



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH

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Foreword

Since its establishment in 1994, the human rights organization *Odhikar* has been raising public awareness by documenting incidents of human rights violations committed by the state, conducting campaigns on internationally recognized civil and political rights, and lodging protests to urge the state to refrain from committing such violations. *Odhikar* stands beside all victims of human rights abuses and continues to work to ensure their safety and to establish justice.

Even after the July Mass Uprising, incidents of human rights violations have occurred in the country during the period of the interim government. In its Annual Report 2025, *Odhikar* has highlighted these incidents of human rights violations and cautioned the state to refrain from such practices.

This report has been prepared on the basis of reports sent by human rights defenders associated with *Odhikar*, as well as information and data published in various media outlets.

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List of Abbreviations

ACC: Anti-Corruption Commission

AL: Awami League, the political party that was ousted from power by the July 2024 student-led mass movement.

BCL: Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the AL.

BEC: Bangladesh Election Commission

BJP: Bangladesh Jatiya Party, a political party.

BNP: Bangladesh Nationalist Party, a political party.

DGFI: Director General of Forces Intelligence, the intelligence wing of the armed forces.

FIR: First Information Report. The report of a possible crime to the police station by the victim/witness. The FIR initiates the investigation.

IG: Interim Government

IGP: Inspector General of Police

JCD: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of the BNP.

JSS: Janasanghati Samity, a political party.

NCP: National Citizens Party. The political party formed by members of the July 2024 mass uprising.

NHRC: National Human Rights Commission

RAB: Rapid Action Battalion

UPDF: United People's Democratic Front

Statistics on Human Rights Violations:

Statistics on Human Rights Violations															
January - December 2025*															
Type of Human Rights Violation		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	
Extrajudicial killing		Tortured to death	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	11	
		Shot to death	1	3	0	1	2	2	5	0	1	1	0	16	
		Beaten to death	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	
		Total	5	3	1	1	4	3	6	3	2	2	1	33	
Death in Jail		Death in Jail	6	6	7	12	5	5	11	11	5	11	14	9	102
Death Penalty	Sentenced to death	7	11	6	14	42	6	46	31	5	29	23	3	223	
Human rights violations by Indian BSF		Bangladeshis Killed	2	3	1	5	3	1	6	4	0	0	3	4	32
		Bangladeshis Injured	3	5	1	1	4	0	4	8	2	0	4	2	34
		Push in	0	0	0	0	1136	653	315	138	91	11	0	81	2425
		Total	5	8	2	6	1143	654	325	150	93	11	7	87	2491
Attack on Journalists		Injured	7	20	20	5	23	2	6	16	12	16	19	1	147
		Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
		Assaulted	4	1	5	3	3	10	1	0	10	13	2	32	84
		Attacked	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	7
		Threatened	0	3	2	9	2	0	3	2	4	5	5	1	36
		Sued	0	0	3	5	0	2	5	7	8	1	12	1	44
		Total	11	25	30	22	28	15	15	26	34	36	38	40	320
Political Violence		Killed	14	13	44	31	22	21	19	12	15	18	18	11	238
		Injured	470	632	900	767	425	489	579	658	300	480	720	284	6704
		Total	484	645	944	798	447	510	598	670	315	498	738	295	6942
Electoral Violence**		Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
		Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25
		Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	27
Dowry related Violence against Women		Killed	1	5	2	3	3	7	2	2	2	4	4	2	37
		Physically Abused	1	1	4	3	1	6	3	2	0	5	1	0	27
		Total Suicide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
		Total	2	6	7	6	4	13	5	4	3	9	6	2	67
Rape		Girl under the age of 18	24	39	101	53	28	30	44	41	35	70	24	19	508
		Women	6	12	45	31	26	34	26	34	26	37	17	8	302
		Age could not be determined	18	14	21	8	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
		Total	48	65	167	92	61	71	70	75	61	107	41	27	885
Sexual Harassment /Stalking of Females		Sexual Harassment /Stalking of Females	0	4	10	7	7	2	5	1	2	3	1	1	43
Public Lynching		Public Lynching	6	13	14	7	8	4	11	15	19	8	13	7	125
* Odhikar documentation															
**Since the announcement of the election schedule on 11 December 2025, incidents of political violence have been considered as electoral violence.															

Organization of this Report:

Odhikar's 2025 Annual Human Rights Report has been organized into several specific sections. After the Executive Summary, the first section focuses on human rights and government responsibilities, highlighting issues related to civil and political rights. These rights include the right to a fair trial, the right to life, the right to dignity, and the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

The second section of the report presents incidents of obstacles to the enjoyment of rights or attacks in which there was no /indirect involvement of state authorities. Examples of such incidents include violence perpetrated by unruly mobs, political violence, attacks on public assemblies and gatherings by rival groups, and attacks on journalists.

The third section focuses on violence against women. This is followed by two separate sections discussing issues related to the rights of working people and citizens belonging to minority communities. Before presenting its recommendations, the report includes a section concerning Bangladesh and India.

Executive Summary

1. The year 2025 was extremely significant. Following the mass uprising of July-August 2024, the Prime Minister at the time, Sheikh Hasina, fled to India, and an interim government was formed on 8 August 2024. One of the key responsibilities of this government was to hold a neutral and fair national parliamentary election. On 11 December 2025, the Election Commission announced the schedule for the referendum and the 13th National Parliamentary Elections to be held together on 12 February 2026. During the tenure of the deposed Sheikh Hasina government, every election was controversial and farcical. As a result, this election is highly anticipated by the people of Bangladesh. However, just one day after the election schedule was announced, Sharif Osman Hadi, a candidate from *Inquilab Mancha*, was shot dead, and there are allegations that the perpetrators fled to India. It must be noted that Sheikh Hasina, who has been convicted for mass killings and crimes against humanity in Bangladesh, along with other accused individuals of her party and government, is reportedly conducting subversive activities against Bangladesh from India, and provoking her henchmen and supporters who remain in Bangladesh. The nature of the statements made by the Indian Government in this regard gives the impression that there is tacit consent from the Indian authorities allowing her to do so. Furthermore, in 2025, killings, torture, and repression by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) crossed all limits, and more than 2,500 Muslim and Bengali-speaking people were illegally pushed into Bangladesh from India, many of whom are Indian nationals and Rohingya refugees.
2. In Bangladesh's political context, criminalization, violence, extortion, and internal factionalism have always been prevalent. After the mass uprising of 2024, it was hoped that this toxic political culture would change. Regrettably, no such change was observed. As a result, throughout 2025, many casualties occurred due to the continuation of severe malpractices.
3. During this period, allegations of extortion were reported against the [Bangladesh Nationalist Party \(BNP\)](#) and its [affiliated organizations](#), [Jamaat-e-Islami](#), and the coordinators of the [Anti-Discrimination Student Movement](#). Clashes occurred between leaders and activists of the BNP and those of [Jamaat-e-Islami¹](#) [National Citizen Party \(NCP\)](#), the [Anti-Discrimination Student Movement](#), [BJP²](#), [Gono Odhikar Parishad³](#), and the [Awami League](#). There were also clashes between leaders and activists of the Gono Odhikar Parishad and those of the Jatiya Party,⁴ as well as between leaders and activists of Chhatra Dal and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.⁵

¹ Samakal, 25 May 2025; <https://samakal.com/index.php/whole-country/article/297389/> and Manabzamin, 20 October 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=185579>

² Samakal, 2 November 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/323238/>

³ Amar Desh, 8 November 2025; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/barisal/amdesuugam1c2>

⁴ Daily Star, 29 August 2025; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/politics/news/law-enforcers-swoop-gono-odhikar-during-clash-jp-kakrail-3973691>

⁵ Prothom Alo, 19 February 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/fisxgu0xa4>

4. In 2025, the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts was alarming. On 27 July, four people were killed in a clash between two political organizations of indigenous communities—JSS and UPDF—in Dighinala under Khagrachhari District.⁶ Later, on 23 September, in Khagrachhari Sadar, following allegations of the rape of a Marma adolescent girl, an attack was carried out on a convoy of security force vehicles after a rally organised under the banner of Jumma students and local residents.⁷
5. In 2025, allegations of torture and extrajudicial killings continued to be reported against members of law enforcement agencies and security forces. Acts of torture and inhuman treatment occurred in the custody of various law enforcement agencies due to the long-standing culture of impunity surrounding torture and the failure to implement the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013. On 17 July 2025, the Interim Government acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Under the OPCAT, National Preventive Mechanisms have to be formed to protect detainees and prisoners and others in various forms of custody. On 08 December the IG published a Gazette Notification of the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance 2025 where the NHRC will take up the responsibilities of a National Preventive Mechanism as well.⁸
6. The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances confirmed in its final report that 1,569 cases of enforced disappearance occurred during Sheikh Hasina's 15.5 years in power. Of these, 251 individuals remain missing. In addition, the bodies of a further 36 individuals were recovered after a specific period following their disappearance.⁹ No records of enforced disappearances were found during the period of the interim government. On 1 December, the President promulgated the “Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Remedy Ordinance 2025,” retaining the death penalty as the maximum punishment for individuals involved in the crime of enforced disappearance.¹⁰
7. In 2025, various forms of violence occurred, including attacks on newspaper offices, vandalism, and the killing of journalists.
8. Police obstructed peaceful meetings, assemblies, and processions organized by political parties and various groups mobilizing around different demands. Attacks were carried out on rallies and gatherings created under joint student–general public banners, the [Anti-Shahbagh Alliance](#) and by leaders and activists of the BNP against other political parties. Leaders and activists of the Awami League (AL) (whose activities have been banned by the IG), attacked NCP rallies; and due to internal conflicts within the BNP, attacks also occurred on processions of its own party leaders and activists.¹¹
9. Compared to the period of authoritarian rule under Sheikh Hasina, citizens enjoyed much greater freedom of expression during this time. However, due to the activities of

⁶ Samakal, 26 July 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/307361/>

⁷ Jugantor, 27 September 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1008595>

⁸ Gazette Notification of the NHRC Ordinance, [file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/3933-Ordinance-74-Law-08%20December%202025\(13023-13026\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/3933-Ordinance-74-Law-08%20December%202025(13023-13026).pdf)

⁹ <https://coied.portal.gov.bd/pages/publications/final-report-69662bc77746b8be8ee26287>

¹⁰ <http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-1586.html>

¹¹ Prothom Alo, 16 June 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/w0f2qgcx91>

non-state actors, various forms of ‘fake news’ and misinformation were spread online, which actually commenced in 2024 and gained momentum after the fall of the AL regime. Extensive disinformation campaigns were also carried out during this time by leaders and activists of the AL as well as by extremist religious groups. During this period, widespread defamatory and distorted campaigns were conducted online against women as well.

10. During the one-and-a-half decades of Sheikh Hasina’s rule, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, the BDR massacre in 2009, mass killings at Shapla Chottor in 2013, crackdowns on students demanding safe roads, the July 2024 mass killing, and other crimes against humanity were committed. In 2025, judicial proceedings were ongoing against Hasina and her loyal members of the armed forces, police, and political figures, for the enforced disappearances, the massacres of July 2024 and related crimes against humanity. On 17 November 2025, the International Crimes Tribunal–1 ordered that former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal be sentenced to death for the massacre and crimes against humanity committed during the July 2024 mass uprising¹². During this period, the accused military officers were kept in special sub-jails located within the Cantonment, and arrived at the Tribunal in air-conditioned vans—an arrangement that victims’ families and human rights activists viewed as granting them special privileges, compared to other accused persons charged with crimes against humanity.
11. In 2025, prisons still held far more inmates than their official capacity. Prisoners received food that was significantly below the required daily nutritional standards. In addition, the quantity of food provided was insufficient and of poor quality. This contributed to weakness and various illnesses.¹³ There were also inmates in the prisons who are addicts. Prisons lack adequate arrangements to provide proper treatment and counseling and there are no specialized prisons/wings for them.¹⁴
12. In 2025, a widespread tendency was observed for unruly mobs to take the law into their own hands by creating collective disorder and violence. Most incidents of public lynching during this period occurred on suspicion of theft. During this time, persons with mental disabilities and juveniles were also not spared such violence.
13. Following the July 2024 mass uprising, numerous cases of murder and attempted murder were filed across Bangladesh. The filing of such cases continued in 2025. In most First Information Reports (FIRs), in addition to the actual accused and leaders and activists of the AL, individuals who had previously been victims of politically motivated and fabricated cases during the Awami League period, leaders and activists of the BNP, non-political individuals, businesspersons, professionals, people residing elsewhere, deceased persons, expatriates, and individuals from various professions have been named as

¹² The original International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973 provides the death penalty as the maximum punishment and this was retained in the International Crimes Tribunal (Second Amendment) Ordinance 2025.

¹³ Jugantor, 24 August 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/994107>

¹⁴ Prothom Alo, 10 November 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/3npkkglnvz>

accused, [presumably as a way to harass them](#). In many instances, there are allegations that, with the intention of [grabbing property](#), as a result of [property disputes](#), prior enmity, conflicts, business rivalries, and for commercial gain, the complainants and members of law enforcement agencies are naming anyone as an accused during the investigation of these cases, in order to [extort money](#). This is not new in Bangladesh and it is disappointing that it has not stopped. There were even cases in which the number of accused listed in the FIR was as high as 735.¹⁵ Additionally and disappointingly, during this reporting period, cases of alleged murder committed during the July 2024 uprising, have been included in the list of cases to be withdrawn (these are cases that were previously filed as harassment cases against opposition leaders and activists and dissenters during the Awami League government).¹⁶

14. With regard to cases filed over various incidents that occurred during the July 2024 mass uprising, some of the Members of Parliament and ministers of the ousted Sheikh Hasina government who were arrested, were subjected to attacks by agitated crowds¹⁷ and even BNP-aligned lawyers, in the [court premises and inside courtrooms](#) in 2025.¹⁸ Moreover, even after being released on bail, they were humiliated and physically assaulted.¹⁹
15. In 2025, incidents of violence against women occurred across the country. During this period, women were subjected to rape, sexual harassment and dowry-related violence.
16. In 2025, [unrest among workers](#) in the ready-made garment industry continued. Workers organized protests, demonstrations, and road blockades demanding wage increases, payment of arrears, reopening of factories, and protesting [worker layoffs](#) and [physical abuse](#) of workers.²⁰ Due to unjust and inhumane behavior by authorities during this period, two workers committed suicide. Additionally, one garment worker died after falling ill while participating in a programme demanding payment of overdue wages and bonuses.²¹
17. In 2025, the human rights of members of religious and ethnic minority communities, and individuals holding dissenting views on religious matters, were violated in various parts of the country. During this period, they faced obstruction of their activities, threats, attacks, and vandalism. In some cases, religious extremists and politically influential individuals perpetrated the oppression and abuses.
18. During the tenure of Sheikh Hasina's administration, all state institutions were brought under political control. After the fall of the Hasina regime, the Interim Government [formed 11](#)²² commissions²³ with the aim of making state institutions functional and held

¹⁵ Manabzamin, 29 June 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=168107>

¹⁶ Manabzamin, 3 October 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=182905>

¹⁷ Prothom Alo, 28 April 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/d15xsei4pm#https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/local-news/drqphgpyo8>

¹⁸ Jugantor, 23 May 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/957177>

¹⁹ Samakal, 9 April 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/289225/>

²⁰ Jugantor, 15 September 2025; https://epaper.jugantor.com/storage/2025-09-15/12/link_img_second_ed_1757895994_8.jpg

²¹ Manabzamin, 24 March 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=153807>

²² The Daily Star, 19 November 2024; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-forms-five-new-reform-commissions-3755736>

meetings with political parties on the commissions' recommendations.²⁴ Based on consensus, a National Charter was prepared. As this Charter embodied the spirit of the July Mass Uprising, it came to be known as the July Charter.²⁵

19. To ensure that state institutions—such as the Anti-Corruption Commission, the National Human Rights Commission, and the Judiciary—can operate independently, the Interim Government accepted reform recommendations and issued Ordinances. However, some recommendations of the reform commissions were not accepted. For example, by excluding many important recommendations of the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission, it was not possible through reform to keep the Anti-Corruption Commission free from political interference. Similarly, under the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2025, the Cabinet Secretary has been included in the selection committee for appointments to the Commission – obviously to maintain government control. This will again contribute to the ineffectiveness of the Human Rights Commission.
20. The establishment of a separate Secretariat under the Supreme Court, for an independent Judiciary, is a landmark step.
21. It must be noted that these Ordinances issued by the Interim Government must be adopted by the National Parliament within the first 30 days of the tenure of the elected government.
22. The Caretaker Government system, which was a suitable mechanism for holding free and fair elections, was abolished in 2011 by the Sheikh Hasina government using its parliamentary majority, and by instrumentalizing the Judiciary, thereby establishing an authoritarian system of governance in the country for 15 years. On 20 November 2025, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court delivered a verdict restoring the Caretaker Government system. Consequently, all elections following the Thirteenth National Parliament election will be held under a Caretaker Government.
23. Despite the existence of provisions for alternative sentencing, the tendency of lower courts to impose the maximum punishment continues. In 2025, lower courts sentenced a large number of accused persons to death. As a result, due to the slow pace of appeal hearings, prisoners sentenced to death spend years in a limbo in condemned cells.

