



November 1, 2013

## **Human Rights Monitoring Report**

October 1 - 31, 2013

**Violence increases due to political crisis created over the election  
process**

**Violations on media freedom**

**Information and Communication Technology Act 2006 (Amendment  
2013) Bill passed in Parliament, along with**

**Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Bill, 2013**

**Human rights violations along the border by BSF continue**

**Situation of ready-made garment workers**

**Violence against women**

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, the individual freedoms and democratic aspirations of the citizens - and consequently, peoples' collective rights and responsibilities - must be the foundational principles of the State. The States failure to recognise this at the founding moment is a continuing curse that people are forced to carry. A State cannot be 'democratic' if the people do not realise and participate as 'citizens' in all sectors of the functioning of the state. The democratic legitimacy of the State is directly related to its commitment and capacity to ensure human rights, such as right to life and livelihood, right to environment and health; and the dignity and integrity of citizens. If all these are not ensured by the State, it cannot be called a 'democratic' state. These civil and political 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. The people's inviolable rights are the foundational principles of the State.

Odhikar, being an organisation of human rights defenders in Bangladesh, has been struggling to ensure these civil and political 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. It is to be mentioned that Odhikar could not publish its human rights monitoring reports in August and September 2013 due to continued intimidation and harassment on Odhikar by the government. Despite of facing all these difficulties Odhikar has decided to published the human rights monitoring report for October 2013. Odhikar is committed to fight for the rights of the people of Bangladesh; despite being detained, intimidated, harassed and under constant surveillance by the intelligence agencies.

## **Political crisis created over the procedures on holding elections, resulting imposition of section 144 and an increase of political violence**

1. The caretaker government system in Bangladesh was introduced as a result of lack of trust between the two major political parties and on their demand. On June 30, 2011, the present Awami League led grand alliance government, in the presence of an absolute majority in Parliament, passed the Fifteenth Amendment Bill to the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh without any referendum or public opinion; and ignoring protests from various sectors of society, including the main opposition and other political parties. The Bill had been adopted on July 3, 2011 after the then President, late Zillur Rahman gave his consent. This amendment, has abolished the caretaker government system; and the forthcoming elections will be conducted under the ruling party. The High Court Division, after revoking the thirteenth amendment, had opined that the next two general elections can be held under the caretaker government, but this is no longer possible after the passing of the fifteenth amendment. Two sub Articles have also been added in Article 7, which has created risks to civil and political rights. The main reason of the current political crisis is the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution. The

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is willing to conduct elections under an all party (sarbodaliyo) government and it has been stated from her party that the Chief of the interim government would be the current Prime Minister. Meanwhile the leader of the Opposition, Khaleda Zia is demanding the elections under a non-partisan government. The ongoing crisis has escalated as there is scant favourable environment for dialogue or negotiations.

2. In October 2013, meetings and assemblies were prohibited by the authority; however, after the BNP led opposition protested, the authority gave it permission, with conditions to hold meetings in Dhaka and Chittagong. Several meetings organised by the Opposition were stopped in various districts by imposing section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure<sup>1</sup>. On the other hand, the main opposition led by BNP, called a 60 hour countrywide hartal from 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October. During this hartal a number of vehicles were set on fire and cocktail bombs were exploded. Furthermore, incidents of cocktail explosions and shots fired took place in front of the houses of members of the ruling party, opposition leaders and judges. Cocktails were also exploded in front of some electronic media offices. During this period, altercations spread out in different areas of the country and incidents of casualties were reported and several people were shot dead by law enforcement agencies. It has been alleged and reported that the Opposition leaders and activists are being victimized by arbitrary arrest. The human rights situation has deteriorated seriously due to these circumstances. Some examples of political violence were given below:
3. Keeping the current political situation in mind, all kinds of meetings and assemblies in Dhaka have been prohibited for an indefinite time from October 20<sup>th</sup>, and later prohibited in the Chittagong Metropolitan area from October 24<sup>th</sup> and in the Barisal Metropolitan area from the night of October 24<sup>th</sup> onwards.<sup>2</sup> After imposing these prohibition orders, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) gave permission, with conditions, to the 18 Party Alliance to hold a public meeting at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka. The Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) gave BNP permission to hold a public meeting at Kazir Deuri and also to the Awami League at Shaheed Minar in Chittagong. Besides, Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) gave permission (with conditions) to the 18 Party Alliance to bring out a procession. However, all meetings and assemblies were stopped in different areas across the country by imposing section 144 of the Cr.PC.
4. On October 25, the BGB and police opened fire when 18 Party Alliance activists brought out a procession, breaking section 144 at Chokoria in Cox's

