

100 Days of Dr Yunus: **MOBOCRACY IMPERILS BANGLADESH'S REFORMS**



RIGHTS AND RISKS ANALYSIS GROUP

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Table of Contents

1. Postscript as prologue: The world is failing to recognise Noble Laureate Dr Yunus	3
2. Political repression continues unabated: Cases filed against 2,71,587 persons from 5 August to 31 October 2024	5
3. Deterioration of press freedom	13
3.1 Cases against journalists	13
3.2. Cancellation of press accreditation	17
3.3. Sedition invoked	18
4. Compliant judiciary established	19
5. Dissenting NHRC dissolved	19
6. Mob rule and release of the identified terrorists for political considerations	20
7. International War Crimes Tribunal: Wielding Hasina's Stick	22
8. Attempt to establish Awami League free Bangladesh	23
9. Indigenous Peoples: Dr Yunus says no to implementation of the CHTs Accord!	25
10. Religious minorities: Dr Yunus justifies increased attacks for being Awami League supporters	26
11. Cyber Security Act continues to be invoked	29
12. Lip service to the OHCHR	30
13. Reforms: Alibi to remain in power?	30
Annexure-1: Monthly Report (October 2024) of the NHRC Bangladesh	3
Endnotes	40

100 Days of Dr Yunus: Mobocracy Imperils Bangladesh's Reforms

First published: 18 November 2024

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Published by:



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1. Postscript as prologue: The world is failing to recognise Noble Laureate Dr Yunus

It took a 'textbook example of ethnic cleansing' of the Rohingyas in Myanmar¹ for many in the world to wake up to Noble Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Another Noble Laureate Dr Mohammed Yunus, Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, who took oath on 8 August 2024,² continues to enjoy *largesse* notwithstanding replicating every act of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through the mob rule i.e. whims and fancies of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement leaders and increased violations of the rights of the indigenous peoples and religious minorities. The indemnity issued by the Bangladesh Government which barred the law enforcement personnel from arresting or filing cases against anyone involved in the July-August uprising³ in which at least 44 policemen were killed⁴ remains unprecedented and is an act not done by Sheikh Hasina!

Gross human rights violations committed during the first 100 days of Dr Yunus with impunity as summarized below expose little or no improvement of human rights situation in Bangladesh:

- Criminal cases against at least 2,72,316 persons, mainly political opponents, in 1,598 cases from August to October 2024;
- Targeting of about 354 journalists including acts of violence against at least 74 journalists, criminal cases against at least 113 journalists and cancellation of press accreditation of at least 167 journalists;
- Establishment of compliant judiciary by removing five Supreme Court judges including the Supreme Court Chief Justice⁵ and 12 High Court judges because of the protests of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement;⁶
- Dissolving the NHRC by forcing all the members to resign on 7 November because of the critical monthly report in October⁷ which were contrary to the Interim Government's claims on law and order situation;
- Use of the discredited International War Crimes Tribunal against political opponents in more than 80 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide filed as of 4 November 2024;⁸
- Increased attacks on indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHTs) from 19 September to 1 October 2024 in which at least four indigenous persons were killed, 75

indigenous hill people were seriously injured and at least 142 houses, shops and other business establishments, properties, Buddhist temples were looted, destroyed or set ablaze⁹ on which the report of the government's Inquiry Commission has not been made public as yet;

- Complete "NO" to the implementation of the CHTs Peace Accord by Dr Mohammed Yunus;¹⁰
- Over 2,000 cases of alleged attacks on the religious minorities¹¹ dismissed by Dr Yunus without any investigation that the Hindu minorities faced attacks because "*there is no clear distinction between Awami League supporters and Hindus*";¹²
- Effective ban on the freedom of association and peaceful assembly by the indigenous peoples and the religious minorities as shown from the systematic attacks upon indigenous peoples from 19 September to 1 October in the Chittagong Hill Tracts following the "March For Identity" organized by "*Sanghat O Boishamyo Birodhi Pahari Chhatra Andolan*" (Anti Conflict & Discrimination Tribal Students Movement) at Khagrachari on 18 September 2024,¹³ and registration of a case naming 582 people, mainly Hindus as accused after acts of violence upon the Hindus on 5 November in the Hazari Gali area Chittagong;¹⁴
- Continuous use of the draconian Cyber Security Act with 11 cases having been filed with no signs for repeal of the Act;
- Indemnity issued by the Bangladesh Home Ministry barring the law enforcement personnel from arresting or filing cases against anyone involved in the July-August uprising¹⁵ in which at least 44 policemen were killed;¹⁶ and
- Attempt to establish 'Awami League Free Bangladesh' by banning its students wing, Chhatra League, as a terrorist organization, excluding the Awami League led 14-party alliance from any discussion on the proposed reforms and thereby seeking the Awami League ban from participation in the elections.

Dr Yunus is still not being questioned despite these gross human rights violations, indeed repeating everything that was wrong with Hasina's tenure: political intolerance and exclusion, silencing press freedom, making judiciary compliant, dissolving the NHRC, using the International War Crimes Tribunal, the Cyber Security Act and sedition against political opponents etc. In fact, under Dr Yunus there have been more attacks on indigenous peoples and the religious minorities. What is more worrying is the mob-rule: Dr Yunus's Interim Government using the students to justify all the illegal and unconstitutional acts including to remain in power as long as he wishes.

As late as 14 November, Dr Yunus reiterated that elections will be held only after reforms.¹⁷ These reforms can take months or years, and he can remain in power even though these reforms can be effectively rejected by the next elected government.



And none can question these proposed reform measures or delay in holding elections because of the fear of the mob. Even the main political party, Bangladesh National Party, has been hesitant to be not seen as against the students. The Jamaat-e-Islami has become the key support system for Dr Yunus's government. By banning the Chhatra League, the student's wing of the Awami League, as a terrorist organization¹⁸ and burning down the headquarters of the Jatiya Party, an ally of the Awami League, on the night of 31 October¹⁹ with impunity, the Interim Government appears to have chosen the path of no return.

Dr Yunus appears to have squandered the opportunity for establishing genuine democracy in Bangladesh through national reconciliation. If the international community continues to support so-called reforms for the sake of support without taking into account the basic fact that wide ranging reforms being undertaken need not be acceptable to the next elected government, Bangladesh is bound to fail.

Therefore, the recommendations of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to allow his office to be established in Bangladesh to support the *“transition process” including by “offering advice on legal, institutional, economic and social reforms, transitional justice, reconciliation, and healing”*²⁰ remain critical.

It is abundantly clear that on the issue of addressing human rights violations during the first 100 days, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr Volker Türk²¹ and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights appeared to have been more assertive and upfront than many international NGOs monitoring the situation in Bangladesh. This does not bode well for Bangladesh.

2. Political repression continues unabated: Cases filed against 2,71,587 persons from 5 August to 31 October 2024

“It is key that criminal cases are not filed against individuals solely on the basis of their previous political affiliation, including members or supporters of Awami League.”- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk in his concluding remarks after official visit to Bangladesh on 30 October 2024.²²

Dr Mohammed Yunus led government has surfaced the track records of all previous governments to file cases against political opponents in the first 100 days.

Criminal cases have been filed against at least 2,72,316 persons, mainly political opponents, in 1,598 cases from August to October 2024. These include cases filed against 57,727 identified accused and 2,14,589 unknown accused persons. In August, about 268 cases were filed against 194,819 persons, including 26,264 named accused and about 1,68,555 unknown accused.²⁸



In September, 238 cases were filed against 49,518 persons, including 19,283 named accused and 30,235 unnamed accused. In October, 1,092 cases were filed against 27,979 persons, including 12,180 named persons and 15,799 unknown persons.²⁴ The filing of politically motivated cases continues unabated.

Hundreds of political leaders have been arrested in the cases. Most of these arrests are arbitrary and fall within “Category III” of arbitrary detention as defined by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention i.e. *“When the total or partial non-observance of the international norms relating to the right to a fair trial, spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the relevant international instruments accepted by the States concerned, is of such gravity as to give the deprivation of liberty an arbitrary character”*.²⁵

The cases filed are not aimed to establish accountability for crimes but to throttle democratic space for all those associated with the Awami League led 14-Party alliance. The absolute political intolerance is reflected from the burning down of the headquarters of the Jatiya Party, formed by late President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on the night of 31 October 2024 at Kakrail area, the heart of the capital Dhaka.²⁶

According to data released by the Police Headquarters (PHQ), at least 1,474 cases were filed nationwide in connection with the violence that occurred in July-August. These cases were filed between 6 August and 25 September. In these 1,474 cases, a total of 92,486 people, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ex-ministers, political leaders, and police personnel, were implicated, mostly involving murder charges. Further, the PHQ data shows that only 779 people were arrested between 5 August and 25 September 25 in the July-August violence cases. According to PHQ data, a total of 1,174 cases were filed against 390 former ministers, MPs, advisers to the prime minister, and city corporation mayors from 6 August 6 to 25 September. Among the accused, 59 individuals, including former ministers, state ministers, and advisers to Hasina, were arrested.²⁷

The former premier herself is facing the highest 220 cases. Her sister, Sheikh Rehana, is implicated in 22 cases, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy in 19, daughter Saima Wazed Putul in four, and nephew Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby in one. Among former cabinet members, home minister Asaduzzaman Khan is facing the second-highest total of 199 cases, followed by road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader with 169, foreign minister Hasan Mahmud with 72, and law minister Anisul Huq with 59. AL presidium member Jahangir Kabir Nanak has been accused in 41 cases, while former adviser on private industry and investment Salman F Rahman faces 24. Other notable figures facing lawsuits include Mohammad A Arafat, former state minister for information and broadcasting, with 54 cases; Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former state minister for posts, telecommunications, and IT with 44; and AKM Shamim Osman, former Narayanganj-4 lawmaker, with 41. Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, the former mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation, is facing 38 lawsuits, and former Dhaka North City Corporation mayor Md Atiqul Islam has 20 against him. Chhatra League President Saddam Hossain and Secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Inan have been implicated in 31 and 30 cases respectively. Shahriar Kabir, former president of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, has been accused in nine cases.²⁸

Additionally, around 300 cases have been filed against 449 current and former police officials. Of them, 17 individuals, including two former inspectors general of police, have been arrested so far. Of the lawsuits, 136 were filed against four former IGPs, 182 against 16 former additional Inspector General of Police (IGPs), 25 against four additional IGPs, 23 against six former deputy inspectors general (DIG), 140 against seven serving DIGs, 197 against 26 serving additional DIGs, and 97 against 42 serving SPs.²⁹

After the filing of these cases, many police officials have gone into hiding, and some left the country, according to sources in the police force.

It has become a fashion in Bangladesh to file cases against hundreds of unnamed persons in one complaint to persecute the political opponents:

- On 1 September, a case was filed against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader in Gazipur in connection with the killing of Md Kabir, son of Abdur Rahman on 5 August. Kabir's mother Jamila Khatun lodged the case against Hasina, Quader and 84 named and 400/500 unidentified people.³⁰
- On 1 September, a case was filed against Sheikh Hasina, former Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, former Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, Supreme Court lawyer Tania Amir and 293 others in connection with the death of student Imran Hossain at Kutubkhali in Jatrabari area on 5 August. Victim's mother Kohinur Akhter filed the case against the accused with Jatrabari Police Station. Former Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu, prosecutors of International Crimes Tribunal Muklesur Rahman Badal and Syed Haider Ali, former information adviser to the former Prime Minister Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, president of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahriyar Kabir, Chief Executive Officer and Editor of Ekattor TV Mozammel Haque Babu and senior journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul were among the accused.³¹
- On 1 September, a murder case was filed against Nasir Uddin, Chairman of the private TV channel MyTV, his son, content creator Tawhid Afridi, Sheikh Hasina and 25 others at Jatrabari police station by one Md Zainal Abedin. Sheikh Hasina was named as the main accused, former Minister Obaidul Quader as the second accused and former IGP Abdullah Al Mamun as third accused. Tawhid Afridi is listed as the 11th accused, while his father, Nasir Uddin Sathi, is the 22nd. A total of 25 people were named as accused in this murder case, in addition to 150 unidentified individuals.³²
- On 2 September, the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court ordered the acceptance of a murder case filed by the family of 15-year-old Chabid Hossain, who was shot in the head by police on 5 August during a protest. The case

names 75 individuals, including former minister of Road Transport and Bridges Obaidul Quader, senior police officers, and members of the Awami League and its affiliates.

