

# BANGLADESH

## PRESS FREEDOM THROTTLED UNDER DR MUHAMMAD YUNUS

640 Journalists Targeted  
from August 2024  
to March 2025

182 journalists charged  
with criminal cases

206 journalists  
faced acts of  
violence &  
intimidation

167 journalists denied  
accreditation

85 journalists facing  
money laundering inquiry

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY  
2025



**RIGHTS AND RISKS ANALYSIS GROUP**



# **BANGLADESH**

**PRESS FREEDOM THROTTLED UNDER**

**Dr Muhammad Yunus**

**640 Journalists Targeted from  
August 2024 to March 2025**

## **Bangladesh: Press Freedom Throttled Under Dr Muhammad Yunus**

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# 1. At least 640 journalists targeted in the First Eight Months of Interim Government headed by Dr Muhammad Yunus

Under the administration of the Interim Government headed by winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, Dr Muhammad Yunus, the Bangladeshi press faced systematic and organized repression.

In the first eight months of the Interim Government from August 2024 to March 2025, a total of 640 journalists were targeted. These attacks include criminal cases filed against 182 journalists, acts of violence against 206 journalists, denial of accreditation to 167 journalists, and inquiries initiated against 85 senior journalists by the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), anti-terror and anti-money laundering unit of the Government of Bangladesh, as given below:

Number of journalists targeted under Dr Muhammad Yunus					
Month/Year	No of journalists against whom cases were filed <sup>1</sup>	Acts of violence & criminal intimidation against journalists <sup>2</sup>	Denial of accreditation to journalists <sup>3</sup>	Inquiry against journalists by the BFIU <sup>4</sup>	Total number of attacks on journalists
Aug-24	39	37			76
Sep-24	73	17			90
Oct-24	25	19	20	28	92
Nov-24	27	27	147	10	212
Dec-24	14	13		12	39
Jan-25	2	21		35	58
Feb-25	1	38			39
Mar-25	1	34			35
Total	182	206	167	85	640

In order to silence the media completely, senior journalists from 39 media houses including *Bangladesh Pratidin*; *Jatiya Press Club*; *DBC News*; *Abnews24.com*; *Kaler Kantha*; *ATN News*; *Bangla Insider*, *Bangladesh Protidin*; *Samakal*, *Amader Somoy*,

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<sup>1</sup>. On no. of journalists against whom cases were filed, please see ANNEXURES of the report

<sup>2</sup>. On acts of violence & criminal intimidation against journalists, please see ANNEXURES of the report

<sup>3</sup>. On denial of accreditation to journalists, please see Chapter 4 of this report for details

<sup>4</sup>. On inquiry against journalists by the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, please see Chapter 4 of this report for details

*Baisakhi TV, Daily Sun, News24; Jugantor, Swadesh Pratidin, Dainik Mukhopatro, Ittefaq, Daily Kalbela, TV Today, Dainik Amar Somoy; Dainik Bangla, Independent24.tv, Somoynews.tv; Dhaka Times, Bangladesh Post, Nagorik TV, Sangbad Sangstha, Channel I, Daily Janakantha, Daily Global TV, Daily Jugantor; Daily Khola Kagoj, Daily Jatiya Orthoniti, Amader Somoy, Amader Orthoniti, Ekushey TV, Ekattor TV, Ekushey Sangbad and My TV* were among the 85 senior journalists placed under investigation by the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) for money laundering from October 2024 to January 2025. The entire media in Bangladesh has been silenced by Dr Muhammad Yunus.

