



November 1, 2012

Human Rights Monitoring Report

October 1-31, 2012

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Odhikar believes that 'democracy' is a form of the State and not merely a process of electing a ruler. Democracy is the product of the peoples' struggle for inalienable rights, which become the fundamental premise to constitute the state and to define collective aspirations and responsibilities. Therefore, individual freedom and democratic aspirations of the citizens and consequently, peoples' collective rights and responsibilities must be the foundational principle of the state. Failure to do so at the founding moment is a continuing curse that people are forced to carry. Democratic legitimacy of the state is directly related to its commitment and capacity to ensure human rights such as rights to life and livelihood, rights to environment and health; and the dignity and integrity of individuals, including freedom of speech and association. These rights, as the foundational principles of the State, must remain inviolable; and accordingly, the Parliament, Judiciary and Executive cannot and should not have any power to abrogate them 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. Odhikar stands against all forms of human rights violations and accordingly participates and remains directly involved in the human rights movement in Bangladesh. Odhikar brings to the movement the strategic perspective that in its demand for civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the human rights movement not only endeavours to protect the victims, but also, in countries like Bangladesh, is constitutive of a democratic state. The movement to establish the 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, in October 2012, is presented here.

Human rights violations by BSF

1. On September 30, 2012 a Bangladeshi citizen, Hannan, was tortured to death by the members of BSF in Chapainawabganj, despite assurances given by the BSF Director General, U K Bansal that killings at the border will come down to zero. He said this at a four day conference of the border guards of the two countries at Dhaka from 26-29 September 2012. In October 2012, according to Odhikar, five Bangladeshi citizens were killed and 12 Bangladeshi citizens were injured by the BSF. Furthermore, five Bangladeshis were abducted allegedly by the BSF during this period. Some instances are as follows:
2. On October 7, 2012 at around 11.30 pm, a 16-year old boy named Mohammad Sujon Ali was shot dead by BSF at Majhardia border under Poba Upazila in Rajshahi while he was fishing in the Padma river. It was learnt during a fact-finding mission that the BSF members of Harubhanga camp under Raninagar Police Station in Murshidabad were involved in this killing.¹
3. On October 7, 2012 the BSF members of Nouda Outpost in India opened fire at Bangladeshi farmers who were working in a field near international pillar 182 at Chokpara border under Shibganj Upazila in Chapainawabganj. Shetabul Islam, Sayem and Saidur of 19 Bigha village under Shibganj Upazila were shot.²
4. On October 15, 2012, Indian Home Secretary, R K Singh, while visiting Bangladesh said that "those who were shot at the border were all smugglers. BSF had been repeatedly told to stop firing but they opened fire when they came under attack".³
5. Odhikar rejects the statement of the Indian Home Secretary in relation to the killings of Bangladeshi citizens. Odhikar believes that such statement of the Indian Home Secretary was an ill-attempt to justify killings and human rights violations by BSF at the border. In many occasions, BSF shot or tortured to death innocent people, including farmers and fisher folk at work in the border area even by entering into Bangladesh territory.⁴ Despite repeatedly raising this issue at the Government level and during the regular meetings between border guards of the two countries, it has remained mere words, which is a failure of Bangladesh foreign policy.

Political violence

6. Confrontation between the two major political parties and their internal clashes are the main reason for the continuation of political violence. Moreover, politics

¹ Fact-finding report of Odhikar, 12/10/2012

² The daily Amar Desh, 08/10/2012

³ The daily Jai Jai Din, 16/10/2012

⁴ See www.odhikar.org for reports

has been criminalised in order to create illegal business by misusing political power. The political tensions are increasing as the national elections are coming close which lead to spreading more political violence. The ruling party Awami League backed Chhatra League⁵ is attacking opponents in various universities and colleges.

7. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in October 2012, 11 persons were killed and 1067 injured in political violence. 32 incidents of internal violence in the Awami League and 14 in the BNP were also recorded during this period. In addition to this, two persons were killed and 266 were injured in internal conflicts of the Awami League while two persons were killed and 133 were injured in BNP internal conflicts.
8. On October 2, 2012 a clash took place between the activists of Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir⁶ over establishing 'supremacy' in Rajshahi University. 25 people were injured during this clash. Chowdhury Mohammad Zakaria, Proctor of the University was assaulted by Chhatra League activists as he was trying to control the situation. Furthermore, Chhatra League activists vandalized two buses of the University and the residence of the Vice-Chancellor.⁷

Odhikar and ALRC jointly submitted UPR report at the UNHRC

9. On October 9, 2012 Odhikar and the Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) submitted a joint Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report⁸ at the UN Human Rights Council. The human rights situation between July 1, 2009 and September 30, 2012 was highlighted in the report.
10. 14 recommendations were placed in the report by Odhikar and ALRC in order to improve the human rights situation in Bangladesh. These include - reform the dysfunctional criminal justice institutions enabling the institutions to function independently; ensure independence of judiciary and functional basic systems like complaint mechanisms, criminal investigation and the prosecutorial system; criminalise torture by adopting the Torture and Custodial Death (Prohibition) Bill-2011 immediately; put a halt to all extrajudicial executions; establish an independent commission to investigate all allegations of enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killings, torture and other grave abuses and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice; end the use of torture and ill-treatment as tools of the policing system and bring perpetrators to justice in accordance with international standards for fair trial; take legislative, administrative and judicial measures to administer justice to the victims of violence and discrimination against women; protect the rights of ethnic and religious minorities; develop a comprehensive protection mechanism to protect the rights of the workers in compliance with international standards; ensure adequate compensation to the

⁵ Student wing of Awami League

⁶ Student wing Jamaat-e-Islami

⁷ The daily Prothom Alo, 03/10/2012

⁸ <http://odhikar.org/UPR/ALRC%20and%20Odhikar%20-%20Joint%20UPR%20submission%20-%20%20Bangladesh%20-%20April%202013.pdf>

victims of gross human rights abuses, without obstruction; repeal all repressive laws and refrain from enacting the proposed repressive NGO Affairs Bureau Bill to regulate NGOs; fulfill voluntary pledges and obligations under international human rights mechanisms and instruments; accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances; ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and remove its reservation under the Convention Against Torture.

Obstructions on meetings and processions

Similar to other periods, in October 2012, there have been several obstructions on meetings and processions. The activists of the ruling party Awami League and its affiliated organisations were involved in such acts. The law enforcement agencies are favouring the ruling party due to political blessing and sometimes they take part in the attack. Some examples are as follows:

11. On October 10, 2012 Progotishil Chhatra Jote⁹ brought out a procession at Rajshahi University against the attack on Somajtantrik Chhatra Front¹⁰ by Chhatra League at Mymensingh Agricultural University on October 9, 2012. Police attacked them and baton charged when the procession reached the front of the University Senate Building after travelling around the campus. Eight Progotishil Chhatra Jote activists were injured during the police attack.¹¹
12. A meeting of the 18 Party Alliance had been stopped by Chhatra League and Jubo League¹² in Netrokona. On October 2, 2012 the 18 Party Alliance organised the meeting as part of its nationwide organising programme at Mohua auditorium and Mukta Moncha in Netrokona. Chhatra League and Jubo League called a meeting on October 1, 2012 at the same place. The 18 Party Alliance shifted their programme and prepared to organise a grand meeting beside the Dhaka-Netrokona Highway adjacent to Parla Government Primary School field under Netrokona Municipality. But the activists of Chhatra League and Jubo League attacked the place of meeting at around 11.00 am on October 2, 2012. The attackers vandalized and looted shops and houses nearby and some motorcycles were set on fire as well. Furthermore, the motorcade of BNP's standing committee member Mirza Abbas was attacked at Shyamganj area. At least 30 people, including journalist were injured in this incident.¹³
13. Odhikar believes that every citizen has the right to hold peaceful meeting and procession, which is guaranteed under Article 37 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

