure the safe movement of people. Collaborate with international organizations to provide assistance and support to victims of border violence.
- Revise and update labor laws to align with international standards, ensuring the protection of workers' rights, including safe working conditions, fair wages, and the right to organize and bargain collectively. Strengthen regulations regarding industrial safety, occupational health, and workers' compensation to prevent workplace accidents and injuries.



- Enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate cases of rape and prosecute the perpetrators. Establish specialized courts to expedite rape cases and ensure victims' access to justice. Strengthen support services for survivors, including medical care, counseling and legal assistance. Enforce existing laws and regulations on sexual harassment, including effective implementation of workplace policies. Establish dedicated helplines and support services for victims of sexual harassment.
- Strengthen legal protections against dowry-related violence and ensure effective implementation of existing laws. Enforce strict regulations on the sale and distribution of acid, including licensing and monitoring of acid vendors. Increase penalties for perpetrators of acid violence and ensure their swift prosecution. Implement comprehensive rehabilitation programs for survivors of acid attacks, including medical treatment, psychosocial support, and economic empowerment.
- Implement comprehensive child protection policies and strengthen child welfare institutions. Enhance efforts to prevent violence against children through awareness campaigns and education programs. Establish child-friendly mechanisms for reporting and addressing cases of violence, including sexual abuse, exploitation, and physical harm.
- Provide adequate protection to Rohingya refugees, ensuring their safety, security, and access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities. Collaborate with international organizations and neighboring countries to address the root causes of the Rohingya crisis and find sustainable solutions. Create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of Rohingya refugees to their places of origin in Myanmar. Engage in diplomatic efforts with the Myanmar government to secure guarantees for the safety and rights of returning Rohingya population.



Conclusion

Based on the findings presented in the report on the human rights situation in Bangladesh in 2022, it is clear that there have been widespread and serious violations of human rights in the country. Extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances, political and election violence, rape, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence, acid violence, attacks on journalists, the Digital Security Act, minority rights, child rights violence, and border violence are among the various categories of human rights violations that have been reported.

The number of cases of extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances are alarming and highlight the need for accountability and reform of law enforcement agencies. The attacks on journalists, including the killing of two journalists, and the use of the Digital Security Act to silence journalists and curtail freedom of expression are worrying developments that undermine democracy and freedom of the press. The violations of minority rights, particularly the destruction of temples and attacks on religious minorities, are also deeply worrying.

The high number of rape cases, particularly involving children, is deeply concerning, as is the number of victims who have been killed or committed suicide after being raped. Sexual harassment, dowry-related violence, and acid violence against women and girls are also issues that need urgent attention.

The report's data on violence against children highlights the need for a greater focus on child protection and support for victims and their families. The border violence incidents between Bangladesh and India also underscore the need for cooperation and accountability between the two countries' border security forces.

In conclusion, the human rights situation in Bangladesh in 2022 was characterized by a high number of human rights violations across different sectors. The government of Bangladesh should take immediate steps to address these human rights violations, bring perpetrators to justice, and ensure the protection of human rights for all its citizens. The international community should also monitor the situation closely and provide support and assistance to civil society organizations and victims of human rights abuses in Bangladesh.

Annexure-1 - Yearly Statistics 2022

Type of Human Rights Violation		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Violence Against Women	Sexual Harassment	21	34	33	49	68	22	43	80	64	35	52	30	531
	Rape	91	113	172	131	136	85	104	93	100	130	64	65	1284
	Killed for Dowry	8	5	4	8	5	8	7	3	6	11	4	1	70
	Killed for Family Feud	12	14	21	13	24	12	27	16	28	39	14	4	224
	Acid Violence	1	1	3	0	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	18
Killed in Child Rights Violence		13	30	30	27	22	17	44	28	41	38	44	38	372
Extra-judicial Killing	Crossfire	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	7
	Shot to death	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	13
	Torture to death	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	7
	Custodial death	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	09
	Total	7	1	2	5	1	0	3	3	4	0	6	4	36
Political Arrest		239	285	273	105	197	129	66	210	146	76	323	1092	3141
Enforces Disappearance		0	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	11
Attack on Minority		3	2	3	1	1	1	1	5	2	5	2	2	28
Border Disputes	Killed	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	4	3	4	5	23
	Injured	5	0	2	1	0	3	1	1	8	6	1	3	31
	Arrested	12	1	0	21	0	7	1	1	3	1	1	0	48
Attack on Journalists	Injured	26	24	9	14	18	4	1	20	18	5	5	21	165
	Threatened	6	3	4	4	5	1	8	9	0	1	2	0	43
	Assaulted	0	0	1	1	5	2	5	5	2	2	13	2	38
	Arrested	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Political Violence	Killed	34	15	9	6	6	3	14	3	3	7	10	5	115
	Injured	321	504	818	494	1032	496	511	1149	767	414	909	269	7684
Election Violence	Killed	31	14	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	52
	Injured	593	235	51	30	91	115	122	23	14	42	67	27	1410
Digital Security Act	Arrest	9	10	5	10	7	10	2	8	8	6	8	1	84
	Case filed	5	10	6	3	7	14	2	12	10	7	7	2	85
	Accused	373	26	6	15	17	23	2	14	19	10	9	2	516
Public Lynching	Killed	4	4	3	0	4	5	3	1	3	5	1	5	38

Annexure-02 : Photo Gallery



Honorable Guests of 8th Human Rights Conference by HRSS



Dr Hameeda Hossain, Prominent Human Rights Activist, is Sharing her Experience in 8th Human Rights Conference by HRSS



Barrister Sahjada Al Amin Kabir, Chairman (HRSS)



Barrister Sara Hossain, Honorary Executive Director (BLAST)



Syeda Rizwana Hasan Chief Executive (BELA)



Snippets of Participants in the 8th Human Rights Conference by HRSS



Mr Nur Khan Advisor of HRSS in online Discussion on Extra Judicial Killing



Online Participants of Discussion on UN Human Rights Mechanism and human rights situation in Bangladesh



Professor Dr. Jebunnessa Discussing Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow



Ambica Roy Discussing Protecting Children Rights in the Digital Age and Children Deprived of Rights in Bangladesh





**Dr. Saber Ahmed Chowdhury
Discussing Election Violence in
Bangladesh: Voting Rights**



**Discussion on Enforced
Disappearance in Bangladesh.**



**Day long Sessions on Conceptual Framework of Human Rights and
UN Human Rights Mechanism.**



**Day long Sessions on Conceptual Framework of Human Rights and
UN Human Rights Mechanism.**





Sessions on Conceptual Framework of Human Rights and UN Human Rights Mechanism in Chattogram



2 Days Training program under "Building Youth Capacity to Promote and Protect Human Rights"





2 Days Training program under "Building Youth Capacity to Promote and Protect Human Rights"



Human Rights
Situation
in Bangladesh 2021



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www.hrssbd.org