



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

D-3, # 3rd floor, Plot # 2, Nur-Jehan Tower, 2nd Outer Circular Road, Bangla Motor, Dhaka-1205,

Bangladesh. E-mail: hrssbd14@gmail.com, Web: www.hrssbd.org

Ref: hrss/2024/ka/06

Reg. No: S-12473/2016

Human rights situation in Bangladesh February 2024

HRSS's Monthly Human Rights Monitoring Report.

Despite achieving significant milestones in Bangladesh since independence, including notable successes in development, governance, democracy, freedom of expression, right to vote, freedom of speech, right to assembly, social security, and women's rights, overall human rights conditions remain concerning. Constitutional obligations and international laws and treaties notwithstanding, human rights violations persist in Bangladesh. An assessment of the human rights situation in February 2024 reveals ongoing centralization-driven violence within the ruling Awami League and its student wing, electoral violence, obstruction of peaceful gatherings, political arrests, unlawful conduct by law enforcement, attacks on journalists, cross-border persecution and killings of innocent Bangladeshis, violence against women, and unabated killings in mob violence incidents. This month, notable incidents included protests by teachers and students against violence and sexual assault in various educational institutions and ongoing armed clashes between the Bangladeshi military and armed groups along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, resulting in the deployment of high-powered explosives and bombings within Bangladesh's territory. These incidents have created a fearful environment among border residents. Information gathered from news published in various Bangladeshi media outlets and research units of HRSS has portrayed the Human Rights Monitoring Report for February 2024.

In February, 58 incidents of "political violence" resulted in the death of 08 individuals and injuries to at least 343 others. Most of these occurred amidst clashes between rival factions within the Awami League and the Chhatra League, as well as confrontations with opposition party activists and police. At least 156 people were injured in at least 11 incidents of violence in public university campuses due to BCL dominance and infighting. Additionally, law enforcement agencies have arrested at least 73 political leaders and workers, including 70 from the BNP-Jamaat alliance. This month, six cases involving 65



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

D-3, # 3rd floor, Plot # 2, Nur-Jehan Tower, 2nd Outer Circular Road, Bangla Motor, Dhaka-1205,

Bangladesh. E-mail: hrssbd14@gmail.com, Web: www.hrssbd.org

individuals have been centered on political violence, with another 62 being accused as unidentified suspects. Furthermore, clashes between opposition parties and law enforcement have led to the disruption of seven meetings and gatherings, resulting in injuries to 50 and the arrest of 27. Despite almost two months passing since the national elections on January 7th, incidents of election-related violence persist. In February alone, there were at least 20 such incidents, resulting in the death of 02 individuals, injuries to 40, and damage or looting of at least 13 homes and businesses. Additionally, 17 individuals, including a BNP member under jail custody.

In at least 08 attacks this month, 12 journalists have been tortured and harassed; at least 10 people were injured and 02 were threatened. Alarming, 4 people have been arrested and 13 people have been charged in 5 cases filed under the Cyber Security Act 2023. Besides, 02 incidents of attacks on "minority" communities have occurred

In February, 06 people were killed and at least 28 people were injured in the incident of 26 workers torture. 18 workers died in accidents due to unsanitary environment and lack of workers' protective equipment. At this time, 2 people were killed and 1 person was injured in the incident of torture of 3 domestic workers. It is alarming that 02 people were killed and 05 people injured in 04 incidents of public lynching this month. Also, 03 Bangladeshis injured and 28 arrested in 04 attacks by "Indian Border Security Force (BSF)". It is very worrying that for the past few days, the Bangladesh-Myanmar border has been clashing with the armed groups of the country's army. The high-powered ammunition and explosives used in it are coming inside the border of Bangladesh. Already 03 people including one Rohingya have been killed and at least 8 people have been injured due to the ammunition coming from Myanmar. These incidents have created a fearful atmosphere among the border people.

In February, 153 women and girls were victims of torture. Among them, 48 people were raped, out of which 28 (58%) were children under 18 years of age. It is a matter of great concern that 15 women and girl children were gang-raped, and 01 committed suicide. 42 women and girls were victims of sexual abuse, including 17 children. 01 housewife was



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

D-3, # 3rd floor, Plot # 2, Nur-Jehan Tower, 2nd Outer Circular Road, Bangla Motor, Dhaka-1205,

Bangladesh. E-mail: hrssbd14@gmail.com, Web: www.hrssbd.org

killed due to dowry torture, 05 were victims of physical torture and 01 women committed suicide. 30 women were killed, 09 were injured and 15 women committed suicide due to domestic violence. 2 women were seriously injured due to acid violence. On the other hand, it is worrisome that 205 children have been victims of abuse out of which 59 have lost their lives and 146 children have been victims of physical and mental abuse.

