



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

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Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh (September 2026)

In September 2026, Bangladesh's human rights situation was highlighted on multiple fronts through various political, social, law-and-order and public-safety related incidents. During this period, political violence, intra-party feuding, large-scale political arrests, obstruction of meetings and assemblies, forced abduction, and allegations of interference with freedom of expression were particularly visible. At the same time, incidents of attack, vandalism and clashes occurred in various places centred on land grabbing, extortion and the spread of local dominance. In the capital, the attack, looting, vandalism and destruction of property at the Radda MCH-FP health centre, and the attack, vandalism and looting at content creator Salman Muqtadir's studio, raised concerns over public safety and the protection of property. Similarly, the attack and vandalism centred on control of a madrasa trust and occupation of a market in Sreepur, Ashulia, also brought to the fore the violent manifestation of local dominance can take.

In the field of public safety, incidents of mob violence, the dominance of teen gangs, killings in miscreants' attacks, and the recovery of unidentified bodies from various locations also heightened concern. These incidents have created fear over the safety of ordinary people and over the rule of law. During the same period, deaths in custody, deaths in prison, casualties at the border, violations of labour rights, and incidents of violence against women and children also continued. In these cases, the need to ensure victims' safety, medical treatment, legal assistance and effective remedy has become even clearer.

In the political sphere, conflict and loss of life occurred centred on internal disputes within various parties, inter-party clashes, the spread of local dominance, and extortion. Allegations were also received of obstruction of peaceful political programmes, meetings and assemblies, and organisational activities in various places. Alongside this, incidents of large-scale political arrests and the filing of cases have raised questions about civil liberties and due legal process.

Concerning circumstances were also observed in September with regard to freedom of expression and freedom of speech. Allegations of pressure, cases and harassment arose centred on the expression of opinion on social media, criticism of matters relating to the state and the public interest, or the expression of dissent. At the same time, incidents of attacks, threats, humiliation and harassment against journalists made the environment for journalists to perform their professional duties safely and independently more precarious. Such a situation can affect citizens' freedom of expression and the public's right to information.

Although operations, arrests and the filing of cases by the joint forces and law-enforcement agencies to control the law-and-order situation continued, ensuring transparency, impartiality, proportionality and due legal process in these activities has become important. In particular, it is necessary to ensure the rights of detained persons, judicial oversight, and accountability of law-enforcement agencies. In cases of death in prison as well, an impartial investigation to determine the actual cause of death, and ensuring proper medical treatment and humane conditions for prisoners, is essential.



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Overall, the course of events in September 2026 has brought to the fore various existing challenges in ensuring the rule of law, civil liberties, public safety, freedom of expression and an accountable system of governance. Incidents such as political violence, large-scale arrests, obstruction of meetings and assemblies, interference with freedom of expression, deaths in custody, forced abduction, clashes centred on land-grabbing and extortion, mob and teen-gang violence, and deaths in prison all require impartial and transparent investigation. At the same time, it is essential to ensure effective remedy for victims, to hold the guilty accountable through due legal process, and to ensure transparency in the activities of law-enforcement agencies as well. Ensuring citizens' fundamental rights, the right to peaceful assembly and association, freedom of expression, and an environment for a safe and dignified life requires a responsible role from the state and all relevant parties.

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 observation report for the month of September 2026:

Political Violence

In September, at least 68 incidents of 'political violence' resulted in at least 4 deaths and at least 527 injuries. Most of the violent incidents centred on dominance-seeking, political disputes and attacks, the upcoming local government election, intra-party and inter-party feuding, occupation, and extortion. Compared to August, political violence and the number of casualties decreased somewhat in September. In August, 70 incidents of 'political violence' resulted in 7 deaths and 536 injuries.