²³ Election System Reform Commission, Police Reform Commission, Judiciary Reform Commission, Anti-Corruption Reform Commission, Public Administration Reform Commission, Constitutional Reform Commission, Health Reform Commission, Media Reform Commission, Labour Reform Commission, Local Government Reform Commission, and Women's Affairs Reform Commission.

²⁴ Daily Star, 19 November 2024; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-forms-five-new-reform-commissions-3755736>

²⁵ Prothom Alo, 10 March 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/lco4522jib>

I. THE GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

This section focuses on human rights and government responsibilities, highlighting issues related to civil and political rights. These rights include the right to a fair trial, the right to life, the right to dignity, and the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

A. State Institutions and Reforms

1. During Sheikh Hasina's rule, all state institutions of the country were systematically politicized and transformed into subservient instruments of her government. Various key state institutions—including the Judiciary, the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC), the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)—were used by the authoritarian regime to remain in power. After the fall of the AL government through a mass uprising, the Interim Government formed 11 commissions with the aim of reforming and making state institutions functional. These reform commissions submitted their final reports to the Interim Government. There has been widespread criticism of the commissions' recommendations. For example, despite the existence of *prima facie* evidence of widespread enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings by RAB, the Police Reform Commission did not recommend the dismantling of RAB. Human rights defenders, however, have been demanding the dissolution of RAB for many years.
2. Various important state institutions became dysfunctional during the period of the previous authoritarian regime. Although the Interim Government has attempted to reform state institutions through the issuance of Ordinances to enable them to operate independently, there remain many shortcomings in this regard.

Anti-Corruption Commission

3. In order to take strict measures to prevent corruption, the Interim Government appointed a new Chairman and Commissioners of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and after the Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 was approved by the Advisory Council of the Interim Government, a gazette notification was issued on 23 December 2025. Important recommendations of the Reform Commission were omitted, thus failing to keep the ACC free from political interference. Although the Reform Commission had proposed the establishment of a “Selection and Review Committee” to ensure transparency in the appointment of Commissioners and accountability in the performance of the Commission's duties, Section 7 of the Ordinance provides only for a Selection Committee. Moreover, despite the recommendation that the authority to nominate a representative of the opposition party in Parliament, as a member of the ACC

Selection Committee, be vested in the Leader of the Opposition, Section 7(1)(e) assigns this authority to the Speaker. It is noteworthy that in Bangladesh, the Speaker of the National Parliament has traditionally been affiliated to the ruling party.

4. During the tenure of the ousted Sheikh Hasina government, there were widespread allegations of corruption against leaders and activists of the ruling party, various professional groups, and [government officials](#) and [employees](#). Students and the general public stood up against these misdeeds and irregularities of the authoritarian rule, leading to the July 2024 mass uprising. Unfortunately, during the period of the Interim Government, serious allegations of corruption have also been raised at various times including against Mohammad Moazzem Hossain, the Assistant Personal Secretary (APS) of Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan and Tuhin Farabi, the Personal Officer (PO) of Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum, as well as against other civil servants. Although the ACC's intelligence unit found preliminary credibility in these allegations during its investigation, and initiated inquiries, the Anti-Corruption Commission did not take any action.²⁶ Despite the Government appointing a new Chairman and Commissioners of the ACC, allegations persist that, officials appointed on deputation during the tenure of the ousted government, who were beneficiaries of that regime, continue to remain in their posts. Even a BCS (Administration) cadre officer appointed on deputation, against whom a case had been filed on allegations of embezzlement, was appointed to the post of Director.²⁷ It has also been alleged that although Administration cadre officers have no experience in investigating cases during their service careers, they have been serving on deputation in the ACC for years. This is despite Rule 22 of the ACC Regulations stating that officers and employees appointed on deputation may serve for a maximum of three years. Furthermore, it has been alleged that since members of the administration are widely involved in corruption, administrative officers are sent on deputation to the ACC to protect them.²⁸

National Human Rights Commission

5. With the aim of fully reconstituting the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which had become dysfunctional during the tenure of the Awami League regime, the Interim Government published the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2025 in a Gazette on 9 November. Human rights organizations were hopeful that the Ordinance would create an opportunity to form a Commission free from bureaucratic control and in line with public expectations and international standards. Subsequently, on 8 December, the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs issued a notification of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025. Disappointingly, a Cabinet Secretary was included in the

²⁶ Jugantor, 28 October 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/1021391>

²⁷ Inqilab, 17 February 2025; <https://dailyingqilab.com/national/news/733544>

²⁸ Jugantor, 19 February 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/918610>

selection committee responsible for appointments of Commission members, removing an internationally renowned human activist or civil society representative—an element that was not present in the Gazette published on 9 November. As a result, the same process by which government influence has interfered in the NHRC all these years, continues. This creates the possibility that, regardless of which party comes to power in future, the Commission may remain subject to governmental control.

The Judiciary

6. After Sheikh Hasina came to power in 2009, efforts began to control the Judiciary, which eventually became successful. Individuals affiliated with the AL were appointed to the High Court and Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The lower courts were not spared either. During this period, leaders and activists of opposition parties and dissenting voices, were subjected to judicial harassment and persecution. The administration used the Judiciary to implement its political agenda. Following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina regime, the Interim Government formed [11 commissions](#)²⁹ with the aim of making state institutions effective, one of which was the Judicial Reform Commission. On 8 February 2025, the Judicial Reform Commission submitted a report containing 23 recommendations, to the Interim Government.³⁰ On 30 November, in order to ensure the full independence of the Judiciary, the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs promulgated the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, 2025 to establish a separate secretariat for the Supreme Court. It stated that all provisions of the Ordinance, except Section 7, would come into effect immediately. The Ordinance further provides that, upon the completion of the establishment of the Supreme Court Secretariat and the full commencement of its operations, the Government, in consultation with the Supreme Court, shall bring the provisions of Section 7 of the Ordinance into force through a Gazette notification. Section 7 of the Ordinance states that the Supreme Court shall, on behalf of the President, perform all necessary administrative responsibilities relating to the control and discipline of judges of the subordinate courts.

B. International Crimes Tribunal

7. During the July movement of 2024, as many as 1,400 people were indiscriminately killed by members of law enforcement agencies loyal to the authoritarian regime, and several thousand others were seriously injured. In 2025, some of the injured protesters later succumbed to their injuries.³¹
8. On 2 September 2025, former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun testified as a state witness before the International Crimes Tribunal-1.³² In his

²⁹ Daily Star, 19 November 2024; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-forms-five-new-reform-commissions-3755736>

³⁰ Prothom Alo, 10 March 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/lco4522ijb>

³¹ Jugantor, 28 October 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/national/916032>

³² Prothom Alo, 10 July 2025; <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/5lrhswxsur>

testimony, he stated that the massacre had been carried out on the instructions of the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal. He further informed the Tribunal that directives for RAB to pick up individuals, carry out enforced disappearances, or kill people in so-called “crossfire” incidents came directly from the Prime Minister’s Office.³³

9. During Sheikh Hasina’s rule, in three cases alleging crimes against humanity—including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings—15 army officers were produced before the International Crimes Tribunal in an air-conditioned prison van and, after their court appearances, were taken to a sub-jail established inside the cantonment.³⁴ *Odhikar* believes that these accused army officers were granted preferential treatment, which amounts to discrimination against other detainees.
10. On 17 November 2025, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 ordered the death penalty for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal for their responsibility in the massacre and crimes against humanity committed during the July mass uprising. The other accused in the case, former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, was sentenced to five years’ imprisonment as a reduced sentence for turning state witness. In addition to the death sentences, the Tribunal also sentenced Sheikh Hasina and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to life imprisonment on another charge— involving incitement, ordering killings and failure to take punitive measures against the perpetrators. At the same time, the Tribunal ordered the confiscation of their assets located in Bangladesh and directed that these assets be used as compensation for the families of the martyrs and the injured of the July uprising.³⁵

C. Human Rights and Their Violations

Extrajudicial Killings

11. In 2025, despite the Interim Government action of deploying “joint forces” in an attempt to bring the country’s law and order situation under control, there was no notable improvement in the situation. Allegations emerged of torture and extrajudicial killings committed by members of law enforcement agencies.
 - On January 13, two individuals named Abdur Rahman and Habibur Rahman were subjected to torture by the joint forces after being detained in Sonaimuri, Noakhali. The family alleged that Abdur Rahman later died as a result of the torture.
 - On 25 January, Milon Bepari was allegedly tortured to death by the Detective Branch (DB) police during an anti-narcotics operation in Zajira, Shariatpur.
 - On 21 April, college student Siyam Mollah was shot dead during a joint forces operation in Uzirpur, Barishal.

³³ Manabzamin, 3 September 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=178463>

³⁴ Somoy News, 7 December 2025; <https://www.somoynews.tv/news/2025-12-07/ZUOWW92U>

³⁵ Jugantor, 18 November 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/1030279>

- On 23 June, [Abu Sayeed](#) was shot dead during a joint forces operation in Sunamganj.
- On 19 June, BNP activist [Sheikh Jewel](#) died allegedly due to police torture in Muradnagar, Cumilla.
- On 21 July 2025, Jubo Dal activist Asif Sikder died allegedly as a result of torture during a joint forces operation in Mirpur, Dhaka.
- On 2 August 2025, a detainee named [Nazrul Islam Mollah](#), who had allegedly been subjected to torture, died while undergoing treatment in a hospital in Khilgaon, Dhaka.
- On 7 May, during the arrest of a warrant-listed accused in Morrelganj under Bagerhat District, members of law enforcement agencies were accused of beating a man named Shafayat to death.³⁶
- On 2 September, workers protested against factory closure and layoff in the Uttara Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Nilphamari and blocked the Nilphamari–Saidpur Road. During clashes between workers and law enforcement personnel, a worker named Habibur Rahman was shot dead.³⁷
- In connection with the killing of Golam Kibria, Member Secretary of Pallabi Thana Jubo Dal³⁸, the Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested a man named Moktar Hossain from Kalshi, Dhaka, on 20 November. On 21 November, Moktar Hossain died while in DB custody. The DB police claimed that Moktar died as a result of mob beating. However, Moktar's wife, Mukta Sikder, alleged that the police tortured and killed her husband. Moktar's son, Mridul, stated that his father had been tortured in the conference room of Pallabi Police Station.³⁹

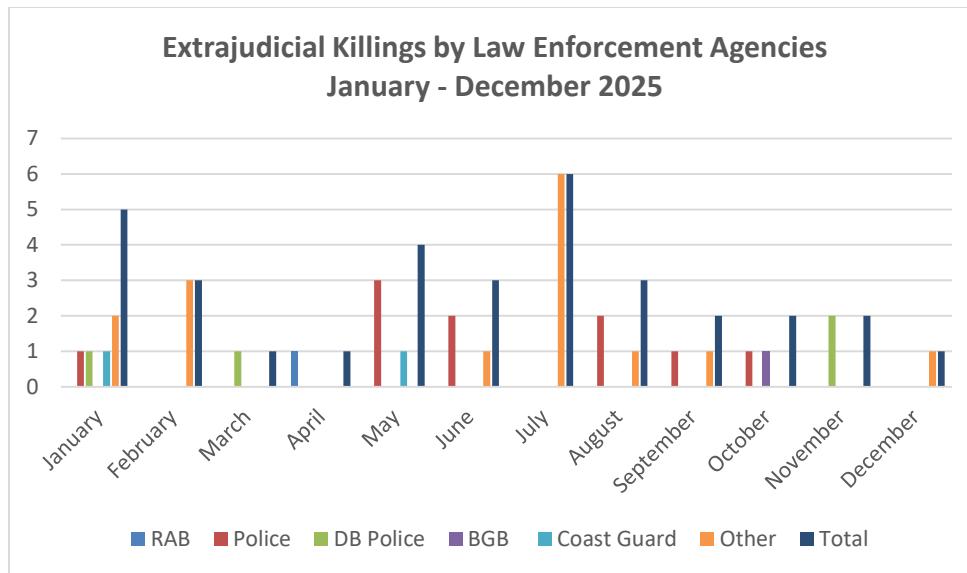
12. According to Odhikar's findings, from January to December 2025, a total of 33 people were reportedly victims of extrajudicial killings. Of them, 10 were killed by police, one by the army, one by Bangladesh Air Force, one by RAB, four by Detective Branch of Police, one by BGB, two by Coast Guard and 13 by joint forces. Among the victims, 11 were allegedly killed due to torture, 16 were shot dead, and six were beaten to death.

³⁶ Jugantor, 7 May 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/950601>

³⁷ Daily Star, 2 September 2025; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/nilphamari-epz-one-killed-workers-clash-law-enforcers-3976811>

³⁸ Youth wing of BNP

³⁹ Jugantor, 23 November 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1032324>



Torture by Members of Law Enforcement Agencies

13. Due to the long-standing culture of impunity regarding torture and the failure to implement the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, incidents of torture and inhuman treatment in the custody of various law enforcement and intelligence agencies continue to occur. The Advisory Council approved the proposal on accession to the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) on 10 July 2025. According to the United Nations Treaty Database, the date of accession was confirmed as 17 July 2025, and it entered into force for Bangladesh on 16 August 2025⁴⁰.

- On 13 March, a Chhatra Dal⁴¹ leader named Shaon Kabi Riza was blindfolded and tortured by three constables under the leadership of Sub-Inspector Khokon while in the custody of Faridganj Police Station in Chandpur District.⁴²
- On 25 June, allegations emerged that Nasir Mia, a businessman from Sunamganj, was picked up by the Detective Branch (DB) of Police in connection with a business dispute, taken to the DB office in Dhaka, tortured, and forced to hand over 574,000 taka. He was reportedly released only after being compelled to sign a bond.⁴³

⁴⁰ See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CAT-OP&Lang=en

⁴¹ Student wing of BNP

⁴² Manabzamin, 16 March 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=152586>

⁴³ Manabzamin, 30 June 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=168283#gsc.tab=0>

Degrading Treatment by Law Enforcement Agencies and Lack of Accountability

14. In addition to torture, numerous allegations of misconduct by members of law enforcement agencies have been reported during this reporting period.⁴⁴ These include abducting businessmen and extorting money, engaging in “case trading,” assaulting complainants at police stations, accepting bribes from relatives of detainees held in court lockups, and allegations against several officials and staff of the DMP Prosecution Department at Dhaka courts involving bribery, transfer-related corruption, and providing illegal facilities to detainees in court custody.⁴⁵
15. During this period, law enforcement personnel have also been accused of involvement in drug peddling, filings false drug cases, releasing detainees after arrest with narcotics, attempted rape and extortion, taking bribes⁴⁶, looting gold jewelry and cash, refusing to register cases even after seriously injuring a young man with sharp weapons, threatening a businessman after an audio recording of a bribe demand was leaked, arresting and imprisoning individuals due to name similarities with accused persons, extorting money by falsely implicating individuals in cases, extracting bribes from the family of a deceased child, and looting cash, among other allegations.