- On 2 September, one Abu Bakar, who claims to be the Convener of Ward 63 Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, filed two cases with Jatrabari police station in connection with the deaths of Sakib Hasan (22) and Jahangir Alam (50) on 18 and 19 July. The same 442 persons were accused in both the cases. Interestingly, the complainant, Bakar is not related to either of the victims and filed the cases without informing the families. Members of Sakib and Jahangir's families were surprised when they were informed of the cases. Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former ministers - Obaidul Quader, Amir Hossain Amu, Hasan Mahmud, Asaduzzaman Khan, Dipu Moni, former inspectors general of police AKM Shahidul Hoque, Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun were among the accused. Most of the other accused were leaders and activists of the Awami League, particularly from the Jatrabari, Demra, and Kadamtali areas.⁸³
- On 2 September, a case was filed in Kishoreganj under Pakundia Upazila against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader in Gazipur in connection with the killing of Shifat Ulla on 5 August. This case was filed by Shifat's father Hafez Maulana Nuruzzaman accusing 42 named, including Hasina and Quader, and 150/200 unidentified people.⁸⁴
- On 4 September, a case was filed against Sheikh Hasina and 26 others in connection with the death of Amir Hossain, a resident of Paschim Rampura in Dhaka on 19 July during the quota reform movement. Victim's wife Anni filed the case with the Court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Afnan Sumi. Former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and several leaders and activists of Awami League and its front organisations were among the accused in the case.⁸⁵
- On 4 September, one Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan filed a case at Feni Model police station against Sheikh Hasina, Obaidul Quader and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal for the killing of his brother Mahbubul Hasan Masum in the Mohipal area during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement. A total of 162 people were named in the case while 500 others were made unnamed accused.⁸⁶
- On 5 September, a case was filed against former Awami League lawmaker from Gazipur-4 constituency (Kapasia) Simeen Hussain Rimi and 31 others

for allegedly attacking students in Gazipur on 4 August during the mass protests. Sajidul Islam, father of Sagar who was stabbed during the protest, filed the case with Kapasia Police Station. Besides, 60 unidentified people were made accused in the case.⁸⁷

- On 6 September, a case was filed at Feni Model police station, by one Ashia Begum of Momin Tailor of Fatehpur area in Sharshdi union of Sadar upazila against the killing her husband Zafar Ahmad during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement on 5 August in the jail road of the district town. With former MP of Feni-3 constituency Lt General (Retd.) Masud Uddin Chowdhury as the main accused, 205 people were named and 150 others were made unnamed accused in the case.⁸⁸
- As on 7 September, in Feni district alone, a total of eight murder cases were registered against 3037 people, including ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Awami League (AL) General Secretary Obaidul Quader, for killing nine people during the anti-discrimination student movement in the district. According to Feni police station authorities, 301 people were charged in the Shihab murder case, 305 people in the Shravan murder case, 334 people in the Masud murder case, 465 people in the Sabuj murder case, 371 people in the Sakib murder case and 244 people in another murder case.⁸⁹
- On 9 September, two cases were filed against 154 persons including Sheikh Hasina for the deaths of two people during the student-led mass protests in Dhaka's Jatrabari on 18 July and 5 August. In the first case, Hasina and 118 others were charged in the death of 38-year-old Md Wasim Sheikh on 18 July. Md Zahid Hossain, the victim's brother, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saddam Hossain, which directed the officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station to register it as a first information report (FIR). The other case was filed against Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul and 33 others over the death of 14-year-old Md Mahmudul Hasan Joy during the quota reform movement in Jatrabari area on 5 August. Md Robiul Awal, a well-wisher of the victim's family, filed the case with the same court.⁴⁰
- On 11 September, a murder case was filed against 422 individuals, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in connection with the death of rickshaw puller Abdul Mannan in Bogra. The case was filed by Abdul Mannan's son, Rana Hamid at Bogra Sadar police station. According to the plaintiff's statement, Abdul Mannan was shot dead during a student movement at the Baragola traffic junction in Bogra on 4 August. In the case, Sheikh Hasina

and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader were named as those who ordered the incident.⁴¹

- On 11 September, a case was filed against former Member of Parliament Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman and 97 others on the charges of attacking students and the public during the student movement in Habiganj. The case was filed at Chunarghat police station in Habiganj by Md Mostafizur Rahman from Noagaon in Habiganj. Another 150 to 200 unknown individuals were accused in the case. According to the complaint, on 16 July students and the public gathered at Shayestaganj's new bridge roundabout on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway during the student movement. Around 4:30pm that day, under the instructions of former MP for Habiganj-4, Sayedul Haque Suman, a group of people attacked the protesters. The accused assaulted the leaders and activists of the anti-discrimination student movement with local weapons, resulting in numerous injuries. During the movement, under Barrister Suman's instructions, accused Manik Sarkar attacked Aliur Rahman from Borgaon village with a machete. Another accused, Kabir Mia Khandaker, severely beat the complainant with a rod, causing serious injuries. Other accused individuals also violently attacked the protesting students and public with weapons.⁴²
- On 2 October 2024, in three separate cases more than 500 activists of the Awami League (AL) and its affiliated organization were accused for vote fraud, anarchy, and attacks on BNP leaders and activists of the anti-discrimination student movement.⁴³
- On 8 October a case was filed against former MP Abdur Rahman Bodi, his wife Shahin Akhtar, 70 other named individuals and an additional 300-400 unnamed persons on charges of attempted murder, shooting, damaging property and issuing death threats. Md Rafique, a local leader of the Jubo Dal, filed the case with the Teknaf Model police station. According to the case document, on 4 August during the anti-discrimination student movement, under the leadership and incitement of former MP Abdur Rahman Bodi and his wife Shaheen Akhtar, the accused opened fire indiscriminately with firearms and sharp weapons, aiming to kill the protesting students. Among the notable accused include Nurul Bashar, President of the Upazila Awami League, Nurul Alam, President of the Upazila Youth League and former Upazila Chairman, Acting General Secretary Fazlul Kabir, Volunteer League President Sarwar Alam, and other local leaders such as Nur Hossain, Rashed Mahmud Ali, and Amzad Hossain Khokon. Municipal Youth League leaders Rezaul Karim, Mohammad Abdullah, Mujibur Rahman, and Upazila Student League President Saiful Islam Munna and General Secretary Nurul Mostafa. Earlier

on 20 August former MP Abdur Rahman Bodi was arrested by RAB in Chittagong.⁴⁴

- On 9 October, a case was filed against 251 persons, including Alauddin Ahmed Chowdhury Nasim, the former MP of the Feni-1 constituency and ex-Protocol Officer of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as the prime accused, seven years after the attack on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade in Chhagalnaiya, Feni. Additionally, 150-200 unidentified people were also charged. The case was filed by Sultan Mohammad Sikandar Bhutto, former Finance Secretary of the Chhagalnaiya upazila unit of BNP, at Chhagalnaiya police station. According to the case statement, on 28 October 2017 during Khaleda Zia's trip to Cox's Bazar to visit Rohingya refugee camps and distribute relief, her motorcade was attacked by Awami League activists at Muhuriganj on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway.⁴⁵
- On 17 October, an attempted murder case was filed against noted Supreme Court Lawyer ZI Khan Panna over injuring a youth during the mass student-led protests. One Md Baker filed the case with Khilgaon police station, accusing 180 persons including Panna on charge of shooting his son Ahadul Islam on 19 July. According to the case statement, Ahadul and other protesters were demonstrating near Meradia Bazar when numerous named defendants, along with unidentified members of the BGB, police personnel and Awami League leaders and activists allegedly opened fire at the instigation of other accused individuals. Other accused in the case include Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Khan and current Director General of the BGB, Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui. ZI Khan Panna condemned Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus over his "reset button" comment and for filing cases that broadly accuse individuals of murder. He argued that these cases are designed to intimidate people, hindering the pursuit of justice for the victims.⁴⁶
- On 21 October 2024, activists of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement in Dhaka filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station, Dhaka against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina as the prime accused, 391 other named people and around 1,000 unnamed people, including leaders and activists from the Chhatra League, Awami League and Jubo League in connection with the July 15 attack on the quota reform protesters at Dhaka University.⁴⁷
- On 21 October, a case was filed against Sheikh Hasina and 236 others at Jatrabari Police Station in Dhaka in connection with the shooting death of Abdul Hannan, a Labour Party activist. The case was filed at the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Court by Dipukul Islam Dipu, the brother-in-law of

the deceased. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ali Haider recorded the plaintiff's statement and instructed the Jatrabari police station to register the case as an official complaint. Apart from Sheikh Hasina, other identified accused included Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, former Member of Parliament Moshir Rahman Mollah Sajal and Shamim Osman. As per the case, on the afternoon of 5 August during an anti-discrimination protest march near Jatrabari Police Station, Abdul Hannan was shot in the head and died instantly.⁴⁸

- On 18 October, a case was filed with the Rampura police station in Dhaka in the killing of Sohan Shah, 30, in the capital's Shahbagh during the student movement against discrimination. According to the case statement, a total 57 people were made accused and some 200-300 people were mentioned as unidentified accused persons.⁴⁹
- On 27 October, a new case was registered at Shahbagh Police Station against 220 people in connection with the attack on students at Dhaka University on 15 July. The case was filed by Anti-discrimination Student Movement Coordinator Arman Hossain. It lists an additional 150 to 200 unidentified suspects. Among those named were leaders of Chhatra League President Saddam Hossain, General Secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Inan, Dhaka University BCL President Mazharul Kabir Shayon, DU BCL General Secretary Tanveer Hasan Saikat, Dhaka South BCL President Rajibul Islam Bappi, Dhaka South BCL General Secretary Sajal Kundu, and Dhaka North Chhatra League President Riaz Mahmud.⁵⁰
- On 29 October, a case was filed at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court in Dhaka by Mohammad Zaman Hossain Khan, a former leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of BNP against 196 people in connection with attempts to murder by indiscriminately firing at protestors during the students' movement. The accused included Sheikh Hasina, Sheikh Rehana, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, 53 former secretaries, among others.⁵¹

For example, ZI Khan Panna, senior Supreme Court lawyer and chairperson of the human rights organization Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), was involved in the legal struggle for students' legitimate demands and against their leaders' arrests was implicated in a n attempted murder case in which complainant, Mohammad Baker, a 52-year-old vegetable vendor in the Banasree area stated that he did not know the accused. Baker filed the case, in connection with an attempt to kill his son Ahadul Islam, 25, by shooting, at Khilgaon police station on October 17, naming Panna as an accused. Baker later clarified that he did not know how Panna's name had appeared in the list of accused and requested the police to relieve the lawyer from the case.⁵²

On the murder of Abdul Motalib, 14 years, from Moneshwar Govt Primary School after being shot on 4 August at Jigatola, Dhaka, his father, Abdul Matin, filed a murder case at Dhanmondi police station on 26 August against 20 accused. In the same case, Hazaribagh police registered murder case per court orders pursuant to the complaint filed by one Sheikh Md Masum Billah against victim Abdul Motaleb Munna, aged 12. The victim had no connection to the complainant - Motalib hailed from Begumganj, Noakhali, Masum hails from Ulipur, Kurigram. Matin's complaint named 177 accused, including former minister Shajahan Khan, later arrested by the police in the same case! This reflects the status of the police and the courts.⁵⁸

Similarly, in the killing of Mirajul Islam, 21 years, by police firing on 5 August on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, his father, Abdus Salam, filed a murder case at Jatrabari police station on 28 August 28 accusing 40 people, all from his home district of Lalmonirhat, most of whom are associated with the Awami League, as well as 300 unnamed individuals. Salam, who is a CNG-run auto rickshaw driver, could not justify why so many from his district were on the list of accused but said they were connected to local and national politics.⁵⁴

Most of these arrests are arbitrary and fall within "Category III" of arbitrary detention as defined by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention i.e. *"When the total or partial non-observance of the international norms relating to the right to a fair trial, spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the relevant international instruments accepted by the States concerned, is of such gravity as to give the deprivation of liberty an arbitrary character"*.⁵⁵

3. Deterioration of press freedom

After the fall of Hasina Government media freedom has increased but only for the opponents of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

During the first 100 days of Dr Yunus, about 354 journalists were targeted including acts of violence against at least 74 journalists, criminal cases against at least 113 journalists and cancellation of press accreditation of at least 167 journalists.

3.1 Cases against journalists

From 5 August to 31 October 2024, at least 74 journalists face acts of violence, at least 113 journalists faced prosecution in 18 cases and while the government revoked press accreditation of at least 217 journalists for their alleged links with the previous government including 20 journalists on 29 October,⁵⁶ 30 journalists on 3 November,⁵⁷ and 167 journalists on 7 November.⁵⁸

In August, 37 journalists faced violence such as torture, assault, threats and harassment in 14 incidents⁵⁹ while eight cases were lodged against journalists in connection with the violence during the anti-discrimination student movement. At least, 43 journalists were made accused out of whom journalists Shakeel Ahmed and Farzana Rupa, were arrested.⁶⁰

In September, 17 journalists faced violence such as assault, and threat in 17 incidents⁶¹ while at least 63 journalists were made accused in six cases filed in connection with the violence during the anti-discrimination student movement. Out of the six cases, 4 cases were murder cases, and the remaining 2 cases were due to allegations of harassment and torture, including not reporting correct news during the agitation. Among the accused, three journalists - Mozammel Babu, Shyamal Dutta, and Mahbubur Rahman were arrested.⁶²

In October, 20 journalists faced violence such as assault, threats etc in 20 incidents. Among them, 19 journalists were assaulted/ threatened and one journalist was killed.⁶³ While in October, at least seven journalists were made accused in four cases in connection with the violence in the anti-discrimination student movement. Of them, 3 were arrested.

