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HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING REPORT **Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh (August 2026)**

In August 2026, the human rights situation in Bangladesh was widely discussed in connection with a range of political, social, law-and-order, and public-safety related incidents. During this period, developments such as political violence and intra-party feuds, clashes centred on turf domination, obstruction of meetings and assemblies, interference with freedom of expression and the media, attacks on and harassment of journalists, mob violence, casualties at the border, deaths in custody, violations of labour rights, and violence against women and children became particular causes for concern. At the same time, operations by the joint forces and law enforcement agencies to control the law-and-order situation, along with large-scale arrests and the filing of cases, also raised questions about civil liberties, due legal process, and the accountability of law enforcement agencies.

In the political sphere, incidents of death and injury occurred in clashes centred on internal disputes within various parties, inter-party clashes, local turf domination, extortion, and attempts to extend influence. Alongside this, there were also allegations of obstruction and disruption of peaceful political programmes, meetings and assemblies, and organisational activities at various locations. These incidents raised concerns about citizens' rights to peaceful assembly, association, and participation in political activities, as well as about the overall democratic environment. Alongside preventing political violence, it is essential to ensure the right to peaceful political activity and to hold those involved in violence accountable through impartial investigation.

Clashes also occurred at educational institutions, centred on political disputes, the holding of programmes, the extension of influence on campuses, and the presence of outsiders. In particular, clashes were reported between 3 and 5 August at Begum Rokeya University, Jagannath University, Dhaka College, the Government Madrasa-e-Alia, Barisal University, and Government Tolaram College. These incidents raised concerns about the safety of students, the normal functioning of academic activities, and the peaceful environment of educational institutions.

Various worrying incidents were also observed with regard to freedom of expression and the media. Allegations of cases, detention, harassment, and pressure were reported in connection with expressing opinions on social media, criticising matters related to the state and public interest, or publishing investigative reports. At the same time, incidents of attacks on, threats against, humiliation of, detention of, and legal action against journalists also called into question the environment for them to carry out their professional duties safely and independently.

In border areas as well, incidents of shooting, torture, landmine explosions, and casualties have raised concerns for the life and safety of people living near the border. Transparent and impartial investigation of these incidents, along with effective action by the relevant authorities, is needed.



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Incidents of rape, gang rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dowry-related abuse, killing of women, and abuse of children against women and children also continued. Alongside ensuring the safety, medical treatment, psychological support, and legal services of victims, it is essential to bring perpetrators to swift and fair justice.

A worrying situation was also observed with regard to labour rights and workplace safety. Reports of insecurity in the workplace, deaths of workers, torture, and violence against domestic workers highlighted the limitations in ensuring a safe and dignified working environment for workers. At the same time, incidents such as a fire in Saudi Arabia, a hotel fire in Kolkata, and the deaths of Bangladeshi migrants in the Mediterranean Sea underscored the importance of ensuring the safety of Bangladeshi citizens abroad, safe migration, and the prevention of human trafficking.

Overall, the human rights situation in August 2026 highlighted the existing challenges in ensuring the rule of law, civil liberties, a safe life, freedom of expression, and an accountable system of governance. It is essential to ensure impartial investigation of every complaint and incident, effective remedy for victims, accountability of those responsible, and transparency in the activities of law enforcement agencies. A responsible role by the state and all concerned parties is needed to ensure citizens' fundamental rights, the right to peaceful assembly and association, and the right to live a safe and dignified life.

Based on news published in 16 national media outlets of Bangladesh and information collected by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the following information has emerged in the human rights monitoring report for August 2026:

Political Violence

In August, at least 7 people were killed and at least 536 were injured in at least 70 incidents of “political violence.” Most of the incidents of violence were centred on turf domination, political disputes and attacks, intra- and inter-party feuds, and extortion. The number of casualties from political violence in August increased compared to July. In July, 6 people were killed and 164 were injured in 45 incidents of “political violence.”

Of the at least 70 incidents of violence in August, at least 152 people were injured and 5 killed in 20 incidents of internal BNP feuding. In 18 clashes between BNP and Jamaat, 233 people were injured and 1 killed. In 7 clashes between BNP and Awami League, 26 were injured and 1 killed. In 6 clashes between BNP and NCP, 16 were injured, and in 10 clashes between BNP and other parties, 38 were injured. In 9 incidents among various other parties, 71 people were injured. Of the 7 people killed, 5 were from BNP, 1 from Awami League, and 1 from Jamaat.

Among these incidents, at least 13 campus-centred clashes between student organisations left 216 people injured. Of these, 181 were injured in 8 incidents between Chhatra Dal and Shibir, and 35 were injured in 5 incidents involving Chhatra Dal, other student organisations, and general students.

In addition, at least 4 incidents of attacks by miscreants on leaders and activists of political parties left 3 injured and 2 killed. At least 12 political leaders and activists were shot. Furthermore, 19 incidents centred on turf domination, occupation, political violence, and extortion across the country resulted in clashes, attacks, looting, vandalism, and arson at more than fifty homes, business establishments, and party offices.