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<sup>1</sup> 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&sections\\_id=20789](http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/sections_detail.php?id=75&sections_id=20789)

<sup>2</sup> The daily Manabzamin, 24/10/2013

Bazaar. Shechhasebak Dal<sup>3</sup> leader Saiful Islam Badsha (28) and BNP activist Mohammad Mizan were shot dead.<sup>4</sup>

5. On October 25, at least 50 people were injured during a clash between BNP-Jamat activists and police in Nilphamari district. Among those shot and injured were Islami Chhatra Shibir<sup>5</sup> activist Moslemuddin (20) who died in hospital while he was under treatment. During this time, opposition activists vandalized three buses and set fire to one.<sup>6</sup>
6. On October 25, the 18 Party Alliance activists brought out a procession in Faridganj upazila under Chandpur district. When the procession approached Al-Madina Hospital located at the Chandpur-Raipur road, police stopped them as they were forcibly trying to enter a local market. At that time, Shibir activists threw bricks at police from the back and the police threw tear gas shells and then opened fire, which left Arif (30), Jahangir (28) and Sharif (30) dead. Furthermore, at least 50 people, including Faridganj upazila Awami League General Secretary Shahed Sarkar and BNP leader Joynal Abedin were injured during the clash.<sup>7</sup>
7. On October 25, a clash occurred among the activists of the 18 Party Alliance, Awami League and police at Maizdi in Noakhali district. At least 20 policemen, including the Superintendent of Police Anisur Rahman and Assistant Superintendent of Police Niskriti Chakma and about 50 people from both political sides, were injured. The 18 Party Alliance activists also attacked Noakhali district Awami League office and set fire to it.<sup>8</sup>
8. On October 26, the day before the 18-Party Alliance hartal<sup>9</sup>, some unidentified persons exploded cocktails in Dhaka at the residences of the Minister for Forest and Environment, Hassan Mahmud; Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed; Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, Judge, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh; Kazi Rakib Uddin Ahmed, Chief Election Commissioner; and Rafiqul Islam Mia, Member, Standing Committee of BNP. Both the ruling party and the Opposition blamed each other for these incidents.<sup>10</sup>
9. On October 27, the first day of hartal, Nouapara Municipality unit Jubo League<sup>11</sup> General Secretary Alamgir Hossain Shimul was killed by hartal

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<sup>3</sup> Voluntary wing of BNP

<sup>4</sup> The Daily Ittefaq and Manabzamin, 26/10/2013

<sup>5</sup> Student wing of Jamat-e-Islami

<sup>6</sup> The Daily Ittefaq and Manabzamin, 26/10/2013

<sup>7</sup> The Daily Ittefaq and Manabzamin, 26/10/2013

<sup>8</sup> Report sent by a local human rights defender of *Odhikar* from Noakhali, 26/10/2013

<sup>9</sup> Hartal: a general strike

<sup>10</sup> The daily Manabzamin, 27/10/2013

<sup>11</sup> Youth wing of Awami League

supporters while the former was with some of his associates, roaming in the area in a microbus in Abhoynagar upazila under Jessore district.<sup>12</sup>