The crackdown on press freedom has been widely condemned by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)⁶⁴ and the Reporters Without Borders⁶⁵ which called on the interim government to respect journalists' rights and ensure fair trials.

The emblematic cases are given below:

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The crackdown on press freedom has been widely condemned by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)⁷⁴ and the Reporters Without Borders⁷⁵ which called on the interim government to respect journalists' rights and ensure fair trials.

The emblematic cases are given below:

In August, eight (8) cases were lodged against journalists in connection with the violence during the anti-discrimination student movement and the subsequent violence. 25 journalists were made accused. Out of the 8 cases, 3 murder cases had been filed in Dhaka, 1 murder case in Bogra, 1 case in Sylhet under Explosives Act, 2 cases in Rangpur of which one is a murder case and the other is vandalism in BNP office in Pirganj, and 1 case was filed in Rajshahi under Extortion and Cyber Security Act. Two of the accused, journalists Shakeel Ahmed and Farzana Rupa, were arrested.

On 22 August, a murder case was filed against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 192 others, including seven journalists, over the death of a student, Nayeem Howlader during protests at Jatrabari in Dhaka on 19 July. The journalists were Mozammel Haque Babu, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of Ekattor TV; Syed Ishtiaque Reza, former Chief News Editor (CNE) of Ekattor TV; Ahmed Jobaer, a Director of Somoy TV; Munni Saha, former CNE of ATN News; Farzana Rupa, former Principal Correspondent of Ekattor TV; Shakil Ahmed, former head of news at Ekattor TV; and Nayeemul Islam Khan, Hasina's Press Secretary. Among them, couple Shakil and Farzana were on remand for four days in another murder case filed at Uttara East Police Station. They were arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Kamrul Islam, father of the student, filed the case at Jatrabari Police Station.⁷⁶

On 26 August, Sadikur Rahman Saki, the Sylhet representative of Channel I and Radio Today, was charged in a case under the Explosives Act in Sylhet.⁷⁷

On 27 August, three journalists were accused in a murder case in Bogra. They are Independent TV's Correspondent Hasibur Rahman Bilu, Daily Janakantha's Bogra correspondent Mahamudul Alam Nayan and Daily Kalerkantha's district correspondent JM Rauf.⁷⁸

On 29 August, lawyer MH Gazi Tamim filed a complaint with the ICT against Sheikh Hasina and 52 people including 32 senior journalists on the charge of genocide during the students' agitation in July.⁷⁹ The journalists include Mozammel Babu, Saiful Alam, Noyeem Nizam, Farida Yasmin, Shyamal Dutta, Abed Khan, Prabash Amin, Farzana Rupa, Shakil Ahmed, Mithila Farzana, Zayedul Ahsan Pintu, Nabanita Chowdhury, Subhash Singh Roy, Ahmed Zobair, Tushar Abdullah, Monjurul Islam, Ashish Saikat, Manash Ghosh, Pranab Saha, Masuda Bhatti, Munni Saha, J.E. Mamun, Swadesh Roy, Soma Islam, Shyamal Sarkar and Ajay Das.⁸⁰

According to the complaint, lodged by Abdur Razzak, father of Nasib Hasan Riyan, a student killed during the protests, the accused journalists were “sycophants” of the Awami League government and published false news to instigate the genocide and crimes against humanity committed by the then government and law enforcers, thereby giving legitimacy to those crimes.⁸¹ Out of these 26 journalists, Farzana Rupa, Shakil Ahmed, Mozammel Babu and Shyamal Dutta were in jail in connection with two murder cases during mass protests.⁸²

On 31 August, Farzana Rupa and her husband Shakil Ahmed, both former journalists at Ekattor TV, were jailed after being detained on 21 August in connection with two murder cases during mass protests.⁸³

On 16 September, police detained Mozammel Babu, Managing Director of Ekattor TV, and Senior Reporter Mahbubur Rahman, along with Shyamal Dutta, Editor of Bhorer Kagoj. The following day, a court placed Mozammel Babu and Shyamal Dutta in seven-day police remand, while Mahbubur Rahman and their driver were released.⁸⁴

On 16 September, Shahriar Kabir, journalist, author and activist, was arrested from his residence in connection with a murder case during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement in Jatrabari. On 20 October, Shahriar Kabir was placed on two-day remand by a court.⁸⁵

On 4 September, 28 journalists were among 109 people from Chattogram city shown as accused in a case filed over attempted abduction, assault and publishing fake news during the student protests. Hasina Mamtaz, a teacher of Mohara Sayra Khatun Quaderya Girls High School and College, filed the case with the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Juel Deb. The Court ordered the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate the case. Some of the journalists have been identified as Suklal Das of Dainik Azadi; Reaz Haidar Chowdhury and Azhar Mahmud of Bangladesh Pratidin; Pramal Kanti Dey Komol of Somoy TV; Anupam Shil of Independent TV; Debdulal Bhoumik, Secretary of Chattogram Press Club; Ratan Kanti Debasis, Tapan Chowkrabarty of Banglanews24.com; photographer Ujjwal Kanti Dhar; Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) leader Kazi Mohsin; Ekramul Haque Bulbul of Ekushey TV; Ramen Das Gupta of Sarabangla.net; Mintu Chowdhury and Uttam Sen Gupta of BDnews24.com; Kutub Uddin of Samakal; Hritik Nayan; Rahul Das; Subal Barua of Pratidiner Bangladesh; Runa Ansari of Deepto TV; Rafiqul Bahar of Ekushey TV; Ayon Sharma of Chattogram Pratidin; Aminul Islam Munna, photojournalist of Dainik Azadi; Bishwajit Raha; Masudul Hoque of DBC News; Rashed Mahmud; Hamid Ullah of Amader Somoy; Samresh Baidya of Bhorer Kagoj; Showrav Bhattacharya of Cplus.⁸⁶

On 11 September, a murder case was filed against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, 25 journalists and 139 others over the death of a 31-year-old man at Bhasantek in Dhaka during the mass uprising. The journalists were Naem Nizam, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Shyamal Dutta, Farida Yasmin, Omar Faruque, Monzurul Islam, Monjurul Bari Nayan, Sohel Haider Chowdhury, Quddus Afrad, Arun Kumar Dey, Nurul Haque, Jihadur Rahman Jihad, Abdul Majid, Sajjad Alam Khan Topu, Syed Shukur Ali Shuvo, Haider Ali, Ashikur Rahman Srabon, Alamgir Hossain, Shoriful Islam, Mainul Alam, Zayadul Ahsan Pintu, Kabir Ahmed Khan, Abdullah Al Kafi, Nurul Islam Hasib and Shahnaz Sharmeen. Mohammad Sabuj, elder brother

of the victim, identified as Mohammad Fazlu, filed the case at Bhasantek Police Station. Along with Hasina, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former Law Minister Anisul Huq, former Textiles Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and former state Ministers Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Mohammad Ali Arafat, and Zunaid Ahmed Palak were accused in the case.⁸⁷

On 18 October, daily Samakal journalist Raihan was sent to jail after being arrested in a murder case related to the anti-discrimination student movement in Habiganj.⁸⁸

On 22 October, journalist Pranab Barua Arnab was arrested in four cases filed with Patia Police Station in Chattogram. Police claimed that Pranab Barua was trying to flee to India through Akhaura.⁸⁹

On 25 October, Pradip Chowdhury, the President of the Khagrachari Journalist Union and a district correspondent for the daily Samakal, was arrested by police in Khagrachari. Pradip Chowdhury was returning home from an event in the Milonpur area when police arrested him and brought him to the Khagrachari Sadar police station. Following the political shift on 5 August, five separate cases were filed against him at Khagrachari Sadar, Manikchhari, Panchhari and Dighinala police stations. Among these, four cases were filed by BNP leaders and activists, accusing him of various offenses including attacks on BNP leaders and vandalism of BNP offices. He was also named in a case related to a clash with anti-discrimination student protesters on 4 August. Apart from Pradip Chowdhury, six other journalists from Khagrachari were also implicated in these cases.⁹⁰

3.2. Cancellation of press accreditation

The interim government has been using press accreditation as a weapon to target journalists for their work. Press accreditation cards are required for access to the Secretariat.⁹¹ The government revoked press accreditation of at least 168 journalists for their alleged links with the previous government including revocation of accreditation of 20 journalists on 29 October,⁹² 30 journalists on 3 November,⁹³ and 118 journalists on 7 November⁹⁴ thereby crippling press freedom.

On 29 October, the government revoked the press accreditation cards of 20 journalists and officials for their affiliation with the Awami League. The journalists include former Director General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Zafar Wazed, former Press Minister at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi Shaban Mahmud, Chief Editor of Ekattor TV Mozammel Haque and Special Correspondent Farzana Rupa, Editor and Publisher of WomenNews24.com Farida Yasmin, Editor of The Daily Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of Bhorer Kagoj Shyamal Dutta, Editor of Bangladesh Pratidin Naem Nizam, Chief Editor of ABNews24.com Subhas Chandra Singh Roy, freelance journalist Syed Borhan Kabir, Chief News Editor of ATN News Munni Saha, Chief Editor of Amader Shomoy.com Naemul Islam Khan, Special Correspondent of Dainik Bangla Farazi Azmal Hossain, Head of News at Ekattor TV Shakil Ahmed, Editor of Dhaka Times Mohammad Arifur Rahman, former Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Abul Kalam

Azad, freelance journalist Mithila Farzana, News Chief of Boishakhi TV Ashok Chowdhury, and Editor of DBC News Pronab Saha.⁹⁵ The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said it is “concerned” by the Information Ministry’s announcement revoking the press accreditation of 20 journalists, four of whom remain detained in “apparent retaliation” for their support of the Awami League.⁹⁶

On 3 November, the Press Information Department revoked the permanent and temporary press accreditation cards of 30 more journalists. The accreditation was cancelled under Sections 6.9, 6.10, 9.5 and 9.6 of the Press Accreditation Principle-2022. Rahul Saha of News 24, Mohammad Manzurul Islam of DBC News, Abed Khan of Daily Jagaran, ZI Mamun of ATN Bangla, Md Omar Faruque of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Masuda Bhatti of Daily Amader Arthoneeti, DBC News’s Naznin Nahar Munni, CEO of RTV Ashiqur Rahman, and Daily Bhorer Kagaj’s news editor Ikhtiar Uddin were among the journalists whose press accreditation cards were cancelled.⁹⁷

On 7 November, the Press Information Department (PID) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had scrapped the permanent and temporary press accreditation cards of 118 more journalists. The journalists whose press accreditation cards were canceled include editors, deputy editors and journalists working in various positions of televisions.⁹⁸

3.3. Seditious invoked

One of the repressive actions taken by the Interim Government is to invoke sedition to silence criticism.