⁹ Progressive Student Union

¹⁰ Student wing of Socialist Party of Bangladesh

¹¹ The daily Prothom Alo, 11/10/2012

¹² Youth wing of Awami League

¹³ The daily Samakal, 03/10/2012

Extrajudicial killings

14. During the month of October 2012, according to information gathered by Odhikar, four persons were allegedly killed extra-judicially by law enforcement agencies. Among the deceased, one was killed allegedly by RAB and three by police. Law enforcement agencies are killing suspected offenders and accused persons extra judicially without following the due process of law, despite repeated assurances by the Government to end this.
15. On October 13, 2012, a youth named Mohammad Roni was shot dead by the Detective Branch of Police at Ashulia in Dhaka. Kafiluddin alleged that his rival (over a land dispute) tried to kill his daughter Nurunnahar by using the police. But college student Roni was mistakenly shot. On October 13, the son of his wife's brother, Mehedi Hasan with his friends came to his resident by microbus from Savar. They were returning after lunch. When the microbus reached the Dhonaid area in Ashulia, the DB police in plain clothes started firing on the microbus. During this time, Roni, a friend of Mehedi died. DB police chased the microbus and apprehended them at Tongibari area in Ashulia and accused them under an Arms case by DB police. Roni was a second year student of Commerce at Bangla College at Mirpur.¹⁴

Types of extrajudicial killings:

Crossfire/encounter/gun fight:

16. Of the four persons extra judicially killed, one person was killed in 'crossfire allegedly by RAB 11.

Shot to death

17. Of the four deceased, one person was shot to death allegedly by the Detective Branch of police, Dhaka.

Beaten to death:

18. Among the deceased, two persons were allegedly beaten to death by four police of Bashail Police Station of Tangail.

Identities of the deceased:

19. Of the four deceased persons killed extra judicially, one was a farmer, one a businessman, a youth and one was an alleged criminal.

Torture

20. According to Odhikar's documentation, two persons were reportedly tortured by police in October 2012.

¹⁴ The daily Prothom Alo, 15/10/2012

Death in jail

21. During October 2012, 14 persons reportedly died in jail due to 'illness'.

Public lynching

22. In the month of October 2012, 16 people were allegedly killed due to public lynching by mobs. Due to the weak criminal justice system, the tendency of taking the law into one's own hands is increasing, as people are losing their confidence and faith in the police and judiciary.

Police (in)actions

Police attack on protesting teachers

23. At present there is an unwritten rule that the law enforcement agencies will put up obstructions and stop meetings and procession by attacking with batons or throwing tear gas shells in the name of 'public safety' when citizens bring out a procession or organise meetings against injustices.

24. On October 4, 2012 a protest programme of non-government school teachers and officials was stopped by police. The non-government school teachers and officials wanted to surround the Secretariat for their 5-point demands including getting MPO¹⁵ status. At around 12 pm police stopped the procession near the National Press Club when they tried to march towards the Secretariat. During this time, a scuffle was initiated between police and teachers and police baton charged on protesting teachers and threw tear gas shells. 10 teachers including Taposh Kumar Kundo, General Secretary of the Teachers Association of Educational Institutions were injured.

25. Attacks on peaceful gatherings and procession of the non-government school teachers was a grave violation of Constitutional rights. Odhikar believes that the government is making peaceful citizens furious by imposing restrictions and violating civic rights. The logical ways to ask for peaceful demands to the government are being stopped, which leads the country towards a volatile situation.

Woman tortured and sexually harassed in police custody

26. There was an allegation of torture and sexual harassment on a woman named Rozina Khatun (42) at Daulatpur Police Station in Kushtia. On October 1, 2012 police arrested Rozina Khatun and Rikta Khatun for their alleged involvement in carrying Phensidyl¹⁶. Police did not appeal for remand against Rikta Khatun due to receiving a bribe but produced Rozina Khatun before the Court and asked for remand. Rozina Khatun alleged that on October 4, 2012, Sub Inspector (SI) Joy Gopal Biswas physically tortured and sexually harassed her while in custody