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No.	Political Parties	Incidents	Injured	Killed
1	BNP–BNP (internal)	20	152	5
2	BNP–Jamaat	18	233	1
3	BNP–Awami League	7	26	1
4	BNP–NCP	6	16	
5	BNP–Other parties	10	38	
6	Among other parties	9	71	
Total		70	536	7

Election-related Violence

In August 2026, attacks on candidates and their supporters ahead of upcoming local elections also raised concern. On 5 August, an armed attack occurred, centred on the Khoksa municipality election in Kushtia, on mayoral candidate and former senior joint convenor of Khoksa Upazila BNP, Nafiz Ahmed Khan Raju. He was seriously injured in the attack, which took place in front of the gate of his own house in the Khoksa Thanapara area. Extensive gunfire and crude bomb explosions during the attack spread panic in the area. Such armed attacks raise serious concern regarding the safety of election candidates, free political participation, and ensuring a safe environment among voters.

In addition, on 11 August, an allegation of an armed attack was received against Ebadul Islam, a chairman candidate of Nagarghata Union in Tala Upazila, Satkhira. At least eight activists and supporters, including candidate Ebadul Islam, were injured in the attack. According to the victims and local residents, the attack was carried out under the leadership of Nagarghata Union BNP president and former UP chairman Mohabbat Hossain and organising secretary Akhtar, along with Chhatra Dal leaders Lucky, Raihan, Sakib, and activists of Jubo Dal. However, it is essential that the relevant authorities conduct an impartial investigation into these allegations to identify the actual facts and those responsible.

Obstruction of Meetings and Assemblies

This month, multiple instances of interference by law enforcement agencies in the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly were observed. According to the information received, law enforcement agencies and activists of the ruling party directly or indirectly obstructed at least 13 meetings and assemblies during this period, forcing organisers to postpone, disperse, or cancel the scheduled programmes. Such interference led to clashes and disorderly situations, and at least 61 people were injured and 8 were detained from meeting and assembly venues, including political activists, students, workers, and ordinary passers-by.

Torture and Harassment of Journalists

It is a matter of concern that at least 45 journalists were subjected to torture and harassment in at least 32 incidents this month. At least 26 were injured, 6 were subjected to humiliation, and 7 journalists faced threats in these incidents. Five journalists were detained. In addition, one journalist was accused in a case filed over a published news report. A further case under the Cyber Security Act 2026 named 1 person as accused. On the morning of 25 August, on the premises of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Shariatpur, Daily Star journalist Zahid



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Hasan, News24 Television and Jago News correspondent Bidhan Majumder, and Manobkantho's district correspondent Barkat Mollah were assaulted. When another journalist called by phone to ask about the assault, he was threatened with the words, “You write it, and we'll beat you up.” In addition, on 25 August, five local journalists were subjected to an attack by miscreants while collecting information during an ad hoc committee meeting at Nabaran Burujbagan Girls' High School in Sharsha Upazila, Jashore. The five journalists who were attacked were Anisur Rahman, Alamgir Hossain, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Atiquzzaman Rimu, and Rahat Hossain.

Freedom of Expression

This month, interference with freedom of expression increased significantly. At least 10 people were detained and 8 cases were filed in at least 8 incidents this month. At least 11 people were accused in these cases. Of these, 2 were detained for criticising the Prime Minister, 1 for creating political and other content, 2 on allegations of hurting religious sentiment and making derogatory remarks, and 6 over other issues. Separately, 5 people were accused in 4 separate cases under various sections of the Cyber Security Act 2026, and 5 people were also detained in these incidents.

Mob Violence and Lynching

At least 28 people were killed and 62 injured in at least 53 incidents of lynching and mob violence this month. On 18 August, a person named Kajol Mia (46) was killed in a lynching over an allegation of cow theft in Nabinagar Upazila, Brahmanbaria. On 18 August, a young man named Raju Biswas died after being lynched by local residents near Boyra Rayermahal Boro Mosque in Khulna city on suspicion of being a “child abductor.” On 19 August, in Sreepur, Gazipur, local residents detained and beat four people, including a woman, on allegations of luring victims into honey traps, recording objectionable videos, and extorting money, before handing them over to police.

Unidentified Bodies

In August, 87 bodies were recovered nationwide in 82 incidents of planned or unplanned killings by criminals in rivers, canals, forests, and abandoned locations. Of these, 12 bodies were recovered stuffed in sacks, 17 in a hanging state, and 26 with multiple injuries on the body. In addition, 9 bodies were found with their throats slit, and 8 with hands and feet bound. A further 15 bodies were found under various other circumstances.