On 9 October, a case of sedition and defamation was filed against Tapashee Tabassum Urmi, the suspended Assistant Commissioner of Lalmonirhat in Khulna. The case was filed by one Showkot Hossain in the Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate-2 court. According to the plaintiff’s lawyer, SM Masudur Rahman, the case was filed due to negative comments made by Tapashee Tabassum Urmi on social media platform Facebook, targeting Dr Muhammad Yunus, the Head of the Interim government and Abu Sayed, who was killed during the anti-discrimination student movement. The court accepted the case and ordered the CID to investigate and submit the investigation report by 15 December. In the complaint, the plaintiff mentioned that as a government official, Tapashee Tabassum Urmi posting such remarks on Facebook indicates that she has initiated a conspiracy to overthrow the government and target its chief adviser, Dr Muhammad Yunus. Her comments are considered a crime of sedition. By making such remarks, she has committed the crime of sedition and tarnished the reputation of the head of government by inciting hatred and derogatory remarks among the public through Facebook. The case document also said Dr Muhammad Yunus, the head adviser to the Bangladesh government, is an internationally renowned personality, having received the Nobel Prize and over a hundred other awards. By posting such status updates on Facebook, the accused had defamed the head adviser both nationally and socially.⁹⁹

On 30 October, a case of sedition was filed at Kotwali police station against 19 Hindus, including two from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) for allegedly

hoisting a saffron flag over Bangladesh's national flag at Chittagong's New Market intersection on 25 October. Police detained two persons Rajesh Chowdhury and Hriday Das, in the case. The 19 accused are Chandan Kumar Dhar alias Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari (38), Iskcon's Chittagong divisional organizing secretary; Ajay Dutta (34) Coordinator of Hindu Jagran Manch's Chittagong's; Leela Raj Das Brahmachari (48) Principal of the Prabartak ISKCON temple in the city; Gopal Das Tipu (38); Dr Kathak Das (40); Amit Dhar (38); Roni Das (38); Rajib Das (32); Krishna Kumar Dutta (52); Jiku Chowdhury (40); Newton Dey (38); Tushar Chakraborty Rajib (28); Mithun Dey (35); Rupan Dhar (35); Rimon Dutta (28); Sukanta Das (28); Biswajit Gupta (42); Rajesh Chowdhury (28); and Hriday Das (25). Further, about 15-20 unidentified individuals are included as accused in the case.¹⁰⁰ According to the case documents, during a rally at Laldighi Maidan, a religious flag associated with Iskcon was reportedly placed over the national flag. The case statement alleged that this act constituted a "desecration" and "contempt for the country's sovereignty," saying the accused engaged in "treasonous activities to destabilize the country by fostering an anarchic environment."¹⁰¹

4. Compliant judiciary established

The respect for human rights requires a functioning State. Bangladesh simply does not have an effective functioning State at present. The police personnel had to flee after the fall of the Government and hundreds of them did not join the duty for the fear of safety and security.¹⁰² The Government of Bangladesh gave magisterial power to the officers of the Bangladesh Army personnel¹⁰³ but it is the mob justice which prevails in the country.¹⁰⁴

More importantly, there is no independence of judiciary to ensure fair trials. This can be gleaned from the fact that on 10 August 2024, the mob surrounded the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan and five other senior judges of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh had to resign.¹⁰⁵ Furthermore, on 16 October 2024, 12 judges of the High Court (HC) were removed from discharging judicial functions after several hundred students under the banner of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement besieged the HC premises seeking removal of "pro-Awami League fascist judges"¹⁰⁶ If any judge dares to release any leader or activist connected with former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina government or Awami League, the risks of the judges facing the fury of the mob justice in the name of students movement remain high.

5. Dissenting NHRC dissolved

On 7 November 2024, the Government of Bangladesh forced all members of Bangladesh's NHRC including Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed and five other members i.e. Md Salim Reza, Aminul Islam, Kongjari Chowdhury, Biswajit Chanda, and Tania Haque submitted their

resignation letters to the President of Bangladesh. The resignation was confirmed by Yusha Rahman, spokesperson of the Commission. On 5th November 2024, the NHRC of Bangladesh released its monthly report for October 2024 and the report based on the facts highlighted a rise in crimes such as mob beatings, rapes, and other offences as well as political harassment, assaults on political leaders, and other violent acts. This has become the offence for the members of the NHRC of Bangladesh and they were forced to resign.¹⁰⁷

The Interim Government of Bangladesh demonstrated that it does not allow any critical institution.

6. Mob rule and release of the identified terrorists for political considerations

From August to October 2024, 129 incidents of political violence were reported in Bangladesh with killing of 26 persons and 1226 persons were injured. These included 23 incidents with killing of nine persons and injuries to 195 persons in August; 48 incidents with 5 killing and 619 injuries in September; and 58 incidents with killing of 12 persons and 412 others injured in October.¹⁰⁸

The current security situation is one of frightening collapse of law and order. About 44 police personnel were killed by the protestors¹⁰⁹ and the police were effectively absent from maintaining law and order. On 18 September 2024, the Interim Government empowered the Bangladesh Army officers to exercise the magisterial powers¹¹⁰ but the Army personnel were not to be seen anywhere except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHTs) region inhabited by the indigenous peoples where they have been accused of serious human rights violations from 19 September to 1 October 2024.¹¹¹

Across the country, serious concerns were raised about mob justice.¹¹² From August to October 2024, at least 77 incidents of mob violence were reported across the country, in which 63 persons were killed and 45 others were injured. These included 20 incidents with killing of 20 people and injuries to four others in August; 33 incidents with 24 killings and injuries to 22 others in September; and 24 incidents with killing of 19 persons and injuries to 19 others in October.¹¹³

A few emblematic cases of mob justice are given below:

- On 13 September, Shawkat Ali Didar (40), who was the Sports Secretary of the Central Committee of the Secchasebok Dal was killed and at least 50 others injured in an attack by Awami League activists on the vehicle convoy of SM Zilani, the central president of the Jatiyatabadi Shechasebok Dal in Gopalganj Sadar upazila. Among the injured included SM Zilani, his wife and Gopalganj district Mahila Dal president Rowshan Ara Ratna.¹¹⁴

- On 30 October, two Awami League supporters Hamidul Islam (50) and Nazrul Islam (45) were killed by BNP activists over establishing supremacy and past enmity in Daulatpur, Kushtia.¹¹⁵
- On 22 September, Nur Alam (60), an Awami League leader, was beaten to death by 10-12 unidentified attackers after intruding into his home in Pachpara village under Chandrogonj union in Lakshmipur Sadar upazila. One of the attackers, known as Khokon, is alleged to be affiliated with the BNP.¹¹⁶
- On 18 September, Shamim Ahmed alias Shamim Mollah, a Chhatra League leader and former student of the University's 39th batch in the Department of History, was subjected to mob beating by students of JU. He later succumbed to his injuries. He was allegedly involved in an attack on students during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement on the premises of the Vice Chancellors residence on 15 July. According to witnesses and university security personnel, Shamim was at a shop near JU's Prantik Gate. Upon receiving information about his location, a group of university students went there and beat him up.¹¹⁷ Following the killing, the authorities suspended eight students following a preliminary report confirming their direct involvement in the killing.¹¹⁸
- On 18 September, one Tofazzal was beaten to death by a group of students on suspicion of being a thief by detaining him in the guest room of Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall of Dhaka University. Tofazzal was beaten for several hours and when he was taken to hospital, the physician on duty declared him dead.¹¹⁹
- On 30 October, Ramzan (35) was beaten to death by a mob in Sabujbagh area of Dhaka. According to police, Ramzan had been arrested a few months ago with a firearm. After the government's downfall on 5 August he was released on bail. Ramzan faced around a dozen cases, including charges of illegal weapons, drugs, and robbery. He entered the area when local residents caught and assaulted him, leading to his death on the spot.¹²⁰

By 5 September, a total of 5,818 weapons were looted in the country.¹²¹ Of these, 3,933 were recovered while 1,885 arms including rifles, SMGs, LMGs, and pistols, remained missing. Additionally, nearly 300,000 rounds of ammunition remained unrecovered.¹²²

The escape of over 2,000 inmates from 17 jails which were attacked during the protests added to the worries. More than 900, including 70 militants are yet to be arrested.¹²³

More worryingly, the Interim Government has been releasing terror convicts from custody under dubious circumstances. By 18 September, at least 43 high-profile criminals and militants had walked out of jail on bail.¹²⁴ The terrorists who were released on bail include Mufti Jashimuddin Rahmani, chief of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, an Al-Qaeda-inspired militant outfit now known as Ansar al Islam convicted for the murder of Rajib Haider, a blogger who still has four cases, including those under anti-terrorism and Information and Communication

Technology (ICT) laws pending against him.¹²⁵ Other top terrorists released include Abbas Ali alias 'Killer Abbas' of Mirpur, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam alias Sweden Aslam of Tejgaon, Imamul Hasan Helal alias Picchi Helal of Mohammadpur and Sanjidul Islam alias Emon who were named in the list of 23 top terrorists published by the home ministry on 26 December 2001. In addition, two of Dhaka's underworld dons, Aim Ahmed alias Tiron and Khorshed Alam Rasu alias Freedom Rasu were also released.¹²⁶

Serious concerns have been expressed by the citizens in the country about the potential increase in armed violence and crime rate because of these actions.¹²⁷

7. International War Crimes Tribunal: Yunus Wielding Hasina's Stick

On 14 August, the interim government said it will try those involved in the killings during the mass movement of the students against the Sheikh Hasina-led government in the International Crimes Tribunal under the supervision of the United Nations. The murders conducted within the period from 1 July 2024 to 5 August 2024 will be tried by the International Crimes Tribunal.¹²⁸

On 14 October, the government reconstituted the International Crimes Tribunal by appointing two High Court judges and a retired District and Sessions judge. Justice Golam Martuza, an Additional Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court was appointed as its chairman.¹²⁹

The International Crimes Tribunal started hearing the cases filed over the killings and massacre during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement from 15 October.¹³⁰

Earlier in September, the interim government had prepared a draft to amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 to expand the scope of accountability for crimes against humanity and genocide. The proposed amendments include a provision that allows the banning of a political party for up to 10 years for committing crimes against humanity and genocide. As per the existing law, crimes against humanity include murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, imprisonment, abduction, confinement, torture, rape or other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population or persecutions on political, racial, ethnic or religious grounds, whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country where perpetrated.¹³¹

As on 24 September, 32 cases were filed with the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal against Hasina and her party colleagues for alleged crimes against humanity and genocide.¹³²

On 17 October, the International Crimes Tribunal had issued an arrest warrant against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina along with warrants for 44 others including Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader. The warrants were issued following two separate pleas. As



per the order, Sheikh Hasina had to appear before the court by 18 November.¹⁸⁸ On 19 October, the International Crimes Tribunal issued a public notice seeking information on the alleged 'massacre' during the anti-discrimination students' movement.¹⁸⁴

On 12 November, Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam sent a letter to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), requesting action to issue a red notice through Interpol for former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in connection with an International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) case. On 10 November, after overseeing the reform work of the International Crimes Tribunal, Law Affairs Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul told reporters that the government would take all necessary steps to bring back Sheikh Hasina and other fugitives accused in the July-August genocide case filed with the ICT.¹⁸⁵

Earlier on 17 October, the International Crimes Tribunal issued arrest warrants for Sheikh Hasina, Obaidul Quader and 46 others in separate cases related to the genocide and crimes against humanity committed in July-August.¹⁸⁶

More than 80 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Sheikh Hasina and her party leaders with the ICT and the prosecution team as on 4 November.¹⁸⁷

8. Attempt to establish Awami League free Bangladesh

The interim government of Bangladesh has initiated the process for dialogue with the political parties for reforms. This has turned out to be an exercise to make Awami League free Bangladesh.

The ongoing dialogues by the interim government have aimed to foster political consensus and address reforms. However, tensions have arisen due to demands from political parties like the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami for more neutral oversight and restructuring within the interim setup. The BNP, for instance, has requested the removal of certain officials within the interim administration and called for legal action against figures involved in past electoral controversies. Additionally, the BNP seeks to form a new election commission based on a consensus among all major parties, underlining the need for broader political representation. The BNP also demanded that the interim government announce a roadmap for holding the next election.¹⁸⁸

The Awami League and its allies from the 14-party alliance, who were ousted in a student-led mass uprising, are excluded from the dialogue process.¹⁸⁹ On 19 October, the office of the Chief Adviser to the interim government stated that the Awami League and the like-minded parties will be barred from participating in political activities. This was stated after talks with 10 political parties. During the talks, some parties demanded banning the AL and its allies or

at least keeping them from taking part in the next national election.¹⁴⁰ However, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, both arch rivals of the Awami League had said ‘no’ to banning Hasina’s party.¹⁴¹

The efforts to ban Awami League continue unabated.