It is as if filing of, mostly false, criminal cases against 182 journalists, acts of violence against 206 journalists, denial of accreditation to 167 journalists, and inquiries against 85 senior journalists by the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit are not enough, the journalists have been repeatedly sacked from jobs instantly on the whims and fancies of the leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, who have emerged as the holy cows of Bangladesh and the government Ministers. The Anti Discrimination Students Movement activists led by Hasnat Abdullah not only attacked independent dailies *The Daily Star* and *Prothom Alo*<sup>5</sup> but trespassed into *Somoy TV* forcing the owners to sack five journalists from jobs without any ground because of the threat from the student protestors.<sup>6</sup> After newly appointed Cultural Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki was asked critical queries surrounding political violence, national unity, public accountability and about the number of people killed during the July-August political unrest at the Secretariat on 28 April 2025, Rahman Mizan of *Deepto TV* and Fazle Rabbi of *ATN Bangla* were summarily terminated from their positions while Rafiqul Bashir of *Channel I* was relieved of his duties pending an internal investigation.<sup>7</sup>

Currently, an atmosphere of fear grips the journalists in Bangladesh – no critical reporting on the Interim Government or the Awami League can be reported. Next to the Awami League activists, it is the journalists who face the most serious risks under Dr Yunus's Bangladesh.

The Interim Government has given absolute impunity to the non-State actors to attacks on the media. The RRAG found only in which action appears to have been

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<sup>5</sup>. Bangladesh: RSF condemns unacceptable acts of intimidation against two independent newspapers, RSF, 27 November 2024, <https://rsf.org/en/bangladesh-rsf-condemns-unacceptable-acts-intimidation-against-two-independent-newspapers>

<sup>6</sup>. Bangladesh Protesters Enter TV Station Owners, Journalists Sacked, 24 December 2024, <https://www.barrons.com/news/bangladesh-protesters-enter-tv-station-owners-journalists-sacked-d8adb8b0>

<sup>7</sup>. Journalism in Bangladesh : Ask questions, lose your job, The Borderlens, 30 April 2025, <https://www.borderlens.com/2025/04/30/journalism-in-bangladesh-ask-questions-lose-your-job/>

taken i.e. attacks on Khorshed Alam, northern bureau chief of *The Business Standard*, Asafudoula Neon, staff correspondent at online portal *Bogura Live*, and Taufiqul Islam Nirab in the district's Jailkhana intersection area on 5 April 2025 that the accused were arrested.<sup>8</sup> Otherwise, activists of the political parties and the Anti Discrimination Students Movement seem to enjoy impunity.

Despite such systematic and widespread attacks on the journalists and media houses which have completely throttled press freedom in Bangladesh, the key actors in the international community, especially the donor countries and financial institutions supporting so-called reforms, largely remained silent because of their jaundiced view i.e. focus on the past human rights violations by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blinded their views on Dr Yunus whose repression on the press freedom appears to be worse than any other previous regimes in the country since 1975.

This uncritical view of the international community on press freedom has already turned Dr Muhammad Yunus into another dictator to replace deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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<sup>8</sup>. 6 Teen Gang Members Arrested over Attack Journalists Bogurra, *The Business Standard*, 8 April 2025, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/6-teen-gang-members-arrested-over-attack-journalists-bogura-1110841>

## 2. Cases filed against journalists

After the fall of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the Interim Government, the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement and anyone who had a grudge unleashed attacks on the journalists including through the registration of false cases. The compliant police registered First Information Reports including for war crimes for merely reporting the events during the July-August uprising. Many journalists were arrested.

Cases, mainly false, were filed against as many as 182 journalists from August 2024 to March 2025. Some of the cases filed are given below:

### **Jatrabari and other cases:**



*Journalist Shakil Ahmed under detention from 25.08.2024*

On 22 August 2024, a murder case was filed by Kamrul Islam, father of a student Nayeem Howlader who died during protests at Jatrabari in Dhaka against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 192 others including seven journalists. The accused journalists are Mozammel Haque Babu, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of *Ekattor TV*; Syed Ishtiaque Reza, former Chief News Editor (CNE) of *Ekattor TV*; Ahmed Jobaer, a Director of *Somoy TV*; Munni Saha, former CNE of *ATN News*; Farzana Rupa, former Principal Correspondent of *Ekattor TV*; Shakil Ahmed, former head of news at *Ekattor TV*; and Nayeemul Islam Khan, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Press Secretary. Among them, journalist couple Shakil Ahmed and Farzana Rupa were sent for remand for four days in another



murder case filed at Uttara East Police Station. They were arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport<sup>9</sup> and remain in jail as on date.<sup>10</sup>