10. On October 27, BNP-Jamat activists attacked the house and killed Jubo League activist Swapon Shil, at Chor Boleshwar in Balipara union under Zianagar upazila in Pirozepur district.<sup>13</sup>
11. On October 28, 2013, hartal supporters threw bricks at a truck at Satkania in Chittagong. The truck driver Mohammad Wasim (35) was hurt in his eyes and on the head which caused him to lose control of the vehicle and made it overturn. He died on the spot.<sup>14</sup>
12. On October 28, unidentified people threw cocktail bombs at the houses of the Deputy Leader of the Parliament, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury; Jatiya Party leader Anisul Islam Mahmud; Chairman of the Anti Corruption Commission, Badiuzzaman; and journalist Abed Khan. Moreover, incidents of bomb attacks and shots fired at the residences of Dhaka Metropolitan BNP unit convener, Sadek Hossain Khoka and Member-Secretary Abdus Salam occurred the same day.<sup>15</sup> On October 29 crude bombs were exploded in front of the house of the acting Secretary General of BNP, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.<sup>16</sup>
13. On October 29, 2013, a 9-year old girl, Rahima was playing with other children at West Jurain in Dhaka, when she saw an object wrapped in red tape under a cement bag. When she picked it up, it exploded. Her eyes, hands and torso were hurt seriously and she was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition, where she is now under treatment.<sup>17</sup>
14. On October 29, 2013 two men named Mohammad Yunus (20) and Abu Bakkar (60) were killed in a clash between Jamat-e-Islami activists and police, during the hartal in Dhurong Bazaar of North Dhurong union under Kutubdia upazila in Cox's Bazaar district.<sup>18</sup>
15. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in October 2013, 27 persons were killed and 3433 injured in political violence. Among them 12 persons were shot dead by law enforcement agencies during the political violence.<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, Odhikar has recorded 2630 persons who were victims of mass arrest by the members of law enforcement agencies from October 25 to 29.

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<sup>12</sup> Report sent by a local human rights defender of *Odhikar* from Jessore, 28/10/2013

<sup>13</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 28/10/2013

<sup>14</sup> Report sent by a local human rights defender of *Odhikar* from Chittagong, 29/10/2013

<sup>15</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 29/10/2013

<sup>16</sup> The daily Dhaka Tribune (online edition), 29/10/2013

<sup>17</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 30/10/2013

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> See extrajudicial killing section of this report.

16. According to Odhikar documentation, 17 hartals were called across the country by BNP and Jamat-e-Islami. Of them, three were observed as countrywide hartals and 14 were regional.
17. Odhikar expresses grave concern over the current political violence. Odhikar believes that the two major political parties have to come up with a solution after amicable discussions in order to resolve the ongoing political crisis. The Government must stop imposing section 144 on the pretext of counter political programmes at the same place and time as the Opposition. The ruling party must refrain from declaring counter programmes to stop the Opposition party's programmes. Human rights violations are on the rise and no one is taking responsibility. The law enforcers should also respect human rights standards and follow the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

## **Extra Judicial Killings**

18. In October 2013, according to information gathered by Odhikar, 15 people were killed extra judicially by law enforcing agencies. As a part of the ongoing political violence, police used excessive force against people and 12 persons were allegedly shot to death by police, RAB and BGB. The three others were killed in crossfire. Among the three persons killed, two were killed by RAB and one by police.

## **Violations to media freedom**

19. The present state of the electronic media in Bangladesh is that it is largely controlled by pro- government supporters. The only State owned television channel, Bangladesh Television (BTV) broadcasts government and ruling party related news for the most part. The present government closed down the electronic and print media owned by pro-Opposition supporters/members such as Channel One, Diganta TV, Islamic TV and the daily Amar Desh. The Acting Editor of Amar Desh, Mahmudur Rahman has been detained in prison from April 11, 2013. Freedom of the media and of expression, as guaranteed under the Constitution, is now under serious threat. Independent and fair reporting are obstructed, as most of the electronic and print media are bias towards the Government and also due to shut down of the Opposition supported media. In the meanwhile, journalists have fallen victim to various attacks while reporting on political violence and cocktail bombs were also exploded in front of different private TV channel offices.