Deaths in the Custody of Law Enforcement Agencies

16. In 2025, 10 accused persons died while in the custody of law enforcement agencies. Following deaths in custody, police stations often claim that the accused died due to illness or committed suicide by hanging inside the lock-up. Investigations into allegations against the police are usually conducted by the police themselves, which raises questions about the fairness of such investigations.
 - On 12 September, police claimed that a construction worker named Roni Mia died after falling ill while in custody at Tongi Police Station in Gazipur.⁴⁷
 - On 23 September, a young man named Mohammad Abdullah was beaten on suspicion of theft and handed over to the Salimganj Temporary Police Camp in Nabinagar Upazila of Brahmanbaria District. Instead of producing Abdullah before a court, the police detained him in their custody at the camp for four days. Abdullah died in a hospital under medical treatment, while still in police custody. In connection with this incident, when the victim’s elder brother, Shakil Mia, filed a case, the officer-in-charge of the police camp Sub-Inspector Mahimuddin was arrested.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Jugantor, 11 November 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/1027236>

⁴⁵ Jugantor, 29 April 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/national/947563>

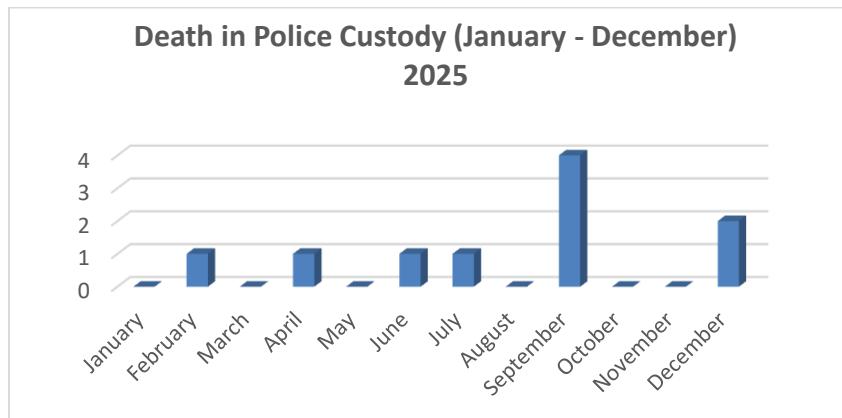
⁴⁶ Jugantor, 8 April 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/938651>

⁴⁷ Jugantor, 12 September 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/1001886>

⁴⁸ Prothom Alo, 29 September 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/cu73hfztf0>



Md. Abdullah, who died in police custody. Photo: Prothom Alo, 29 September 2025.



Enforced Disappearances

17. No reports of enforced disappearance were received in 2025. In its final report, the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances stated that it had confirmed 1,569 cases of enforced disappearance during the 15 years of Awami League rule, till 05 August 2024. 251 victims never returned, while a further 36 bodies were recovered after periods of enforced disappearance, often following so-called “crossfire” incidents or discovered in rivers with gunshot wounds.⁴⁹ More than two hundred individuals who returned after being disappeared, submitted written complaints alleging that, after being abducted and forcibly disappeared, Magistrates acted jointly with the police to extract forced confessions from them. Most of them stated that during the period of disappearance, they were compelled under torture to sign confessional statements written by the police.⁵⁰
18. An analysis of the Commission’s report by gender shows that out of 1,546 victims, the overwhelming majority were men (approximately 98.5 percent). Many of them were students. Those students who managed to survive were kept in prison for long periods

⁴⁹ Final Report: Unfolding the Truth, Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, 4 January 2026; <http://coied.portal.gov.bd/pages/publications>

⁵⁰ Amar Desh, 27 August 2025; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/amar-desh-special/AMDQDTJK3f5qn>

under various fabricated cases, thereby destroying their academic lives.⁵¹ Women accounted for 23 victims (approximately 1.5 percent). Women who were forcibly disappeared and held in secret detention facilities were subjected to physical torture and sexual harassment.⁵² The Commission stated that 96.7 percent (948 persons) of the total number of disappeared individuals had political affiliations. According to the report, among the forcibly disappeared were 476 members of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami (50.2 percent), 236 members of Islami Chhatra Shibir (24.9 percent), 142 members of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (15 percent), 46 members of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (4.9 percent), and 19 members of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal (1.8 percent).⁵³



The Commission of Inquiry into Enforced Disappearances submitted its final report to Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on 4 January 2026. Photo: Prothom Alo, 5 January 2025.

19. Earlier, in its second interim report, the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances described how enforced disappearances were carried out, stating that they were implemented through a “three-tier pyramid.” At the top tier of this pyramid was the “strategic leadership,” which included former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the then Defence Adviser Major General (Retd.) Tarek Ahmed Siddique, the former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and other senior officials of the Awami League government. The second tier consisted of top officials of various forces and intelligence agencies. At the third tier were members of different forces and agencies who carried out the orders of their superiors and/or commanders.⁵⁴
20. Following Sheikh Hasina’s fall from power on 5 August 2024, law enforcement and intelligence agencies involved in enforced disappearances, destroyed evidence related to their detention facilities. According to the Commission’s interim report, the Director General of the DGFI destroyed evidence of the crimes committed by his predecessors and abused his authority to grant impunity to the perpetrators. This tendency to destroy

⁵¹ Amar Desh, 8 July 2025; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/khulna/amdeosyf0naqq>

⁵² Amar Desh, 9 July 2025; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/national/amdfbpendgvww>

⁵³ Prothom Alo, 5 January 2026; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/rxamglr3gf>

⁵⁴ Jugantor, 18 June 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/national/966953>

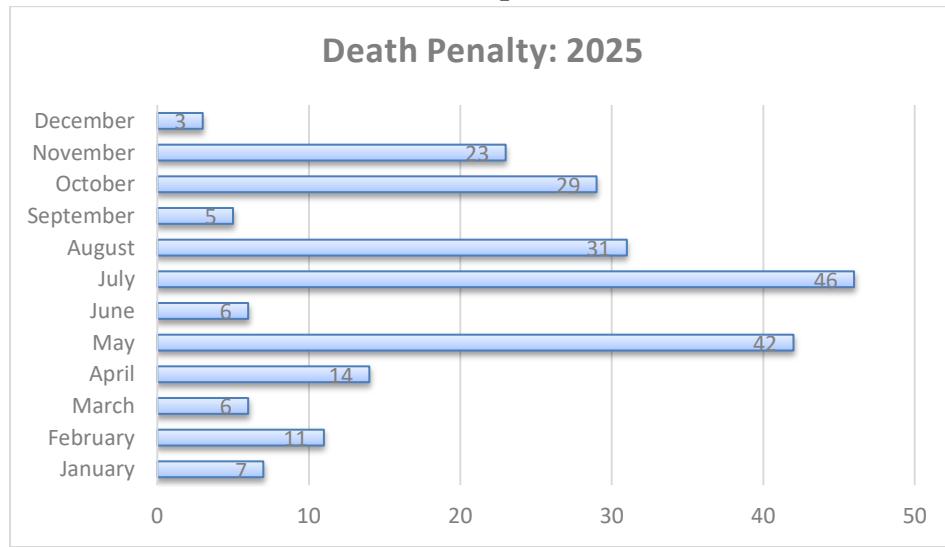
evidence and to refuse to cooperate with investigative processes was not limited to the DGFI alone, but was also observed among members of other security forces.⁵⁵

21. After assuming power, the Interim Government ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on 29 August 2024⁵⁶. Prior to ratification of this Convention, there was no specific law in Bangladesh to prosecute cases of enforced disappearance. However, once the Convention was ratified and an obligation arose to enact domestic legislation against enforced disappearance, the Advisory Council of the Interim Government approved the Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance, 2025 on 6 November.⁵⁷ On 1 December 2025, the President issued a Gazette on the Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance, 2025, with, predictably, the death penalty as the maximum punishment for enforced disappearance.⁵⁸

Death Penalty and Human Rights

22. In December 2024, for the first time, Bangladesh abstained from voting on a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly calling for a moratorium on the death penalty⁵⁹. In the past, Bangladesh had consistently voted against the suspension of the death penalty. Although this development is encouraging, the tendency of lower courts to impose the maximum punishment persists, as it did during the previous authoritarian regime, despite the existence of provisions for alternative sentences. Due to the slow pace of appellate hearings, death-row inmates have been spending years in condemned cells, counting the days to possible execution.

23. **In 2025, the lower courts sentenced 223 persons to death.**



⁵⁵ Jugantor, 21 January 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/national/906253>

⁵⁶ See https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iv-16&chapter=4&clang=_en

⁵⁷ Samakal, 7 November 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/323999/>

⁵⁸ Daily Sun, 2 December 2025; <https://www.daily-sun.com/national/843625/>

⁵⁹ See <https://worldcoalition.org/two-thirds-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly-vote-in-favor-of-the-10th-resolution-for-a-moratorium-on-the-death-penalty/>

Human Rights Situation in Prisons

24. In 2025, prisons held far more inmates than their official capacity. There are 74 prisons across the country with a total inmate capacity of 43,157.⁶⁰ While inmates faced various hardships inside prisons, allegations were also made that prison authorities provided special privileges to detained former ministers and Members of Parliament of the Awami League in exchange for money.⁶¹

25. A large number of inmates have been detained for years without trial.⁶²

- On 15 July, Kanu Mia, who had spent 30 years in Habiganj District Jail without trial or conviction and had become mentally unstable, was released on bail.⁶³



After 30 years, Kanu Mia was released from Habiganj District Jail. He is seen in a white skull cap, with his brothers and prison guards. Photo: Prothom Alo, 15 July 2025.

- At present, there are around two thousand inmates in the country who have been imprisoned for more than 20 years. There cases may be reviewed and, under Jail Code, the Government may release them on humanitarian grounds if the circumstances are such.⁶⁴

26. Prisoners receive daily meals that do not meet required nutritional standards. In addition, the quantity of food provided is insufficient and its quality is poor.⁶⁵ Many inmates suffer from various illnesses, including heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney and liver diseases, diabetes, skin diseases, and dental problems. Against a requirement of 148 doctors for 74 prison hospitals, there are only two permanent doctors. As a result of this shortage, adequate medical treatment cannot be provided. Inmates must go through lengthy procedures to receive medical care, and many die due to the lack of proper treatment. Due to the shortage of ambulances, seriously ill inmates are taken to external

⁶⁰ Samakal, 1 June 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/298473/>

⁶¹ Manabzamin, 26 September 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=181823>

⁶² Samakal, 8 August 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/308809/>

⁶³ Amar Desh, 15 July 2025; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/sylhet/amdauuudadimh>

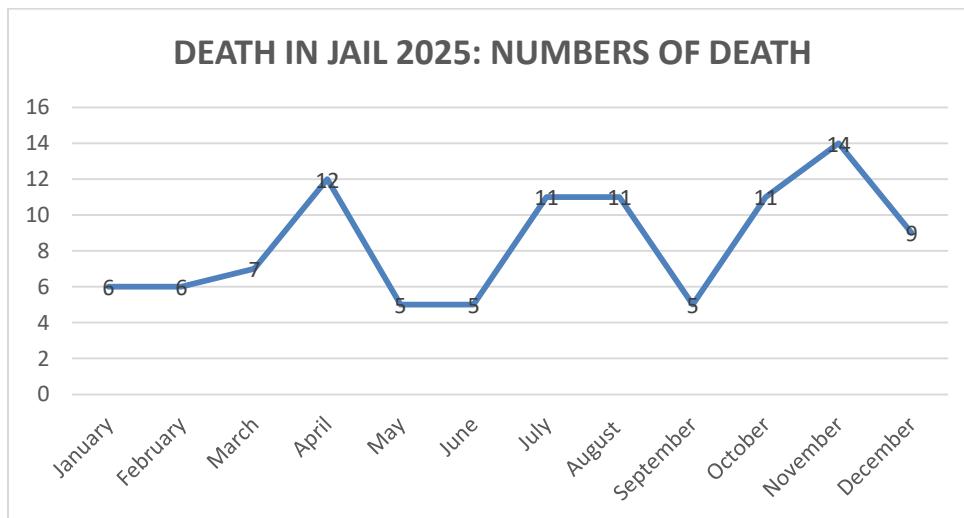
⁶⁴ Samakal, 16 September 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/315891/>

⁶⁵ Jugantor, 28 August 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/994107>

hospitals by other vehicles which are obviously not equipped with even basic life-supporting equipment, such as oxygen tanks. There are only 27 ambulances for 74 prison hospitals.⁶⁶

- According to records of the Prison Directorate over the past five years, an average of 196 inmates died in jails each year. On average, 58 inmates die annually while being transferred from jails or prison hospitals to outside hospitals. It has been reported that most inmates die from heart-related illnesses.⁶⁷
- On 15 June, Saidur Rahman Sujan, former chairman of Birulia Union Parishad in Savar, Dhaka, and an Awami League leader, died while in custody at Dhaka Central Jail. Prison authorities stated that Sujan committed suicide by hanging himself with a towel. However, his family claims that he died due to the lack of proper medical treatment.⁶⁸

27. According to Odhikar's findings, from January to December 2025, 102 people reportedly died in prisons across the country. According to information, one was beaten to death and 101 died due to illness.



II. ATTACKS ON PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

This second section of the report presents incidents of obstacles to the enjoyment of rights or attacks in which there was no/ indirect involvement of state authorities. Examples of such incidents include violence perpetrated by unruly mobs, political violence, attacks on public assemblies and gatherings by rival groups, and attacks on journalists.