*Journalist Farzana Rupa under detention from 25.08.2024*

On 16 April 2025, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Minhazur Rahman approved the arrests of journalist couple Shakil Ahmed and Farzana Rupa in two separate murder cases related to the anti-discrimination protests in Jatrabari during August 2024. Mozammel Haque Babu was also shown arrested in one of the cases. The Court's decision came after a hearing on the investigating officer's petition. Shakil and Rupa were linked to the murders of Imran Hasan from Kutubkhali and Madrasa student Syed Muntasir Rahman from Dania, both shot dead during protests on 5 August 2024. Imran's mother, Kohinur Akter, filed a case on 6 September 2024, naming 297 people including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Similarly, Muntasir's father, Syed Gaziur Rahman, filed another murder case on 11 September 2024, naming 157 people, including Hasina. Following their arrest, the couple has since been remanded multiple times in various cases.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>. Hasina, 7 journos sued for murder, The Daily Star, 25 August 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/hasina-7-journos-sued-murder-3685491>

<sup>10</sup>. Legal team files UN complaint over jailed Bangladeshi journalists, Voice of America, 24 January 2025, <https://www.voanews.com/a/legal-team-files-un-complaint-over-jailed-bangladeshi-journalists-/7949488.html>

<sup>11</sup>. Court orders arrest of Shakil, Rupa in 2 murder cases, Mozammel Babu in 1, bdnews24.com, 16 April 2025, <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/dad95a63cdd6>

### Case against 32 senior journalists before the International Crimes Tribunal:



*Journalist Shyamal Dutta, Editor of Bhorer Kagoj*

On 29 August, lawyer MH Gazi Tamim filed a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) against Sheikh Hasina and 52 people including 32 senior journalists on the charge of genocide during the students' agitation.<sup>12</sup> The accused journalists include Mozammel Babu, Saiful Alam, Noyeem Nizam, Farida Yasmin, Shyamal Dutta, Abed Khan, Prabash Amin, Farzana Rupa, Shakil Ahmed, Mithila Farzana, Zayedul Ahsan Pintu, Nabanita Chowdhury, Subhash Singh Roy, Ahmed Zobair, Tushar Abdullah, Monjurul Islam, Ashish Saikat, Manash Ghosh, Pranab Saha, Masuda Bhatti, Munni Saha, J.E. Mamun, Swadesh Roy, Soma Islam, Shyamal Sarkar and Ajay Das.<sup>13</sup> According to the complaint, lodged by Abdur Razzak, father of Nasib Hasan Riyan, a student killed during the protests, the accused journalists were “sycophants” of the Awami League government and published false news to instigate the genocide and crimes against humanity committed by the then government and law enforcers, thereby giving legitimacy to those crimes.<sup>14</sup> Out of these journalists, Farzana Rupa, Shakil Ahmed,

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<sup>12</sup>. Human Rights Monitoring report AUGUST 2024, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF), 31 August 2024, [https://www.msf.org.bd/press\\_release\\_172.php](https://www.msf.org.bd/press_release_172.php)

<sup>13</sup>. Complaint lodged against 53 including Hasina, 28 journalists for inciting genocide, United News of Bangladesh 29 August 2024, <https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/complaint-lodged-against-53-including-hasina-28-journalists-for-inciting-genocide/141844>

<sup>14</sup>. Crimes against humanity: Hasina, over two dozen journos sued in ICT case, The Daily Star, 29 August 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/crimes-against-humanity-hasina-over-two-dozen-journos-sued-ict-case-3689551>