20. In October 2013, according to information gathered by Odhikar, 15 journalists were injured, three assaulted, one threatened and one case was filed against a journalist.
21. On October 24, the day before the 60-hour hartal called by the 18-Party Alliance, some unidentified people exploded bombs at the main gate of four private TV channel offices – Ekattor TV, My TV, Desh TV and ATN Bangla in Dhaka. Senior News Editor of Ekattor TV, Zakaria Biplob and its cameraman Alamgir Hossain were injured during these attacks.<sup>20</sup>
22. On October 28, 2013 a group of picketers threw cocktail bombs on a vehicle of the private TV channel, Channel 24 at Moghbazar Wireless Gate in Dhaka. Journalist Rashed Nizam of Channel 24 was injured due to this as he was inside the vehicle.<sup>21</sup>
23. On October 30, the Executive Committee Member of the Dhaka Union of Journalists and a special correspondent of the daily New Nation, Amiyo Ghatak Pulak filed a General Diary (GD) at the Tejgaon Police Station, against the President of the Editorial Board of the fortnightly ‘Chintaa’ Farhad Mazhar. On October 31, Sub-Inspector Anwar Hossain of Tejgaon Police Station lodged another GD against him. Both the GDs were filed based on a statement made by Farhad Mazhar and alleged that such statement made by him instigated the attacks on journalists. On October 31, in a statement against the allegations, Farhad Mazhar said “I am shocked and surprised on seeing the statement from a section of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists. Attacks on journalists across the country are sad. Why is the media are being attacked? I gave an explanation regarding this on the night of October 28<sup>th</sup> in a talk show on Ekushey TV. The way journalist leaders have interpreted my statement is not correct. They will understand what I said if they ask their conscience what they have done to be so attacked”.<sup>22</sup>
24. Odhikar strongly condemns the attacks on journalists and also demands the lifting of the ban on the said media and press and the freeing of Mahmudur Rahman.

## **Information and Communication Technology Act 2006 (Amendment 2013) Bill passed in Parliament**

25. On October 6, 2013, the National Parliament passed the Information and Communication Technology Act 2006 (Amendment 2013) Bill. Some of the sections of this Act have been made non-bailable and cognizable by this

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<sup>20</sup> The Daily Ittefaq, 27/10/2013

<sup>21</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 29/10/2013

<sup>22</sup> The daily Manabzamin, 01/11/2013

amendment; thus empowering law enforcers to arrest anyone accused of violating the law without a warrant. In order to ensure the widespread use of information and communications technology and to prevent cyber crimes, the new amendment has increased penalties to between seven and 14 years imprisonment or a fine of Taka 10 million or both. The then Four Party Alliance government led by BNP enacted Information and Communication Technology Act in 2006 where the maximum punishment was 10 years of imprisonment and some offences were non-cognizable. But under the new amendment, all such offences are cognizable. In the 2006 Act, permission from the Ministry of Home Affairs was needed to file a case. But now police can file cases taking the matter into their own cognizance.

26. This law is contrary to the freedom of expression enshrined in the Constitution of Bangladesh. There is enormous scope to violate human rights by misusing this Act. The new amendment to the ICT Act is also an obvious violation of right to privacy and personal liberty as stated in the Constitution. Odhikar believes that this Law is repressive and can be used to harass democratic values such as freedom of speech and expression.

## **The National Parliament passes the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Bill, 2013**

27. On October 24, 2013 the ruling party lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury presented the “Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Bill, 2013” in the Parliament. Later it was passed by the Members of Parliament through a voice vote. A legal obligation has now been made as a result of passing this Bill in relation to prevent torture by law enforcers.
28. It is stated in the Bill that if anybody dies as a result of torture in custody, the person responsible for this will be sentenced to life imprisonment or a fine of Taka one hundred thousand<sup>23</sup>. Odhikar expresses concern that this part of the Bill will destroy the effectiveness of the law in order to prevent torture. Monetary punishment cannot be equivalent to life imprisonment.
29. Moreover, Bangladesh has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT). In order to effectively implement this law, the ratification of the OPCAT is very important. Once it is ratified, national preventive mechanisms can be formed through which independent national and international bodies will be able to regularly visit to places of detention where people are deprived of their liberty, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

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<sup>23</sup> The Dhaka Tribune 25/10/2013



30. Odhikar believes that there should be an independent investigation cell too. This is because if the offence perpetrated by the members of law enforcement agencies is investigated by the same law enforcement agency, such investigation cannot be neutral and unbiased. Therefore, OPCAT should immediately be ratified by Bangladesh for the effectiveness of the newly passed anti-torture law.
31. Odhikar believes that though the Bill was originally placed in the Parliament in 2009, the government has passed it near the end of its tenure following pressure from human rights defenders and victims' families. Odhikar had been campaigning for this Act since 2009 and organised several meetings with Parliamentarians from both the ruling party and Opposition on the issue of torture and for the passing of this Bill.