On 1 September, the High Court had rejected the writ petition that sought ban on Awami League and cancellation of its registration for its involvement in the killing of students and general people during the student-led mass upsurge. The petition was filed with the High Court on 19 August by Arifur Rahman Murad Bhuiyan, Executive Director of human rights organisation Sarada.¹⁴²

On 24 September 2024, it was reported that the interim government has prepared a draft to amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 to include a proviso that allows the banning of a political party for up to 10 years for committing crimes against humanity and genocide. The amendment would allow the trial of leaders of any organisation for command responsibility, the appointment of foreign lawyers, and the recording and broadcast of trial proceedings.¹⁴³ The only political party facing the charge of genocide is Awami League over the killings during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.¹⁴⁴

On 28 October, three leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking rules to ban all political activities of the Awami League and 10 other parties, and debar them from all future elections. They also sought a rule to declare the parties “terrorist organisations” for the “indiscriminate killing of citizens, destroying democratic institutions, and unconstitutionally usurping the state of power”. The 10 other political parties mentioned in the petitions are the Jatiya Party (Ershad), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Tarikat Federation, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Jatiya Party (Manju), Ganatantri Dal, Marxist–Leninist (Barua), and the Socialist Party of Bangladesh. The petition was filed six days after the interim government on 23 October banned AL’s student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League as per the demand of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.¹⁴⁵ However, the petition was withdrawn on 29 October.¹⁴⁶

On 24 October, the Government of Bangladesh banned Awami League’s Chhatra League as a terrorist organization for the involvement of the student body in violent attacks on the student protests that led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina’s government in August.¹⁴⁷

9. Indigenous Peoples: Dr Yunus says no to implementation of the CHTs Accord!

Since independence, the refusal to grant autonomy to the indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts led to insurgency. The situation accentuated by population transfer of over 400,000 illegal¹⁴⁸ plain settlers from mainland Bangladesh into the CHTs from 1979 to 1983 with the aim to reduce indigenous peoples into a minority on their own land by giving various inducements.¹⁴⁹

In 1997, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord was signed between the Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS), representing the indigenous peoples and the Government of Bangladesh. However, the Accord was never implemented despite repeated recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council.¹⁵⁰

Dr Mohammed Yunus who is undertaking reforms in the country including the Constitution of Bangladesh refused to implement the CHT Accord. In an interview to the *Voice of America* on 2 October 2024 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly had stated the following on the CHTs Peace Accord:

*“We just got here. It’s not right to hope that a problem that has been there for so long can be solved in a couple of days. There was a peace accord; it happened after trying for many years. That accord is not being implemented; whether or not a new peace accord must be made, our government won’t be able to accomplish that. Elected governments later on will be able to take that on”.*¹⁵¹

Not surprisingly, human rights violations against indigenous peoples in the CHTs intensified. On 18 September 2024, the indigenous hill tribe students under the banner of the “*Sanghat O Boishamyo Birodhi Pahari Chhatra Andolan*” (Anti Conflict & Discrimination Tribal Students Movement) organised “March For Identity” at Khagrachari demanding constitutional recognition of the identities of indigenous peoples, inquiry into corruption in the local councils created for the hill tribes, implementation of the 1997 CHTs Peace Accord, etc. About 40,000 indigenous peoples, unseen in the history of indigenous peoples in the region, had participated in the protest.¹⁵²

This rattled the Bangladesh Army.

From 19 September to 1 October 2024, the illegal plain settlers and Bangladesh Army led organized assaults on indigenous peoples in Dighinala and Khagrachari Sadar under Khagrachari district on 19 September, followed by further attacks on Rangamati Sadar on 20 September, and Khagrachari district again on 1 October. The Bangladesh Army and the illegal settlers specifically targeted shops and other business establishments of indigenous peoples and Buddhist temples. In these attacks by the illegal plain settlers and Bangladesh Army, at least four indigenous persons i.e. Mr Dhana Ranjan Chakma, Mr Junan Chakma, Mr Rubel Tripura, and Mr Anik

Chakma were killed, at least 75 indigenous Jumma people were seriously injured while at least 142 houses, shops and other business establishments, properties, Buddhist temples that were looted, destroyed or set ablaze.¹⁵⁸

A number of international organizations such as Amnesty International on 20 September 2024,¹⁵⁴ the Minority Rights Group International on 24 September 2024,¹⁵⁵ International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs on 8th October 2024¹⁵⁶ and the Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights on 14 October 2024¹⁵⁷ condemned the attacks and demanded impartial inquiry.

On 26 September 2024, the Chittagong Divisional Commissioner formed a seven-member inquiry committee headed by Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Mr Mohammad Nurullah Noori to submit the report within the next 14 working days. On 30 September 2024, Mr Noori while visiting the affected areas at Rangamati told the journalists that he would submit the report to the government within 14 days after finding the root cause of the recent violent incidents, making a list of the victims and informing the government of their losses and making recommendations to prevent recurrence of such violent incidents.¹⁵⁸ On 2 October 2024, the Committee visited Larma Square Bazar, Dighinala which was set on fire on 19 September 2024.¹⁵⁹

However, as on date, no public statement has been made regarding the status of the Inquiry Commission report.

The situation in the CHTs remains alarmingly. On 6 October 2024, the Bangladesh government banned entry of tourists into the CHTs from 8 to 31 October citing unidentified “unavoidable grounds”.¹⁶⁰ On 6 October 2024, the indigenous Buddhist monks in the CHTs also for the first time in their history announced their decision to not celebrate *Kathin Chibar Dan*, one of the largest annual religious festivals of the Buddhist community, held after rain retreat of the monks, all over the world.¹⁶¹

10. Religious minorities: Dr Yunus justifies increased attacks for being Awami League supporters

While the minorities consistently faced grave human rights violations in Bangladesh irrespective of the party in power, the violations increased manifold with hundreds of acts of violence and religious intolerance after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on 5 August 2024. This has been accompanied by purging of Hindu officers from public service.

On 5 September, Interim Government’s Chief Advisor Dr Mohammed Yunus without investigation into any of these acts of violence and religious intolerance stated that Hindus faced attacks because “*there is no clear distinction between Awami League supporters and Hindus*”.¹⁶²

The scale of the organized attacks on the religious minorities under the current Interim Government of Bangladesh is given below:

A report published by *Prothom Alo* on 12 September 2024 documented at least 1,090 attacks on minority communities between 5-20 August, following the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government. These attacks include damage to 1,068 houses and business establishments and 22 places of worship, as well as the murders of two minority Hindus, Mrinal Kanti Chatterjee and Swapan Kumar Biswas. The most affected region was Khulna with 295 damaged properties, followed by Rangpur (219), Mymensingh (183), Rajshahi (155), Dhaka (79), Barishal (68), Chattogram (45) and Sylhet (25). Attacks also targeted Christians, Ahmadiyyas and other minority groups, including vandalism of churches and religious statues.¹⁶⁸

On 19 September 2024, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad in its findings disclosed to media stated that 2,010 incidents of communal violence took place across 68 districts and metropolitan areas between 4-20 August, resulting in the deaths of nine persons, injuries to 38 others, four sexual assaults, one of which was a gang rape, and attacks on 69 places of worship, including acts of vandalism and arson. A total of 915 homes and 953 business establishments were attacked, looted or set on fire, and about 1,705 families were directly affected in these communal attacks, with 157 of these families having lost everything.¹⁶⁴

Despite being provided unprecedented security during the Durga Puja celebrations from 1 to 11 October 2024, the Inspector General of Police of Bangladesh Police, Md Mainul Islam, at least 35 incidents have taken place centering the Durga Puja celebrations from 1 to 11 October.¹⁶⁵ Radical Islamist groups had threatened Durga Puja committees and temples, demanding extortion money amounting 5 lakh Bangladeshi Taka to allow the celebration to proceed or face consequences if they failed to pay.¹⁶⁶

Minorities in government service have also faced increasing pressure. Teachers from Hindu, Buddhist and Christian communities have been forced to resign from their jobs, with the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad reporting that at least 49 teachers were forced to resign between 5 and 30 August.¹⁶⁷

Those suspected of being affiliated with the Awami League or belonging to religious minorities were removed from government service. On 22 October, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (Retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury stated that 252 trainee Sub-Inspectors (SIs) at the Bangladesh Police Academy were discharged due to violations of academic discipline on 1 October.¹⁶⁸ It is alleged that the PHQ, in consultation with the Home Ministry, conducted a background check on the political affiliations of 801 trainees in the batch after the fall of the Awami League government on 5 August. Based on the verification, a list of 252 trainees were identified and dismissed from service on technical grounds.¹⁶⁹ As per verification done by the RRAG, out of the 252 trainees dismissed from service, 99 trainees belonged to the Hindu religious minority communities.¹⁷⁰

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government. These attacks include damage to 1,068 houses and business establishments and 22 places of worship, as well as the murders of two minority Hindus, Mrinal Kanti Chatterjee and Swapan Kumar Biswas. The most affected region was Khulna with 295 damaged properties, followed by Rangpur (219), Mymensingh (183), Rajshahi (155), Dhaka (79), Barishal (68), Chattogram (45) and Sylhet (25). Attacks also targeted Christians, Ahmadiyyas and other minority groups, including vandalism of churches and religious statues.¹⁷¹

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While the precise number of acts of violence against minorities is not available, it can be safely stated that while the *Prothom Alo* documented at least 1,090 attacks, the community organization reported 2,010 incidents during the same period. It is clear thousands of persons belonging to religious minorities have been targeted.

The attacks are obvious. Despite unprecedented security during the Durga Puja celebrations, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Bangladesh Police, Md Mainul Islam, at least 35 incidents have taken place centering the Durga Puja celebrations from 1 to 11 October.¹⁷³ Radical Islamist groups had threatened Durga Puja committees and temples, demanding extortion money amounting 5 lakh Bangladeshi Taka to allow the celebration to proceed or face consequences if they failed to pay.¹⁷⁴

On 12 October, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India condemned the attacks on Hindu temples in Bangladesh, calling them “deplorable”, and urged Bangladesh to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities and their places of worship, especially during Durga Puja and Dussehra festivals.¹⁷⁵

On 23 August, three Hindu temples were vandalized by a Madrasa student identified as Rabbi Hossain (18) at Pakuria Palpara, Ghoshpara and Kaligram areas in the Pakuria Union in Rajshahi Bagha Upazila. The accused, who was arrested, said that he targeted the temples because of rumours that the ongoing floods in Bangladesh were caused by water released by India.¹⁷⁶

On 30 October, a case of sedition was filed at Kotwali police station against 19 Hindus, including two from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) for allegedly hoisting a saffron flag over Bangladesh’s national flag at Chittagong’s New Market intersection on 25 October. Police detained two persons Rajesh Chowdhury and Hriday Das, in the case. The 19 accused are Chandan Kumar Dhar alias Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari (38), Iskcon’s Chittagong divisional organizing secretary; Ajay Dutta (34) Coordinator of Hindu Jagran Manch’s Chittagong’s; Leela Raj Das Brahmachari (48) Principal of the Prabartak ISKCON temple in the city; Gopal Das Tipu (38); Dr Kathak Das (40); Amit Dhar (38);

Roni Das (38); Rajib Das (32); Krishna Kumar Dutta (52); Jiku Chowdhury (40); Newton Dey (38); Tushar Chakraborty Rajib (28); Mithun Dey (35); Rupan Dhar (35); Rimon Dutta (28); Sukanta Das (28); Biswajit Gupta (42); Rajesh Chowdhury (28); and Hriday Das (25). Further, about 15-20 unidentified individuals are included as accused in the case.¹⁷⁷

According to the case documents, during a rally at Laldighi Maidan, a religious flag associated with Iskcon was reportedly placed over the national flag. The case statement alleged that this act constituted a “desecration” and “contempt for the country’s sovereignty,” saying the accused engaged in “treasonous activities to destabilize the country by fostering an anarchic environment.”¹⁷⁸

On 5 November, tensions escalated in the Hazari Gali area in port city of Chittagong as security forces launched a massive crackdown on the minority Hindu community following clashes after a member of the radical Islamic group Jamat-e-Islami, Osman Ali, who posted derogatory remarks against the Hindu religion and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) on social media. In response, Hindu residents gathered outside Ali’s shop to protest the offensive post, leading to clashes between the two communities. The situation further deteriorated when security forces, including the Bangladesh Army, were deployed to restore order. A video footage showed scenes of chaos, with security personnel clashing with civilians, chasing them and hitting them with batons. According to local media outlet Prothom Alo, blank rounds were fired into the air to disperse the crowd. Some officers were reportedly seen dismantling CCTV cameras. Responding to the incident, Ministry of External Affairs, government of India urged the Bangladesh government to take strong measures to ensure the safety of Hindus.¹⁷⁹

As of 5 November, authorities had filed a case naming 582 people, with 49 of them arrested. The Hindu community leaders accused security forces of unfairly targeting Hindu residents, alleging that authorities conducted indiscriminate attacks, despite the involvement of members from both communities.¹⁸⁰

Minorities in government service have also faced increasing pressure. Teachers from Hindu, Buddhist and Christian communities have been forced to resign from their jobs, with the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad reporting that at least 49 teachers were forced to resign between 5 and 30 August.¹⁸¹

Those suspected of being affiliated with the Awami League or belonging to religious minorities were removed from government service. On 22 October, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (Retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury stated that 252 trainee Sub-Inspectors (SIs) at the Bangladesh Police Academy were discharged due to violations of academic discipline on 1 October.¹⁸² It is alleged that the PHQ, in consultation with the Home Ministry, conducted a background check on the political affiliations of 801 trainees in the batch after the fall of the Awami League government on 5 August. Based on the verification, a list of 252 trainees were identified and dismissed from service on technical grounds.¹⁸³ As per verification done by the RRAG, out of the 252 trainees dismissed from service, 99 trainees belonged to the Hindu religious minority communities.¹⁸⁴

11. Cyber Security Act continues to be invoked

Despite the promise to repeal the draconian Cyber Security Act, the authorities continue to invoke the Act. From August to October 2024, 11 cases were reported in Bangladesh with 191 accused persons of which 11 persons were arrested. In August, two cases were reported with one person was arrested and 10 people were accused; in September, six cases were reported with 3 persons arrested and 126 accused; in October, 11 cases were reported with 11 persons arrested and 191 others were made accused.¹⁸⁵

On 24 September, a case was filed against a 52-year-old man in Chittagong under Cyber Security Act for allegedly insulting the Quran and posting a social media video targeting Interim Government Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus, Information Adviser Nahid Islam and the army chief. The complaint was lodged by Hafez Md Saifuddin, Joint Convener of Fatikchari Upazila Chhatra Dal at the Chittagong Cyber Tribunal. The Court accepted the case filed under the Cyber Security Act and directed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to investigate and submit a report by 27 November. The accused, identified as Moktar Hossain is a resident of West Nanupur village in Fatikchari Upazila, Chittagong. According to the case statement, on 15 August Moktar allegedly posted a video on his Facebook ID, making derogatory comments about the Holy Quran, verbal abuse directed at Dr Muhammad Yunus, insults toward students of the anti-discrimination movement, and obscene remarks about Nahid Islam. Further, allegations indicate that offensive comments were made against the army chief in the video.¹⁸⁶

The interim government reportedly decided in principle to repeal the Cyber Security Act on 8 November 2024¹⁸⁷ but the ordinance has not been issued as on date.