Mozammel Babu and Shyamal Dutta were already in jail in connection with two murder cases during mass protests.<sup>15</sup>

The complaint is currently progressing through the investigative phase. On 19 April 2025, Chief Prosecutor of the ICT, Muhammad Tajul Islam announced that the probe report in the crimes against humanity case against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and others is nearly complete and expected to be filed within a week or two. During a hearing, he requested a two-month extension to finalize the report. The ICT tribunal granted the plea and set 24 June 2025 as the deadline for submitting the report. The prosecution cited the need to incorporate findings from a recent UN OHCHR fact-finding report on the July-August 2024 mass uprising.<sup>16</sup>

### Arrest of prominent journalist, Shahriar Kabir:



*Journalist Shahriar Kabir under detention since 16.09.2024*

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<sup>15</sup>. Journalists supportive of ousted Bangladesh leader targeted with arrest, criminal cases, CPJ, 19 September 2024, <https://cpj.org/2024/09/journalists-supportive-of-ousted-bangladesh-leader-targeted-with-arrest-criminal-cases/>

<sup>16</sup>. Probe report on case against Hasina nearing completion, says ICT chief prosecutor, Dhaka Tribune, 20 April 2025, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/379155/chief-prosecutor-preparing-probe-report-in-ict>

On 16 September 2024, Shahriar Kabir, a prominent Bangladeshi journalist, human rights activist and former President of the *Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee*, was arrested at his residence in Dhaka's Banani area by the Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.<sup>17</sup> Following his arrest, Kabir was placed on a seven-day remand in connection with the death of housemaid Liza Akter, a case filed with Ramna Model Police Station.<sup>18</sup> Subsequently, he was shown arrested in two additional murder cases related to the deaths of Rafiqul Islam, a trader, and a madrasa student during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement in Dhaka's Jatrabari area in July 2024.<sup>19</sup> Kabir was also named in a complaint filed with the International Crimes Tribunal, accusing him along with former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and others, of committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the 2024 student protests.<sup>20</sup> He remained in detention.

#### Other cases:

On 11 September 2024, a murder case was filed against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 25 journalists and 139 others over the death of a 31-year-old man at Bhasantek in Dhaka during the mass uprising.<sup>21</sup> The case currently remains under investigation.

On 18 October 2024, journalist Raihan of daily *Samakal* was sent to jail after being arrested in a murder case related to the Anti Discrimination Student Movement in Habiganj.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>. Shahriar Kabir arrested in Dhaka, New Age, 17 September 2024,

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/245434/shahriar-kabir-arrested-in-dhaka>

<sup>18</sup>. Shahriar Kabir placed on two-day remand in case over death of a trader in Jatrabari, The Daily Star, 20 October 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/shahriar-kabir-placed-two-day-remand-case-over-death-trader-jatrabari-3732031>

<sup>19</sup>. Shahriar Kabir shown arrested in 2 separate murder cases, Dhaka Tribune, 23 September 2024, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/359430/shahriar-kabir-shown-arrested-in-2-separate-murder>

<sup>20</sup>. Hasina, Shahriar Kabir, Imran H Sarker accused of 'genocide' at Shapla Chattar in 2013, Dhaka Tribune, 20 August 2024, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/355427/hasina-shahriar-kabir-imran-h-sarker-accused-of>

<sup>21</sup>. Hasina, 25 journos sued for murder, The Daily Star, 13 September 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/hasina-25-journos-sued-murder-3702016>

<sup>22</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report October 2024, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF), 31 October 2024, [https://www.msf.org.bd/press\\_release\\_178.php](https://www.msf.org.bd/press_release_178.php)

On 22 October 2024, journalist Pranab Barua Arnab was arrested in four cases filed with Patia Police Station in Chittagong. Police claimed that Pranab Barua was trying to flee to India through Akhaura.<sup>23</sup>