⁶⁶ Prothom Alo, 10 November 2025; <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/3k0o3bcist>

⁶⁷ Prothom Alo, 10 November 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/3npkglvnz>

⁶⁸ Dhaka Post, 15 June 2025; <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/3k0o3bcist>

A. False Cases, Recommendations to Withdraw Cases and Harassment in Court

False and 'Harassment' Cases

28. After the July 2024 mass uprising, numerous cases of murder and attempted murder were filed across Bangladesh. The filing of such cases continued throughout 2025.⁶⁹ In the majority of these cases, the FIRs named not only the actual perpetrators and leaders and activists of the Awami League, but also individuals who had previously been subjected to politically motivated, fictitious cases during the Awami League period, accusing them as defendants in murder cases allegedly committed during the mass uprising.⁷⁰ In some instances, even individuals who died due to illness were falsely shown as having been killed during the July movement, and fabricated murder cases were filed against a total of 768 accused persons, including 600 unnamed individuals.⁷¹

29. In addition, leaders and activists of the BNP, non-political individuals, businesspersons, professionals, people who were elsewhere at the given time, as well as (already) deceased persons and expatriates, were implicated as accused in many cases.⁷² There are allegations that, while investigations into these cases were ongoing, the complainants and members of law-enforcement agencies implicated anyone they wished in order to extract money—often driven by motives such as grabbing property, disputes over property, prior enmity, business rivalries, and commercial gain. Cases were filed claiming that currently living persons had been killed during the mass uprising. In some instances, without the complainant's knowledge, lawyers multiplied the number of accused fivefold when filing cases, in order to engage in 'case-trading'.⁷³ During this period, there were also widespread allegations of extortion by using threats to implicate individuals in cases.⁷⁴ Some cases even listed as many as 735 accused persons in the FIR.⁷⁵

- On 4 August 2024, during the mass movement, seven people were killed when miscreants from the Bangladesh Chhatra League⁷⁶ and Jubo League⁷⁷ opened fire on a gathering of students and the public at Mahipal in Feni. Among those killed was a student named Wakil Ahmed Shihab. Shihab's mother, Mahfuza Akhtar, filed a case with Feni Model Police Station accusing those responsible for killing of her son, and the police submitted a charge sheet to the court naming 151 accused. However, the concerned Public Prosecutor included the Shihab murder case in the list of 'harassment cases' filed against opposition leaders and activists and dissenters during the Awami League government, that had been recommended for withdrawal. The

⁶⁹ Prothom Alo, 3 October 2025;

<https://epaper.prothomalo.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=3104ad47a49&eid=1&imageview=0&epedate=03/10/2025&sedid=1>

⁷⁰ Samakal, 5 February 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/279091/>

⁷¹ Prothom Alo, 27 April 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/lqdc4cooo5>

⁷² Prothom Alo, 27 April 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/lqdc4cooo5>

⁷³ Jugantor, 4 October 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/crime/1011316>

⁷⁴ Manabzamin, 2 March 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=150577>

⁷⁵ Manabzamin, 29 June 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=168107>

⁷⁶ Student wing of Awami League

⁷⁷ Youth wing of Awami League

complainant, Mahfuzা Akhtar, and her lawyer, Mezbah Uddin Bhuiyan, were completely unaware of this wrongful inclusion.⁷⁸

Attacks on the accused within court premises

30. In cases filed in connection with various incidents that occurred during the July uprising, several of the arrested Members of Parliament and ministers of the deposed Sheikh Hasina government were attacked in 2025 within the court premises—and even inside courtrooms—by angry crowds, including BNP-affiliated lawyers.⁷⁹ In addition, even after being released on bail, some were subjected to humiliation and physical assault.⁸⁰ *Odhikar* believes that ensuring the safety of accused detainees is the responsibility of the Government. No action was taken by the relevant authorities against the lawyers involved in such attacks.

- On 22 May, after a hearing in the Manikganj Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, former MP Momtaz was targeted with eggs and shoes by an angry mob and BNP leaders and activists within the court premises while being placed in a prison van.⁸¹
- On 22 May, when Barguna District Awami League President Dharendra Debnath Shambhu was being taken from the court to jail, BNP-affiliated lawyers and members of the public threw eggs at him within the court premises.⁸²

B. Attacks on Meetings and Assemblies

Attacks on meetings and assemblies were carried out by groups of individuals as well as by law enforcement. In 2025, police carried out baton charges and fired sound grenades at peaceful meetings, assemblies, and processions of political parties and various organizations protesting over different demands.⁸³ Teachers were also attacked by the police while attempting to hold assemblies.⁸⁴ In addition, attacks took place on the rally organised by Left-leaning Student Alliance, under the banner of the Anti-Shahbagh Alliance; and BNP leaders and activists attacked other political parties.⁸⁵ Leaders and activists of the Awami League—whose activities had been banned—also attacked meetings and assemblies of the NCP and Jamaat, and, due to intra party conflicts, even attacked processions of their own party leaders and activists.⁸⁶ Moreover, religious extremists attacked a human chain formed by Baul⁸⁷ artists in Manikganj that was demanding the release of Baul artist Abul Hossain.⁸⁸

⁷⁸ Manabzamin, 3 October 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=182905#gsc.tab=0>

⁷⁹ Prothom Alo, 28 April 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/d15xsei4pm>

⁸⁰ Samakal, 9 April 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/289225/>

⁸¹ Samakal, 23 May 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/957177>

⁸² Samakal, 23 May 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-city/957177>

⁸³ Manabzamin, 17 January 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=144474>

⁸⁴ Samakal, 13 October 2025; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2025-10-13/16/3334>

⁸⁵ Jugantor, 28 May 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/campus/959317>

⁸⁶ Prothom Alo, 16 June 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/w0f2qgcx91>

⁸⁷ Baul refers to a mystic folk tradition of Bengal—both a way of life and a musical-spiritual practice.

⁸⁸ Samakal, 24 November 2025; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2025-11-24/16/6059>



Police baton-charge and fire water cannons at primary school teachers. Photo: Bangla Tribune, 26 January 2025.



Police baton-charged, threw sound grenades and dispersed MPO-enlisted teachers and staff who were staging a sit-in in front of the National Press Club, demanding an increase in house rent and medical allowances. Photo: Samakal, 13 October 2025.



In Manikganj, members of the so-called "Tawhidi Janata" attacked supporters and followers of imprisoned Baul artist Abul Sarkar. Photo: Samakal, 24 November 2025.

- On 20 March, BNP leaders and activists attacked a Jamaat-e-Islami human chain formed against extortion, injuring four activists in Bagha Upazila of Rajshahi.⁸⁹
- On 24 March, when Abdul Hannan Masud, Joint Chief Coordinator of the National Citizen Party, brought out a procession in Hatiya, Noakhali, BNP leaders and activists attacked them from a counter-procession, injuring Abdul Hannan Masud and several others.⁹⁰



NCP leader Abdul Hannan Masud injured in the attack. Photo: Prothom Alo, 25 March 2025.

- On 29 May, during a march in Chattogram by the Left-leaning Democratic Students' Alliance protesting the Supreme Court Appellate Division's acquittal of Jamaat leader Azharul Islam from the death sentence, leaders and activists of the Anti-Shahbagh Alliance attacked the procession, injuring 12 people.⁹¹
- On 16 July, leaders and activists of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations attacked a National Citizen Party (NCP) assembly held at the Municipal Park in Gopalganj town. As clashes spread across the city, confrontations between Awami League leaders and activists and the army and police resulted in four deaths and more than fifty injuries.⁹²
- On 20 August, police carried out a baton charge at a peaceful protest rally of dismissed teachers in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, and detained ten people, including student representatives.⁹³

⁸⁹ Prothom Alo, 21 March 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/58ge75gags>

⁹⁰ Manabzamin, 26 March 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=154085>

⁹¹ Prothom Alo, 30 May 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/c61v2umq4s>

⁹² Prothom Alo, 17 July 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/3x8hs9iao9>

⁹³ Naya Diganta, 20 August 2025; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/Dvy5cv9IT0RM>

- On 1 November, while a study circle was underway at the office of the Bangladesh Socialist Party of Bangladesh (SPB) in Sylhet, police conducted a raid there over allegations of supporting the battery-powered rickshaw workers' movement and detained 22 leaders and activists.⁹⁴
- On 8 November, when primary school teachers marched from the Central Shaheed Minar to Shahbagh demanding three points, including pay in the 10th grade, police dispersed them by baton charging and firing tear gas and sound grenades.⁹⁵



Police baton charged on teachers. Photo: Manabzamin, 9 November 2025.

- On 17 December, an attack led by Sramik League⁹⁶ leader Sulaiman Sadik—allegedly instigated by local BNP leaders—on a Jamaat-e-Islami workers' meeting left 15 people injured in Patharghata, Barguna.⁹⁷
- On 29 December, followers of Abdul Rahman, the expelled Member Secretary of the Tejgaon Thana Jubo Dal, attacked and disrupted a human chain organised by traders at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka to protest extortion.⁹⁸

C. Violation of Freedom of Expression

31. In 2025, freedom of expression was undermined. Although during this period citizens enjoyed far greater freedom of expression compared to under the authoritarian rule of Sheikh Hasina, incidents of infringement still occurred. During this time, most of the perpetrators were allegedly leaders and activists of the Awami League and extremist religious groups. Although Article 43 of the Constitution guarantees citizens' right to privacy in their personal and other communications, there have been allegations that this

⁹⁴ Samakal, 2 November 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/323236/>

⁹⁵ Manabzamin, 9 November 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=188648#gsc.tab=0>

⁹⁶ Workers wing of Awami League

⁹⁷ Samakal, 19 December 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/330149/>

⁹⁸ Amar Desh, 30 December 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/crime/p11ymnglzy>

right was violated. In the absence of effective government oversight, phone conversations were illegally leaked on social media and YouTube, thereby violating citizens' privacy and security.

- On the night of 15 April, Awami League leaders and activists, along with members of the banned BCL⁹⁹, set fire to the Chandahar Village home of artist Manabendra Ghosh, in Manikganj, for creating an installation titled "*Face of Fascism*" for the *Pahela Baishakh* (Bengali New Year) procession in Dhaka on 14 April. As a result of the arson attack, all of Manabendra Ghosh's artworks were destroyed.¹⁰⁰



The actual (left) and the burnt remnants (right) of what was the 'Face of Fascism' by sculptor Manabendra Ghosh. Photo: BSS, 13 April 2025.



A group of miscreants set fire late at night to the house of sculptor Manabendra Ghosh in the Garpara Bazar area of Manikganj Sadar Upazila. Along with the house, more than 30 artworks were burned. Photo: Samakal, 17 April 2025.

⁹⁹ Student wing of Awami League

¹⁰⁰ Samakal, 17 April 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/290674/>

- On 11 December, local influential individuals attacked and vandalized a Baul music gathering in Sherpur Sadar.¹⁰¹
- On 18 December, following news of the death of Inqilab Mancha spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi¹⁰², protests erupted across Dhaka and other parts of the country. On the same night, a group of miscreants attacked the premises of the cultural institution Chhayanaut¹⁰³, and on the following day, 19 December, carried out attacks on the office of another cultural organisation, Udichi, causing extensive vandalism and arson.¹⁰⁴

Freedom of the Media

32. With the aim of ensuring the autonomy of Bangladesh Betar (Radio) and Bangladesh Television, *Odhikar* filed a Writ Petition with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court on 17 August 2000, seeking the formation of a “National Broadcasting Commission (NBC)” and the implementation of relevant policies. After a preliminary hearing, on 19 November 2000 the High Court Division asked why directions should not be issued to consider implementing the recommendations contained in the NBC’s report. However, during the prolonged period of authoritarian rule, no hearing took place. On 26 February 2025, a bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Mohammad Ullah and Justice Faiz Ahmed began hearing the matter, which continues at the time of publishing this report.

33. In 2025, various forms of repression on media occurred, including attacks on newspaper offices, vandalism, arson, and the killing of journalists. When protests erupted in Dhaka and across the country following the news of the death of Inqilab Mancha spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi on 18 December after he was shot, a vested-interest group attacked the offices of the Daily Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, carrying out extensive vandalism and arson. During the attack, 28 journalists and staff members of The Daily Star were trapped on the roof.¹⁰⁵ While attempting to check on the condition of the journalists who were trapped during the attack, Daily New Age editor Nurul Kabir was assaulted by miscreants.¹⁰⁶ Outside Dhaka, the offices of Prothom Alo in Kushtia, Khulna, and Sylhet were also vandalized.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰¹ Samakal, 14 December 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/329447/>

¹⁰² Sharif Osman Hadi was a Bangladeshi political and social activist, writer, and youth leader who rose to national prominence during the major political upheaval in 2024–2025. He became a highly influential figure in student-led movements and broader protests that reshaped the country’s politics. He co-founded and served as the spokesperson of *Inqilab Mancha (Platform for the Revolution)*, a youth-led political movement that emerged from the July 2024 student-led uprising against the Awami League government. On 12 December 2025, Hadi was shot in the head in Dhaka’s Paltan area while campaigning.

¹⁰³ Prothom Alo, 20 December 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/capital/le7e316xt5>

¹⁰⁴ Prothom Alo, 20 December 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/l26sc7fkhu>

¹⁰⁵ Samakal, 19 December 2025; <https://samakal.com/capital/article/330177/>

¹⁰⁶ Prothom Alo, 20 December 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/cc98ynr0s7>

¹⁰⁷ Prothom Alo, 20 December 2025;

<https://epaper.prothomalo.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=20129a0fce26&eid=1&imageview=0&epedate=20/12/2025&sedId=1>



Arson attack at the Prothom Alo office. Photo: Prothom Alo, 20 December 2025



Arson attack at the Daily Star office. Photo: Prothom Alo, 20 December 2025

34. During this reporting period, there were allegations of attacks on journalists and the filing of cases against them by BNP and Jamaat-aligned lawyers¹⁰⁸, as well as by members of the administration, drug traffickers, and land grabbers. Journalists were reportedly harassed and humiliated, punished through mobile courts, threatened with death, beaten

¹⁰⁸ Jugantor, 29 October 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/media/1021672>

by senior police officers¹⁰⁹, and threatened with enforced disappearance. There were also allegations of journalists being detained by the administration for seeking information, as well as vandalism of journalists' association offices and other forms of repression.

- On 27 March, while performing their professional duties in front of the Barishal District Judge Court, N. Amin Russell, chief photojournalist of the local daily Barishal Mail, and Moniruzzaman, staff reporter of the local daily Mukhpatra, were attacked by a group of miscreants led by Sohel Rarhi, a leader of the Barishal District unit Chhatra Dal¹¹⁰. The attackers beat the two journalists, vandalized a camera and two cell phones, and snatched away cash. Subsequently, a motorcycle belonging to a journalist, parked in front of the main gate of the court, was set on fire.¹¹¹
- On 24 April, Tipu Sultan, Tala Upazila correspondent of Kaler Kantho in Satkhira District, was assaulted by MM Mamun Alam, Sub-Assistant Engineer of the Upazila Engineering Department, when he went to collect information about irregularities and corruption in the construction work of the Tala Upazila Complex building. When Tipu reported the incident to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Sheikh Mohammad Rasel, the UNO came to the scene and, after hearing only the version of the Engineer MM Mamun and the contractor's associates, summarily sentenced Tipu to 10 days' simple imprisonment and fined him Taka 200.¹¹²
- On 31 July, Asaduzzaman Tuhin, Gazipur staff reporter of the daily Protidiner Kagoj, was hacked to death by a group of armed miscreants in front of Mosque Market at Chandana intersection in Gazipur Metropolitan City on 7 August, for livestreaming on Facebook about extortion on footpaths.¹¹³
- On 3 October, Hayat Uddin, staff reporter of the daily Bhorer Chetana in Bagerhat, was hacked to death by miscreants because of his outspoken presence on social media on issues including drug trafficking, the quality of contract work, and political criminalization.¹¹⁴
- On 19 September, Shakil Hossain, Niamatpur Upazila correspondent of Manabzamin in Naogaon District, was attacked while performing his professional duties, by a group of miscreants led by Jubo Dal leader Enamul Haque, who also smashed his camera.¹¹⁵
- On 5 November, BNP leader Shahadat and his associates attacked and injured three journalists, including Jago News correspondent Akash Khan, when they went to

¹⁰⁹ Jugantor, 13 October 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1015158>

¹¹⁰ Student wing of BNP

¹¹¹ Jugantor, 28 March 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/935124>

¹¹² Daily Sun, 24 April 2025; <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/801913>; Prothom Alo, 24 April 2025;

<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/9359qhefq1>

¹¹³ Manabzamin, 8 August 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=174467>

¹¹⁴ Amar Desh, 8 October 2025; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/bangladesh/khulna/amdouubg3oxvh>

¹¹⁵ Manabzamin, 2 September 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=180993>

collect information regarding allegations of land grabbing in the Fatulla area of Narayanganj District.¹¹⁶

35. According to Odhikar, from January to December 2025, two journalists were killed, 147 were injured, 84 were assaulted, 36 were threatened, and cases were filed against 44 journalists for performing their professional duties.

