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Press Release

Report on the Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh (April 2026)

In April 2026, the human rights situation in Bangladesh passed through a sensitive and changing phase. In the context of recent political realities, controversies surrounding the National Parliament, and concerns related to public security, the overall situation gradually became increasingly alarming. Throughout the month, a continuation of allegations of rights violations and violent incidents in various sectors was particularly observed.

In the area of freedom of expression, incidents of arrest, harassment, and legal action centering on the expression of opinions on social media have created renewed concern. The ambiguity surrounding the enforcement of laws on digital platforms is increasing fear and tendencies toward self-censorship among citizens, which is an alarming sign for a democratic society.

In the education sector, clashes, violence, and partisan influence between Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir at various universities and educational institutions across the country disrupted the normal academic environment. As a result, the safety of students and their right to express dissenting opinions are being affected.

Concerning situations were also observed in the areas of religious tolerance and social harmony. The attack on a shrine in Kushtia and the killing of an alleged Pir have raised serious questions regarding public security and the rule of law. At the same time, obstruction of meetings and assemblies and barriers to peaceful gatherings in different parts of the country indicate a shrinking space for citizens' constitutional rights.

Concern has also increased regarding the border situation. The killing of Bangladeshis in attacks by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and casualties caused by mine explosions in border areas have raised questions regarding the safety of civilians.

In the labor sector, allegations have emerged of the use of force, arrests, and harassment against workers during movements demanding fair wages and improved working conditions. Such incidents are being considered threats to labor rights and freedom of association.

Furthermore, incidents of mob lynching and the growing tendency to take the law into one's own hands have created serious risks to public security and the rule of law. Incidents of attacks on journalists, harassment, and obstruction of professional duties have generated deep concern regarding the freedom and safety of the media. At the same time, the continued violence against women and children has made the overall human rights situation even more fragile.

Based on reports published in 16 national media outlets in Bangladesh and information collected by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), the following findings have emerged in the human rights monitoring report for April 2026:

Political Violence

In April, at least 6 people were killed and at least 533 injured in 98 incidents of "political violence." Most incidents of violence centered on dominance, political rivalry and attacks, internal party conflict, and extortion. In addition, separate attacks on political leaders and activists, shooting incidents, and nationwide vandalism and arson further complicated the situation. Compared to March, both political



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violence and the number of deaths decreased in April. In March, 18 people were killed and 912 injured in 113 incidents of “political violence.”

Among at least 98 incidents of violence in April, 40 incidents of internal conflict within the BNP resulted in at least 247 injured and 4 deaths. In 12 clashes between BNP and Jamaat, 113 people were injured; in 13 clashes between BNP and Awami League, 58 people were injured. In 3 clashes between BNP and NCP, 26 people were injured, while 46 people were injured in 21 clashes between BNP and other parties. In 1 incident of internal conflict within the National Citizen Party, 20 people were injured. In 6 incidents among different parties, 23 people were injured. In addition, in 2 incidents, 2 members of the UPDF were killed.

Among these incidents, 77 people were injured in 15 campus-centered clashes among student organizations. Among them, 16 people were injured in 3 incidents of internal conflict within Chhatra Dal, 58 people were injured in 5 incidents between Chhatra Dal and Shibir, and 17 people were injured in 6 incidents involving Chhatra Dal, other student organizations, and general students.

Serial	Political Parties	Incidents	Injured	Killed
1	BNP – BNP	40	247	4
2	BNP – Jamaat	12	113	
3	BNP – Awami League	13	58	
4	BNP – NCP	3	26	
5	NCP – NCP	1	20	
6	BNP – Other Parties	21	46	
7	Among Other Parties	6	23	
8	UPDF – Other Parties	2		2
Total		98	533	

In addition, in at least 13 incidents of attacks by miscreants on leaders and activists of political parties, at least 32 people were injured and 6 killed. Among the নিহত were 3 BNP members, 2 Awami League members, and 1 Jamaat member. A total of 37 political leaders and activists sustained bullet injuries. Furthermore, in 26 incidents centering on dominance, land grabbing, political violence, and extortion across the country, at least 67 houses, business establishments, and party offices were subjected to clashes, attacks, looting, vandalism, and arson.

