



February 01, 2012

## **Human Rights Monitoring Report**

**January 01-31, 2012**

**Political violence continues: Five killed in police firing on opposition processions**

**Ban on public meetings and imposition of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure**

**Prime Minister says that there are no human rights violations**

**Police attack a procession protesting increased bus fare**

**Extrajudicial killings**

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**Sedition case filed against Jahangirnagar University teacher**

**Violence against Women**

Odhikar believes that the role and democratic aspiration of individuals and the collective rights and responsibilities of the people must be the foundational principle of the state. Democratic legitimacy of the state is directly related to its commitment and capacity to ensure human rights, such as rights to life and livelihood; right to environment and health and dignity; and integrity of individuals. These rights, as the foundational principle of the state, must remain inviolable, and accordingly Parliament, Judiciary and Executive cannot and should not have any power to abrogate these rights through any legislation, judicial verdict or executive order.

Odhikar, being an organisation of human rights defenders in Bangladesh, has been struggling to ensure these rights. As a network of human rights defenders, Odhikar stands against all forms of human rights violations and accordingly participates and remains directly involved in the human rights movement of Bangladesh. The movement to establish rights and dignity of every individual is part of the struggle to constitute Bangladesh as a democratic political community. As part of its mission, Odhikar monitors the human rights situation of Bangladesh to report violations and defend the victims. In line with this campaign, an account of the human rights situation of Bangladesh, covering the month of January 2012, is presented below:

#### **Political violence continues: Five killed in police firing on opposition processions**

1. Four persons died in Chandpur and Laxmipur when police opened fire on demonstrating BNP<sup>1</sup> activists and supporters on January 29, 2012<sup>2</sup>. The deceased have been identified as Limon Choiyal (25), a rickshaw puller of Guakhola in Chandpur; Abul Hossain Mreedha (50), a rickshaw puller of Baburhaat in Chandpur; and Mohammad Rubel (25) of Pashchim Laxmipur village under Laxmipur Sadar upazila; and Mohammad Abul Qashem (55) of Charmonosha village in Laxmipur. Meanwhile Laxmipur district unit BNP claimed that Mohammad Rubel was the Vice-President of 8 No. ward Jubo Dal<sup>3</sup> of Dalalbazar Union while Mohammad Abul Qashem was the Vice-President of Tewariganj union BNP.
2. Violence in Chandpur erupted at around 11:00 am when police asked BNP activists, gathering at a school ground, to disperse. Police opened fire when the opposition activists started vandalising vehicles as the clash spread to other parts of the town. At least 80 people, including 30 police were injured in a clash between police and BNP supporters.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> BNP: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party, now in Opposition.

<sup>2</sup> The violence took place when the police intercepted the processions by opposition activists, campaigning for the restoration of a Caretaker Government system, as part of their central programme in the districts.

<sup>3</sup> Jubo Dal is the youth wing of the BNP.

<sup>4</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 30/01/2012, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2012-01-30/news/220633>

3. **In Laxmipur district town, police opened fire at a procession of BNP when they attempted to start from Ramgoti bus stand in south Temohini area around 11am. A violent clash broke out as soon as police barred them from going forward. At least 13 people suffered bullet injuries. Mohammad Rubel died at Laxmipur Sadar Hospital and Abul Qashem died while shifting him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from Noakhali Medical College Hospital. Moreover, about 200 people including police and journalists were injured.<sup>5</sup> The Officer-in-Charge of the local Police Station and the Superintendent of Police of the Laxmipur District could not confirm whether there had been any permission from the Executive Magistrate to open fire on the crowd.<sup>6</sup>**
4. **To protest the killings, local BNP units called for half-day hartals in Chandpur and Laxmipur on January 30, 2012.**
5. **Meanwhile Police Headquarters formed two separate committees to investigate the incidents of killing four people in Chandpur and Laxmipur. Inspector General of Police, Hasan Mahmud Khandkar said the committees, to be headed by Additional DIG Afzal Hossain, were asked to submit reports in seven days.<sup>7</sup> But these are regular investigations done under section 157(A) of Police Regulation of Bangladesh (PRB)<sup>8</sup>, where the responsibility of causing such death is not the subject matter to be identified<sup>9</sup>.**
6. **Furthermore, at least 680 people were injured when the law enforcers attempted to foil prescheduled mass processions by Opposition activists in different districts, including Natore, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Barguna, Sunamganj, Rangamati, Bandarban, Brahmanbaria, Tangail, Patuakhali, Madaripur, Jhalkathi and Kishoreganj.<sup>10</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 30/01/2012, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2012-01-30/news/220634>

