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Human Rights situation report of Bangladesh, 2020

In spite of having constitutional obligation and international laws and treaties, human rights are drastically violated in Bangladesh. Despite the Corona pandemic in 2020, Bangladesh's overall human rights situation was frightful. Reviewing the annual human rights situation of Bangladesh in 2020, this year also saw extrajudicial killings by law enforcement agencies, torture in the custody, unlawful activities by the members of law enforcement agencies, disappearances after abductions and killed in mass beatings as in previous years. Political violence, arrests and attacks on journalists, the killing and torture of innocent Bangladeshis by BSF at the border areas and violence against women, especially rape and domestic violence have increased alarmingly amid the corona pandemic. The report shows that the overall human rights condition of Bangladesh has become deteriorated and dreadful gradually in 2020 as the government restricted on freedom of expression especially arrest and harassment of journalists, human rights activists and dissidents by the digital security act and limited political right and civil society space.

According to HRSS investigation team and collected information from different newspapers in 2020: a total of 244 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed. Of them, 169 were killed in the name of 'crossfire/ gunfights/infights', 20 tortured to death, 12 shot to death and 43 were died in the custody in a total of 201 incidents. On the other hand, a total of 33 persons have been 'disappeared' by the law enforcement agencies (**remain missing for at least 72 hours**) in different incidents. Out of them, death bodies of 02 persons found, 13 shown arrest and 12 persons remained missing till now.

In the meantime, in 2020, a total of 1637 females were raped. Among them, 787 victims were adult whereas alarmingly 850 were children under the age of 16. It's a grave concern that 213 have been victim of gang-raped and 34 were brutally killed after being raped. Meanwhile, 177 women were killed in family feud related violence, 44 female injured and 34 female suicide for family feud in 255 incidents. Approximately, 122 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported, where 57 were killed and 65 women physically abused over dowry demand. A total of 140 girls and women were reportedly victims of sexual harassment. In 2020, 21 incidents of acid throwing have been occurred and 24 female were injured. It is also alarming that in a total of 136 violent incidents against children from January to December 2020, 56 lost their lives and 90 were critically injured.

It has been reported by HRSS that, 02 journalists were killed, 83 injured, 20 threatened, 17 arrested and 20 were assaulted in nearly 125 incidents during the year of 2020. Meanwhile, 110 people have been arrested and 141 cases filed in a total of 100 incidents of Digital security act 2018. HRSS has also observed the incidents of attacks on minorities in 2020, where at least 09 temples and 14 houses were partially or fully destroyed. Meanwhile, 01 minority member was killed and 12 injured in a total of 19 incidents.



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On the other hand, according to HRSS, roughly 51 Bangladeshi citizens have been killed by BSF (Indian Border Security Force); 15 were injured, 12 bullet hit and 32 persons were arrested by BSF & BGP (Border Guard Police of Myanmar) in a total of 69 incidents.

It has also been reported that 156 were killed, 63 injured and 04 bullet hit in violent attacks on unarmed civilians in 2020. Meanwhile, in a total of 54 incidents of inhuman tortured by law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), 560 people were injured, 01 hit by bullet and 74 people were tortured in 2020. Moreover, at least 42 people were killed, 1648 people injured and bullet hit 26 persons in political violence, whereas around 40 people were killed and 30 persons injured in public lynching. On the other hand, police recovered 1034 dead bodies from different part of the country. Of them 614 were male, 324 female and unknown were 96. In the meantime, 415 people were abducted by non-state actors from different part of the country between January to December 2020.

HRSS is deeply concerned about the degradation of human rights condition in the country. It urges all human rights organizations as well as common citizens to raise their voice to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh.



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Annual Human Rights Statistics, 2020

Type of Human Rights Violation		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Violence Against Women	Sexual Harassment	12	9	66	2	2	2	0	7	8	15	7	10	140
	Rape	95	93	124	58	59	98	156	150	169	243	213	179	1637
	Killed for Dowry	0	2	7	1	0	5	6	1	6	5	12	12	57
	Killed for Family Feud	0	9	25	6	28	15	19	14	0	21	19	21	177
	Acid Violence	0	0	2	0	2	3	1	4	3	3	4	2	24
Killed in Child Rights Violence		3	0	2	1	4	8	5	2	3	6	8	14	56
Extra-judicial Killing	Crossfire	20	19	26	14	25	33	34	6	0	2	1	2	169
	Shot to death	1	0	5	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Torture to death	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	1	0	20
	Custodial death	6	4	10	1	2	2	2	1	4	3	4	4	43
	Total	29	25	44	17	28	43	44	7	6	7	6	6	244
Abduction		33	22	60	7	21	32	34	45	41	20	45	55	415
Enforces Disappearance		5	1	3	1	1	1	5	0	4	2	10	0	33
Attack on Minority		2	1	1	0	2	1	0	3	1	3	3	2	19
Border Disputes	Killed	12	3	0	2	1	6	3	6	6	4	1	7	51
	Injured	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	4	0	2	15
	Arrested	2	5	4	0	0	1	2	0	1	4	13	0	32
Attack on Journalists	Injured	13	10	6	17	2	3	2	4	7	1	8	10	83
	Threatened	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	8	1	20
	Assaulted	1	2	0	2	6	0	1	0	2	2	3	1	20
	Arrested	0	0	1	0	8	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	17
Political Violence	Killed	0	2	3	1	5	5	9	6	1	4	2	4	42
	Injured	257	160	137	28	157	64	160	176	170	122	60	157	1648
Violent Attack	Killed	15	17	13	14	13	20	18	6	9	3	12	16	156
	Injured	2	12	1	2	1	7	1	5	5	15	6	6	63
Killed in Public Lynching		9	4	5	1	2	4	3	1	3	2	6	0	40
Recovery Dead Body		54	76	113	40	71	131	99	94	87	65	93	111	1034
Digital Security Act	Case filed	9	4	44	6	26	14	5	1	6	6	10	10	141
	Arrest	7	4	10	4	31	15	8	1	5	4	13	8	110
Torture by LEAS	Injured	50	115	4	5	124	20	67	10	0	35	50	80	560
	Torture	2	0	37	0	0	2	1	3	0	7	21	1	74