On 25 October 2024, Pradip Chowdhury, the President of the Khagrachari Journalist Union and a district correspondent for the daily *Samakal*, was arrested by police in Khagrachari. After the fall of Sheikh Hasina government five separate cases were filed against him at Khagrachari Sadar, Manikchhari, Panchhari and Dighinala police stations by the BNP leaders and activists, accusing him of various offenses including attacks on BNP leaders and vandalism of BNP offices. He was also named in a case related to a clash with anti-discrimination student protesters on 4 August. Apart from Pradip Chowdhury, six other journalists from Khagrachari were also implicated in these cases.<sup>24</sup>

On 9 October 2024, a case was filed against Sajjad Hossain, Mirzapur upazila correspondent of *Dainik Jugantar* newspaper before the Tangail Additional District Magistrate Court No-168/2018 in connection with the case against about 100 people including the then OC of Mirzapur police station, Awami League leaders and 500 persons regarding one Himel losing his eye during the anti-discrimination student movement in Tangail's Mirzapur. Thereafter, in October 2024, another fresh case was filed against journalist Sajjad Hossain. It is alleged that Sajjad Hossain had filed a case before the Tangail Additional District Magistrate Court No-168/2018 seeking 25 percent of a land which is continuing. In order to prevent Sajjad Hossain from appearing in the court in the hearing of this case, lawyer Abdur Rauf, without the knowledge of the plaintiff, filed a case against Sajjad Hossain.<sup>25</sup>

On 13 November 2024, a criminal case was registered against *The Daily Post* reporter Al Ehsan by the Uttarra West Police on 13 November 2024, two months after publishing tax evasion reports within 'Dhaka Cotton' and sister cotton companies in September 2024. The case was registered without issuing any prior written notice; a case was filed in secret under Sections 500/501 of the Penal Code 1860 in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court. Journalist Eshan published an article titled "Dhaka Cotton evades tax despite collecting from staff" on 18 September 2024 alleging staff of 'Dhaka Cotton' were declined income tax

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<sup>23</sup>. Journalist leader Pranab Barua shown arrested in four cases, The Business Standard, 23 October 2024, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/journalist-leader-pranab-barua-shown-arrested-four-cases-974376>

<sup>24</sup>. Journalist arrested in Khagrachari, Dhaka Tribune, 25 October 2024, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/363166/journalist-arrested-in-khagrachari>

<sup>25</sup>. The plaintiff does not know the defendants in the case against the journalist, Morenews.bd, 9 October 2024, <https://morenewsbd.com/en/crime-&-order/1878/the-plaintiff-does-not-know-the-defendants-in-the-case-against-the-journalist>

invoices from the Dhaka Cotton Authority. Ehsan noted receiving thirty staff member salary documents worth more than BDT 79 lakh (approximately USD 64,250), revealing the company had provided no compensation to its employees or suppliers. Managing Director of Dhaka Cotton, Sheikh Muhammad Samiul Islam, had reportedly threatened Ehsan and staff members of a legal notice for fake allegations.<sup>26</sup>

On 18 January 2025, BNP supporter Belal Hossain filed a case against 189 people, including the former State Minister for Primary and Mass Education and three journalists, in Roumari, Kurigram, for obstructing, beating, and robbing the 2018 parliamentary election campaign.<sup>27</sup>

On 22 January 2025, two journalists from Gobindaganj, Raihan Mohammad Mostafa Kamal and Nur Mohammad Raihan Farhad were denied anticipatory bail regarding a case filed under the Explosives Act and the attempt to murder Jamaat leader Taharat Tanvir Pradhan in 2014 and the case filed in November 2024 i.e. about 11 years after the 2014 incident. The journalists appeared before the court and applied for bail. The court rejected their bail and sent them to prison.<sup>28</sup>