<sup>6</sup> The daily Prothom Alo Editorial of 31/01/2012, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2012-01-31/news/220778>

<sup>7</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 30/01/2012, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2012-01-30/news/220570>

<sup>8</sup> Section 157(A) of the PRB refers to an Executive enquiry regarding use of firearms by police – Whenever the police have used firearms, a full executive enquiry to ascertain whether the firing was justified and whether these regulations were obeyed, shall be held as soon as it can possibly be arranged.

<sup>9</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 31/01/2012

<sup>10</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 30/01/2012, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2012-01-30/news/220578> and the Daily Star, 30/01/2012, <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=220416>

7. In Rajshahi, Shafiqul Islam was shot by police and died while taking part in the Four Party Alliance<sup>11</sup> protest rally on 30 January 2012.
8. Police have sued approximately 15,400 opposition activists in separate cases across the country for the clashes that occurred on 30 January 2012 between opposition activists and law enforcing agencies. Around 7,000 activists have been sued in Laxmipur, 6,000 in Chandpur, 1,500 in Dinajpur, 300 in Nilphamari and 600 in Kurigram districts<sup>12</sup>.

#### **Other Instances of political violence**

9. Like previous governments, criminalisation of politics and political violence started after the grand alliance led by Awami League assumed power on January 6, 2009. During 2009, 2010 and 2011, leaders and activists belonging to the ruling party were entangled in intra party collisions over vested interests like extortion, tender biddings, acquiring supremacy over residential halls and in universities and colleges under political shelter; which all resulted in incidents of death. Between 2009 and 2011, 98 were killed in internal conflicts of Awami League and 12 were killed in BNP conflicts. The same trend continues in early 2012, in particular, with internal clashes in Chhatra League<sup>13</sup> and incidents of attacks on the opposition.
10. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in January 2012, 16 persons were killed and 1874 injured in political violence. 29 incidents of internal violence in the Awami League and 10 in the BNP were also recorded during this period. In addition to this, one person was killed and 289 injured in Awami League internal conflicts while 98 were injured in BNP internal conflicts. These incidents are occurring due to the failure in bringing the perpetrators of political violence to justice. Some incidents are as follows:

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<sup>11</sup> The Four Party Alliance is the political alliance consisting of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Jatiyo Party (Manju) and Islami Oikyo Jote

<sup>12</sup> The New Age, 31/01/2012

<sup>13</sup> Chhatra League: The Awami League's Student wing

11. On January 3, 2012 activists of Somajtantrik Chhatra Front<sup>14</sup>, Chhatra Federation<sup>15</sup>, Chhatra Moitree<sup>16</sup> and Bangladesh Chhatra Union<sup>17</sup> brought out a procession under a banner of the Progressive Students Union, in demand for the cancelation of a decision to take Taka 5000.00 as 'development fee' for admission in Jagannath University in Dhaka. Activists of Chhatra League also brought out a counter procession and attacked the Progressive Students Union. 15 persons of Progressive Students Union were injured due to this attack.<sup>18</sup>
12. On January 8, 2012 Zubaer Ahmed, a student of the English Department at Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka was beaten by 12/13 activists of Chhatra League, including Ashiqul Islam, Khan Mohammad Rois and Rashedul, when he came out of his exam hall. He was admitted to a hospital with severe injuries and died on January 9, 2012.<sup>19</sup>

### **Ban on public meetings and imposition of section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure<sup>20</sup>**

13. According to Odhikar's statistics, during the month of January 2012, a total of 13 instances of the imposition of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were recorded across the country, mainly to stop political gatherings from occurring. Some incidents are as follows:
14. On January 28, 2012 Dhaka Metropolitan Police imposed the ban on mass procession and rallies declared by BNP.
15. On January 9, 2012 the BNP at a Chittgong rally declared country-wide mass procession programmes for January 29 and a rally in Dhaka on March 12 to put pressure on the government for a restoration of the caretaker government system. On January 26, Awami League declared

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<sup>14</sup> Student wing of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh

<sup>15</sup> Student wing of the Gonoshonghoti Andolon

<sup>16</sup> Student wing of the Workers Party of Bangladesh

<sup>17</sup> Student wing of the Communist Party of Bangladesh

<sup>18</sup> Fact-finding report of Odhikar, 05/01/2012

<sup>19</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 10/01/2012, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2012-01-09/news/215179>

<sup>20</sup> Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 provides power to issue order.