¹⁵ Monthly Payment Order

¹⁶ A cough syrup containing Codine Phosphate is used as a drug and is band and illegal in Bangladesh

during remand. Later, Rozina was sent to Kushtia District Jail. Rozina Khatun told Odhikar at the jail gate that on October 4, 2012 at around 3.30 pm SI Joy Gopal took her to Daulatpur Police Station from Kushtia District Jail for interrogation. She was kept in a room. In the evening SI Joy Gopal asked her who else were involved with her in drug smuggling. When she replied that she did not know anything about it, the SI slapped her and removed her clothes. SI Joy Gopal left the room when Rozina started crying. After half an hour, SI Joy Gopal returned, blindfolded her and took her in unknown place where she was sexually harassed. There was nobody else other than that police officer. Rozina Khatun said that SI Joy Gopal inflicted all kinds of physical torture and abuse on her that night.¹⁷

27. Odhikar believes that torture during remand or interrogation is a serious violation of human rights. Despite the claim of 'zero tolerance' on torture, the Government has not taken steps or effective measures to curtail torture and other forms of custodial violence and acts of impunity by law enforcement officers. Furthermore, accused women are not questioned by women police officers in the police stations. As a result, various kinds of torture and sexual harassment are increasing in police custody. However, it is a matter of concern and regret that no actions are taken against the perpetrators, despite such incidents being published in the media.

Allegations of illegal confinement

28. A person named Tanvir Rahman was produced in Court regarding the case of the murder of journalists Sagor and Runi, after 9 days in detention. The family of Tanvir Rahman alleged that on October 1, 2012 Tanvir had gone missing after he went out of the house. When the family contacted the police and RAB authorities regarding Tanvir they denied his arrest. Mahabubur Rahman, Tanvir's father, lodged a General Diary with Uttara (West) Police Station about his missing son. On October 9, 2012, the Home Minister Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir told in a press conference that Tanvir Rahman had been arrested in connection with the Sagor-Runi murder case.¹⁸
29. According to allegations of Tanvir's family, Odhikar believes that the detention of Tanvir in an unknown place for 9 days is a clear violation of law. Incidents of unlawful detention are increasing due to lack of accountability of law enforcement agencies. Article 33(2) of the Constitution of Bangladesh clearly states that every arrested person will be produced before the nearest Magistrate within 24 hours of arrest and without the permission of the Magistrate no one should be kept in detention more than the explicit time.

¹⁷ Report sent by Hasan Ali, local human rights defender connected with Odhikar from Kushtia, 11/10/2012

¹⁸ The daily Prothom Alo, 11/10/2012. On February 10, 2012, journalist Meherun Runi and her husband journalist Sagor Sarwar were found dead in their home.

Family of Golam Mawla becomes victim of State harassment

30. Dhaka University teacher and Adviser of the banned political organisation Hizb-ut Tahrir, Dr. Syed Golam Mawla, was arrested on July 8, 2010. The family of Golam Mawla has become the victim of harassment and are allegedly living under surveillance by the intelligence agencies of the State. Golam Mawla's father-in-law Latif Ahmed alleged that members of the Detective Branch (DB) and Special Branch (SB) of police have been watching his daughter's residence at Dhanmondi for the last three years. There are nine children living in the house including her daughter's four children. Their private tutors are being harassed at the gate every day. Intelligence agencies also misbehave with their relatives when they visit them.¹⁹
31. It is to be mentioned that Professor Golam Mawla was released on bail on September 19, 2012 from the High Court after he was arrested on July 8, 2010. Latif Ahmed went to jail gate to bring his son-in-law who was released on bail from Kashimpur Central Jail and showed necessary documents to Jailor Abul Bashar. But the Jailor Abul Bashar handed Dr. Mawla over to some men claiming to be members DB police at 8.00 pm, instead of handing him over to his guarantor of bail. Currently Dr. Golam Mawla is in Kashimpur Central Jail.
32. Odhikar condemns the allegations of state sponsored harassment and constant surveillance on the family of Dr. Golam Mawla. Odhikar believes that every citizen has the right to be secured in his/her home against entry, search and seizure and to the privacy of his/her correspondence, which is stated in Article 43 of the Constitution.

