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**Press Release**  
**Odhikar**

**32 persons were killed by law enforcers and 19 persons killed by BSF from January 1 to 31, 2007**

According to the documentation of Odhikar, on human rights violations which occurred during 01 to 31 January 2007, as many as **32** persons were killed by the law enforcement agencies. Of them, **16** were killed by the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), **9** by police, **5** by the army and **2** by joint forces.

During 1-11 January, 2007, **6** persons were reportedly killed by the RAB, **2** by police. During 12 -31 January, 2007, during the emergency period, **24** people were killed by law enforcers. Of them, **10** were killed by RAB, **7** by police, **5** by army and **2** by joint forces.

It may be noted that out of **32** people, who were killed by law enforcement agencies from January 1 to 31, 2007, **18** persons were killed in 'Crossfire'. Among them, **12** were the victims of crossfire during the 12-31 January, emergency period. Among the crossfire victims, **10** people were killed by RAB, **2** by police. However, 1-11 January, 2007, before emergency period, **6** were killed by the RAB crossfire.

Out of the **32** victims, **14** were killed in various ways other than crossfire by law enforcement agencies. During the emergency **5** were reportedly killed by police torture, **2** died in the hospital after being arrested by police **3** were killed due to alleged torture by the army **1** died while allegedly trying to escape from the army van which was carrying him, **1** jumped off a six storied building and died allegedly while in the custody of the joint forces, **1** was arrested by the joint forces and died in police custody, **1** died in the hospital after being arrested by the army.

Among the **32** persons who were killed **4** were from BNP, **3** from Awami League, **4** from Purbo bangle Communist Party (Janajuddho), **4** from Biplobi communist party, **1** from Purbo Bangla Communist Party, **1** was a freedom fighter, **1** was from Ganamukti Fauz, **1** was from Sramajibi Mukti Andalan, **1** was a cultivator, **1** was alleged a drug peddler, **1** was an under trial prisoner, **1** was a prisoner and **9** were alleged criminals.

Besides, 1-31 January a total of **8** persons died in jail custody due to illness.

**1** police was killed in this month in a bomb attack.

From 1-31 January 2007 a total of **40059** persons were arrested, of them, **36250** were arrested during the 12-31 January, 2007 emergency period. It is noted that in Bangladesh, there are 11 central jails and 55 district jails and their total capacity is only **27227**.

There have been **22** persons reportedly killed and **1223** injured due to political violence this month.

The report covering the human rights situation all over the country also shows that **3** journalists were injured, **4** arrested, **6** assaulted, **22** threatened and **8** cases filed against journalists during the month of January, 2007.

Throughout the country, total **29** persons were the victims of rape. Among them **14** were children and **15** were women. Of them, **7** women were the victims of gang rape and **5** were killed after being raped.

Since 1-31 January 2007 a total of **21** women were victims of dowry. Of them, **17** women were killed, **2** were tortured and **2** committed suicide.

During this period, **72** children were victims of human rights violations. Of them, **30** were killed, **9** were injured, **14** were raped, **3** were abducted, **2** were arrested, **4** were victims of acid throwing, **3** committed suicide and **7** went missing.

A total of **13** persons including **4** children, **7** women and **2** men, were victims of acid attacks across the country in this period.

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has caused terrible human rights violations in the border areas of Bangladesh. **19** Bangladeshi people were killed, **16** were injured, **3** arrested, **11** abducted and **4** went missing. **One** incident of attack, **1** incident of hijacking and looting by BSF took place between 1-31 January 2007.

During 1-31 January 2007, a total **332** persons were killed throughout the country.

Odhikar has prepared this report on the basis of 11 national dailies and its own fact-finding reports.

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