[http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/sections\\_detail.php?id=75&sections\\_id=20789](http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/sections_detail.php?id=75&sections_id=20789)

counter public meetings. The organisation of rallies and processions by the Government and opposition parties on the same day, caused the police to assume subversive activities; and in order to avoid a possible volatile situation police imposed a ban under section 28 and 29 of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance of 1976 in the Capital from 6.00 am to 12.00 midnight for January 29. Meanwhile, the Opposition BNP has deferred its mass procession programmes for a day. However, gatherings were also banned at Chittagong, Barisal, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Khulna and section 144 was imposed at Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna.<sup>21</sup>

16. Odhikar believes that such imposition of ban is a violation of democratic rights. Organising peaceful meetings and processions are the democratic and political rights of everyone, guaranteed in Article 37 of the Bangladesh Constitution.

### **Prime Minister says that there are no human rights violations**

17. On January 15, 2012, the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina claimed in a meeting at the Gono Bhaban with the British Minister for International Development Andrew Mitchell that there were no human rights violations in the country.<sup>22</sup> One of the leading English dailies, The Daily Star at its Editorial on January 17, 2012 referred to the Asian Human Rights Commission's report on Bangladesh, that the organisation found that freedom of expression, opinion and human rights activism were "being narrowed" down, including threats, attacks and torture of journalists, which are yet to be investigated; several cases of illegal arrests and arbitrary detentions followed by fabricated charges; and high rates of violence against women were also mentioned.<sup>23</sup>
18. In spite of the Government's denial, some of the cases are plainly indefensible. If deterrent measures are not taken, the government may be encouraging a dangerous culture of impunity, completely opposed to the

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<sup>21</sup> The daily Jugantor, 29/01/2012

<sup>22</sup> The Daily Star, 16/01/2012 <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=218590>

<sup>23</sup> The Daily Star, 17/01/2012; <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=218604>

values of democracy and human rights. It is beyond high time that the government comes out of its mentality of denial and takes strong and immediate action to remedy the situation.

### **Police attack a procession protesting the increased bus fare in Narayanganj**

19. On January 11, 2012, activists of Narayanganj Passengers Rights Protection Forum (NPRPF) gathered at the *Shahid Minar*<sup>24</sup> in Chasara in order to surround the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj district, to demand the cancellation of the increased bus fare on the Dhaka-Narayanganj route. Police put up a barrier and threw four rounds of tear-gas shells and dispersed the procession by baton charges. At least 20 people, including Rafiur Rabbi, Convener of the NPRPF and A B Siddique of Narayanganj Citizens Committee were injured.<sup>25</sup>
20. Odhikar believes that all citizens are entitled to call and execute peaceful meetings and to scrutinise the action of the Legislature and members of the Government under Articles 37 and 38 of the Constitution.

### **Extrajudicial killings**

21. Extrajudicial killings continue in 2012, despite repeated assurance by the Government to end this. In January, 2012, according to information gathered by Odhikar, six persons were killed extra-judicially by law enforcement agencies. These killings were allegedly conducted by Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and Coast Guards jointly and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

### **Types of death**

#### ***Crossfire/encounter/gun fight:***

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<sup>24</sup> Monument to commemorate the martyrs of the Language Movement of 1952

<sup>25</sup> Report sent by Odhikar's human rights defender, Dhiman Saha from Narayanganj, 13/01/2012

22. Among the 06 extrajudicial killings, 05 persons were killed in 'crossfire/encounters/gun fights'. Among the deceased 04 were allegedly killed by RAB and 01 by RAB-Coast Guard.