D. Public Lynching

36. In 2025, there was a widespread tendency of unruly mobs taking the law into their own hands, creating collective disorder and violence. After Sheikh Hasina fled to India on 5 August 2024 and her regime collapsed, the police force as an institution, became ineffective and its morale collapsed. As a result of their inability to curb disorder, the activities of unruly mobs became widely evident, leading to casualties. Most incidents of public lynching occurred on suspicion of theft. The most alarming aspect was the creation of an atmosphere where mob lynching was used to kill over personal enmity.

- On 7 February, a mentally disabled man named Jahir Uddin Bechu was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of theft in Kabirhat of Noakhali District.¹¹⁷
- On 22 July, a man named Shanto was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of cattle theft in Kaliganj of Gazipur.
- On 10 August, Ruplal Das and his niece's husband Pradip Das were lynched on suspicion of stealing a rickshaw van in Taraganj of Rangpur.
- On 11 August, a young man named Sajal Molla was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of theft in Magura Sadar.
- On 22 August, three adolescents were tied to a bridge and beaten by a mob on allegations of theft; one of them, Mohammad Rihan Mahin (15), was killed in Fatikchhari of Chattogram.¹¹⁸
- On 6 September, a disabled youth named Sajjad Hossain was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of being a mugger in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj.¹¹⁹
- On 18 December, Dipu Chandra Das, a floor in-charge of the factory Pioneer Knitwears BD Limited, in Bhaluka under Mymensingh District was accused of 'religious defamation' by his co-workers and forced to resign. He was then handed over to an enraged mob outside the factory, who beat him to death, burned his body, and hung it from a tree.¹²⁰ In this incident, RAB and the police conducted separate operations after reviewing CCTV footage and videos and arrested 10 people.¹²¹
- On 17 December, a van driver named Omar Faruk was publicly assaulted, beaten and had iron nails driven into his body, on false allegations of theft, and was sent to jail

¹¹⁶ Jugantor, 7 November 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/1025717>

¹¹⁷ Manabzamin, 9 February 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=147776>

¹¹⁸ Prothom Alo, 22 August 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/xcr7abra8h>

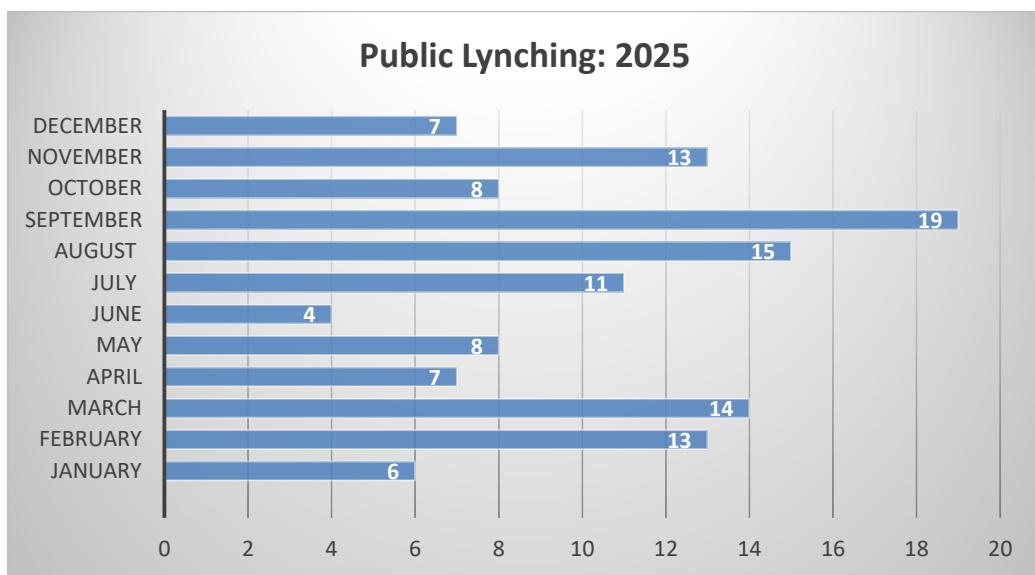
¹¹⁹ Samakal, 8 September 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/314496/>

¹²⁰ Samakal, 21 December 2025; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2025-12-21/1/5322>

¹²¹ Prothom Alo, 20 December 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/1comwn462n>

through a mobile court in Bagmara of Rajshahi. On 18 December, while still in jail custody, he died while undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.¹²²

37. **In 2025, a total of 125 people were killed as a result of public lynching.**



E. Criminalization of Politics and Violence

38. In 2025, political criminalization, violence, and extortion continued unabated. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), between 2008 and 2024—a span of 16 years—585,000 people were internally displaced in Bangladesh due to political violence and conflict. Of these, 159,000 people were displaced in 2024 alone.¹²³

- During this period, the politically motivated killing of Sharif Osman Hadi was the most widely discussed murder in the country. On 12 December, Sharif Osman Hadi—an outspoken critic of Indian hegemony and one of the leaders of the July mass uprising—was shot in the head and critically injured by Faisal Karim Masud, a banned BCL leader (identified through CCTV footage of the incident), while Hadi was conducting his election campaign in the Dhaka-8 constituency. Following the shooting, there were allegations that the assailant Faisal and one of his associates fled to India. On 19 December, Hadi died while undergoing treatment in Singapore.¹²⁴

¹²² Jugantor, 23 December 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/1043923>

¹²³ Samakal, 24 October 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/321969/>

¹²⁴ Samakal, 20 December 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/xctkrad08f>



The body of Osman Hadi, the convener of the Inqilab Manch, arrived at Dhaka's Shahjalal International Airport. At that time, advisers of the IG and leaders of various political parties paid their tribute. Photo: Samakal, 20 December 2025.

- In addition, brutal attacks were carried out against family members of political figures during this period. In Lakshmipur, on the night of 19 December, miscreants locked the front door of the house of BNP leader Belal and set it on fire using petrol, resulting in the deaths of his two young daughters, who were burned alive.¹²⁵

39. During this reporting period, allegations of extortion were reported against the [BNP](#) and its [affiliated organizations](#), [Jamaat-e-Islami](#), and the [Anti-Discrimination Student Coordinators](#).

40. It has been alleged that, under the patronage of BNP leaders, juvenile gangs have emerged in localities, engaging in various crimes including extortion, rape, and sexual harassment.¹²⁶ During this time, allegations against BNP leaders and activists included the [killing of ordinary citizens](#); the indiscriminate shooting and [killing of a Juba Dal activist](#) while attempting to free a BCL leader; the public beating to death of a [scrap trader](#) amid disputes over extortion; attacks on journalists¹²⁷ and farmers¹²⁸; [illegal occupation of houses](#); [vandalizing buses and attacking workers](#) for refusing to pay extortion; [land grabbing](#); hijacking covered vans loaded with goods¹²⁹; involvement in [drug trafficking](#) and [smuggling](#); [fertilizer smuggling](#); [illegal sand extraction](#); [attacking students](#) at universities allegedly under the guise of Chhatra League; and the taking

¹²⁵ Prothom Alo, 20 December 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/xctkrad08f>

¹²⁶ Samakal, 16 August 2025; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2025-08-16/5/4289>

¹²⁷ Jugantor, 30 November 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/1035164>

¹²⁸ Amar Desh, 19 November 2025;

¹²⁹ Amar Desh, 2 October 2025;

control of cattle markets, marketplaces, launch terminals, bus terminals, chambers of commerce, and other institutions—among other criminal activities.¹³⁰

41. There are allegations against BNP leaders and activists of attacking members of law enforcement agencies, assaulting police officers, and threatening government officials.

- On April 1, BNP leaders and activists attacked police to snatch away an accused in Kachua of Bagerhat District.¹³¹
- On 15 April, during a court hearing, BNP leaders and activists attacked police for preventing video recording inside the court in Pabna.¹³²
- On 15 April, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders and activists forcibly freed an arrested Chhatra Dal leader from police custody at Lalpur Police Station in Natore.¹³³
- On 2 July, after the upazila administration sentenced two extortionists to one month's imprisonment on charges of extortion, BNP leaders and activists attacked and vandalized Patgram Police Station in Lalmonirhat, and freed the two extortionists.¹³⁴

42. Even after being ousted from power through the mass uprising, violence and criminal activities by leaders and activists of the Awami League continued in 2025.¹³⁵ Awami League leaders and activists deliberately involved professional criminals in various criminal acts in the capital Dhaka and other parts of the country through different means.¹³⁶ In addition, there have been allegations against leaders and activists of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations, of exploding hand bombs¹³⁷ during processions; occupying roads and public land to construct buildings; vandalizing and looting BNP office; attacking and abducting BNP leaders and activists; oppressing ordinary citizens; cutting the wrist of a BNP leader; and forcibly snatching party activists from police custody.

- Mohammad Selim, an Awami League leader from Mohammadpur, Dhaka, who had been arrested for firing shots during the student–public movement and later released on bail, attempted to hack to death a government employee named Harun Ur Rashid on 12 February.¹³⁸

¹³⁰ Jugantor, 27 January 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/908884>

¹³¹ Jugantor, 3 April 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/936328>

¹³² Kaler Kantha, 15 April 2025; <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/country-news/2025/04/15/1504614>

¹³³ Prothom Alo, 8 April 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/yonihn6gee>

¹³⁴ Amar Desh, 4 July 2025; https://images.dailyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_sl15_row14_date_04-07-2025_edition_2_page1_697783_334530_updated_watermarked_1cf6f8fc-8406-4900-8323-1ea2ba1de3eb.jpg, https://images.dailyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_sl2_row1_date_04-07-2025_edition_2_page15_450558_862634_updated_watermarked_ce4e814c-26ed-40ed-bb16-c073983cb3ef.jpg

¹³⁵ The Financial Express, 26 January 2025; <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bn/nrsingdeete-aoozamee-leeger-dui-gruper-mdhze-sngghrsh-niht-2>

¹³⁶ Jugantor, 11 March 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/politics/927276>

¹³⁷ Samakal, 31 October 2025; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2025-10-31/4/8008>

¹³⁸ Manabzamin, 16 February 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=148686>

- On 23 April, when Jamaat-e-Islami brought out a procession in Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria, Awami League leaders and activists attacked them with locally made weapons, leaving Jamaat leader Jasim Uddin seriously injured.¹³⁹
- On the night of 11 August, leaders and activists of the Awami League¹⁴⁰ brought out a flash procession in Chattogram. At that time, Sub-Inspector Abu Saeed Rana was hacked and injured by participants in the procession.¹⁴¹
- On 15 September, a group of miscreants in Bhanga, Faridpur, attacked the Upazila Parishad and the police station, carrying out vandalism and looting in protest against parliamentary constituency re-demarcation. During this incident, police vehicles were set on fire while slogans of ‘Joy Bangla’ (the political slogan of the Awami League) were chanted, and important government documents were looted.¹⁴²
- On 29 September, Rafi, a leader of the Chhatra League¹⁴³, stabbed Jamaat leader Amjad Hossain to death in Cox’s Bazar.¹⁴⁴
- On 17 November, after the verdict sentencing Sheikh Hasina and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death for crimes against humanity committed during the July mass uprising, the Awami League announced a nationwide lockdown and carried out covert attacks involving arson and petrol bombings.¹⁴⁵ On that day, Awami League leaders and activists set fire to vehicles and various institutions in eight districts. On the same day, Parvez Khan, a driver who had been burned in a school bus arson attack in Shibalaya Upazila of Manikganj on 13 November, died while undergoing treatment.¹⁴⁶

43. During this reporting period, various allegations were also reported against Jamaat leaders and activists, including violence and criminal activities.¹⁴⁷

- On 5 April, leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were accused of vandalizing and setting fire to the house of former Railways Minister Mujibul Haque in Chaudhogram of Cumilla.¹⁴⁸

¹³⁹ Naya Diganta, 23 April 2025; <https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/Kg5Yk0VgTBCs>

¹⁴⁰ The Interim Government banned the activities of Bangladesh Awami League 10 May 2025.

¹⁴¹ Jugantor, 12 August 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/989419>

¹⁴² Amar Desh, 16 September 2025; https://images.dailyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_s19_row8_date_16-09-2025_edition_2_page1_477356_389340_updated_watermarked_c177b478-0717-4ba3-83e9-2ab7d54b3455.jpg, https://images.dailyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_s19_row8_date_16-09-2025_edition_2_page2_870253_609062_updated_watermarked_8500554d-05cf-457d-8c57-813bfd683b9f.jpg

¹⁴³ The Interim Government banned Bangladesh Chhatra League on 23 October 2024.

¹⁴⁴ Amar Desh, 1 October 2025; https://images.dailyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_s13_row2_date_01-10-2025_edition_2_page12_977766_289614_updated_watermarked_1e98ac11-9339-4afb-a5fa-49d6e5c2f7cd.jpg

¹⁴⁵ Prothom Alo, 17 November 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/b17squeucg>

¹⁴⁶ Prothom Alo, 18 November 2025;

<https://epaper.prothomalo.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=1811e7718fa0&eid=1&imageview=0&epedate=18/11/2025&sedId=1>

¹⁴⁷ Samakal, 15 July 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/305588/>

¹⁴⁸ Prothom Alo, 5 April 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/9iqoijdmce>

- On 14 April, Jamaat leader Khabir Khan, along with his followers, attacked the homes of 14 extremely poor, homeless families in an attempt to seize their land, carrying out vandalism and looting in Jashore.¹⁴⁹
- On 13 July, a BNP leader named Rahim Uddin Sikder was killed in an attack by leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami in Cox's Bazar.¹⁵⁰

44. During this reporting period, clashes occurred between activists of the BNP and those of Jamaat-e-Islami, NCP, the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, BJP, Gono Odhikar Parishad, and Awami League. Clashes also took place between leaders and activists of the Gono Parishad and Jatiya Party, as well as between leaders and activists of JCD and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.¹⁵¹

- On 21 March, two individuals named Bashar and Amin were killed in a clash between the BNP and the Awami League in Raipura area of Narsingdi District over the establishment of political dominance.¹⁵²
- On 10 July, following an altercation between leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir¹⁵³ and JCD in Patharghata, Barguna, allegations were made against JCD leader Amit Hasan Shubho and his associates for hacking and seriously injuring Jamaat-e-Islami's Municipal Amir Bazlur Rahman and activist Nasir Uddin Chowdhury.¹⁵⁴
- On 30 July, 65 people were injured in clashes between leaders and activists of the BNP and NCP in Muradnagar, Cumilla, over political dominance.¹⁵⁵
- On 29 August, during clashes between leaders and activists of Gono Odhikar Parishad and Jatiya Party in front of the Jatiya Party's central office in Kakrail, Dhaka, police and army personnel carried out baton charges, leaving Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur seriously injured.¹⁵⁶ Following this incident, on 30 August, attacks, vandalism, and arson took place at the Jatiya Party's central office in Dhaka as well as at its offices in Rajshahi, Thakurgaon, Gaibandha, Khulna, and several other districts.¹⁵⁷

45. During this reporting period, the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts was alarming. On 27 July, four people were killed in violent altercation between two political organisations belonging to ethnic minority community—JSS and UPDF—in Dighinala of Khagrachhari District.¹⁵⁸

- On 23 September, following allegations that a Marma teenage girl had been raped by miscreants, an attack was carried out on a convoy of security force vehicles, from a

¹⁴⁹ Samakal, 16 April 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/290412/>

¹⁵⁰ Samakal, 15 July 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/305588/>

¹⁵¹ Prothom Alo, 19 February 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/fisxgu0xa4>

¹⁵² Samakal, 22 March 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/286687/>