Obstruction of Meetings and Assemblies

During this month, several incidents of interference by law enforcement agencies in the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly were observed. According to available information, law enforcement agencies and activists of the ruling party directly or indirectly obstructed at least 7 meetings and assemblies during the period, forcing organizers to suspend, disperse, or cancel scheduled programs. Such interference created clashes and chaotic situations, leaving at least 49 people injured and 2 detained, including political activists, students, workers, and ordinary passersby.



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Repression and Harassment of Journalists

It is concerning that at least 75 journalists were subjected to repression and harassment in at least 40 incidents of abuse this month. Among them, at least 42 journalists were injured, 17 were humiliated, and 10 received threats. Three journalists were detained. In addition, 5 journalists were accused in 4 separate cases. On 23 April, at least 10 journalists, including the President and General Secretary of the Dhaka University Journalists' Association, were injured after being harassed and assaulted while collecting information and carrying out professional duties during tensions between DUCSU leaders/Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Dal activists centering on photocards and wall writings circulated on social media.

Freedom of Expression

This month, incidents of interference with freedom of expression increased significantly. During the month, at least 23 people were detained and 9 cases were filed in at least 14 incidents. At least 23 individuals were accused in these cases. Among them, 1 person was detained for criticizing Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in a Facebook post, 5 for criticizing leaders and activists of the ruling BNP, 5 on allegations of hurting religious sentiments and making derogatory remarks, and 12 over other issues. On the other hand, 18 individuals were accused in 7 separate cases under various sections of the Cyber Security Ordinance-2025. In addition, 18 people were detained in connection with these incidents.

Mob Violence and Lynching

This month, at least 22 people were killed and 39 injured in at least 44 incidents of mob violence and lynching. On 5 April, in Fatikchhari, Chattogram, two brothers, Mohammad Abchar (40) and Mohammad Russell, were brutally beaten by locals during a village arbitration meeting over allegations of theft. Later, when they were taken to the Upazila Health Complex in critical condition, doctors declared Mohammad Abchar dead. On 6 April, in Mollahat, Bagerhat, a young man named Shukur (42) was first submerged in water over allegations of stealing fish from an enclosure. Later, local residents gathered after hearing screams, and the enraged crowd severely beat him. At one stage of the assault, Shukur's arms and legs were broken, and some miscreants among the attackers gouged out his eyes.

Unidentified Bodies

In April, 39 unidentified bodies were recovered in 38 incidents of planned or unplanned killings by miscreants from rivers, canals, forests, and abandoned places across the country. Among them, 5 bodies were recovered in sacks, 5 in decomposed condition, and 6 with multiple injury marks on the body. In addition, 2 victims had their throats slit, 1 body was found with hands and legs tied, and 1 burned body was recovered. Besides these, another 19 bodies were found under various other circumstances.



Religious and Minority Persecution

It is concerning that at least 13 people were injured in at least 8 attacks on minority communities this month, while 3 temples, 2 idols, and 1 residence were attacked and vandalized. On 9 April, theft and vandalism took place at the Mogdweshwari Temple adjacent to Burir Dokan in Pomra Union of Rangunia, Chattogram. During the incident, idols were vandalized and looted.

Border Killings and Torture

In April, 2 Bangladeshis were killed and 2 injured in 8 attacks by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the India-Bangladesh border, among whom 3 sustained bullet injuries. In addition, 8 people were detained. Furthermore, 2 Bangladeshis were killed by gunfire from Indian Khasi citizens. On 1 April, around noon, Saddam and three others crossed the border into Indian territory in Companiganj, Sylhet. Members of the Khasi community opened fire on them, killing Saddam on the spot. On 7 April, Bangladeshi citizen Ali Hossain (49) was killed in BSF firing at the Dhobalguri border in Patgram, Lalmonirhat. In addition, on 10 April, another Bangladeshi named Saleh Ahmed Joydhar (30) was killed by gunfire from Indian Khasi citizens across the Kalairag (Kauar Tuk) border of the same upazila.