12. Lip service to the OHCHR

The Government of Bangladesh invited the OHCHR Fact-Finding Team to conduct an independent and impartial fact-finding into alleged human rights violations that occurred in the context of protests which took place from 1 July to 15 August 2024. The fact-finding as per the official statement is “tasked to establish facts, identify responsibilities, analyse root causes and provide concrete recommendations on the next steps Bangladesh should take to address the past violations and to ensure non-recurrence. Based on this framework and the information collected by a fact-finding team on Bangladesh, OHCHR will publish a human rights report setting out key findings, conclusions and recommendations”.¹⁸⁸

However, the mandate of the Fact-Finding Team is very restrictive. It cannot investigate the incidents beyond 15 August even though serious human rights violations were committed.

13. Reforms: Alibi to remain in power?

On 4 November, Nahid Islam, students leader and Adviser to the Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology stated that general elections will be held on the basis of national unity after all necessary reforms.¹⁸⁹ On 14 November, Dr Yunus on the sidelines of the Cop29 submit at Baku reiterated that elections will be held only after reforms.¹⁹⁰ These reforms can become an exercise in futility as the next elected government can reject these reforms but reforms have become the alibi to remain in power.

Initially, on 11 September, the Interim Government of Bangladesh had announced the formation of six reform commissions, with each tasked to address and propose improvements within key sectors to ensure effective governance and accountability. These six commissions include (1) Electoral System Reform, headed by Dr. Badiul Alam Majumdar, to revamp the election process to ensure fairness, transparency and inclusivity; (2) Police Administration Reform, headed by Safar Raz Hossain, to modernize and improve police accountability and efficiency; (3) Judicial Reform, headed by Justice Shah Abu Naeem Mominur Rahman, to enhance judicial independence and expedite legal processes; (4) Anti-Corruption Reform, headed by Iftakharuzzaman of Transparency International Bangladesh, to curb corruption and strengthen ethical governance; (5) Public Administration Reform, led by Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, to streamline public administration; and (6) Constitutional Reform, headed by Dr. Shahdeen Malik, later replaced by Professor Ali Riaz, to examine and recommend changes to the Constitution to ensure it meets the needs of a modern democratic Bangladesh.¹⁹¹

These reform commissions were given a timeline starting from 6 October to begin its work and submit a report within 90 days and the interim government plans to consult major political parties and other stakeholders to finalize and implement the reforms.¹⁹² These commissions are yet to start substantive work.

On 17 October, the interim government announced the formation of four new commissions to carry out reforms in the areas of mass media, health, labour rights and women affairs.¹⁹³

These reforms commissions have failed to meet the aspirations. On 5 October, officials from 25 cadres of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS), excluding those from the administration cadre, announced their rejection of the commission members formed for public administration reform.¹⁹⁴ On 24 October, interim government reconstituted the Public Administration Reform Commission with the inclusion of three new members, raising the total number of Members to 11. Headed by Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, the newly included three members of the Commission are Prof Syeda Shahina Sobhan, Firoz Ahmed and Khondakar Mohammad Aminur Rahman.¹⁹⁵

The Constitutional reform commission headed by Professor Ali Riaz include Professor Sumaiya Khair at Dhaka University, Barrister Imran Siddiqui, Professor Muhammad Ikramul Haq at Dhaka University, Supreme Court lawyer Dr Sharif Bhuiyan, Barrister Moin Alam Firozi, writer Firoz Ahmed, writer and human rights activist Mo Mustain Billah, and student

representative Mo Mahfuz Alam.¹⁹⁶ No member of the indigenous peoples and religious minorities was included in the Constitutional Reform Commission. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the conclusion of his visit to Bangladesh on 30 October 2024 had stated, *“The participation of ethnic and religious minorities in the reform structures, as well as of Indigenous Peoples, is also crucial”*.¹⁹⁷

On 8 October 2024, the Denmark-based International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and New Delhi-based Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) urged Dr Yunus urging him to reconstitute the commission and include representative of indigenous peoples and minorities. Religious minorities make up 16 million while there are about 1.6 million members from ethnic communities. The Vatican too had intervened at the request of the IWGIA and RRAG.¹⁹⁸

On 29 October, the interim government formed a six-member Search Committee led by Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, to constitute a new Election Commission. The other members of the Committee are Justice AKM Asaduzzaman, a judge of the High Court Division; Nurul Islam, comptroller and auditor general (CAG); Mobasser Momen, chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; eminent personalities CR Abrar, executive director of the Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit, and Prof Zeenatun Nesa Tahmida Begum, former Dhaka University teacher and ex-PSC chairman. In line with the Appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act 2022, two judges were nominated by the chief justice, two eminent personalities by the president, and the CAG and BPSC chairman are in the committee because of their job status. The posts of election commissioners fell vacant after chief election commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal and four election commissioners resigned on 5 September.¹⁹⁹

12. ANNEXURE-1: MONTHLY REPORT (OCTOBER 2024) OF THE NHRC BANGLADESH

জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশন এর মানবাধিকার প্রতিবেদন- অক্টোবর ২০২৪

সারসংক্ষেপ

জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশন নিয়মিত কাজের অংশ হিসেবে মিডিয়া মনিটরিং বা গণমাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের ঘটনাসমূহ পর্যবেক্ষণ করে থাকে। উক্ত মিডিয়া মনিটরিং প্রতিবেদন ও কমিশনে প্রাপ্ত অভিযোগসমূহের তদন্তের প্রতিফলন হিসেবে মানবাধিকার প্রতিবেদন কমিশনের বার্ষিক প্রতিবেদনে সংকলন করে থাকে। সংবাদ কর্মীগণ মানবাধিকার কর্মী হিসেবে সমাজে সংঘটিত মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের বাস্তব চিত্র প্রকাশের মাধ্যমে প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করে সুশীল সমাজ গঠনে অবদান রাখে, যা মানবাধিকার কমিশনের অন্যতম একটি প্রত্যাশা। অতি সম্প্রতি অন্তর্বর্তী সরকারের প্রধান উপদেষ্টা কর্তৃক সাংবাদিক সমাজের বাক স্বাধীনতা নিশ্চিত ও সাহসিকতাপূর্ণ সংবাদ পরিবেশনে উৎসাহ প্রদান সকলের নিকট কাঙ্ক্ষিত প্রত্যাশারই স্ফূরণ।

জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশন বিভিন্ন মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের ঘটনায় পৃথকভাবে প্রেস বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে কমিশনের পদক্ষেপ সম্পর্কে জনসাধারণকে অবহিত করে। এরই ধারাবাহিকতায় প্রতি মাসে মানবাধিকার পরিস্থিতির পর্যালোচনাপূর্বক পাঠক এবং অংশীজনদের সুবিধার্থে মাসিক মানবাধিকার প্রতিবেদন প্রণয়নপূর্বক গণমাধ্যমে প্রকাশ করা হবে মর্মে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেছে জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশন।

জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশনে গৃহীত অভিযোগ ও তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন এবং বিভিন্ন গণমাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত তথ্য অনুযায়ী, অক্টোবর মাসের মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের ঘটনা পর্যালোচনায় দেখা যায়, এ মাসে গণপিটুনি, ধর্ষণ, সনাতন ধর্মাবলম্বীদের ওপর হামলার ঘটনাগুলো নাগরিকদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণের বিষয় ছিল। এ মাসে আইন হাতে তুলে নেয়ার ঘটনা ও অপরাধজনিত কর্মকাণ্ড উদ্বেগজনকভাবে বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। গত মাসের চেয়ে অক্টোবরে গণপিটুনির ঘটনা বেড়েছে। সেপ্টেম্বরে গণপিটুনির সংখ্যা ছিল ২০টি, অক্টোবর মাসে গণপিটুনির মোট ঘটনা ২৬ টি। এতে নিহত হয়েছেন ১৮ জন এবং আহত হয়েছেন ০৮ জন। অক্টোবরে ধর্ষণের শিকার হয়েছেন ২২ জন নারী ও ২৩ জন শিশু। সেপ্টেম্বরের তুলনায় অক্টোবরে শিশু ধর্ষণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে ৯১.৬৭%; নারী ধর্ষণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে ৪৬.৬৭%। এছাড়া, পূর্ব শত্রুতা, রাজনৈতিক প্রতিপক্ষকে হয়রানি করতে মামলা দায়ের, দুষ্কৃতিকারীদের দ্বারা রাজনৈতিক দলের নেতা কর্মীদের ওপর হামলা ও সহিংসতার ঘটনা প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। উদাহরণস্বরূপ, ৩০ অক্টোবর চুয়াডাঙ্গার দামুরহদা উপজেলায় আধিপত্য বিস্তারকে কেন্দ্র করে বিএনপি নেতা সুলতান নিহত হয়েছেন। ৩ অক্টোবর গাইবান্ধায় আওয়ামী লীগের নেতা মোস্তাক আহমেদকে রাজনৈতিক শত্রুতার জের ধরে হত্যা করা হয় বলে পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে দাবি করা হয়। এছাড়াও, বৈষম্যবিরোধী ছাত্র আন্দোলনকে কেন্দ্র করে দায়েরকৃত মামলাগুলোতে আওয়ামী লীগ, বিএনপিসহ বিভিন্ন দলীয় নেতা কর্মীসহ সাংবাদিক ও সাধারণ নাগরিকদের ঢালাওভাবে আসামী করা হয়েছে মর্মে গণমাধ্যমে সূত্রে জানা যায়।

কারা হেফাজতে নির্যাতন ও মৃত্যু কিছুটা কমেছে। এ মাসে গুমের কোন ঘটনা পাওয়া যায়নি তবে কয়েক বছর আগে সংঘটিত গুমের অভিযোগ এ মাসে দায়ের করা হয়েছে। পুলিশের বিরুদ্ধে অন্যান্য অভিযোগ যেমন, ঘুষ, চাঁদা দাবি, মামলা না নেয়া ইত্যাদির ঘটনার তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে। অন্যদিকে গত মাসের তুলনায় অক্টোবর মাসে দ্রব্যমূল্য বেড়েছে। নিত্যপ্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্য যেমন কাঁচা মরিচ, ডিম, আলু ইত্যাদির বাড়তি দাম নিয়ে আলোচনা- সমালোচনা হয়েছে। তবে, গত বছর অক্টোবর মাসে যেখানে কাঁচা মরিচের দাম ছিল ১২০০ টাকা কেজি, এবছর অক্টোবরে দাম ছিল ৭০০ টাকা কেজি। গত মাসে ডিমের দাম ১৯০ টাকা ডজন পর্যন্ত উঠলেও অক্টোবরে সরকারের কঠোর মনিটরিং এর কারণে ডিমের দাম কমে ১৫০ টাকা ডজনে এসে স্থিত হয়েছে। লাগামহীন মূল্যবৃদ্ধির ফলে দেশের বেশির ভাগ খেটে খাওয়া, নিম্ন ও নির্ধারিত আয়ের মানুষ তাদের চাহিদা মেটাতে অক্ষম হয়ে পড়ে। ফলে মানুষ সুখম খাদ্য গ্রহণ এবং স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত জীবন যাপনের অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত হয়। তাই, বাজার নিয়ন্ত্রণে সরকারের কঠোর নজরদারি অব্যাহত রাখা প্রয়োজন।