¹⁵³ Student wing of Jamat-e-Islami

¹⁵⁴ Amar Desh, 12 July 2025; https://images.dailymardesh.com/cropped-images/image_sl7_row6_date_12-07-2025_edition_1_page11_842384_868314_watermarked_c2837c9c-0430-48cb-9508-55d5144c6d7b.jpg

¹⁵⁵ Jugantor, 31 July 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/984440>

¹⁵⁶ Samakal, 30 August 2025; <https://samakal.com/politics/article/313128/>

¹⁵⁷ Samakal, 31 August 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/313295/>

¹⁵⁸ Samakal, 26 July 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/307361/>

rally organized under the banner of Jumma students and members of the public in Khagrachhari Sadar.¹⁵⁹ Although the medical board reported that no evidence of rape was found in the physical examination of the girl, her father expressed anger over the report.¹⁶⁰

- On 27 September, clashes and acts of vandalism occurred between members of ethnic minority communities and Bengalis in Khagrachhari over a blockade programme. Although the administration imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure¹⁶¹ in the Sadar Upazila and municipal areas, picketers carried out widespread vandalism and disorder during the blockade programme on 28 September in Khagrachhari.¹⁶² Serious tensions emerged in the Ramsu Bazar area of Guimara Upazila. When army personnel attempted to control the situation, clashes broke out with a group of ethnic minority people, during which three members of the ethnic minority community were killed by gunfire.¹⁶³

Internal Factional Conflicts within Political Parties

46. In 2025, violent clashes occurred among leaders and activists of political parties due to internal factional disputes over issues such as establishing dominance in local areas and nominations for the national parliamentary elections. Among these, widespread clashes took place within the BNP. Firearms were used in these confrontations, and both party leaders-activists and ordinary citizens became victims of killings. Despite the ban on its activities, leaders and activists of the Awami League also became involved in internal factional conflicts. In addition, incidents of violence occurred within the NCP due to internal disputes.¹⁶⁴
47. The causes of internal conflicts within the BNP included disputes over nominations¹⁶⁵ related to committee formation and party conferences¹⁶⁶; involvement in drug peddling; illegal occupation and extortion; land grabbing; control over bus counters; control of the scrap (waste) business; illegal control of sand quarries¹⁶⁷; leasing of ferry ghats; and distribution of TCB cards and VGF rice, among other interest-driven conflicts.¹⁶⁸ During these internal clashes, party offices and the homes of their own party leaders were

¹⁵⁹ Jugantor, 27 September 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/1008595>

¹⁶⁰ Prothom Alo, 2 October 2025;

<https://epaper.prothomalo.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=21018b8cdc4&eid=1&imageview=0&epedate=02/10/2025&sedId=1>

¹⁶¹ Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is a preventive law-and-order provision used in Bangladesh to deal with urgent situations of public nuisance or threat to public peace. Under Section 144, a District Magistrate, Metropolitan Magistrate, or an Executive Magistrate can issue an order restricting certain activities in a specific area for a limited time.

¹⁶² Prothom Alo, 28 September 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/5rlipc9y0k>

¹⁶³ Manabzamin, 29 September 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=182284>

¹⁶⁴ Manabzamin, 25 October 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=186399>

¹⁶⁵ Samakal, 10 November 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/324450/>

¹⁶⁶ Jugantor, 13 July 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-second-edition/977344>

¹⁶⁷ Amar Desh, 13 August 2025; https://images.dailymardesh.com/cropped-images/image_s17_row6_date_13-08-2025_edition_2_page2_315063_786256_updated_watermarked_b1610414-6e60-4d8d-b5ae-8601c4c6fd4e.jpg

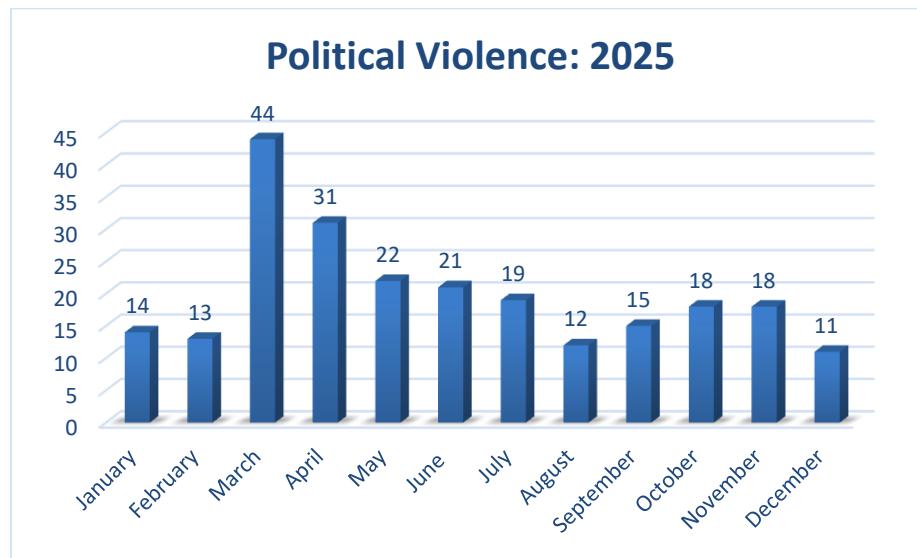
¹⁶⁸ Jugantor, 7 March 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/bnp/925507>

vandalized and set on fire.¹⁶⁹ BNP leaders and activists also allegedly planned and carried out killings of their own party leaders using hired assassins, and attacked the vehicle convoys of fellow party leaders. During this period, the administration in many areas was forced to impose Section 144, and clashes erupted between rival groups when they attempted to hold gatherings in violation of the Order.¹⁷⁰ In one such clash between two BNP factions, the son of a Krishak League leader was killed.¹⁷¹

- Due to internal disputes among Awami League leaders and activists over vested interests, several people were killed: on 6 January in Pircachha, Rangpur, a man named Darbesh Ali; on 26 January in Raipura, Narsingdi, two individuals named Alamgir Hossain Alam and Ali Ahmed; and on 8 March in Madaripur Sadar Upazila, two brothers Saiful Sardar and Ataur Sardar, along with their cousin Palash Sardar.¹⁷²

48. As per Odhikar's findings, between 01 January to 11 December, 2025 at least 238 people were killed and 6,704 people were injured due to political violence. During this period, 422 incidents of internal conflict within the BNP, 12 incidents within the Awami League and two incidents within NCP were recorded. It is reported that 76 people were killed and 3,746 people were injured in BNP's internal conflicts, while six people were killed and 65 were injured in internal conflicts within the Awami League and five people were injured in internal conflicts within the NCP.

49. Since the announcement of the election schedule on 11 December 2025, incidents of political violence have been considered as electoral violence. As per Odhikar, between 11 and 31 December, two persons were killed and 25 were injured due to electoral violence.



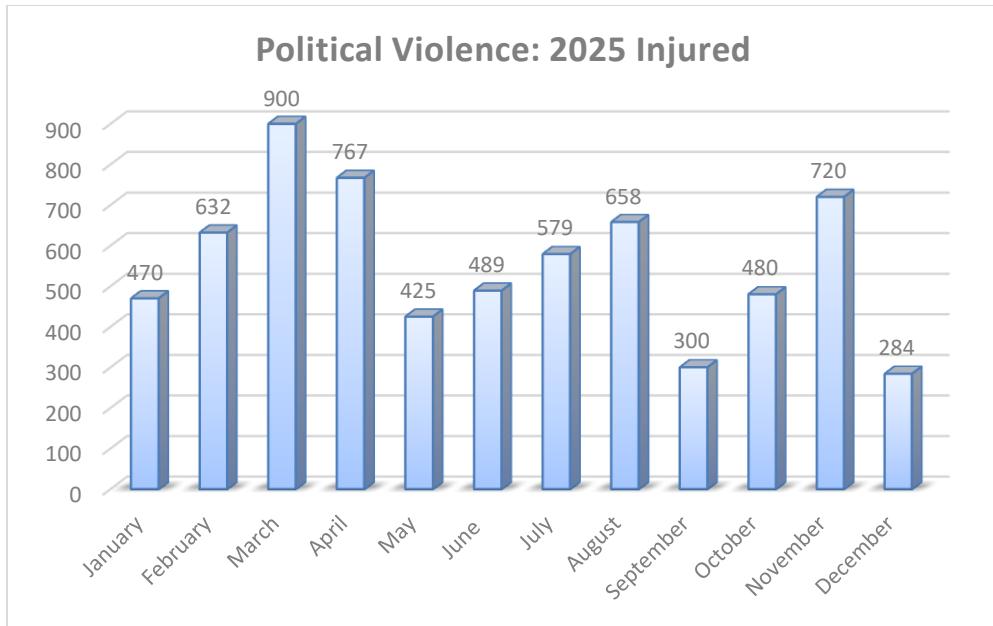
¹⁶⁹ Prothom Alo, 22 August 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/rmtjfuicc2> Manabzamin, 8 November 2025

¹⁷⁰ Amar Desh, 10 November 2025; https://images.dailymardesh.com/cropped-images/image_sl6_row5_date_10-11-2025_edition_2_page13_482299_173480_updated_watermarked_63e00e92-4165-4c25-9d26-a478136026e4.jpg

¹⁷¹ Prothom Alo, 4 November 2025;

<https://epaper.prothomalo.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=411ef1e78f0&eid=1&imageview=0&epedate=04/11/2025&sedId=1>

¹⁷² Manabzamin, 10 March 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=151773>



III. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

50. Due to the lack of accountability in the criminal justice system and the bias of law enforcement agencies in favor of a repressive system of governance, incidents of gender-based crimes were pushed into the shadows. During the tenure of the ousted Awami League government, violence against women increased significantly. This violence continued even after the Interim Government assumed power. Gender-based violence and indifference toward justice for women and children remain serious issues in Bangladesh that require urgent attention. In 2025, widespread incidents of violence against women occurred across the country. Owing to the absence of social security mechanisms, impartial investigations, and the proper enforcement of laws, perpetrators of violence against women have largely gone unpunished, and the victims have been deprived of justice in most cases.

A. Rape

51. On 25 March, in order to expedite the trial of rape cases, the Interim Government promulgated the *Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025*, introducing several amendments to the *Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000*. The amendments stipulate that if a court considers it possible to conduct a trial based on medical certificates and circumstantial evidence, rape cases may be adjudicated even without DNA reports. Provisions for strict punishment in cases of false allegations have also been included. The amendment further provides for the establishment of special tribunals to conduct separate trials for child rape cases.¹⁷³

¹⁷³ Jugantor, 18 March 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/index.php/tp-lastpage/930455>

Unfortunately, the amendment does not do anything to change the controversial definition of the crime of 'rape'.

52. The above Ordinance however, has also failed to address the issues of stalking and sexual harassment and despite the opportunity afforded, did not amend section 10 of the Act, as ordered by the Court in 2011 in the matter of BNWLA and Others Vs. Bangladesh. Not only are stalking and sexual harassment reasons for mental anguish and fear for the victim, they are often the precursor to rape.
53. In 2025, widespread incidents of rape against women and children¹⁷⁴ were reported. Victims ranged from children to elderly women up to 80 years of age. In some cases, children were subjected to acid attacks on their faces after being raped, while in other instances, children were raped, murdered, and their faces disfigured. In several cases, child victims of rape were killed following the assault. In one incident of gang rape involving a child, the victim's father reportedly fell seriously ill upon hearing the news and subsequently died.¹⁷⁵
54. Women were raped on moving buses, and even pregnant women were subjected to rape.¹⁷⁶ In some cases, victims committed suicide out of anguish following rape, and in one instance, the father of a victim was murdered for refusing to withdraw a rape case. Furthermore, a schoolgirl from an ethnic minority community, a mentally unstable woman, and a woman were raped after her child was taken hostage. In another case, after being released on bail in a rape case, the accused abducted the victim and threatened her to withdraw the case.¹⁷⁷ During this period, some rapists recorded videos of the assaults and used threats of uploading them to the internet to blackmail victims, repeatedly raping them or extorting money.¹⁷⁸
55. Allegations have been reported against members of law enforcement agencies for rape and for protecting rapists. During this period, there were allegations of rape against a senior police officer; threats by an Officer-in-Charge (OC) to the husband of a rape victim; the release of a detained rapist from a police station in exchange for a bribe; refusal by police to register cases¹⁷⁹; and the rape of a female police officer by a male police officer inside a police barracks.
56. There have been allegations of rape against political leaders and activists.¹⁸⁰ Rape allegations were reported against leaders and activists of the BNP and the Awami League¹⁸¹ and their affiliated organisations.

¹⁷⁴ In this report, only data on girl children have been included in cases of child rape.

¹⁷⁵ Samakal, 11 March 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/284874/>

¹⁷⁶ Manabzamin, 28 April 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=158506>

¹⁷⁷ Amar Desh, 17 December 2025; https://images.dailymarsh.com/cropped-images/image_sl12_row11_date_17-12-2025_edition_2_page2_50795_589919_updated_watermarked_fca5a84b-27a1-44e4-83e1-03c19cd09905.jpg

¹⁷⁸ Jugantor, 5 April 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-bangla-face/937205>

¹⁷⁹ Manabzamin, 22 July 2025; <https://m.mzamin.com/news.php?news=171681>

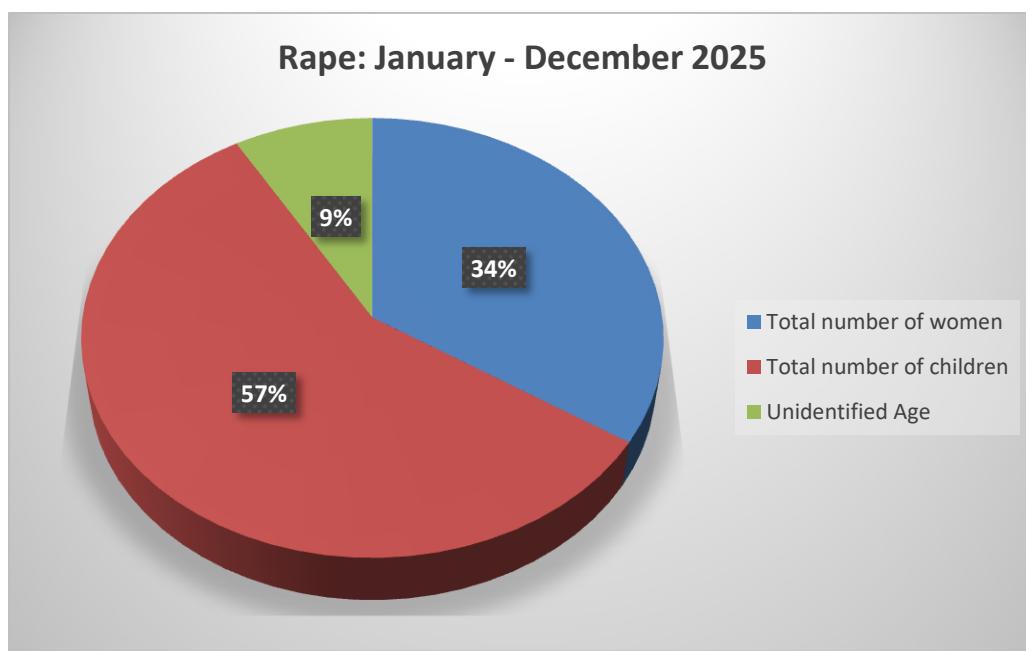
¹⁸⁰ Manabzamin, 1 May 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=159005>

¹⁸¹ Manabzamin, 29 December 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=196249>

- On 8 January, a group of criminals led by Jubo Dal leader Mohsin Mia abducted two women, gang-raped them, and threatened to spread videos of the rape on Facebook in Nangalkot, Cumilla.¹⁸²
- On 16 March, in Gadkhali, Jhikargacha, Jashore, a young woman who had come to visit Gadkhali was gang-raped by four leaders and activists of the JCD at various levels, including Al Mamun Hossain, General Secretary of the Gadkhali Union JCD.¹⁸³