Freedom of the media

33. In October 2012, according to Odhikar's documented statistics, one journalist was killed, nine journalists were injured, three were threatened, three were assaulted and cases were filed against seven journalists.
34. On October 9, 2012 Progotishil Chhatra Jote²⁰ brought out a procession from Jobbar Mor at Mymensingh Agricultural University against increased tuition fees. The protestors took their position at the administrative building and called out slogans to withdraw increased tuition fee. Chhatra League activists attacked them. 20 activists of Somajtantrik Chhatra Front were injured during this attack. The attackers assaulted Prothom Alo Mymensingh correspondent Kamran Parvez and his camera was broken by Chhatra League activists.²¹
35. A senior reporter of a private satellite TV Channel, RTV, Bayezid Ahmed was threatened with death by unknown criminals. Bayezid Ahmed said that he prepared two special reports on the corrupt process of appointments in the railway from October 4 to 6, 2012. The interviews of the former Minister for Railways Suranjeet Sengupta's Assistant Private Secretary Farooq's driver Azam

¹⁹ The daily Amar Desh, 04/10/2012

²⁰ Progressive Student Unity

²¹ The daily Prothom Alo, 10/10/2012

was in the report. Since then unknown persons were looking for him at his office at Karwan Bazaar and his residence at Raja Bazaar and also threatened to kill him. On October 8, 2012 he lodged two General Diaries (GD) with Shere Bangla Nagar and Tejgaon Police Stations.²²

36. Odhikar demands the arrest and proper trial of those who attack and harass journalists.

Imposition of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

37. According to Odhikar's statistics, in October 2012, a total of nine instances of the imposition of Section 144 of the Cr.PC were recorded across the country, mainly to stop political gatherings and rallies from occurring.
38. Odhikar believes that every citizen has the right to organise peaceful meetings and processions in consonance with the freedom of association, as guaranteed in Article 37 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Vandalisation of images at Hindu temples

39. Odhikar observes with concern the attacks on Hindu temples and vandalising effigies belonging to the Hindu festival of Durga Puja, after severe attacks on Buddhist temples and houses in different places, including Ramu, Ukhia and Patia on September 29 and 30, 2012.²⁴
40. Criminals vandalized five images at the Durga Mandir in Chhoto Shikarpur village under Sirajdikhan Upazila in Munshiganj district. The sculptors of Hindu religious effigies worked to make them till 2.00 am on October 9, 2012. The criminals entered the temple and vandalized the effigies of Durga, Laxmi, Swaraswati, Kartik and Ganesh.²⁵
41. On October 8, 2012, at midnight, six effigies of Durga Puja were vandalized by criminals at Purbapara Thakurbari Mandir under Lohagora Upazila in Narail district.²⁶
42. On October 6, 2012, a group of criminals attacked the Hindu temple and vandalized effigies at Shilpara Dakpeoner Bari under Satkania in South Chittagong.²⁷
43. Odhikar demands the government take appropriate action and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Situation of readymade garments workers

44. In the month of October 2012, workers unrest erupted in readymade garments factories and, as per Odhikar's data, 170 workers were injured during the

²² The daily Jugantor, 09/10/2012

²³ Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 provides power to the Magistrate to issue orders to stop any meeting or gathering. See http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/sections_detail.php?id=75§ions_id=20789

²⁴ See Odhikar AHRC report www.odhikar.org

²⁵ Report sent by Arafatuzzaman, local human rights defender connected with Odhikar from Munshiganj, 11/10/2012

²⁶ Report sent by Saiful Islam Tuhin, local human rights defender connected with Odhikar from Narail, 10/10/2012

²⁷ The daily Amar Desh, 08/10/2012

protests against the termination of workers, closing of factories and for overdue wages and Eid bonus.