***Shot to death:***

23. Among the deceased, 01 was shot dead by BGB member.

***Identities of the deceased:***

24. Of the 06 deceased, 01 was a leader of Gono Mukti Fauz, 05 were alleged criminals.

**Death in jail**

25. In January 2012, 09 persons reportedly died in jail due to 'illness'.

**Public lynching**

26. Due to the weakness of the criminal justice system, the tendency of taking the law into one's own hands is increasing, as people are losing their confidence in the police and judiciary. In 2011, 161 persons were allegedly killed in public lynching. In January 2012, 13 people were allegedly killed due to public lynching.

**Attacks on freedom of media**

27. According to Odhikar's documented statistics for the month of January, 21 journalists have been injured, 06 have been threatened and 07 have been assaulted. Some instances are as follows:
28. The private television channel ATN News has stopped its talk show 'Samoyer Bhabna' hosted by Mahmudur Rahman Manna. He said the producer of the programme told him just before the recording of the programme on January 26, 2012 that the programme had been barred by the authorities. Referring to the channel authorities, Manna said the producer told him that the programme had to be stopped on government



pressure. A high official of the channel told reporters that the government was pressurising the authorities to stop the programme.<sup>26</sup>

29. On January 3, 2012, RTV reporter Aporna Singh, cameraman Sayeed Anwar and local representative Osman Ghani went to Monipur High School at Mirpur in Dhaka to report allegations of various irregularities, including the collection of additional money (beyond the stipulated amount) for admission. They were blocked when they tried to enter the school to get statements from the school authority based on the allegations. Later, local Member of Parliament and President of the School Managing Committee, Kamal Ahmed Mazumdar, came to the school with some youths and verbally abused the journalists. He gave orders to the youths to “shoot them all”. Kamal Ahmed Mazumdar forcibly took the microphone from journalist Aporna Singh’s hands and threw it away. Aporna’s wrist was twisted and badly sprained.<sup>27</sup>

### **Infringement of human rights by the BSF**

30. A total of 31 Bangladeshi citizens were killed by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in 2011. Incidents of human rights violations continue in 2012 at Bangladesh-India border areas. According to Odhikar’s documented statistics, 02 Bangladeshi citizens have been killed by the BSF, 09 Bangladeshi citizens have been injured and 03 have been abducted allegedly by BSF, in January 2012. Some incidents are as follows:
31. On January 4, 2012, Farazuddin (26), son of Ainul Huq, a farmer and resident of Barsha village at Rontai frontier under Baliadanghi Upazila in Thakurgaon, went to the border area near sub pillar 382/2, about 100 yards inside Bangladesh territory to irrigate a rice field. At that time, BSF members from Sonamoti Camp tortured him by entering into Bangladesh and took him away.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> The daily New Age, 28/01/2012

<sup>27</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 04/01/2012, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2012-01-03/news/213691>

<sup>28</sup> The daily Naya Diganta, 06/01/2012

32. On January 18, 2012, eight BSF personnel were suspended after a video clip was aired on some Indian TV channels, showing a Bangladeshi cattle trader, Habibur Rahman (22), being tortured by some BSF members at the Murshidabad border.<sup>29</sup> Habibur Rahman is the son of Saidur Rahman of Satero Roshia village under Shibganj Upazila in Chapainawabganj district. He was tortured as he allegedly refused to pay them a bribe. It was known that on December 9, 2011, the BSF jawans tied his hands and legs and beat him up before dumping his unconscious body in a mustard field.<sup>30</sup>
33. On January 21, 2012, the BSF shot dead Rasheduzzaman (22) and wounded two other youths at Dhannokhola border in Benapole. Rasheduzzaman was the son of Mosharraf Hossain of Matipukur in Sharsha upazila.<sup>31</sup>
34. Despite several years of continuous reports of BSF atrocities on Bangladeshi citizens, by both national and international organisations, on January 21, 2012, General Secretary of Awami League, Syed Ashraful Islam said that the State was not worried over the killing of Bangladeshi Nationals by the BSF. He said “many such incidents are taking place in the border areas of the countries – cattle lifting, drug smuggling and many other things. These happened in the past, and are happening now and will also happen in future. The state could not put aside everything and only think about what is going on along the border”. The same day, the Indian Finance Minister, Pranob Mukharjee told reporters in Kolkata, “Such incidents often take place at the border. There is no need to blow them out of proportion.”<sup>32</sup> Syed Ashraful Islam who is also Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of Bangladesh has completely forgotten that such incidents are perpetrated against the citizens of Bangladesh and are threatening the very sovereignty of Bangladesh. One wonders whether the Bangladesh Government is allowing its citizens to be killed and harmed. Such insensitive statements only add to the doubts and will encourage more BSF atrocities.