## **Human rights violations by BSF at the border**

32. The Border Security Force (BSF) of India regularly violates the human rights of unarmed Bangladeshi citizens residing at the border areas.
33. According to information, in October 2013, BSF killed two Bangladeshi citizens. One was hit by a grenade and one was tortured to death. During this period, 11 Bangladeshis were injured. Of them, eight were shot and three tortured. Furthermore, 15 Bangladeshis were allegedly abducted by the BSF.
34. We have repeatedly noticed that India and its BSF have been violating treaties and shooting at anyone seen near the border or anyone trying to cross the border. This is a clear violation of international law and human rights.

## **Situation of ready-made garment workers**

35. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in October 2013, 146 garment workers were injured during protests against terminations, closure of factories and over demands for overdue wages and bonus. During this time, 32 workers were also terminated. Odhikar has also recorded that 120 workers were injured during factory fires.
36. On October 8, 2013 seven garment workers died due to a fire at Aswad Composite Mills Ltd. Of Pall Mall Group at Beraiderchala area under Sreepur upazila in Gazipur district. Families of the victims claimed that several workers are still missing after this incident. The fire service was able to control the blaze after 10 hours.<sup>24</sup>
37. Garment manufacturing factories are a very large source of revenue for Bangladesh and the factory workers are one of the main contributing factors to this success. Workers are exploited and deprived of their rights. Termination of workers without any proper reason, closure of factories

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<sup>24</sup> The daily Naya Diganta, 10/10/2013

without notice and wages not paid on time are the main reasons for protest. Many RMG workers died and were injured in fires caused by various flaws in factories; but they are not getting adequate compensation. Odhikar demands that the workers need to be brought under synchronized security programmes and the infrastructure of the factories to be built systematically so that the safety and security of the workers are ensured.

## **Violence against religious minority communities**

38. According to information gathered by Odhikar, in October 2013, 10 temples belonging to the Hindu community were attacked, of them one temple was set fire and 17 idols were vandalised.
39. On October 13, 2013 during Durga Puja<sup>25</sup> some local youths harassed young women at Salimnagar Daspara village of Sundardighi union under Debiganj upazila in Panchagar district. For this reason, mediation was locally held on October 18, but the accused started an altercation instead of admitting to their misdeeds. Following this incident, a group of criminals vandalized effigies at a pavilion for worship during Luxmi Puja and later set fire to the priest's house, beside the temple. At least 10 persons were injured at this time.<sup>26</sup>
40. On October 30, 2013, a group of unidentified men set fire to a Durga Mandir (temple) at Durgaat Kakinain under Kaliganj upazila in Lamonirhat district. The Temple Committee President, Ranjit Kumar Mohonto said that a local gang in the village had been trying to grab the temple land for some time and they might have set it ablaze to create panic. After this incident Hindu families in the village are living in fear and praying for no further attacks.<sup>27</sup>
41. Odhikar demands that the government ensure the security of the citizens belonging to religious minority communities. Odhikar also condemns the government's failure to protect the life and livelihood of the citizens belonging to the Hindu community under these circumstances.

## **Violence against women**

42. A significant number of women were the victims of rape, dowry violence, acid and sexual harassment in October 2013. Odhikar believes that since the perpetrators are spared from punishment due to various reasons, violence against women increases and potential violators are thus encouraged.

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<sup>25</sup> A ceremony of Hindu religious worship

<sup>26</sup> The daily Prothom Alo, 20/10/2013

<sup>27</sup> Report sent by a local human rights defender from Lalmonirhat, 31/10/2013

### Rape

43. In October 2013, Odhikar recorded a total number of 19 females who were raped. Among them, five were women, 13 were children below the age of 16 and the age of one could not be ascertained. Of the women, one was killed after being raped, four were victims of gang rape. Out of the 13 child victims, one child was killed after being raped and two were victims of gang rape.

