



Ref: hrss/2023/ka/15

Reg. No: S-12473/2016

Date: 31/01/2023

Annual Human Rights Monitoring Report 2022

Bangladesh became a lower-middle income country in 2015 from one of the poorest countries at birth in 1971, and is on target to graduate from the United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC) list and become a middle-income country by 2026. Bangladesh has a strong track record of growth and development despite global uncertainty. Strong readymade garments (RMG) exports, resilient remittance flows, and stable macroeconomic conditions have supported rapid economic growth over the past two decades. In particular, Bangladesh has made numerous notable advancements under the present government in the fields of communication and infrastructure development including the launch of the Metrorail and the construction of Padma Bridge using domestic fund. However, the recent price hike of daily commodities has raised questions in the public mind.

However, notwithstanding the country's many positive achievements in the 51 years since independence, the overall human rights including the rule of law, democracy, and people's right to vote, freedom of expression, the right to assembly, social security, and women's rights has not been fully respected. Violations of human rights continue to occur in Bangladesh notwithstanding constitutional obligation and international laws and treaties. Obstruction of peaceful assembly, false cases by law enforcement agencies, political arrests, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement agencies, torture in police custody, unlawful behavior by members of law enforcement, disappearances after abductions, violence against women, and public lynching all persist, according to the yearly review of the human rights situation in 2022.

Many people were killed in electoral violence centered on the Union Parishad elections earlier this year, and at the end of the year, approximately 24000 people were subjected to mass arrests by law enforcement forces in a special operation on the occasion of the BNP's divisional rally and Victory Day. The most alarming trend this year has been disruption of peaceful meetings of the opposition parties, false cases, assaults, mass arrests, transport strikes and door-to-door intimidation of opposition party leaders and activists. A team of DB police picked up BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Standing



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

D-3, # 3rd floor, Plot # 2, Nur-Jehan Tower, 2nd Link Road, Bangla Motor, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. E-mail: hrssbd14@gmail.com, Web: www.hrssbd.org

Committee member Mirza Abbas from their homes late at night for questioning before the BNP's December 10th assembly and were subsequently arrested in a case.

Freedom of expression is another major issue of 2022, with widespread prosecutions and arrests due to the misuse of the controversial provisions of the Digital Security Act. According to data, the majority of 81% Digital Security Act cases are filed by the government agencies or ruling party members.

Another issue to be worried about this year is violence against women. Even during the Corona pandemic, crimes against women, especially rape, gang rape, child rape, post-rape murder, dowry murder and torture, sexual harassment, and underage marriage, rose at an alarming rate.

The human rights situation in Bangladesh has steadily reached a critical degree of concern due to political violence, attacks on and arrests of journalists, the killing and torture of innocent Bangladeshis by the BSF at the border, and enormous electoral violence. This information was come out in HRSS's annual human rights monitoring report 2022 based on news from different Bangladeshi news outlets, as well as information from HRSS's investigation and fact-finding unit and local representatives.

According to HRSS data collected from different newspapers in 2022: a total of 35 persons were reportedly extra-judicially killed. Out of them, 07 people were killed in the name of 'crossfire/gunfights, tortured to death 07, shot to death 12 and custodial death 09. Meanwhile, a total of 11 persons have been 'disappeared' by the law enforcement agencies in different incidents.

In the meantime: a total of 1284 females were raped. Among them, 552 victims were adult whereas alarmingly 732 (57%) were children under the age of 18. It's a grave concern that 258 (20%) have been victim of gang-raped and 42 were brutally killed after being raped. Approximately, 159 incidents of dowry-related violence were reported, where 70 were killed, 82 women physically abused and 07 committed suicide over dowry demand. In 2022, 15 incidents of acid throwing have been occurred where 03 were killed and 15 injured. It is also alarming that in violent incidents against children from January to December 2022, 372 lost their lives and 1232 were critically tortured and injured.



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT SOCIETY (HRSS)

D-3, # 3rd floor, Plot # 2, Nur-Jehan Tower, 2nd Link Road, Bangla Motor, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. E-mail: hrssbd14@gmail.com, Web: www.hrssbd.org

In 2022, a total of 255 journalists were victim of attack in 169 incidents. Among them Journalist Mohiuddin Sarkar Naeem in Comilla and journalist Hasibur Rahman Rubel in Kushtia were killed and at least 165 people were injured in attacks by law enforcement agencies, influential people and miscreants this year. In addition, 38 people were assaulted and 43 journalists were threatened. 5 people have been arrested in 21 cases filed against journalists in 2022. Meanwhile, 57 people have been arrested and 76 cases filed under Digital security act 2018. HRSS has also observed the incidents of attacks on minorities in 2022, where at least 12 temples and 16 houses were partially or fully destroyed. Meanwhile, 08 idols were vandalized and 48 injured in a total of 28 incidents. Moreover, at least 115 people were killed, 7684 people injured and bullet hit 119 persons in political violence, whereas around 38 people were killed and 83 persons injured in public lynching.

On the other hand, According to HRSS, roughly 23 Bangladeshi citizens have been killed, 19 injured, and 28 persons were arrested by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in a total of 51 incidents. It's also matter of concern that a total of 33 Rohingya people were killed including 3 persons killed by law enforcement agencies and the rest killed by armed groups. In the meantime, 1880 Rohingya men were arrested by law enforcement agencies, 359 escaped from camp and 7761 were transferred to Bhasanchar in 2022.

It has also been reported that, in a total of 147 incidents of inhuman torture and shooting by law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) happened where 2257 people were injured, 100 hit by bullet and 28 people tortured in 2022. In the meantime, in 2022, 52 people including 4 women and 02 children were killed and 1410 injured in 195 incidents of electoral violence. In addition, a seven-month-old child was killed by the police during the election violence in Thakurgaon district. Similarly, 143 workers were death, 607 injured and 30 shot in 124 incidents of labor rights violence this year.

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.