Of the at least 68 incidents of violence in September, 35 incidents of intra-BNP feuding resulted in at least 340 injuries and 1 death. 7 incidents of BNP–Jamaat clashes resulted in 61 injuries; 6 incidents of BNP–Awami League clashes resulted in 42 injuries and 1 death. 2 incidents of Jamaat–Awami League clashes resulted in 3 injuries and 1 death; 3 incidents of BNP–NCP clashes resulted in 16 injuries; 7 incidents of BNP–other-party clashes resulted in 15 injuries. 7 incidents among various parties resulted in 50 injuries and 1 death. Of the 4 people killed, 1 was from BNP, 1 from Jamaat, and 2 from Awami League.

Sl.	Political Parties	Incidents	Injured	Killed
1	BNP–BNP	35	340	01
2	BNP–Jamaat	07	61	
	Jamaat–Awami League	02	03	01
3	Awami League–Awami League	01		01
4	BNP–Awami League	06	42	01
5	BNP–NCP	03	16	
6	BNP–Other parties	07	15	
7	Among other parties	07	50	
Total		68	527	04

Besides this, at least 12 incidents of attacks on leaders and activists of political parties by miscreants resulted in 5 injuries and a total of 7 deaths. Of those killed, 5 were from BNP, 1 from Jamaat, and 1 was an extremist. In addition, at least 15 political leaders and activists were shot. Across the country,



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23 incidents centred on dominance-seeking, occupation, political violence and extortion resulted in clashes, attacks, looting, vandalism and arson at at least 63 homes, business establishments and party offices. In addition, with the upcoming local government election ahead, incidents of violence and attacks occurred among candidates and their activists/supporters. In September, 2 incidents of clashes centred on the upcoming local election resulted in at least 20 injuries.

Among the notable incidents, on 18 September, in Khaliajuri, Netrokona, a clash broke out, centred on an old dispute and dominance-seeking, between followers of Abdur Rahman, former president of Chakua Union BNP in the upazila, and Legal Mia, joint general secretary of the Union Sramik Dal. At least 28 people were injured. Among them, a young man named Shah Alamgir (22) was seriously injured and later died while undergoing treatment at Kurmitola General Hospital in Dhaka. On 10 September, local BNP leaders and activists hacked to death Monayem Hossain (48), member of Ward No. 9 of Bhaina Union, Harinakundu upazila, Jhenaidah, and ward president of the banned Awami League.

Obstruction of Meetings and Assemblies

This month, multiple incidents of intervention by law-enforcement agencies in the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly were observed. According to information received, during this period law-enforcement agencies and leaders/activists of the ruling party directly or indirectly obstructed the organisation of at least 6 meetings and assemblies, forcing organisers to postpone, disperse or cancel scheduled programmes. Such intervention led to clashes and disorderly situations, and at least 47 people were injured, including political activists, students, workers, and ordinary passers-by.

In August, 13 incidents of obstruction of meetings and assemblies resulted in 61 injuries and 8 detentions.

Persecution and Harassment of Journalists

It is a matter of concern that, this month, at least 35 journalists were subjected to persecution and harassment in at least 20 incidents. In these incidents, at least 16 were injured, 12 were subjected to humiliation, and 3 journalists faced threats. 1 journalist was detained. In addition, over defamation issues arising from the publication of news, 3 journalists were accused in 4 cases, of which 1 was filed under the Cyber Security Act, 2026.

In August, 32 incidents of persecution resulted in more than 45 journalists being subjected to persecution and harassment, of whom at least 26 were injured.

Among the notable incidents, on 20 September, there was an attack at the Keshabpur Press Club in Jessore, allegedly forming a 'mob' and attempting to seize control of the club. Several journalists were injured, including Jaydeb Chakraborty, former general secretary of the press club and Keshabpur correspondent for Daily Lok Shomaj; Abdullah Al Fuad, current general secretary and Keshabpur correspondent for Daily Kalyan; and Mehedi Hasan Zahid, executive member and Keshabpur correspondent for Daily Somoyer Khobor. In addition, on 19 September, in Kumarkhali, Kushtia, while



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collecting information on irregularities in road construction, Mahbubul Ahsan Ullash, Kumarkhali-Khoksa correspondent for the private television channel Bangla TV, was attacked and seriously injured.