Killings and Torture at the Border

In August, 8 incidents at the India–Bangladesh border involving attacks by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) left 2 people dead and 1 injured, of whom 3 were shot. In addition, 5 people were detained. Furthermore, 5 people were pushed in and attempts were made to push in a further 18 people through various points along the border. On 9 August, Tara Mia (20) was killed by BSF gunfire in the Magurli area of India, across the border from Kulaura in Moulvibazar, and in a separate incident on 30 August, a Bangladeshi youth named Sohag Mia was killed at the Chintibil border in Chunarughat Upazila, Habiganj.

On the other hand, at the Bangladesh–Myanmar border, 3 incidents of violence left 1 person dead and 1 injured. In addition, 3 people were detained at the border. On 24 August, a



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Bangladeshi named Md. Saiful (25) was killed in a landmine explosion on the Myanmar side of the Naikhongchhari border in Bandarban. After entering Myanmar's territory to cut bamboo, he stepped on a buried landmine, and the explosion severed both his legs. He later died while undergoing treatment in hospital.

Deaths in Custody

At least 6 inmates died in jails across the country this month. Of these, 1 was a convicted prisoner and 5 were under-trial detainees. Of the 6 deceased, 1 was an Awami League leader, and the remaining 5 were ordinary prisoners. On 5 August, at around 3:30 pm, Md. Mizanur Rahman Khan Monir Khan (48), a member of Patuakhali District Awami League and former vice-chairman of Sadar Upazila Parishad, died in the ICU of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. In addition, a prisoner named Md. Nadim died at Dinajpur District Jail on 26 August, one day before his sentence was due to end.

Abuse of Workers

In August, at least 84 incidents of abuse of workers left 19 dead and at least 67 injured. At least 63 workers died in workplace accidents due to unhealthy conditions and a lack of protective equipment. In addition, in two separate incidents, 2 domestic workers died and 1 was subjected to abuse. On 12 August, in the Rajbari Mitali residential area of Roynagar in Sylhet city, homeowner Abdus Sattar Mia (82), his wife Suraiya Begum (72), and domestic worker Tahmina (15) were killed with their throats slit in the same house. Meanwhile, on 15 August, 10 workers died from exposure to excessive toxic hydrogen sulphide gas inside a ship at Ferdous Steel Ship Recycling Industries in Sitakunda, Chattogram.

Violence Against Women and Children

In August, at least 249 women and girls were subjected to abuse. Of these, at least 79 were victims of rape, of whom 46 (58%) were children and adolescents under 18. It is a matter of grave concern that 18 women and girls were victims of gang rape. Meanwhile, 93 women and girls were victims of sexual harassment, of whom 38 were children. In dowry-related abuse cases, 6 were killed, 7 women were injured, and 1 died by suicide. As a result of domestic violence, 49 were killed, 31 were injured, and 23 women died by suicide. On 2 August, the body of a 9-year-old child was recovered in the Tarakandi area of Nagarkanda Upazila, Faridpur. The family alleges the child was raped and then killed. On 2 August, in Niamatpur Upazila, Naogaon, a young woman who was deaf and mute was raped and subsequently married off through a village arbitration (salish). However, 15 days after the marriage, her parents-in-law and others forcibly administered medication to induce a miscarriage and then left her at her father's house. On 17 August, in Kaliakair, Gazipur, a housewife named Rasheda Begum (40) was subjected to brutal abuse by her nephew's wife following a family dispute; hot water was poured on her, scalding her face and neck. On 6 August, a 10-year-old child named Raju Ahmed was killed by criminals and buried in a waterlogged paddy field after he witnessed an auto-rickshaw robbery. After an extensive search, the child's partially decomposed body was recovered.

On the other hand, it is concerning that 282 children were subjected to abuse, of whom 77 lost their lives and 205 children were subjected to physical and psychological abuse.



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Cases and Arrests

According to information received in August, at least 62 cases were filed over various acts of violence and political incidents that occurred during this period. These cases named 1,125 people and made approximately 2,209 more unidentified as accused. In addition, in the same month, at least 12,823 people were arrested in a total of 162 political and other incidents combined. Among those arrested were at least 429 Awami League leaders and activists, 22 from BNP, 4 from Jamaat-e-Islami, 9 from NCP, and 5 members of extremist organisations. Special operations by the joint forces were conducted in various parts of the country throughout August to maintain normal law and order and to prevent possible sabotage. More than 12,354 people were arrested in these operations.

Coordinated efforts at all levels of the state and society are needed to establish the rule of law, strengthen democratic processes, and protect human rights in the country. It is essential to create an inclusive environment through constructive dialogue with political parties, civil society, journalists, human rights organisations, and conscious citizens, so that the law-and-order situation is strengthened and people's fundamental and constitutional rights are effectively ensured. If issues such as recent lynching and mob violence, political tension, and interference with freedom of expression are not resolved, the human rights situation could deteriorate further. Therefore, "HRSS" calls on the government to take more accountable and responsible measures to protect human rights, and at the same time requests all citizens, media workers, civil society, and human rights organisations to play a more vocal and active role.