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<sup>29</sup> The Daily Star, 20/01/2012, <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=219134>

<sup>30</sup> Fact-finding report of Odhikar, 20/01/2012

<sup>31</sup> The Daily Star, 22/01/2012, <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=219351>

<sup>32</sup> The Daily Star, 22/01/2012, <http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=219359>

35. According to the Memorandum of Understanding and related treaties signed between the two countries, if citizens of the two countries illegally cross the border, it would be considered trespass and as per law those persons should be handed over to the civilian authority. However, we have repeatedly noticed that India has been violating treaties, shooting at anyone seen near the border or anyone trying to cross the border, which is a clear violation of international law and human rights.
36. Odhikar believes that the Government of Bangladesh has the responsibility to ask its Indian counterpart for an explanation regarding such killings of Bangladeshi civilian citizens residing at the border areas. In spite of doing this, the statement of Syed Ashraf Islam will only inspire the criminal activities of the BSF at border areas. Odhikar condemns and protests the insensitive and harmful statements of Syed Ashraf Islam and Pronob Mukharjee.

### **Sedition case filed against Jahangirnagar University teacher on the allegation of wishing the Prime Minister's death**

37. On August 13, 2011, five persons, including film maker Tareque Masud and Chief Editor of the ATN News, Mishuk Munir died in a road accident in Manikganj, which resulted fuming among people across the country. People expressed their anger through different ways and means. Referring to this incident, on August 13, Muhammad Ruhul Amin Khandker, a teacher of Jahangirnagar University who is doing his higher education in Australia, wrote on his facebook page: "Consequences of driving licenses without inspection, five people including Tareque and Mishuk Munir died: Everybody dies, why not Hasina?"<sup>33</sup> The next day at around 5.00 am in another status on face book, he wrote "Driving licenses without inspection! Is this thinkable in a civilized society? The whole world has shown

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<sup>33</sup> The daily Amar Desh, 09/01/2012

rigidness in the process of providing driving licenses where Hasina's government is proving driving licenses without even tests!"<sup>34</sup>

38. On January 8, 2012, a Division Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, comprising of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Justice Jahangir Hossain ordered a sedition case to be filed against Muhammad Ruhul Amin Khandker for writing his personal expressions on his facebook account. The Inspector General of Police was told to file a sedition case under Section 124A of the Penal Code against Ruhul Amin Khandker and report back to the Court by January 15, 2012. Prior to this case, as he was not present before the Court, the same Court, on January 4, 2012, sentenced him to imprisonment for six months for the allegation of contempt of court.
39. On August 18, 2011 this news was published in a national daily and was considered as a 'disaffection', or 'arrogance' and 'desire for the death' of the Prime Minister, instead of considering it an expression of anger from an upset person. The Court issued a *suo moto* rule after taking this news into consideration. On August 25, 2011, in another direction, the High Court Division ordered the teacher to present himself before Court on October 17, 2011. At the same time, the Foreign Secretary was directed to issue a notice in relation to this order within two weeks. On December 12, 2011, the Court was informed that the teacher did not appear before the Court despite the Court Order and notice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The next day, the High Court Division issued a rule against the teacher for Contempt of Court. He was again asked to be present before Court on January 2, 2012.
40. According to section 124A of the Penal Code, whoever by 'words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law shall be punished with transportation for life or any shorter term, to which fine may

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.bdnews24.com/bangla/details.php?cid=3&id=182242&hb=top>

be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.'

41. Odhikar is concerned about this interpretation of 'sedition'. It was not enumerated in the said sections that feelings of dislike, disregard, hatred or animosity of a person against an elected government are to be considered 'sedition', rather it has been specifically considered as a crime if committed against the President and the government, in general. Therefore, to criticise any Minister or Head of Government on how it executes its professional activities, or express condemnable opinion may be a defamatory act, but not treason.