Freedom of Expression

This month, incidents of interference with freedom of expression increased significantly. This month, at least 12 incidents resulted in 14 detentions and 12 cases being filed. These cases accused at least 26 people. Of these, 6 were detained over criticism of the Prime Minister and political matters, 2 over allegations of hurting religious sentiment and making derogatory remarks, and 6 over other issues. In addition, this month, directly or indirectly over criticism on social media of various issues including the July movement, drugs, and power outages, 3 people were hacked, beaten or burned to death, 1 was tortured, and 6 were dismissed or relieved from their jobs. In addition, 1 teacher was detained over criticism of the Prime Minister's speech at the United Nations, but was later released following the Prime Minister's direct intervention. On the other hand, under various sections of the Cyber Security Act, 2026, 10 people were accused in 3 separate cases, and 3 people were detained.

In August, 8 incidents resulted in 10 detentions and 8 cases being filed. These cases accused at least 11 people.

Mob Violence and Public Lynching

This month, 35 incidents of public lynching and mob violence across the country, over allegations including theft, robbery, snatching, quarrels, dominance-seeking, religious insult, rape and attempted rape, resulted in at least 9 deaths and 32 injuries.

In August, 53 incidents resulted in at least 28 deaths and 62 injuries.

Among the notable incidents, on 10 September, in Dowarabazar, Sunamganj, three people were tortured in a brutal manner over allegations of cattle theft. The tortured young men were Abu Bakkar (35), son of Hasan Ali of Borojuri village, Bangla Bazar Union; Nizam Uddin (30), son of the late Mofiz Ali of Purba Gilatoli village; and Sonai Mia (25), son of the late Shergul Mia of Jorapani village, Noarai Union, in the neighbouring Chhatak upazila. It is learnt that on Wednesday night, two cows belonging to Iqbal Hossain of Baktarpur village, Bangla Bazar Union, were stolen. The accused, Sonai Mia, was detained, and on the basis of his information, local residents also detained Abu Bakkar and Nizam Uddin. They were then tortured; their bodies were stripped and lime was smeared on their noses, mouths and eyes, and one of them suffered a bleeding leg. On 17 September, in the Purba Fakirahona area of Boro Maheshkhali Union, Maheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, a young man named Md. Faisal (26), suspected of being a thief, was tied to an electric pole and beaten to death. Several videos of the incident spread on social media, showing the young man's hands tied to the electric pole beside the road, with six or seven bricks piled on his back, under whose weight he leaned to one side, while the beating continued around him — some pulling his hair, others punching his face. Despite foam forming at his mouth from the torture, the beating did not stop, and he eventually died; some 15 to 20 people stood watching the scene. On 24 September, in the capital, miscreants formed a mob and attacked, looted, vandalised and destroyed property at the Radda MCH-FP health centre.



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Persecution of Minorities

It is a matter of concern that during this period, at least 3 attacks on minority communities resulted in 5 injuries. Alongside this, these incidents included the vandalism of 2 temples and 5 idols.

On 20 September, in Balaganj, Sylhet, a man entered the Paschim Bazar Nabinagar Sarbojanin Puja Mandap during Durga Puja and hacked various parts of the idols of Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati and Kartik with a cleaver. Police arrested a young man named Saidujjaman Shimul (29) in connection with the incident.

Unidentified Bodies

In September, 69 bodies were recovered nationwide from rivers, canals, forests and abandoned locations, in 66 incidents of killing by miscreants. Of these, 11 were recovered in sacks, 24 in a hanging state, and 8 bodies bore multiple injuries. In addition, 6 bodies were found with their throats slit, and 9 with hands and feet bound. Beyond these, a further 11 bodies were found under various other circumstances.

In August, 87 bodies were recovered nationwide from rivers, canals, forests and abandoned locations, in 82 incidents of killing by miscreants.

Killings and Torture at the Border

In September, 3 incidents of attacks by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at the India-Bangladesh border resulted in 2 deaths and 3 injuries, of whom 5 were shot. In addition, 1 person was detained. A body was also found at the India-Bangladesh border. In addition, more than a hundred attempts at push-ins were made through various border points. In August, 8 incidents resulted in 2 deaths, 1 injury and 5 detentions.