57. A bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court directed that necessary steps be taken to prevent arbitration or settlement in rape cases.¹⁸⁴ Despite this order of the High Court Division, many rape incidents have been settled through arbitration, enabling influential local figures and political leaders to earn large sums of money.¹⁸⁵ There have even been incidents in which rape survivors were forced, through village arbitration, to marry their rapists.¹⁸⁶

58. **According to Odhikar's findings, in 2025, a total of 885 women and girl children were victims of rape. Among them, 302 were women, 508 were girl children (below the age of 18 years), and the ages of 75 victims could not be determined. Of the 302 women, 80 women were victims of gang rape, nine were killed and two women committed suicide. Among the 508 girl children, 54 were victims of gang rape, 24 were killed, and two committed suicide.**



¹⁸² Jugantor, 13 January 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/903050>

¹⁸³ Prothom Alo, 16 March 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/ecnyboyeqi>

¹⁸⁴ Dhaka Tribune, 22 October 2025; https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/394575/writ-seeks-ban-on-marriage-between-rapists-and?utm_source=chatgpt.com

¹⁸⁵ Jugantor, 10 April 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/939677>

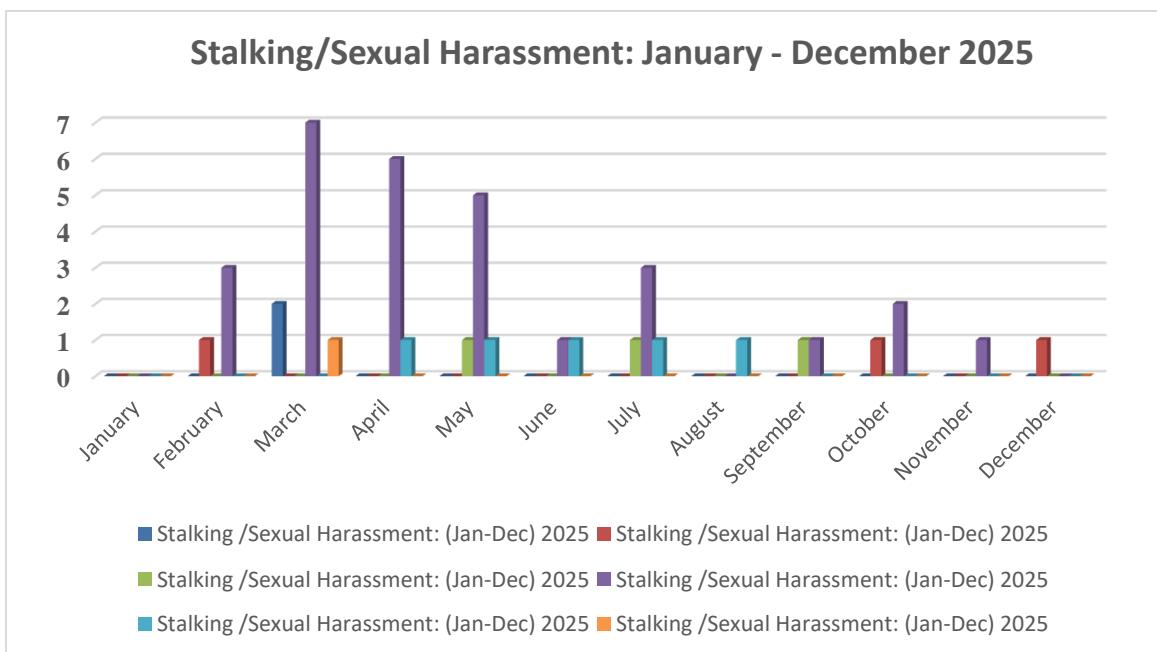
¹⁸⁶ Manabzamin, 21 August 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=176394>

B. Stalking/Sexual Harassment

59. In 2025, numerous incidents of stalking and sexual harassment against women were reported. Women were subjected to sexual harassment by men from various social and professional backgrounds. There were widespread allegations of sexual harassment of students by teachers at schools, colleges, and universities.¹⁸⁷

- During this period, seven female doctors were sexually harassed through the circulation of morphed images and videos, and a female teacher of Dhaka University was harassed by altering her personal photos and spreading them on Facebook.¹⁸⁸
- In addition, members of teenage gangs allegedly harassed women of different ages in schools, colleges, and on the streets.¹⁸⁹
- For protesting sexual harassment, the victim's husband, the victim's father, the victim's grandfather, and two female relatives of the victim were killed. In another incident, when a village arbitration meeting (salish) was convened to resolve a sexual harassment case, an argument between the two sides led to the beating to death of the girl's father.¹⁹⁰

60. According to Odhikar's findings, in 2025, a reported total of 43 women and girl children were victims of stalking/sexual harassment. In addition, while protesting incidents of sexual harassment against women and children, three men were killed, 16 men were injured. Moreover, three women were killed and two women were injured due to protest of stalking/sexual harassment.



¹⁸⁷ Manabzamin, 6 July 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=169148>

¹⁸⁸ Samakal, 4 November 2025; <https://samakal.com/law-justice/article/323743/>

¹⁸⁹ Jugantor, 3 January 2025; https://epaper.jugantor.com/storage/2025-01-03/2/link_img_second_ed_1735871137_21.jpg

¹⁹⁰ Samakal. 3 August 2025: <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/308605/>

C. Dowry-related Violence

61. Violence against women over dowry demands persisted in 2025. During this period, housewives were killed for failing to meet dowry demands—by slitting their throats, beating, strangulation, and burning to death. In some incidents, women who were killed or subjected to violence were pregnant. In addition, incidents were reported in which housewives' heads were shaved as punishment for dowry disputes, and women were set on fire and seriously injured.¹⁹¹

- On 4 March, a housewife named Marjahan Akhtar Jhumur was beaten to death by her husband, Syedur Rahman Touhid, and his family members over dowry demands in Feni Sadar Upazila.¹⁹²
- On 8 June, a housewife named Rezwana was burned to death by her husband, Abdul Karim, for failing to provide a dowry of five hundred thousand taka in Rangpur.¹⁹³
- On 6 August, a housewife named Fatema Begum was allegedly killed by her husband Hasan, a leader of the Swechchhasebak Dal¹⁹⁴, for failing to provide a dowry of one hundred thousand taka in Lakshmipur Sadar Upazila. When police arrested Hasan in connection with the incident, the district unit Jubo Dal general secretary, Syed Rashidul Hasan Lincoln, reportedly secured his release from the police station.¹⁹⁵
- On 23 December, a housewife named Jesmin Ara (22) was beaten to death over dowry demands in Manda, Naogaon. Police arrested the victim's husband, father-in-law, and mother-in-law on charges of involvement in the killing.¹⁹⁶

62. **In 2025, according to Odhikar's findings, a total of 67 women were victims of dowry-related violence. Among them, 37 women were killed due to dowry demands, 27 women were subjected to various forms of abuse, and three women committed suicide.**

IV. WORKERS AND THEIR RIGHTS

63. Dissatisfaction among workers in the readymade garments (RMG) industry continued in 2025.¹⁹⁷ There are allegations that the country's primary source of export earnings—the RMG sector—was deliberately destabilized. During Sheikh Hasina's tenure, many garment factory owners allegedly engaged in unchecked plundering and laundered vast sums of money abroad, causing severe damage to the country's economy, including the banking sector.¹⁹⁸ To implement these plans, a network was reportedly formed whose members, in exchange for money, were involved in blockades, processions, arson, and

¹⁹¹ Jugantor, 24 March 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/country-news/933338>

¹⁹² Manabzamin, 17 March 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=152769>

¹⁹³ Prothom Alo, 14 June 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/udb8txxli>

¹⁹⁴ Voluntary wing of BNP

¹⁹⁵ Jugantor, 11 August 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/index.php/tp-news/988850>

¹⁹⁶ Naya Diganta 23 December 2025; <https://dailynayadiganta.com/bangladesh/country-news/HUKGY5a5dCVO>

¹⁹⁷ Manabzamin, 6 January 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=142849>

¹⁹⁸ Jugantor, 18 February 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/918100>

other acts of sabotage.¹⁹⁹ As a result of this planned unrest, 119 garment factories were shut down by mid-February 2025.²⁰⁰

64. During the previous authoritarian regime, forming trade unions in garment factories was risky for workers. Moreover, under the labour law, the consent of 20 percent of the workers was required to form a trade union, making union formation difficult. At that time, nominal trade unions were formed in some garment factories, most of which worked in favour of the factory owners. On 23 October, the Advisory Council of the Interim Government gave final approval to amendments to the previous law by promulgating the *Labour Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025*. Under this Ordinance, instead of requiring the consent of 20 percent of the workers, a trade union can now be formed with the agreement and membership of only 20 workers. The new labour law has significantly simplified the process of forming and registering trade unions. Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for workers have been strengthened so that disputes can be settled without resorting to court proceedings.²⁰¹
65. During this reporting period, workers organised protests, demonstrations, and road blockades demanding wage increase, payment of arrears, reopening of factories, and protesting worker layoffs and physical assaults on workers. In addition, clashes between workers and the joint forces resulted in injuries to workers, police personnel, and members of the armed forces.²⁰² Journalists were also injured while attempting to collect news on these incidents.²⁰³



Workers' protest in Gazipur demanding payment of overdue wages. Photo: Jugantor, 18 January 2025.

¹⁹⁹ Jugantor, 18 February 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/918100>

²⁰⁰ Jugantor, 18 February 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/918100>

²⁰¹ Samakal, 24 October 2025; <https://samakal.com/bangladesh/article/321967/>

²⁰² Manabzamin, 26 March 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=154090>

²⁰³ Prothom Alo, 22 January 2025; <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/vds1mz33r0>



Clashes between police and garment workers in front of the Secretariat over demands for wages and allowances. Photo: The Daily Star, 25 March 2025.

- On 14 October, a devastating fire broke out at a garment factory named *Anwar Fashion* and a chemical warehouse at Rupnagar of Mirpur in Dhaka. As a result of the incident, 16 workers were killed, and many others were burned and injured.²⁰⁴



A fire broke out at a garment factory and an adjacent chemical warehouse in Mirpur, in the capital. Photo: Prothom Alo, 15 October 2025.

²⁰⁴ Samakal, 15 October 2025; <https://samakal.com/capital/article/320505/>



A devastating fire at a chemical warehouse in Rupnagar, Mirpur, in the capital. Photo: Bangladesh Times, 14 October 2025.

V. RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES

66. In 2025, the human rights of members of religious and ethnic minority communities, and dissenting groups were violated in various parts of the country. During this period, they faced obstruction, threats, attacks, and acts of vandalism carried out by religious extremists and politically influential individuals. At the same time, miscreants sought to endanger religious minorities and create an atmosphere of religious intolerance by committing acts such as attaching beards to the faces of demons at 793 Durga Puja mandaps (sites of worship) during the autumn Durga Puja celebrations.²⁰⁵

- On 12 February, a cultural programme organised in Madhupur, Tangail, on the occasion of the 134th death anniversary of Fakir Lalor Shah, was cancelled due to protests and obstruction by the local Hefazat-e-Islam.²⁰⁶
- On 21 February, during the annual Urs²⁰⁷ of late Baul Abdul Rashid Boyati in Singair, Manikganj, a local BNP leader named Mithu, along with his followers, assaulted devotees attending the Urs. As a result, the event was disrupted and ultimately cancelled.²⁰⁸
- On 7 April, in Pangsha Upazila of Rajbari District, while a procession protesting Israel's brutality in Gaza was passing by an Ahmadiyya Jamaat prayer place, some miscreants attacked the prayer site, vandalized it, and broke its doors and windows.²⁰⁹
- On 13 June, when a Hindu religious gathering was organised at Kheturi Dham in Godagari of Rajshahi, under the initiative of the Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian Welfare Front, Ehsanul Kabir Tuku, a local BNP leader along with his associates attacked the venue, causing the event to be cancelled.²¹⁰

²⁰⁵ Amar Desh, 6 October 2025; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/national/ampjwhdnstdh9>

²⁰⁶ Samakal, 12 February 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/280460/>

²⁰⁷ Gathering to celebrate a religious person, usually on his death anniversary.

²⁰⁸ Samakal, 22 February 2025; <https://epaper.samakal.com/nogor-edition/2025-02-22/2/6243>

²⁰⁹ New Age, 9 April 2025; <https://www.newagebd.net/print/post/261900>

²¹⁰ Samakal, 14 June 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/300277>

- On 30 July a BNP-affiliated individual named Bablu led a group of people in two separate attacks on the homes of Santal, Dhangar, and Rabidas communities living on land owned by the government's Water Development Board along the Barnoi River in Bagsara Village under Paba Upazila in Rajshahi. The attackers vandalized and looted their houses. Following the attacks, residents fled their homes.²¹¹
- On 27 October, five families from the Kol community were evicted from Babudang Village under Godagari Upazila in Rajshahi by a court order. The victims alleged that no prior notice was given before the eviction. Their homes were demolished, leaving family members—including children—under the open sky.²¹²
- On 26 December, a group of miscreants vandalized the shrine of Hazrat Baba Shah Satya Pir in Thakurgaon municipal town.²¹³



By order of the court, five families from the Kol community were evicted last Monday afternoon. After the eviction, they have been staying in a bamboo grove. Photo: Samakal, 29 October 2025.

VI. BANGLADESH AND INDIA ISSUES

A. BSF and Border Violations

67. In 2025, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) continued to killed, tortured, injured, and abducted Bangladeshi citizens in and along the Bangladesh-India border areas.

- On 7 January, the BSF and Indian locals killed a Bangladeshi citizen named [Jahur Ali](#) at the Chunarughat border in Habiganj and took his body away.
- On 8 January, BSF shot a Bangladeshi youth named [Saidul Islam](#) at the Machimpur border in Bishwambhar Upazila of Sunamganj.
- On 7 February, a Bangladeshi farmer named [Rafiqul Islam](#) was tortured at the Shibganj border in Chapainawabganj while irrigating his agricultural land.