এ মাসেও চিকিৎসায় অবহেলায় রোগীর হয়রানির সংবাদ পাওয়া গেছে। শেরপুর সদর হাসপাতালে বিভিন্ন রোগের সমস্যা নিয়ে ভর্তি হওয়া রোগীদের ইনজেকশন দেওয়ার পর গুরুতর অসুস্থ হয়ে পড়ার অভিযোগ উঠেছে। এ ঘটনায় কমপক্ষে ৩০ জন রোগী অসুস্থ হয়ে পড়েছে। অন্যদিকে, অক্টোবরে অ্যান্টিবায়োটিক, ব্যথানাশক ট্যাবলেট, ভিটামিন, গ্যাস্ট্রিক ও ডায়াবেটিকসের ওষুধসহ বিভিন্ন ধরনের ইনজেকশনের দাম বাড়িয়েছে কোম্পানিগুলো। ওষুধের দাম বেড়েছে সর্বনিম্ন ৫ শতাংশ থেকে শুরু করে সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ শতাংশ পর্যন্ত।

নিচের সারণীতে অক্টোবর মাসে বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে অপরাধ ও মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের পরিসংখ্যান উপস্থাপন করা হলঃ

ক্রম	মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের ধরণ	সংখ্যা	মামলা
১.	শিশু ধর্ষণ (০-১৮ বছর)	২৩	১৮
২.	শিশু নির্যাতন (০-১৮ বছর)	২৩	১২
৩.	হেফাজতে মৃত্যু	০৫	০০
৪.	শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে শাস্তি/ কর্পোরাল পানিশমেন্ট	০৩	০২
৫.	শ্রমিক মৃত্যু	০৪	০০
৬.	বন্দুক যুদ্ধে নিহত	০১	০০
৭.	সাংবাদিকের ওপর হামলা	২৬	০৫
৮.	গণপিটুনি	২৬	০৭
	নিহত	১৮	--
	আহত	০৮	--
৯.	নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা		
	ধর্ষণ (১৮ বছর এবং তদূর্ধ্ব)	২২	১৭
	ধর্ষণের পর হত্যা	০২	০২
	ধর্ষণের পর আত্মহত্যা	০১	০১
	অন্যান্য সহিংসতা (হত্যা, মারধর, নির্যাতন)	৬৮	১৪
	যৌন নির্যাতন	১৪	০৬
	পারিবারিক সহিংসতা	৪৩	১১
অ্যাসিড নিক্ষেপ	০২	০১	
১০.	নিখোঁজ	০৬	০৬
১১.	আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ	৩৩	০৭
১২.	সংখ্যালঘু নির্যাতন	৩৫	২৩

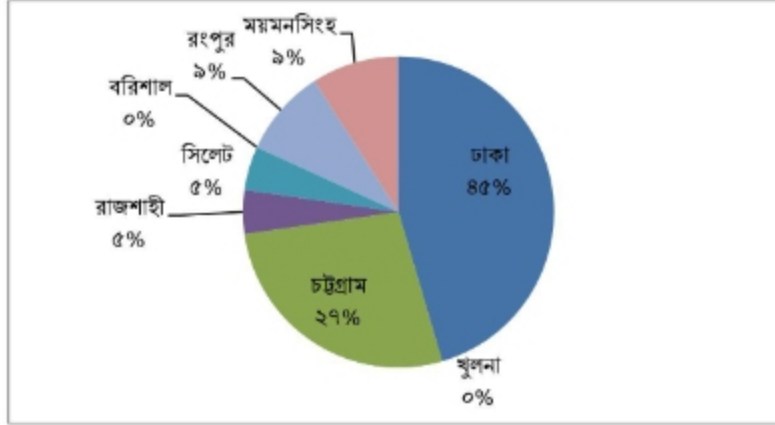
তথ্যসূত্রঃ দৈনিক প্রথমআলো, ডেইলিস্টার, দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক, ঢাকা ট্রিবিউন, দৈনিক কালেরকণ্ঠ, দৈনিক সমকাল, দৈনিক বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন, বিডিনিউজ ২৪, দৈনিক সংবাদ, দৈনিক যুগান্তর, দৈনিক জনকণ্ঠ, ডেইলি নিউএজ, সময় নিউজ, ডেইলি অবজারভার, দৈনিক ভোরের কাগজ, ডেইলি ইন্ডিপেন্ডেন্ট, দৈনিক নয়াদিগন্ত (অনলাইন ভার্সন) এবং জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশনে গৃহীত অভিযোগ ও তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন

বিস্তারিত

শিশু ধর্ষণ:

অক্টোবর মাসে শিশু ধর্ষণের ঘটনা ঘটেছে ২৩টি যার মধ্যে মামলা হয়েছে ১৮টি অর্থাৎ মামলার শতকরা হার ৭৮.২৬। তথ্য বিশ্লেষণে দেখা যায় যে, ঢাকা বিভাগে সবচেয়ে বেশি শিশু ধর্ষণের ঘটনা ঘটেছে। মোট ধর্ষণের ঘটনার ৩৯.১৩% ঘটনা ঘটেছে ঢাকায়। শিশু ধর্ষণের মোট ঘটনার ৭৩.৯১% ঘটনা ঘটেছে ঢাকা এবং চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগে।

শিশু ধর্ষণের বিভাগওয়ারি চিত্র



শিশু ধর্ষণের অক্টোবর মাসের কয়েকটি উল্লেখযোগ্য ঘটনা এবং ঘটনার কারণ নিম্নে সংক্ষেপে উল্লেখ করা হলো:

ক) বাকপ্রতিবন্ধী: ঘটনাটি ঘটেছে রাজধানীর বিমান বন্দর এলাকায়। গত ১৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ওই শিশুকে মাসিক ১০ হাজার টাকা বেতনে গৃহকর্মীর কাজ দেওয়ার কথা বলে ঢাকায় নিয়ে যায় দুই নারী। তীরা রাজধানীর বিমানবন্দর এলাকায় একটি বাসায় ওই শিশুকে নিয়ে ওঠেন। সেখানে শিশুটিকে একটি কক্ষে তিন দিন আটকে ধর্ষণ করে এক ব্যক্তি। ওই দুই নারীও সেই বাসায় ছিলো।

খ) অবুঝ শিশু: দিনাজপুরে বিরামপুর উপজেলার গংগাদাসপুর গ্রামের সীওতাল (ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী) পরিবারের ৫ বছর বয়সি এক শিশু গত বুধবার (১৬/১০/২৪) বিকালে বাড়ির পাশে খেলছিল। এ সময় একই গ্রামের রমেশ হাঁসদার ছেলে নিরঞ্জন হাঁসদা (ভাদরা) শিশুটিকে কোলে করে পার্শ্ববর্তী কবরস্থানে নিয়ে যায়। সেখানে শিশুটিকে ধর্ষণের সময় শিশুর চিৎকারে লোকজন গিয়ে তাকে উদ্ধার করে।

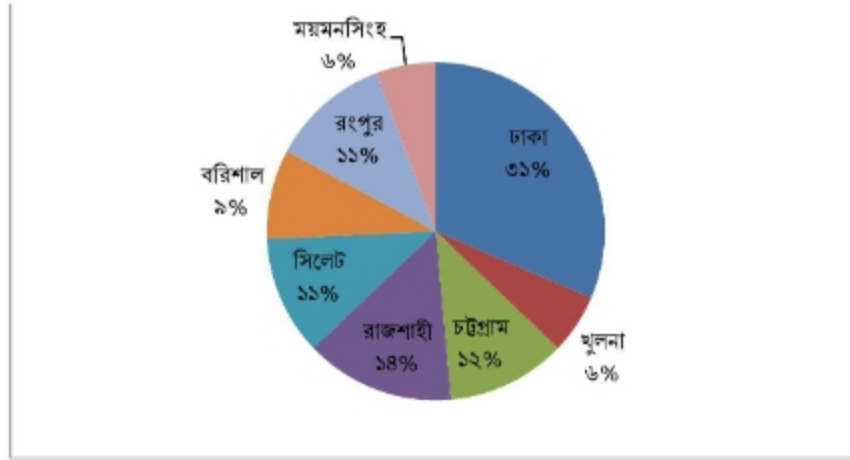
গ) নিরাপত্তাহীন আবাসিক মাদ্রাসা: চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জের গোমস্তাপুর উপজেলার একটি মহিলা হাফিজিয়া মাদ্রাসার আবাসিক ছাত্রীকে (১৪) ওই মাদ্রাসার পরিচালক শারমিন খাতুনের সহায়তায় নৈশপ্রহরী একই ইউনিয়নের সুবইল গ্রামের মৃত রুস্তম আলীর ছেলে বাটু আলী (৬৫) দীর্ঘদিন যাবত জোরপূর্বক ধর্ষণ করে আসছে।

সংখ্যালঘু নির্যাতন:

অক্টোবর মাসে মোট সংখ্যালঘু নির্যাতনের ঘটনা ঘটেছে ৩৫টি। তন্মধ্যে ২৩টি ঘটনার মামলার তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে। সংখ্যালঘু নির্যাতনের ধরণগুলো সাধারণত সনাতন ধর্মাবলম্বীদের প্রতিমা ও উপাসনালয় ভাংচুর, বাড়ীতে হামলা ও লুটপাট, চাঁদা দাবি, পূজার সরকারি বরাদ্দ আত্মসাৎ, পূজামন্ডপে চুরি ও পেট্রোলবোমা নিক্ষেপ, শারীরিক নির্যাতন ও মন্দিরের জমি দখল ইত্যাদি। অন্যদিকে, কিছু স্থানে সামাজিক যোগাযোগ মাধ্যমের পোস্টকে কেন্দ্র করে সাম্প্রদায়িক সম্প্রীতি বিনষ্টের চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে। তবে প্রায় প্রতিটি নির্যাতনের ঘটনাতেই প্রশাসনের আইনগত তৎপরতা পরিলক্ষিত হয়েছে।

বিভাগওয়ারি সংখ্যালঘু নির্যাতনের অবস্থা নিম্নে চিত্রের মাধ্যমে দেখানো হলো:

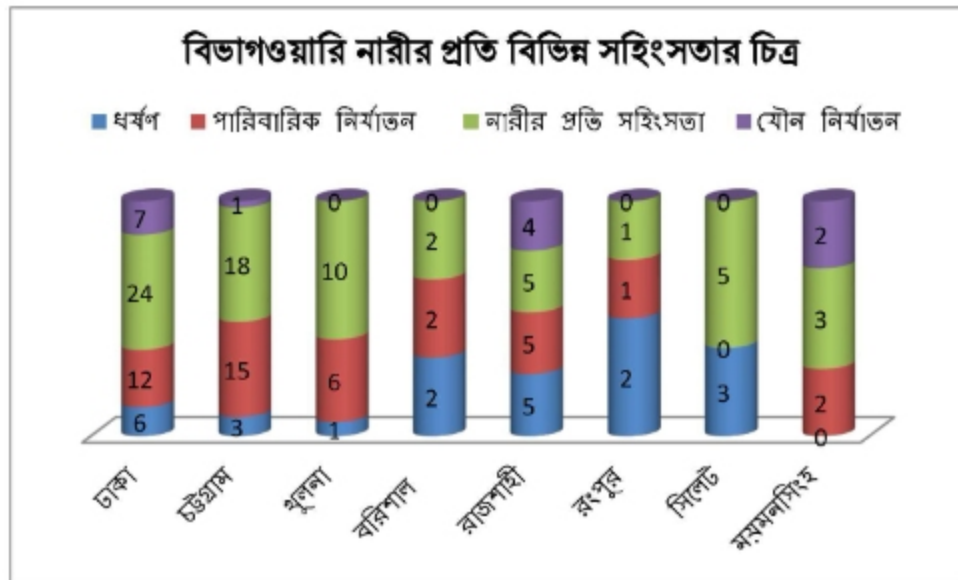
সংখ্যালঘু নির্যাতনের বিভাগওয়ারি চিত্র



নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা, ধর্ষণ, যৌন নির্যাতন ও পারিবারিক সহিংসতা (১৮ বছর এবং তদূর্ধ্ব):

অক্টোবর মাসে নারী ধর্ষণের ঘটনা ঘটেছে ২২টি, যৌন নির্যাতন ১৪টি, পারিবারিক সহিংসতা ৪৩টি এবং নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতার ৬৮টি ঘটনা ঘটেছে। এখানে লক্ষণীয় বিষয় হচ্ছে, পারিবারিক সহিংসতার মাত্র ১১টি ঘটনায় এবং নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতার ১৪টি ঘটনায় মামলার তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে। পারিবারিক সহিংসতার উল্লেখযোগ্য ধরণগুলো হলো: শারীরিক নির্যাতন, বাড়ী থেকে বের করে দেয়া, গর্ভপাত ঘটানো, গায়ে অগ্নিসংযোগ, বিষ প্রয়োগ ও শ্বাসরোধ ইত্যাদি। অন্যদিকে, যৌতুকের জন্য নির্যাতন ও হত্যা, স্ত্রীর বিনা অনুমতিতে আরেকটি বিয়ে করার কারণে পারিবারিক কলহ থেকে সহিংসতার ঘটনা ঘটেছে।