On 13 September, in Pirganj upazila, Thakurgaon, a Bangladeshi youth named Asadul Haque, alias Asaduzzaman (33), who had been shot by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) across the border, died while undergoing treatment. On the night of the incident, at around 1:30am, after he entered about one and a half kilometres inside India from the Pirganj border, members of the BSF's Chalkshibananda camp opened fire, injuring Asadul Haque. BSF members later took him to a hospital in Raiganj, India, where he died while undergoing treatment. In addition, another Bangladeshi youth, Mostakim (38), who was shot and injured in the same incident, also died. A third Bangladeshi youth, Sree Uda Chandra Roy (35), who was shot in the same incident, was detained by the BSF.

On the other hand, at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, one person was injured by gunfire from the Arakan Army. In August, a landmine explosion planted at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border killed one Bangladeshi youth, injured 1, and 3 were detained from territorial waters.

On 14 September, in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, a fisherman named Md. Idris (55) was injured by gunfire from the Arakan Army while fishing in the Myanmar section of the Naf river. Local residents said that Arakan Army members chased the fishermen while they were fishing in the Naf river; when the fishermen tried to return, they were fired upon, and Idris was shot in the leg.



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Extrajudicial Killings (Deaths in Custody / from Torture / by Shooting / in Gunfights)

According to news published in various national media, information from victims' families, and data collected by HRSS, at least 3 people died in custody and from torture by law-enforcement agencies in September. Of these, 1 died from torture and 2 died in the custody of law-enforcement agencies. In addition, one person died after falling into a drain and being injured while fleeing on sight of police to avoid detention.

On 8 September, there is an allegation that an unidentified young man (approximately 25 years old), detained on suspicion of theft at the BTCL wire storage building adjacent to the land survey office in Tejgaon, the capital, was beaten to death. According to BTCL office staff and local residents, on the morning of the incident, after the man climbed over a wall and entered the premises, Ansar members detained him, tied him to a pillar with rope, and beat him. He became unconscious and was taken to hospital, where doctors later declared him dead.

On 10 September, a woman named Nadira Begum (40) died in police custody in Bakerganj upazila, Barisal. According to local and police sources, Nadira Begum was arrested in the early hours of the day 'during an anti-drug operation'. Yaba tablets were found on her, which she swallowed. After being taken to court, she fell ill and was taken to hospital, where doctors declared her dead. However, Nadira's husband, Enamul Haque Gazi, claims that his wife was beaten to death.

On 26 September, in a separate incident at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital, Ansar members detained five people over allegations of theft and harassment and handed them over to hospital authorities. However, after being handed over and confined in a room, a young man named Jonny Hossain (30) fell ill and died.

Allegations of Forced Abduction

According to news published in various national media, information from the victim's family, and data collected by HRSS, there is an allegation that on 26 August, at 8:23pm, plainclothes DB police on a motorcycle abducted local businessman Shamim Khan from in front of the UCB Bank in Mirpur-1, the capital. Two days after his detention, on 28 August, he was shown as having been arrested under the Anti-Terrorism Act along with weapons. The victim's wife, Arabi Sultana, said that on the day of the incident, he left home at around 3pm. Later, upon learning that he had been taken away at night, she inquired at Darus Salam police station, Mirpur police station, Shah Ali police station, and the DB office. But everywhere, she was told that no one named Shamim Khan was in their custody. However, the victim, Shamim Khan, is currently out on bail. According to the victim, he was abducted from Mirpur-1, the capital, on 26 August. He was threatened over various matters there, and after his detention, he was held at the DB office on Minto Road. He was later shown as having been detained under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Deaths in Prison Custody

This month, at least 21 accused persons died in prisons across the country. Of these, 11 were convicts and 10 were undertrial detainees. Of the 21 dead, 2 belonged to the Awami League and its affiliated



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organisations, and the remaining 19 were ordinary prisoners. In August, 6 accused persons died in prison, including 1 convict and 5 undertrial detainees.