On 22 January 2025, Social Welfare Officer Arifur Rahman filed a case with Kotwali Police Station against 19 journalists, including Rangpur Press Club President Monabbar Hossain Mona and General Secretary Merina Lovely. After the fall of the Awami League government, the expelled members of the club, along with some named journalists, complained to the social service against the Press Club in the name of the anti-discrimination journalist movement against the Press Club. The Social Service Officer thereafter sent a show-cause notice to the press club alleging that the registration was not renewed for nearly 32 years.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>26</sup>. Bangladesh: Journalist booked after corruption reporting, International Federation of Journalists, 17 January 2025, [https://www.ifj.org/supporting-public-interest-journalism-in-palestine-grants-for-media?tx\\_news\\_pi1%Baction%5D=detail&tx\\_news\\_pi1%Bcontroller%5D=News&tx\\_news\\_pi1%Bnews%5D=22866&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5BoverwriteDemand%5D%5Bcategories%5D=47&cHash=a4b616ac8b6146e8e0fbe27db54c3ad0](https://www.ifj.org/supporting-public-interest-journalism-in-palestine-grants-for-media?tx_news_pi1%Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%Bnews%5D=22866&tx_news_pi1%5BoverwriteDemand%5D%5Bcategories%5D=47&cHash=a4b616ac8b6146e8e0fbe27db54c3ad0)

<sup>27</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report September 2024, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 January 2025

<sup>28</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report January 2025, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 January 2025

<sup>29</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report January 2025, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 January 2025





*Protest demanding release of poet Sohel Galib*

On 13 February 2025, poet Sohel Galib was arrested from Fatullah, Narayanganj by the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Lalbagh Division) under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Sohel Hasan Galib had written a book titled "Amar Khutba Guli" containing poems the authorities alleged to be “offensive to religious sentiments”. He was sent to judicial custody.<sup>30</sup> Human rights defender Rakhal Raha faced an investigation over a Facebook post questioning free speech restrictions in Galib’s case.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup>. Poet Sohel Hasan Galib sent to jail for ‘hurting religious sentiment’, TBSNEWS.NET, 15 February 2025, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/poet-sohel-hasan-galib-sent-jail-charge-hurting-religious-sentiment-1069306>

<sup>31</sup>. Bangladesh’s Media Crisis Deepens as Radical Forces and State Repression Take Hold, March 24, 2025, <https://pressxpress.org/2025/03/24/bangladeshs-media-crisis-deepens-as-radical-forces-and-state-repression-take-hold/>

### 3. Cases of acts of violence, criminal intimidation against journalists

The non-State actors especially the political parties i.e. Anti Discrimination Students Movement and the Bangladesh National Party continued attacks on the journalists. At least 206 journalists faced acts of violence in the first eight months of Dr Yunus's Interim government.

On 29 September 2024, journalist Sayedul Islam Farhad of *Dhakapost.com* was assaulted and had his phone stolen by unknown assailants outside the Deputy Commissioner's office in Cox Bazar. Sayedul stated "I went there for some information for my professional reasons. Suddenly, some men attacked me and snatched my phone".<sup>32</sup>

On 9 October 2024, Hossain Shahid, a journalist with *Jamuna Television* and cameraperson Delwar Hossain were assaulted and sustained severe injuries after they were attacked with an iron rod by a man identified as Alif Imran at Patgodam Railway Crossing in Mymensingh city. They were on their way to Bangladesh Agricultural University to cover a story when the attack occurred. Shahid received first aid, while Delwar sustained a fracture in the right hand.<sup>33</sup>