²¹¹ Jugantor, 5 August 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-lastpage/986392>

²¹² Samakal, 29 October 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/322686/>

²¹³ Samakal, 27 December 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/331335/>

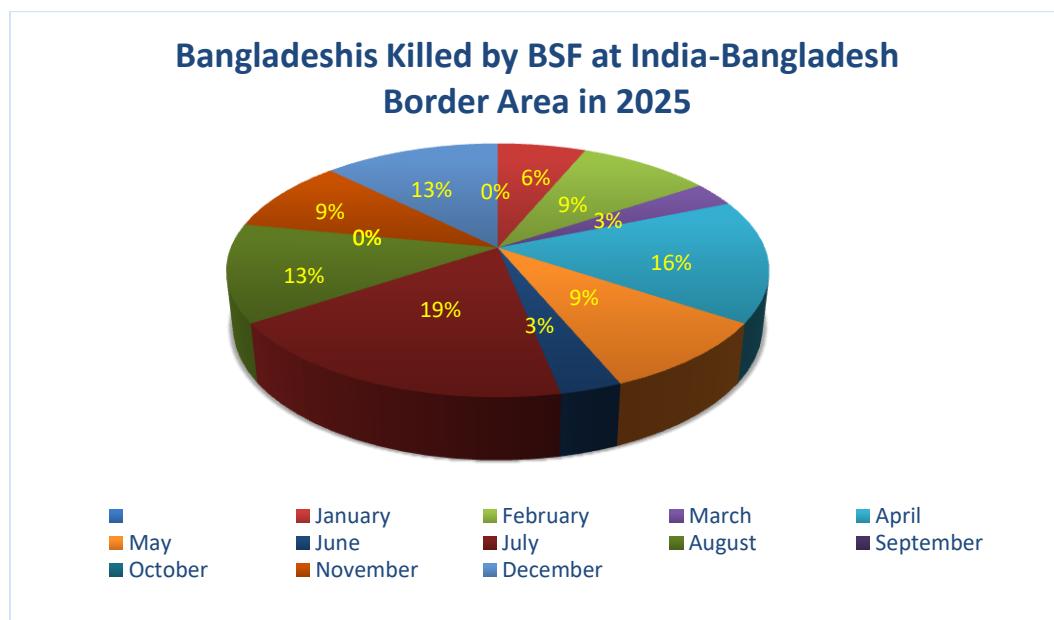
- On 7 March, BSF shot a Bangladeshi citizen named Mohammad Al Amin at the Bhitargarh border in Panchagarh.
- On 28 February, BSF shot a Bangladeshi citizen named Al Amin at the Kasba border in Brahmanbaria;
- On 27 April, BSF shot a Bangladeshi named Obaidur Rahman at the Maheshpur border in Jhenaidah.
- On 4 May, BSF shot a Bangladeshi youth named Sakib at the Madla border of Kasba Upazila in Brahmanbaria.
- On 17 May, BSF shot a Bangladeshi citizen named Nasir Uddin at the Maheshpur border in Jhenaidah.
- On 31 May, BSF shot a Bangladeshi youth named Pradip Baidya at the Kulaura border in Moulvibazar.
- On 15 June, BSF shot a Bangladeshi citizen named Raju Islam at the Ghagra border in Panchagarh.
- On 2 July, BSF shot a Bangladeshi youth named Ibrahim at the Damurhuda border in Chuadanga.
- On 12 July, BSF shot Askar Ali at the Haripur border in Thakurgaon and Shafiqul at Baganbari in Dowaрабazar of Sunamganj.
- On 24 July, BSF shot two Bangladeshi youths named Mohammad Liton and Mohammad Millat Hossain at the Parshuram border in Feni.
- On 31 July, BSF shot a Bangladeshi youth named Saibur Rahman at the Chapainawabganj border.
- On 2 August, BSF shot two Bangladeshi citizens named Shafikul Islam and Selim Reza at the Shibganj border in Chapainawabganj,
- On 29 August, BSF shot a Bangladeshi youth named Abdur Rahman at the Dana border in Kanaighat of Sylhet.
- On 29 November, BSF shot and killed a Bangladeshi youth named Shahidul Islam at the Jibannagar border in Chuadanga.
- On 8 April, BSF members detained, tortured, and killed a Bangladeshi farmer named Muradur Rahman Munna at the Bijoynagar border in Brahmanbaria when he went to check his paddy field.²¹⁴
- On 13 April, BSF members tortured and killed a Bangladeshi youth named Wasim and threw his body into the Ichamati River at the Maheshpur border in Jhenaidah.²¹⁵
- On 16 April, BSF members opened fire at Bangladeshi farmers when they were cutting grass, injuring a farmer named Hasinur at the Hatibandha border in

²¹⁴ Jugantor, 10 April 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-news/939340>

²¹⁵ Manabzamin, 13 April 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=156318>

Salmonirhat District. Later, BSF members entered Bangladeshi territory, stabbed Hasinur with bayonets, killed him, and took his body away.²¹⁶

68. As per Odhikar's findings, in 2025, BSF killed 32 Bangladeshi citizens. Among them 22 were shot dead and 10 were tortured to death, while 34 others were injured by BSF. Among them 23 were injured by bullet shot and 11 were subjected to torture. According to information from various media outlets and human rights activists working in the relevant border areas, as of 31 December 2025, 2,425 people—including women, children, and the elderly—were forcibly pushed into Bangladesh.²¹⁷



B. Forceful Displacement

69. The forceful displacement of persons from Indian territory into Bangladesh is not a new occurrence. One example being from as early as February 2003, when Amnesty International raised the alarm regarding the pushing in of some 213 people into Bangladesh from India.²¹⁸

70. In 2025, Bangladeshis residing in India, members of the Rohingya community, and Bengali-speaking Indian Muslim citizens were forcibly pushed into Bangladesh.²¹⁹ Most of those pushed back were compelled, through torture, to cross the zero line. BSF members even seized their belongings and cash.²²⁰

²¹⁶ Samakal, 16 April 2025; <https://samakal.com/whole-country/article/290602/>

²¹⁷ Jugantor, 18 June 2025; <https://www.dailymardesh.com/amar-desh-special/amdl23jbyoyte>

²¹⁸ Amnesty International Public Statement, 14 February 2003. <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/asa200072003en.pdf>

²¹⁹ Bangla Tribune, 28 July 2025; <https://www.banglatribune.com/country/sylhet/908990/>

²²⁰ Jugantor, 12 June 2025; <https://www.jugantor.com/tp-firstpage/964173>

C. Other Issues of Concern

71. The Indian ruling authorities violated the prisoner exchange agreement (extradition treaty) between the two countries by refusing to return former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to Bangladesh.²²¹ The two remain in India with special privileges provided by the Indian government. This enables them to conspire against Bangladesh.
72. Allegations have also emerged that firearms are being smuggled from India into Bangladesh for acts of sabotage.²²² On 26 October, the Bangladesh army seized eight foreign firearms and explosives from a train named *Banolata Express* at the Airport Railway Station in Dhaka. Four individuals were arrested in connection with the incident. The arrestees confessed that the weapons had come from Chobish Parganas in West Bengal of India.²²³ Furthermore, extremist Hindutva groups in India carried out attacks, vandalism and arson at Bangladesh's diplomatic missions and issued death threats to Bangladeshi diplomats.²²⁴

²²¹ Daily Star, 7 February 2025; <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/stop-hasina-making-false-remarks-3817666>

²²² Manabzamin, 6 October 2025; <https://mzamin.com/news.php?news=183341>

²²³ Amar Desh, 27 October 2025; https://images.dalyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_s14_row3_date_27-10-2025_edition_2_page1_260616_321759_updated_watermarked_6baf3964-ffcb-4b4c-a834-dbfaf6335b24.jpg,
https://images.dalyamardesh.com/cropped-images/image_s13_row2_date_27-10-2025_edition_2_page2_63177_719754_updated_watermarked_17116d53-578d-438c-bfed-4abcf9961d7.jpg

²²⁴ Amar Desh, 23 December 2025; <https://www.dalyamardesh.com/national/amdxwj4nziby>

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Along with ensuring transparency in the proceedings of the International Crimes Tribunal, justice and reparation must be ensured for victims, affected parties, and families who have lost relatives, so that their dignity is fully restored.
2. Members of law enforcement agencies involved in extrajudicial killings, torture, and other inhuman acts must be brought to justice. The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) must be disbanded.
3. The effective implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013 must be ensured. The directives issued by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court in 2003, and subsequently by the Appellate Division, in the *BLAST v. Bangladesh* case regarding the prevention of torture during remand must be implemented.
4. Leaders and activists of political parties must refrain from political violence and criminalization and work to advance the country along democratic paths. Political will is paramount to restoring human rights and dignity to all the citizens of Bangladesh.
5. Allegations of irregularities, negligence, and corruption by prison officials must be investigated and legal action taken. All forms of human rights violations against prisoners, including torture and abuse, must be stopped, and proper medical treatment for ill inmates must be ensured.
6. Freedom of expression and media freedom must be ensured at all levels. Incidents of attacks on journalists must be properly investigated, and those responsible must be brought to justice.
7. To ensure effective justice and accountability, a law on victim and witness protection must be enacted. At the same time, a separate law must be enacted to protect human rights defenders so that they can safely continue their work toward establishing good governance.
8. A thoroughly independent NHRC, staffed by persons with an unbiased focus on human rights and human dignity for all, is desperately required in Bangladesh. It is hoped that the next NHRC will be manned by such competence.
9. To end violence against women and children, not only must perpetrators be arrested and tried, society needs to be educated to raise awareness and understanding regarding issues of bullying and harassment, and to encourage the flourishing of mutual respect. Arbitration or informal settlements in cases of rape and violence against women must be stopped. To ensure justice for women, the police must conduct proper investigations, arrest the accused, and bring them to trial. The definition of 'rape' must be amended. Reservations to CEDAW must be withdrawn.
10. All forms of human rights violations, including the killing and torture of Bangladeshi citizens by India's Border Security Force (BSF) at the border, must be stopped. Illegal push-ins by the Indian government must cease, and arrangements must be made through appropriate diplomatic processes to repatriate Bangladeshi citizens illegally residing in India. India's acts of dominance over Bangladesh and its aggressive behavior must come to an end.

VIII. APPENDIX

A. Statistics on Human Rights Violations during the Interim Government Period

Statistics on Human Rights Violations during the Interim Government Period																				
9 August 2024 - 31 December 2025*																				
Type of Human Rights Violation		9-31 August '24	September '24	October '24	November '24	December '24	January '25	February '25	March '25	April '25	May '25	June '25	July '25	August '25	September '25	October '25	November '25	December '25	Total	
Extrajudicial killing		Tortured to death	0	5	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	18	
		Shot to death	0	4	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	2	2	5	0	1	1	0	20	
		Beaten to death	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	
		Total	0	9	1	1	1	5	3	1	1	4	3	6	3	2	2	1	45	
Death in Jail		4	5	4	3	4	6	6	7	12	5	5	11	11	5	11	14	9	122	
Death Penalty	Sentenced to death	18	10	38	8	0	7	11	6	14	42	6	46	31	5	29	23	3	297	
Human rights violations by Indian BSF		Bangladeshis Killed	1	2	2	0	5	2	3	1	5	3	1	6	4	0	0	3	4	42
		Bangladeshis Injured	2	0	1	2	1	3	5	1	1	4	0	4	8	2	0	4	2	40
		Push in	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1136	653	315	138	91	11	0	81	2425	
		Total	3	2	3	2	6	5	8	2	6	1143	654	325	150	93	11	7	87	2507
Attack on journalists		Injured	5	2	3	5	3	7	20	20	5	23	2	6	16	12	16	19	1	165
		Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
		Assaulted	0	0	2	2	2	4	1	5	3	3	10	1	0	10	13	2	32	90
		Attacked	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	10
		Threatened	3	0	0	1	2	0	3	2	9	2	0	3	2	4	5	5	1	42
		Sued	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	2	5	7	8	1	12	1	47
		Total	8	5	6	10	7	11	25	30	22	28	15	15	26	34	36	38	40	356
Political violence		Killed	33	19	19	10	9	14	13	44	31	22	21	19	12	15	18	18	11	328
		Injured	467	843	459	256	453	470	632	900	767	425	489	579	658	300	480	720	284	9182
		Total	500	862	478	266	462	484	645	944	798	447	510	598	670	315	498	738	295	9510
Electoral violence**		Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
		Injured	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25
		Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Dowry related violence against women		Killed	3	1	2	1	0	1	5	2	3	3	7	2	2	2	4	4	2	44
		Physically Abused	1	3	0	0	2	1	1	4	3	1	6	3	2	0	5	1	0	33
		Total Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
		Total	4	4	2	1	2	2	6	7	6	4	13	5	4	3	9	6	2	80
Rape		Girl under the age of 18	9	15	30	10	15	24	39	101	53	28	30	44	41	35	70	24	19	587
		Women	6	12	22	7	10	6	12	45	31	26	34	26	34	26	37	17	8	359
		Age could not be determined	3	2	1	0	0	18	14	21	8	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	81
		Total	18	29	53	17	25	48	65	167	92	61	71	70	75	61	107	41	27	1027
Sexual harassment /Stalking of females		1	2	3	1	0	0	4	10	7	7	2	5	1	2	3	1	1	1	50
Public Lynching		14	17	12	3	10	6	13	14	7	8	4	11	15	19	8	13	7	181	

* Odhikar documentation

**Since the announcement of the election schedule on 11 December 2025, incidents of political violence have been considered as electoral violence.

B. Statistics on Human Rights Violations during the Interim Government Period

Statistics on Human Rights Violations during Awami League Period : 2009- 5 August 2024*																		
Type of Human Rights Violation		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5 August 2024	Total
Extrajudicial killing	Crossfire	129	101	65	53	65	119	148	151	139	458	376	196	53	7	4	0	2064
	Shot to death	4	2	1	8	245	38	22	13	1	2	8	8	45	12	11	1	421
	Tortured to death	21	22	17	7	11	11	8	11	13	6	6	19	8	10	8	4	182
	Beaten to death	0	2	1	2	7	4	3	3	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	31
	Others	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
	Total	154	127	84	70	329	172	186	178	155	466	391	225	107	31	24	6	2705
Massacre**		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1400	
Death in Jail		50	60	105	63	59	54	51	63	58	81	60	76	72	68	128	63	1111
Death Penalty	Sentence to Death	—	76	97	77	291	176	173	241	303	319	327	218	320	338	390	233	3579
	Execution of Death Sentence	—	9	4	1	2	0	3	7	3	0	2	2	5	4	5	0	47
Human rights violations by Indian BSF	Bangladeshis Killed	98	74	31	38	29	35	44	29	25	11	41	51	17	18	28	15	584
	Bangladeshis Injured	77	72	62	100	79	68	60	36	39	24	40	27	12	21	28	23	768
	Total	175	146	93	138	108	103	104	65	64	35	81	78	29	39	56	38	1352
Attack on Journalists	Injured	84	118	139	161	146	92	90	53	24	71	45	74	43	103	183	135	1561
	Killed	3	4	0	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	5	26
	Assaulted	45	43	43	50	37	24	10	16	9	22	5	31	26	37	61	27	486
	Total	132	165	182	216	183	117	101	69	34	93	50	105	70	142	247	167	2073
Political violence	Killed	251	220	135	169	504	190	197	215	77	120	70	73	182	121	106	199	2829
	Injured	15559	13999	11532	17161	24176	9429	8312	9053	4635	7051	3467	2883	8558	7467	8731	6979	158992
	Total	15810	14219	11667	17330	24680	9619	8509	9268	4712	7171	3537	2956	8740	7588	8837	7178	161821
Dowry related violence against women	Killed	227	235	305	273	158	123	119	107	118	71	48	89	72	111	66	22	2144
	Physically Abused	81	122	192	535	261	103	77	94	127	69	55	106	118	100	66	23	2129
	Suicide	11	22	19	14	17	11	6	5	11	2	0	4	7	13	9	3	154
	Total	319	379	516	822	436	237	202	206	256	142	103	199	197	224	141	48	4427
Rape	Girl under the age of 18	243	311	450	473	452	393	479	511	553	457	737	919	809	656	452	201	8096
	Women	213	248	246	299	336	244	293	232	225	176	330	577	556	420	324	119	4838
	Age could not be determined	0	0	15	33	26	29	17	14	5	2	13	42	46	1	6	70	319
	Total	456	559	711	805	814	666	789	757	783	635	1080	1538	1411	1077	782	390	13253
Sexual harassment / Stalking of females		—	—	672	479	357	272	191	271	242	157	189	157	113	199	80	33	3412
Public Lynching		127	174	161	132	125	116	132	53	47	48	56	40	29	37	60	65	1402

* Odhikar documentation

**According to Fact-Finding Report by OHCHR has revealed that around 1,400 people were killed during the July 2024 uprising in Bangladesh by different law enforcement agencies, security forces and Awami League.

Website: www.Odhikar.org
Email: Odhikar.bd@gmail.com, Odhikar.documentation@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Odhikar.HumanRights>
Twitter: [@odhikar_bd](https://twitter.com/odhikar_bd)
Cell Number: +880 1335 084 080

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.
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.