On 6 September, 4 inmates died of illness at Keraniganj Dhaka Central Jail. Of these, between 7:24am and 9:05am, 3 convicts died while undergoing treatment. They were undertrial detainee Abul Bashir (54), convict Abdul Kaiyum (62), and convict Shahadat Hossain Liton (48). In addition, at around 9:15pm, Azharul Islam Milon (51) was brought unconscious from Dhaka Central Jail to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. On 27 September, Khairul Amin Ruhul Sarkar (50), a leader of the banned Awami Swechchhasebak League, died while undergoing treatment in hospital after falling ill at Kishoreganj District Jail. He was a former joint convener of Kotiadi upazila Swechchhasebak League.

Torture of Workers

In September, at least 88 incidents of worker torture resulted in 29 deaths and at least 121 injuries. At least 46 workers died at their workplaces in accidents caused by unhealthy conditions and a lack of protective equipment for workers. In addition, in two separate incidents, 2 domestic workers were subjected to torture. In August, 84 incidents of worker torture resulted in 19 deaths and 67 injuries; in addition, 63 workers died at their workplaces, and 2 domestic workers died at their employers' homes.

Among the notable incidents, on 16 September, in Green Road, Kalabagan, in the capital, police arrested the female employer, Morsheda Akter, and her husband, Md. Saifuddin Rasel, over allegations of torturing a domestic worker named Tania (11) by burning her with a hot spatula. According to the victim, the female employer, Morsheda, regularly burned various parts of her body with a hot spatula over minor mistakes; she was also severely beaten, not given proper food, and sometimes locked in the toilet as punishment. On 23 September, a construction worker named Mehedi Hasan (24), who was resting on the footpath of Road No. 1 in the Diplomatic Zone of Baridhara, the capital, was run over by a teenager driving a vehicle and died at the scene. In an attempt to avoid liability, the victim's family and the family of the accused teenager attempted to reach a settlement for 10 lakh taka following the killing. In addition, on 27 September, in Sreepur, Gazipur, workers of Osin Spinning Limited blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and protested, demanding two months of unpaid wages. Police and law-enforcement personnel baton-charged the workers to disperse them, injuring at least four workers; police also fired several sound grenades to scatter the workers at the time.

Violence Against Women and Children

In September, at least 236 women and girl children were subjected to violence. Of these, at least 79 were victims of rape, of whom 47 (60%) were children and adolescents under 18. It is a matter of grave concern that 13 women and girl children were victims of gang rape. 5 women and children were killed after rape, of whom 3 were children and adolescents under 18. In addition, one woman died by suicide after being raped. On the other hand, 49 women and girl children were victims of sexual harassment, of whom 25 were children. In incidents of dowry-related torture, 6 were killed, 4 women were injured, and 1 woman died by suicide. 43 were killed as victims of domestic violence, 27 were injured, and 26 women died by suicide. In addition, one woman was subjected to torture by acid attack.



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In August, 289 women and girl children were subjected to violence. Of these, 79 were rape victims, 18 were gang-rape victims, 93 were victims of attempted rape and sexual harassment, 103 were victims of domestic violence, and 14 women and children were subjected to torture over dowry demands.

On the other hand, it is concerning that 271 children were subjected to violence, of whom 78 lost their lives and 193 children were subjected to physical and mental torture. This month, at least 7 children were victims of sexual abuse.

In August, alongside 77 deaths, 282 children were subjected to physical and mental torture.