On the other hand, 18 people were detained in 2 violent incidents along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. On 10 April, Md. Sadek (25) lost the heel of his left foot in a mine explosion planted by the Arakan Army at the zero line of the Balukhali border in Palongkhali Union of Ukhiya. On 15 April, Mohammad Yunus (26), a resident of the Thaingkhali Rohingya Camp near the Naf River in Palongkhali Union, suffered severe injury to his right leg in another mine explosion.

Deaths in Custody

This month, at least 5 accused persons died in prisons across the country. Among them, 2 were convicted prisoners and 3 were detainees awaiting trial. On the night of 14 April, Ziaul Haque, a member of the advisory council of the Jamalpur District Awami League, died while undergoing treatment in prison custody in Jamalpur. He had been in Jamalpur District Jail since being arrested on 15 January this year in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Worker Abuse

In April, at least 13 workers were killed, at least 116 injured, and 2 arrested in at least 80 incidents of worker abuse. Due to unhealthy environments and lack of protective equipment, at least 64 workers died in workplace accidents. In addition, in two separate incidents, 2 domestic workers were subjected to abuse. On 10 April, tension spread in an area of Banani, Dhaka, centering on a note reading “Save Me” found beneath a house. Later, angry locals threw bricks and stones at the house, after which police rescued a domestic worker named Shiuli Begum (25). The house owner, Samena Alam, was detained in connection with the incident. On the other hand, physician couple K. M. Abdullah Al Noman and Kimia Sadat Tofa were accused of brutally torturing a domestic worker named Ayesha Akter (10) in North Mourail area of Brahmanbaria. It was also alleged that she had not been allowed to contact her family for the past three months. Later, the child’s family filed a case, and police arrested the accused.



Violence Against Women and Children

In April, at least 294 women and girl children were subjected to abuse. Among them, at least 68 were victims of rape, including 30 (44%) children and adolescent girls under the age of 18. It is extremely concerning that 13 women and girl children were victims of gang rape. On the other hand, 79 women and girl children suffered sexual harassment, including 40 children. In dowry-related violence, 8 women were killed and 2 injured. A total of 64 women were killed in domestic violence, 36 injured, and 36 women died by suicide. In addition, 1 person was injured in an acid attack.

On 2 April, a 12-year-old child was gang-raped by two soil-cutting laborers while on the way to a shop in Daulatkhan, Bhola. On 10 April, an 8-year-old child was raped in Muradnagar, Cumilla. When relatives protested, the tendons in the legs of the victim's uncle were reportedly severed. On 9 April, a schoolgirl (14) in Baraigram, Natore, attempted suicide by consuming poison out of shame after an attempted rape while returning home from the market. On 13 April, in Tangail, Nazma Harijan was burned to death by her husband after she refused to give him money for drugs. On 2 April, in Abhaynagar, Jashore, Masura Begum (19) was rendered unconscious by being forced to drink a soft drink mixed with sleeping pills, after refusing to divorce her husband, and acid was thrown on her legs and genitals.

On the other hand, it is concerning that 191 children were subjected to abuse, among whom 57 lost their lives and 134 suffered physical and mental abuse.

Cases and Arrests

This month, at least 23 cases were filed in connection with various incidents of violence and political unrest. In these cases, 386 individuals were named and approximately 1,250 others were listed as unidentified accused persons. In addition, a total of at least 282 people were arrested in 181 political and other incidents during the same month. Among those arrested were at least 174 members of the Awami League, 84 BNP members, and 19 members of Jamaat-e-Islami. During the same period, joint forces conducted special operations nationwide to control the law and order situation. In these operations, more than 1,089 individuals were arrested. According to relevant sources, a large portion of those arrested were leaders and activists of the Awami League, Jubo League, Swachchhasebak League, the banned Chhatra League, and members of various extremist organizations.

Coordinated initiatives at all levels of the state and society are necessary 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 among political parties, civil society, journalists, human rights organizations, and conscious citizens so that the law and order situation becomes stronger and people's fundamental and constitutional rights can be effectively ensured. If issues such as mob violence and lynching, political tension, and interference with freedom of expression are not resolved, the human rights situation may deteriorate further. Therefore, HRSS is calling upon the government to take more accountable and responsible measures to protect human rights, while also urging all citizens, media professionals, civil society, and human rights organizations to play a more vocal and active role.