### Sexual harassment and stalking

44. According to information gathered by Odhikar, a total of 29 girls and women were victims of sexual harassment in October 2013. Among them, one committed suicide. Furthermore, two were injured, one suffered attempted rape, one was abducted and 24 were sexually harassed in various ways. Moreover, two men and one woman were killed and 11 men and one woman were injured by stalkers and their family members after protesting such acts.

### Dowry-related violence

45. In October 2013, Odhikar recorded 16 women who were subjected to dowry violence. Of these women, it has been alleged that nine women were killed because of dowry, six were violated in various ways for dowry demands and one woman committed suicide due to dowry related violence.

<b>Statistics: January-October 2013*</b>												
<b>Type of Human Rights Violation</b>		<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>Total</b>
Extrajudicial killings	Crossfire	5	7	5	5	4	5	9	7	3	3	<b>53</b>
	Torture to death	0	1	0	0	3	3	0	1	2	0	<b>10</b>
	Shot to death	2	72	47	2	63	1	0	2	0	12	<b>201</b>
	Beaten to death	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
	Strangled to death	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>269</b>
Torture (Alive)		5	3	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	<b>16</b>
Disappearances		2	1	1	8	4	2	0	0	0	0	<b>18</b>
Human rights violations by Indian BSF	Bangladeshis Killed	5	1	2	1	3	3	3	5	2	2	<b>27</b>
	Bangladeshis Injured	16	7	6	4	10	10	3	3	3	11	<b>73</b>
	Bangladeshis Abducted	12	3	16	12	10	7	12	13	16	15	<b>116</b>
Deaths in Jail		3	6	6	2	12	3	7	7	2	4	<b>52</b>
Attack on journalists	Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Injured	20	18	21	17	13	5	9	4	0	15	<b>122</b>
	Threatened	2	3	7	9	0	3	1	3	0	1	<b>29</b>
	Attacked	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
	Assaulted	1	5	4	20	0	0	0	0	2	3	<b>35</b>
Political violence	Killed	18	86	76	26	46	9	31	8	12	27	<b>339</b>
	Injured	1643	2772	3055	1450	948	862	1278	864	1056	3433	<b>17361</b>
Acid violence		5	3	2	4	1	3	3				<b>21</b>
Dowry related violence (including women victims, their children and relatives)		37	42	54	64	46	53	18	20	56	16	<b>406</b>
Rape		109	93	115	111	43	79	61	66	56	19	<b>752</b>
Sexual harassment /Stalking of women		44	31	51	46	11	33	26	14	36	29	<b>327</b>
Section 144 of Cr.PC		9	10	4	2	0	2	2	4	4	13	<b>50</b>
Public lynching		17	8	10	6	9	11	12	19	8	13	<b>113</b>
RMG Workers	Killed	8	0	0	1129	1	1	0	1	0	3	<b>1143</b>
	Injured	235	178	75	2683	361	267	98	145	528	266	<b>4836</b>

Note: Some monthly data has been updated after receiving information from previous month.

## Recommendations

1. The current political crisis has to be resolved immediately by the two major political parties through discussion. Odhikar fears that the country's human rights situation will become more vulnerable if both groups fail in resolving the ongoing political crisis.
2. Peaceful political programmes should not be obstructed. The Government should refrain from exercising unconstitutional, undemocratic and repressive activities like attacking peaceful procession and rallies. The Opposition parties should also conduct their programmes in non-violent manner.
3. The Government must withdraw the ban on TV channels and newspapers belonging to the Opposition and the Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman must be released immediately.
4. The Information and Communication Technology (Amendment 2013) Act should immediately be repealed.
5. The passing of the prevention of torture Bill by the Parliament was a step in the right direction. However, in order to truly control and prevent custodial torture the Government must ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, Other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
6. 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.
7. Infrastructural problems in RMG factories, security and health and safety measures for workers in workplace need to be ensured. Wages and bonus should be given to garment factory workers in time and repression must be stopped by the factory authorities and industrial police.
8. The Government should take all measures to protect the rights of the religious and ethnic minority communities and also ensure their security.
9. Acts of violence against women must stop. The Government must have political will to do so and ensure the implementation of laws appropriately to stop violence against women and the offenders must be brought to justice.

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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, with assistance from trained local human rights defenders.
4. Odhikar is consistent in its human rights reporting and is committed to remain so.