45. Readymade garments factories are the main source of earning foreign currency. The contribution of workers in this sector is enormous. But in many factories, workers have to wait for their wages. During Eid, the workers face a lot of problems. When the protesting workers come on to the streets the owners of the garment factories let police attack them. They are also terminated from their job.
46. On October 16, 2012 workers of three garments factories - Miracle Industries, Masterpac and Techno Economy Ltd. - protested for the payment of salary of the current month and Eid bonus, at Gilarchala area under Shreepur Upazila in Gazipur. The workers put up a barricade on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for half an hour. The workers of these three factories claimed that the owners were paying 8 hours salary though they were forced to work for 12 hours. Workers have to protest every month to get their salaries. They were harassed by police during protest.²⁸
47. Odhikar expresses solidarity with the demands made by workers and also urges the authority to agree to the workers' valid demands. The government has to take intensive measures to secure this sector and stop police harassment on workers.

Final verdict of BDR²⁹ mutiny³⁰

48. The verdict of the BDR mutiny for the Headquarters Rifles unit was given on October 22, 2012. Colonel Ahiya Azam declared the judgement in the Special Court-9. 723 BDR jawans were sentenced to different periods of imprisonment with Taka 100 fine and 10 were acquitted from the case as there was no evidence against them. All together, 5926 BDR members were sentenced to different periods of imprisonment in 57 cases under mutiny across the country. There is no opportunity to appeal against this verdict. The trial of the BDR mutiny has been accomplished with this judgment and the effectiveness of BDR law has also ended. From now on there will be a new law enforceable for mutiny. The highest punishment of this law will be the death penalty. The trial of murder against BDR members is pending in the Metropolitan Sessions Judges' Court at Dhaka.³¹
49. It is to be mentioned that the accused BDR members were not given permission to place questions through their lawyers during the trial. The lawyers of the accused also alleged that the process of identifying the accused by the plaintiff was not followed properly.

²⁸ The daily Prothom Alo, 17/10/2012

²⁹ BDR: Bangladesh Rifles. Now know as the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)

³⁰ On 25-26 February 2009, a mutiny was carried out allegedly by junior officers and members of the Bangladesh Rifles, at the BDR Headquarters in Dhaka. The mutiny resulted in the death of 78 BDR officers, and spread to BDR camps across the country. Many lower ranking BDR personnel were arrested and trials are being held in Special Courts.

³¹ The daily Prothom Alo, 23/10/2012

50. Odhikar urges the Government to ensure transparency and accountability with regard to the BDR murder trials in the Metropolitan Sessions Judges' Court at Dhaka.

Violence against Women

51. Violence against women continued in October 2012. A significant number of women and children were the victims of rape, dowry related violence, acid violence and sexual harassment during this period.

Rape

52. A total of 34 females were reportedly raped in October 2012. Among them, 13 were women, 21 were children below the age of 16. Of the women, two were killed after being raped, five were victims of gang rape. Of the 21 child victims, one child was killed after being raped and five were victims of gang rape. It is to be mentioned that the incidents of rape of children have been increasing.

53. On October 7, 2012 a school girl of class II was raped by two criminals at West Merul Badda in Dhaka. The girl was admitted to the One Stop Crisis Centre at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Police arrested two youths named Ruhul and Bashir in connection with this incident.³²

Dowry-related violence

54. During the month of October 2012, 37 women including an under aged bride were subjected to dowry related violence. Of these women, it has been alleged that 18 women were killed because of dowry and 18 women including the underage bride were ill-treated in various other ways for dowry demands. During the period one woman committed suicide as she could not tolerate further violence.

55. On October 11, 2012, a housewife, Sabina (24) was seriously beaten by her husband Shamsul Mia over dowry demands in Sadullapur under Gaibandha district. She died on way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.³³

Acid violence

56. According to information gathered by Odhikar, during the month of October 2012, it was reported that ten persons became victims of acid violence. Of these affected persons, five were women, one a man, three girls and a boy.

