

ONE YEAR OF ANARCHY

Human Rights Violations in Bangladesh Under the Interim Government

Executive Summary:

This report presents a concise but alarming overview of the human rights violations, political oppression, and national instability occurring under the current unelected interim government of Bangladesh. Based on documented incidents and verified data, the findings highlight the systematic abuse of power, suppression of democratic rights, and erosion of the rule of law across the country.

Even though the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not resign. Article 106 of the Constitution was misinterpreted. As a result, parliament was dissolved and an interim government was sworn in.

Key Findings

- 1**  **Extrajudicial Killings and Custodial Deaths**
 - a.** At least 637 individuals have been killed in mob lynching incidents.
 - b.** 47 individuals have been subjected to extrajudicial killings while in the custody of law enforcement agencies.
 - c.** 21 political detainees, affiliated with the Awami League, have died in prison custody.
- 2**  **Targeted Political Violence**
 - a.** 205 leaders and activists of the Awami League and its affiliated organizations have been murdered.
 - b.** At least 359,789 people have been arrested the majority being Awami League members and supporters. (August 24 - May 25)
 - c.** 116 Members of Parliament, including 14 women, have been illegally detained.
- 3**  **Attacks on State Institutions and Symbols**
 - a.** The Bangabandhu Museum, birthplace of independence, was demolished using bulldozers in the presence of military and law enforcement authorities.
 - b.** 80 shrines have been demolished. (August 24 - May 25)
- 4**  **Violence Against Law Enforcement**
 - a.** 44 police officers have been killed.
 - b.** 182 police personnel are currently missing.
 - c.** More than 500 police stations have been attacked, vandalized, robbed of firearms, and set on fire.
- 5**  **Deteriorating Social Conditions**
 - a.** Dramatic increases in child abuse. 259 Children were murdered, and 640 were abused. (Jan - June 25)
 - b.** 12726 cases of violence against women, and 4105 rape cases were reported. (Sept 24 - June 25)
 - c.** Women's rights and freedoms are being seriously undermined.
- 6**  **Minority Persecution**
 - a.** 27 minority people were killed
 - b.** 20 minority women were raped
 - c.** 17 Churches were set on fire on Christmas Day 2024
 - d.** 103 incidents of human rights violations were documented in the Chattogram hill tracts, 49 people were arbitrarily arrested, and at least 300 acres of land were seized.
 - e.** At least 396 LGBTQI+ individuals were harassed or victimized across 70 documented incidents (August - December 24)
 - f.** Evidence confirms 2,442 incidents of minority persecution.
- 7**  **Suppression of Democratic Processes**
 - a.** The ruling interim regime attempted to legitimize power through a fake resignation letter attributed to the Prime Minister.
 - b.** Misrepresentation of Article 106 of the Constitution and Supreme Court rulings has been used to justify illegal governance.
 - c.** The Awami League was banned by an ordinance.
 - d.** The Election Commission has suspended the Awami League's registration under a government directive.
- 8**  **Religious Extremism and Legal Manipulation**
 - a.** Rise in religious extremism, allegedly under government patronage.
 - b.** More than 300 militant suspects have been granted bail, despite serious charges.

9 Media Censorship and Journalist Persecution

- a. Censorship is imposed across media platforms.
- b. 184 journalists' accreditation cards revoked.
- c. 266 journalists implicated in fabricated murder cases.
- d. 14 journalists have been arrested on false charges.
- e. Media houses are facing threats of vandalism and shutdown.

10 Civil Rights and Public Freedoms Violated

- a. Personal freedoms of citizens are under attack.
- b. On August 15, female activists were harassed during national observances.
- c. A rickshaw puller was arrested while paying homage to Bangabadhu. He was beaten by a mob and handed over to the police. Police arrested him and accused him of a false murder case, highlighting indiscriminate oppression.

11 Corruption at the Highest Level

- a. The interim government head, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, is reportedly expanding his wealth and business empire, using the cover of governance to facilitate personal gain.
- b. Waiving of a fine of Tk 666 crore imposed on Grameen Kalyan, an organization founded by Dr. Yunus.
- c. Tax exemption granted to Grameen Bank for the next five years.
- d. The government's ownership of Grameen Bank significantly reduced from 25% to 10%.
- e. Approval granted for a digital wallet for Grameen Telecom.
- f. Approval obtained for a manpower export license and the establishment of a university.
- g. Grameen Starlink is a partnership between Grameen Bank and Starlink.

Conclusion

An unelected and constitutionally illegitimate government remains in power. As a result:

1. The rule of law has collapsed
2. Civil liberties have been eroded
3. The economy has weakened
4. A climate of fear and repression prevails nationwide

Recommendations:

1. Restoration of civil rights, improvement in law and order, and establishment of an independent judiciary in Bangladesh.
2. Impartial investigation and justice for all human rights violations and criminal acts committed by the state or state-backed forces.
3. Immediate, free, fair, and participatory (including all political parties) national elections under a neutral caretaker government.