Among the notable incidents, on 2 September, in Titarkandi village, Matlab Uttar, Chandpur, a 16-year-old girl with a disability was allegedly raped. According to the allegation, after being raped under intimidation, she was given 100 taka to keep the matter secret. There are also allegations of an attempt to settle the matter through a local arbitration (shalish), and that the victim's family was given 40,000 taka. On 10 September, in the Rajmahal-Purbabagan area of Hafizabad Union, Panchagarh, a mason named Sohel and his associates were accused of raping a schoolgirl by taking advantage of a romantic relationship. According to the allegation, Sohel took the schoolgirl to a house and raped her with the help of his associates. The schoolgirl later died by suicide after drinking poison. On 14 September, in Madarganj, Jamalpur, a seven-year-old schoolgirl was allegedly called away from school, raped and killed. According to the allegation, a man named Jaminur lured the child to a house and raped her; he is alleged to have then strangled her with an orna (scarf) and buried her body in a hole dug in the floor of the room. On 2 September, in Fatikchhari, Chattogram, a housewife named Samiha Hakim Niha (19) was allegedly strangled to death. Relatives claim that members of her in-laws' family strangled her to death. On 19 September, in Daulatkhan upazila, Bhola, a woman named Akhi Akter (19) was allegedly tortured with acid by her husband, Hasnain Ahmed Musa (25), over an unmet dowry demand. According to the victim, her husband and in-laws had been torturing her over dowry demands since five months after the marriage. On the night of the incident, her husband reportedly brought acid from the market, applied it to her body, and then confined her in the house.

Cases and Arrests

According to information received in September, at least 23 cases were filed in connection with various acts of violence and political incidents that occurred during this period. These cases name 529 individuals and list a further approximately 687 as unidentified accused. In addition, in the same month, at least 21,208 people were arrested in a total of 287 incidents, including political, joint-force, and special operations. Of these, among political parties, at least 1,665 were Awami League leaders and activists, 62 from BNP, 31 from Jamaat-e-Islami, 1 from NCP, and 24 members of extremist organisations. In addition, in various areas of the country, including Chattogram, Cumilla, Chandpur and Lakshmipur, more than 3,145 teenagers were detained and taken into custody for questioning this month, on suspicion of involvement in juvenile crime, of whom more than eight hundred were handed over to guardians after taking an undertaking. Alongside this, regular operations continued with the aim of arresting those accused of terrorism and subversion, and those wanted under warrants, and of maintaining control of the law-and-order situation. Separately, to keep the law-and-order situation



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normal and prevent possible subversion, special joint-force operations were conducted in various parts of the country throughout September, in which more than 16,304 people were arrested.

In August, 62 cases named 1,125 individuals and listed a further 2,209 as unidentified accused. In addition, 12,823 people were arrested in 162 incidents. Of these, at least 429 were Awami League leaders and activists, 22 from BNP, 4 from Jamaat-e-Islami, 9 from NCP, and 5 members of extremist organisations.

On 27 September, at around 7:30am, a 65-year-old woman named Nur Jahan Begum was allegedly taken away by car from her own home in Nalkula village, Patikabari Union, Kushtia Sadar upazila, and in the afternoon a case was allegedly filed against her under the Anti-Terrorism Act. According to local and family sources, a team of police arrived in two vehicles at around 7:30am on the day of the incident. Male police officers, along with three female police members, entered the house. They told Nur Jahan Begum, 'You are the plaintiff in the case, the OC sir wants to speak with you, get in the car.' Police then took her away in the car. The victim's daughter, Selina Akter, alleged that about two weeks earlier, a group of local people, following a social and land-related dispute, had set fire to and looted their home and warehouse. The local office of Krishak Dal was then vandalised, and several other local homes were attacked and looted. Some people associated with BNP, as well as with the (banned) Awami League, were involved in the incident. Over this incident, the mother, Nur Jahan Begum, filed a case as plaintiff at the Kushtia court on 21 September. But the case named 22 people from Krishak Dal and the Awami League, with a further 30 listed as unidentified. In light of this, local BNP leaders connected with the case were pressuring the mother to withdraw it. She also said that the case is currently being investigated by the PBI.

Establishing the rule of law, strengthening the democratic process and protecting human rights in the country requires a coordinated effort at all levels of the state and society. 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 recent issues such as political tension, public lynching and mob violence, and interference with freedom of expression are not resolved, the human rights situation risks further deterioration. HRSS therefore calls upon the government to take more accountable and responsible steps 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.