



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

D-3, # 3rd floor, Plot # 2, Nur-Jehan Tower, 2nd Link Road, Bangla Motor, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. E-mail: hrssbd14@gmail.com, Web: www.hrssbd.org

Ref: hrss/2023/ka/10

Reg. No: S-12473/2016

Date: 02.08.2023

Press Release Human Rights Observation Report of Bangladesh (July 2023)

Bangladesh has made a considerable stride forward in terms of economy and living standards under the current government; however, there remains a concerning lack of improvement in the overall human rights situation. Key areas such as rule of law, democracy, voting rights freedom of expression, assembly rights, social security and women's rights continue to face challenges. Despite constitutional obligations and adherence to international laws and treaties, human rights violations persist.

A careful observation of the events in July 2023 reveals that, serious human rights violations such as obstruction of peaceful assembly, the use of false and fabricated cases, political arrests, and unlawful conduct by the law enforcement agencies were present throughout the month. Additionally, Journalists also face attacks and arrests, while innocent Bangladeshis are subjected to killing and torture at the border by the BSF. Furthermore, there is a concerning trend of violence against women and politically motivated killings.

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 July 2023 indicates a decline in the overall human rights situation compared to the previous month's report for the same period.

At least 8 killed, 1270 injured in 68 incidents of "political violence" in July. Most of the political violence in this month took place when the opposition party BNP tried to hold activities such as protests, mass gatherings and long march and the ruling party Awami League tried to counter them in the name of peace rally and peace gatherings. Moreover, 1523 people were subjected to political arrests by law enforcement agencies, including 1513 from BNP-Jamaat. This month, 1,944 known people were charged in 40 cases and 8,285 others were charged anonymously. In addition, there have been incidents of obstruction of 41 meetings and gatherings of the opposition parties by law enforcement forces and government party leaders and activists. Meanwhile, 538 people were injured in the clash and 1340 people were arrested related to assemblies. Also 23 people were injured in 5 incidents of election violence.



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

D-3, # 3rd floor, Plot # 2, Nur-Jehan Tower, 2nd Link Road, Bangla Motor, Dhaka-1000,
Bangladesh. E-mail: hrssbd14@gmail.com, Web: www.hrssbd.org

In this month, in 07 incidents, 10 journalists were tortured and harassed, at least 5 were injured and 02 were threatened. At the same time, 6 people have been arrested and 25 have been charged in 8 cases filed under the Digital Security Act 2018.

206 women and girls were victims of abuse in July. Of these, 99 people were raped, of which an alarming 58 (59%) were children under the age of 18. It is a matter of great concern that 27 women and children were gang-raped and 06 were killed after rape, all girls. 43 women and girls were victims of sexual abuse, including 18 children. 06 women were killed in dowry related torture and 08 women were victims of physical torture and 01 committed suicide. 30 women were killed, 05 people were injured and 12 women committed suicide due to domestic violence. 02 women were victims of acid violence. On the other hand, it is alarming that 201 children were victims of torture out of which 37 lost their lives and 164 children were victims of physical and mental abuse.

It is alarming that 5 people were killed and 10 injured in 12 incidents of "Public Lynching" in July. Also 02 Bangladeshis were killed and 02 injured in 02 incidents by Indian "Border Security Force (BSF)".

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 calling on 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

Ijajul Islam

Executive Director

Human Rights Support Society (HRSS)

Email: hrssbd14@gmail.com