



# HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

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## Press Release Human Rights Observation Report of Bangladesh (August 2023)

Under the current government, Bangladesh has achieved many significant positive achievements, but the overall human rights situation, including the rule of law, democracy and people's right to vote, freedom of expression, right to assembly, social security, women's rights, has not seen promising progress. Despite constitutional obligations and international laws and treaties, human rights are routinely violated in Bangladesh. A review of the human rights situation in the month of August 2023 shows that, obstruction of peaceful assembly, cases of disappearance by security forces, political arrests, obstruction of funeral prayers, unlawful behavior by members of security forces, attacks and arrests on journalists, Torture by BSF on Innocent Bangladeshi at the border, violence against women and mass killings continue. These findings are based on information from various media outlets in Bangladesh, as well as investigations conducted by the HRSS's dedicated unit and input from local representatives. The comprehensive human rights monitoring report for the August 2023 indicates a decline in the overall human rights situation compared to the previous month's report for the same period.

## At least 6 people were killed and 878 injured in 74 incidents of "political violence" in August. Most of these casualties occurred in clashes centered around the ruling Awami League's infighting and BNP's peace rally. In addition, relating to the funeral of Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Saidi, 1 person was killed and several people were injured and arrested in clashes involving Awami League and the police against his supporters in several districts including the capital. Moreover, 501 people were subjected to political arrests by law enforcement agencies, including 494 from BNP-Jamaat. This month, 27 political cases were filed against opposition party leaders-activists naming 1033 people and 11095 others were accused anonymously. Apart from this, there have been incidents of obstruction in organizing 14 meetings of the opposition parties by law enforcement forces and government party leaders and activists. During the clash, 435 people were injured and 48 people were arrested from of the rally. Also 6 people were injured in election violence.



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## 38 journalists were tortured and harassed in 24 attacks this month; Where at least 23 people were injured, 11 people were assaulted, 03 people were threatened and 01 was arrested. At the same time, 3 people have been arrested and 5 people have been charged in 4 cases filed under the Digital Security Act 2018. It is alarming that 5 people were killed and 13 injured in 10 incidents of “Public Lynching” this month.

## 259 women and girls were victims of child abuse in the month of August. Among them, 85 people have been raped, out of which 38 children. It is of great concern that 13 women and children were gang-raped and 02 were killed after the rape. 95 women were victims of sexual violence, including 56 children. 05 women were killed in dowry related torture and 09 women were victims of physical torture and 01 committed suicide. 39 women were killed, 12 injured and 12 women committed suicide due to domestic violence. 01 was victim of acid violence. On the other hand, it is worrisome that 184 children have been victims of abuse out of which 46 have lost their lives and 138 children have been victims of physical and human abuse.

If the basic and constitutional rights of the people cannot be ensured by controlling the law-and-order situation immediately, the overall human rights situation of the country will further deteriorate. Therefore, the "Human Rights Support Society" is urging the government to play a responsible role in protecting human rights and all conscious citizens, journalists, political leaders and local and foreign human rights organizations to be more vocal.

**With Thanks**

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