### **Violence against Women**

42. During January 2012, a significant number of women were the victims of rape, dowry related violence, acid violence, domestic violence and sexual harassment.

### ***Rape:***

43. During the month of January 2012, a total number of 40 females were reportedly raped. Among them, 12 were women, 23 were children and the age of 05 victims could not be ascertained. Of the women, 06 were killed after being raped, 04 were victims of gang rape. Out of the 23 child victims, 01 child was killed after being raped and 03 were victims of gang rape.
44. On January 4, 2012, the Satkhira district unit of Chhatra League organised a programme on the occasion of the anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra League. A BBA student of Azam Khan Commerce College came with her husband from Khulna to sing and to perform dance in the programme. After the programme, President of Satkhira district unit Chhatra League, Jewel Hassan invited them for dinner. The singer and her husband were taken to the residence of Chhatra League General Secretary Polash. After reaching there, Jewel Hassan and Polash beat the husband, took away his

cell phone and separated him from his wife. During this time, Jewel Hassan and Polash tried to rape the performer.<sup>35</sup>

***Sexual harassment and stalking:***

45. According to information gathered by Odhikar, a total of 33 girls and women were victims of sexual harassment during the month of January 2012. Among them, 01 committed suicide, 01 was injured, 01 incident of attempt to rape and 30 were sexually harassed in various ways. In protest against such acts of sexual harassment against women, 06 men and 01 woman were injured while 02 men and 01 woman were assaulted by the stalkers.

***Dowry-related violence:***

46. In January 2012, a total of 35 women were subjected to dowry related violence. Of these women, it has been alleged that 14 women were killed because of dowry, 17 were ill-treated in various other ways for dowry demands and 04 women allegedly committed suicide. During this time, 02 men were critically injured over dowry-related violence when protesting such violence.

***Acid violence:***

47. According to information gathered by Odhikar, during the period of January 2012, it was reported that 07 persons became victims of acid violence. Of these affected persons, 02 were women and 03 were men and 02 were girls.

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<sup>35</sup> Fact-finding report of Odhikar, 10/01/2012

<b>Statistics: 01-31 January, 2012*</b>		
<b>Type of Human Rights Violation</b>		<b>January</b>
Extra-judicial killings	Crossfire	5
	Shot to death	1
	Total	6
Human rights violations by Indian BSF	Bangladeshis Killed	2
	Bangladeshis Injured	9
	Bangladeshis Abducted	3
Deaths in Jail		9
Attack on journalists	Injured	21
	Threatened	6
	Assaulted	7
Political violence	Killed	16
	Injured	1874
Acid violence		7
Dowry related violence		37
Rape		40
Sexual harassment /Stalking of women		33
Section 144 Cr.PC		13
Public Lynching		13

\* Odhikar's Documentation

## **Recommendations**

- 1. The Government must take effective action to stop all forms of criminalisation in the name of politics. The law enforcement agencies need to play a proactive role to stop political violence and to take legal measures against perpetrators and carry out their duty in an accountable and unbiased manner.**
- 2. The Government should refrain from the culture of shrinking democratic space and abstain from repression on people who are in a struggle for promoting rights.**

3. **The Government must bring all involved in the acts of extrajudicial killings before justice, through proper and independent investigation.**
4. **Incidents of attacks on journalists must be properly investigated and perpetrators of such acts must be brought to justice.**
5. **The Government should protest strongly against human rights violations on Bangladeshi citizens by the BSF through investigation of all incidents and demand from the Indian Government adequate compensation for the families of the victims and trial and punishment for the perpetrators. The Government should also ensure the security of the Bangladeshi citizens residing at the border areas.**
6. **The explanation of 'sedition' incorporated in section 124A of the Penal Code needs to be amended to avoid misuse and miscarriage of justice.**
7. **The Government must take appropriate measures to stop violence against women and the offenders must be brought under the purview of the law to ensure that justice is served.**

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**Notes:**

1. Odhikar seeks to uphold the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people.
2. Odhikar documents and records violations of human rights and receives information from its network of human rights defenders and monitors media reports in twelve national daily newspapers.
3. Odhikar conducts detailed fact-finding investigations into some of the most significant violations.
4. Odhikar is consistent in its human rights reporting and is committed to remain so.