বিভাগওয়ারি নারীর প্রতি বিভিন্ন সহিংসতার চিত্র



(বিভাগওয়ারি নারীর প্রতি বিভিন্ন সহিংসতার চিত্র)

শিশু নির্যাতন:

শিশু নির্যাতনের ২৩টি ঘটনার মধ্যে মাত্র ১১টি মামলার তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে। সামাজিক সম্মানের কথা চিন্তা করে অনেকেই ঘটনার বিষয় চেপে যান। অনেক ক্ষেত্রে দেখা যায়, নির্যাতনকারী নিকট আত্মীয়দের মধ্যে কেউ তাই ঘটনার বিষয়ে আইনগত প্রতিকার চায় না সংশ্লিষ্ট পরিবার। শিশু নির্যাতনের বিভাগ অনুযায়ী সংখ্যাাত্মিক তথ্য নিম্নে দেওয়া হলো:

মোট সংখ্যা	ঢাকা	চট্টগ্রাম	খুলনা	বরিশাল	রাজশাহী	রংপুর	সিলেট	ময়মনসিংহ
২৩	০৯	০২	০২	০১	০২	০৩	০১	০৩

সাংবাদিক নির্যাতন:

অক্টোবর মাসের সাংবাদিক নির্যাতনের ঘটনাগুলো খেয়াল করলে দেখা যায়, সাংবাদিকের উপর হামলা, তাদের নামে মামলা, গ্রেপ্তার বা আটক, পরিবারের সদস্যদের লাঞ্চিত করা ও বাড়ীঘর ভাঙচুর করা ইত্যাদি। সাংবাদিক নির্যাতনের কয়েকটি ঘটনা নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলো:

ক) মামলা: ‘হিজলায় ১০টি মাছঘাট লুটের মামলা, আওয়ামী লীগ নেতাদের সঙ্গে ৬ সাংবাদিক আসামি’ শিরোনামে ০৯ অক্টোবর সংবাদটি প্রকাশিত হয়। অভিযুক্ত সাংবাদিকগণ হলেন- হিজলা প্রেসক্লাবের সভাপতি এবং দৈনিক যুগান্তর ও মাই টিভির হিজলা প্রতিনিধি দেলোয়ার হোসেন, হিজলা প্রেসক্লাবের দপ্তর সম্পাদক ও দৈনিক ইত্তেফাকের হিজলা প্রতিনিধি মোহাম্মদ আরহাজ সরদার, রিপোর্টার্স ইউনিটের সভাপতি ও এশিয়ান টিভির প্রতিনিধি মিলন সরদার, দৈনিক মানবজমিনের প্রতিনিধি কাজী মহসিন, দৈনিক আজকের বার্তার প্রতিনিধি হুমায়ুন নলী ও দৈনিক বাংলাদেশ বাণীর হিজলা প্রতিনিধি শাহে আলম।

খ) হত্যা: ময়মনসিংহে নিজ বাসার সামনে সাংবাদিককে কুপিয়ে হত্যা করা হয়। নিহত স্বপন কুমার ভদ্র (৬৫) তারাকান্দা প্রেসক্লাবের সহসভাপতি। তিনি আগে ময়মনসিংহ থেকে প্রকাশিত দৈনিক স্বজন পত্রিকায় তারাকান্দা উপজেলা প্রতিনিধি ছিলেন। বর্তমানে তিনি কোনো গণমাধ্যমে কর্মরত ছিলেন না। তবে তিনি সামাজিক যোগাযোগমাধ্যম ফেসবুকে এলাকার বিভিন্ন ঘটনা ও বিষয় নিয়ে নিয়মিত লেখালেখি করতেন।

গ) পরিবারের সদস্যদের লাঞ্চিত করা ও বাড়ীঘর ভাঙচুর করা: ‘কয়রায় সাংবাদিককে না পেয়ে স্ত্রী-সন্তানকে মারধর, বাড়ি ভাঙচুর’ শিরোনামে ২৪ অক্টোবর, ২০২৪ খবরটি প্রকাশিত হয়। সাংবাদিক সিরাজুদ্দৌলার স্ত্রী রোকেয়া আকতার বলেন, গতকাল রাত ৮টার দিকে ৮-১০টি মোটরসাইকেলে দুর্বৃত্তরা বাড়ির গেটের সামনে আসে। তাঁর (সিরাজুদ্দৌলা) নাম ধরে অকথ্য ভাষায় গালিগালাজ করতে থাকে ২০-২২ জন যুবক। একপর্যায়ে তারা ঘরে ঢুকে সিরাজুদ্দৌলাকে খুঁজতে থাকে। না পেয়ে ঘরের আসবাবপত্র ভাঙচুর করে। বাধা দিলে তারা এলোপাতাড়ি মারধর শুরু করে। এ সময় রোকেয়া আকতারের গলার সোনার চেইন ও কানের দুল ছিনিয়ে নেয় তারা। এ ছাড়া আলমারি থেকে টাকাও লুট করা হয়।

বিভাগ অনুযায়ী অক্টোবর মাসে সাংবাদিক নির্যাতনের সংখ্যাাত্মিক তথ্য নিম্নে দেওয়া হলো:

মোট সংখ্যা	ঢাকা	চট্টগ্রাম	খুলনা	বরিশাল	রাজশাহী	রংপুর	সিলেট	ময়মনসিংহ
২৬	০২	০৯	০১	০২	০১	০৩	০৬	০১

গণপিটুনি:

০৫ আগস্ট, ২০২৪ পরবর্তী সময়ে গণপিটুনিতে হত্যার সংখ্যা তুলনামূলক বেড়েছে। অক্টোবর মাসে মোট ২৬টি গণপিটুনি ঘটনা ঘটেছে। এতে ১৮ জন নিহত এবং ০৮ জন আহত হয়েছে। অনেক ক্ষেত্রে দেখা গেছে সন্দেহের বশে প্রাণে মেরে ফেলার মতো ঘটনা ঘটেছে। সারাদেশে গণপিটুনির সংখ্যাতাত্ত্বিক চিত্র নিম্নে ছকের মাধ্যমে উপস্থাপন করা হলো:

মোট সংখ্যা	ঢাকা	চট্টগ্রাম	খুলনা	বরিশাল	রাজশাহী	রংপুর	সিলেট	ময়মনসিংহ
২৬	০৯	০৬	০৪	০০	০৬	০১	০১	০০

শ্রমিক মৃত্যু:

অক্টোবর মাসে শ্রমিক মৃত্যুর ঘটনা পাওয়া গেছে ০৪টি। সেপ্টেম্বর মাসে যার সংখ্যা ছিল ১৪ টি। অক্টোবর মাসে যে চারটি শ্রমিক মৃত্যুর ঘটনা পাওয়া গেছে তা ঢাকা এবং চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগে সীমাবদ্ধ। ঢাকা বিভাগে ০৩ জন শ্রমিক মারা যান এবং চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগে ০১ জন। ঘটনাগুলো পর্যালোচনা করলে দেখা যায়, সাভার উপজেলার নির্মাণাধীন সেফটিক ট্যাংকের ভিতরে কাজ করতে নামেন এক জন নির্মাণ শ্রমিক। দীর্ঘ সময় অতিবাহিত হলেও তার কোন সাড়াশব্দ না পেয়ে তাকে খুঁজতে অপর একজন শ্রমিক সেফটিক ট্যাংকে নামেন। এরপর দুজনেরই কোন সাড়াশব্দ না পেয়ে স্থানীয়রা ফায়ার সার্ভিসকে খবর দেয়। পরে ফায়ার সার্ভিসের কর্মীরা ঘটনাস্থলে পৌঁছে সেফটিক ট্যাংকের ভিতর থেকে অচেতন অবস্থায় ওই দুই জন নির্মাণ শ্রমিককে উদ্ধার করেন। এছাড়াও, শরীয়তপুরে পল্লীবিদ্যুতের সঞ্চালন লাইনে কাজ করতে গিয়ে একজন শ্রমিকের মৃত্যু হয় অপরদিকে চট্টগ্রামে রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব বাংলাদেশ শিপিং করপোরেশনের (বিএসসি) 'এমটি বাংলার সৌরভ' নামের ট্যাংকারে আগুনে একজনের মৃত্যু হয়েছে।

বিভাগওয়ারি শ্রমিক মৃত্যুর সংখ্যা নিম্নে ছকে উল্লেখ করা হলো:

মোট সংখ্যা	ঢাকা	চট্টগ্রাম	খুলনা	বরিশাল	রাজশাহী	রংপুর	সিলেট	ময়মনসিংহ
০৪	০৩	০১	০০	০০	০০	০০	০০	০০

হেফাজতে মৃত্যু

এ মাসে কারা হেফাজতে ০৫ জনের মৃত্যুর ঘটনা পাওয়া গেছে। ঘটনাগুলো খেয়াল করলে দেখা যায়, প্রায় সব ক্ষেত্রে কারা কর্তৃপক্ষ দাবি করেছে- কয়েদি অসুস্থ বোধ করায় তারা হাসপাতালে নিয়ে গেলে আসামির মৃত্যু হয়েছে। যেমন, ০১ অক্টোবর ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ (ডামেক) হাসপাতালে ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগারের মো. লিয়াকত (৪৮) নামে এক কয়েদির মৃত্যু হয়েছে। লিয়াকতকে হাসপাতালে নিয়ে আসা কারারক্ষী মো. মেহেদী হাসান জানান, গতকাল রাতে লিয়াকত হঠাৎ অসুস্থ হয়ে পড়েন। পরে কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশে কয়েকজন কারারক্ষী ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে নিয়ে এলে রাত পৌঁনে ১১টার দিকে জরুরি বিভাগের দায়িত্বরত চিকিৎসক লিয়াকতকে মৃত ঘোষণা করেন। ২৩ অক্টোবর, বুধবার ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ (ডামেক) হাসপাতালে কেরানীগঞ্জে অবস্থিত ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগারের আরেক হাজতির মৃত্যু হয়েছে।

আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ

আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে ৩৩টি অভিযোগ পাওয়া গেছে গত অক্টোবর মাসে। যৌতুক ও নারী নির্যাতন, মামলা নিতে অনিহা, ডাকাতি ও লুটপাট, মামলা গ্রহণে উৎকোচ দাবি, কার্যালয়ে অপেশাদার আচরণ, ক্রসফায়ারের হুমকি ও শারীরিক নির্যাতন, ছিনতাই,

আন্দোলনরত গার্মেন্টস শ্রমিকদের উপর গুলি বর্ষণ ও হত্যাকাণ্ডে সহযোগিতাসহ আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে বিভিন্ন অভিযোগ প্রকাশিত সংবাদ হতে জানা যায়। তবে এসব ক্ষেত্রে ভুক্তভোগী সাধারণ মানুষ মামলা করতে পারে না বললেই চলে। অক্টোবর মাসে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে ৩৩টি অভিযোগের মধ্যে মাত্র ০৭টি ঘটনায় মামলা দায়ের হয়েছে মর্মে তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে।

উপসংহার

উল্লিখিত বিভিন্ন ঘটনায় জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশন স্বতঃপ্রণোদিত অভিযোগ আমলে নিয়েছে। এসকল অভিযোগ ও একইসাথে কমিশনে দায়েরকৃত অভিযোগসমূহ প্রতি সপ্তাহে বেঞ্চে আলোচনা করা হয়, প্রয়োজনে তদন্ত করা হয় এবং সরকার ও বিভিন্ন কর্তৃপক্ষকে সুপারিশ ও নির্দেশনা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে ভুক্তভোগীদের প্রতিকার প্রদান করা হয়। উল্লিখিত মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের কিছু অভিযোগের প্রেক্ষিতে সরকারের নিকট হতে প্রতিবেদন পাওয়া গেছে আবার কিছু প্রতিবেদন অপেক্ষমান। কমিশন মনে করে, সরকারের সকল সংস্থা, আইন শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনী এবং অন্যান্য অংশীজনসহ সকলে সচেতন হলে মানবাধিকার সুরক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে কার্যকর অগ্রগতি পরিলক্ষিত হবে।

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- d) No permit shall be valid for more than twelve months from the date of its grant. Every person required by this rule to be in possession of a permit shall be bound to produce it on the demand of any Government officer, headman, Karbari or Bazar Chaudhuri, and on his failure to produce such permit such government officer, headman, Karbari or Bazar Choudhuri shall arrest him and forward him without delay to the nearest police officer or Magistrate.”
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The Rights & Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) is an independent think-tank based in New Delhi. It conducts risks analysis to prevent violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms with a specific focus on the threats to the rule of law and democracy. It provides early warnings on impending conflicts and analysis of policies and programmes of the State and non-State actors contributing to the proliferation or perpetuation of conflicts. Its special focus remains to change the current narrative on counter-terrorism.

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