57. On October 6, 2012 a college student, Ruma Begum was burnt with acid by her distant relative, Abu Kalam in Daulatkhan under Bhola district. Abu Kalam was harassing Ruma Begum for a long time. When Ruma protested she was given threats of acid burn by Abu Kalam.³⁴

³² The daily Kaler Kantha, 10/10/2012

³³ The daily Manabzamin, 14/10/2012

³⁴ The daily Jugantor, 09/10/2012

Sexual harassment/stalking

58. According to information gathered by Odhikar, a total of 47 girls and women were victims of sexual harassment in October 2012. Among them, two were injured, two were assaulted, four were abducted, seven suffered attempted rape and 32 were sexually harassed in various ways. During this period, four women were injured, one man was killed and 22 men were injured by stalkers when they protested against such acts of harassment.

Statistics: January-October 2012*												
Type of Human Rights Violation		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Extra-judicial killings	Crossfire	5	11	10	9	3	0	3	0	6	1	48
	Torture to death	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
	Shot to death	1	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	8
	Beaten to death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
	Total	6	13	12	11	3	2	6	1	6	4	64
Disappearances		0	5	4	5	1	1	0	7	1	0	24
Human rights violations by Indian BSF	Bangladeshis Killed	2	2	2	4	3	1	5	4	5	5	33
	Bangladeshis Injured	9	3	14	17	3	2	11	3	8	12	82
	Bangladeshis Abducted	3	4	12	4	1	1	2	5	21	5	58
Deaths in Jail		9	6	6	2	2	2	5	7	2	14	55
Attack on journalists	Killed	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
	Injured	21	8	1	16	26	5	34	7	23	9	150
	Threatened	6	3	26	1	7	3	3	1	1	3	54
	Assaulted	7	3	13	0	12	0	5	3	2	3	48
Political violence	Killed	16	9	17	24	10	7	14	17	16	11	141
	Injured	1884	727	1052	2528	1563	762	1123	1156	1421	1067	13283
Acid violence		9	9	7	10	7	12	6	15	5	10	90
Dowry related violence (total)		47	50	83	84	111	100	77	85	60	37	734
Rape		48	59	87	96	85	83	69	69	71	34	701
Sexual harassment /Stalking of women		33	31	40	49	45	54	47	34	56	47	436
Section 144 of Cr.PC		13	12	8	5	7	7	5	12	9	9	87
RMG	Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Injured	20	76	190	174	205	750	116	149	32	170	1882
Public Lynching		13	6	15	8	13	8	15	7	11	16	112

* Odhikar's Documentation

Note: Some monthly data has been updated after receiving information in October 2012

Recommendations

1. The Government should protest strongly against human rights violations on Bangladeshi citizens by the BSF; and investigate 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 safety and security of the Bangladeshi citizens residing at the border areas.
2. The Government must take effective action to stop all forms of political violence and criminalisation of politics; legal action must immediately be taken against the persons responsible for such violence. 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.
3. The Government must stop extrajudicial killings. The Government must bring all involved in the acts of extrajudicial killings before justice, through proper and independent investigation.
4. Acts amounting to torture by law enforcement agencies must be investigated and perpetrators tried as per criminal law. The Government must ensure accountability of law enforcement agencies and also take action to put an end to their impunity. The Government must also accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
5. Women police officers need to be engaged to interrogate accused women and women victims in all police stations.
6. No one should be detained for more than 24 hours.
7. The Government must explain about the illegal confinement by the law enforcement agencies.
8. Action must be taken against the responsible policemen who attacked the non-government school teachers while they staged peaceful protest.
9. The Government should take appropriate action against the perpetrators of attacks, torture and threats to journalists.
10. The tendency to obstruct political programmes by imposing section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure should be stopped.
11. The Government must ensure the rights of the religious minority communities including the safety and security of their religious places, homes and business.
12. The Government must ensure transparency and accountability and the full investigation reports with regard to the BDR mutiny conducted by the government must be made public.
13. Termination of RMG workers without notice must be stopped and wages should be given to the workers in due time.
14. The Government must respond appropriately to stop violence against women and the offenders must be brought under the purview of the law to ensure that justice is served. The Government should execute mass awareness programmes broadly through media in order to eliminate violence against women.

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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.