In November 2024, Shahidul Islam, staff reporter for *Khulna Gazette* and District Correspondent for *News21 Bangla TV*, was attacked twice in Khulna district. Islam was first assaulted by a mob of about 30 unidentified persons armed with locally made weapons in Rupsa upazila in Khulna district on 8 November. He sustained serious injuries in the assault. Islam had reported on environmental matters, including the coal-making processes of Goalbari Poramanik Bari temple in Rupsa upazila. During his coverage, Islam had identified and reported individuals illegally burning wood and making coal stoves nearby the temple. On 15 November 2024, Shahidul Islam was again attacked at Pogaldigha College while covering a Student Union conference. Despite identifying himself as a journalist, the group of assailants assaulted him with sticks.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup>. Journalist beaten, phone snatched from DC office premise Cox's Bazar, The Business Standard, 29 September 2024, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/journalist-beaten-phone-snatched-dc-office-premise-coxs-bazar-953746>

<sup>33</sup>. Two journalists attacked in Mymensingh, The Daily Star, 9 October 2024, <https://images.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/two-journalists-attacked-mymensingh-3723891>

<sup>34</sup>. Bangladesh: Attacks on journalists continue amid ongoing violence, IFJ, 22 November 2024, <https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/category/press-releases/article/bangladesh-attacks-on-journalists-continue-amid-ongoing-violence>



On 17 November 2024, journalist Mohammad Junayed Sheikh of *Kaler Kantho* was assaulted by members of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Jagannath University campus in Dhaka while he was recording a clash between students. Sheikh alleged that a number of people associated with the JCD attempted to snatch his phone and assaulted him, despite identifying himself as a journalist.<sup>35</sup>

On 22 December 2024, Sohel Talukdar, the Tangail correspondent of *DBC Television*, was attacked during a live broadcast by a group of protesters after he referred to them as “Pro-Zubair”, supporters of Maulana Zubair Ahmad. The protest was held to demand the arrest and ban of followers of Maulana Saad Kandhalvi from the Tabligh Jamaat faction. Other journalists who tried to intervene were also assaulted.<sup>36</sup>

On 24 December 2024, a gang of Bangladesh student protesters led by Hasnat Abdullah, Convener of the Anti Discrimination Students Movement, entered the offices of the City Group, who invest in *Somoy Television* and accused it of “spreading propaganda, twisting my comments, and accommodating the views of a fallen political party”. Immediately, five journalists including one Omar Faroque, a senior editor, were terminated from job without any reason because of the intimidation from the students led by Hasnat Abdullah.<sup>37</sup>

On 25 December 2024, four journalists of *The Janabani* newspaper, including Editor Shafiqul Islam, Managing Editor Raju Ahmed Shah, Special Correspondent Bashir Hossain Khan and Online Editor Ataur Hossain were attacked by 20–22 unidentified assailants in Dhaka’s Bangla Motor area. The attack appeared to be pre-planned, as the assailants asked for their names before launching the assault. A man named Ramzan had allegedly threatened the Janabani staff earlier. The injured journalists were treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later discharged. A case was filed at Shahbagh Police Station.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup>. Journo assaulted at JnU: Allegations against JCD activists, The Daily Star, 17 November 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/politics/news/journo-assaulted-jnu-allegations-against-jcd-activists-3755381>

<sup>36</sup>. Journo attacked during live broadcast after referring to protesters as “Pro-Zubair”, The Daily Star, 23 December 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/journo-attacked-during-live-broadcast-after-referring-protesters-pro-zubair-3782651>

<sup>37</sup>. Bangladesh Protesters Enter TV Station Owners, Journalists Sacked, 24 December 2024, <https://www.barrons.com/news/bangladesh-protesters-enter-tv-station-owners-journalists-sacked-d8adb8b0>

<sup>38</sup>. 4 journalists, including editor, of Janabani newspaper attacked in Dhaka, The Business Standard, 26 December 2024, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/4-journalists-including-editor-janabani-newspaper-attacked-dhaka-1027311>

On 16 January 2025, police attacked Sheikh Ferdous, a photojournalist for the daily *Shomor Alor*, during a protest by ethnic minority students in the capital, Dhaka.<sup>39</sup>

On 27 January 2025, Education Board Chairman Professor Rezaul Karim insulted *CVOICE24* reporter Sharmin Rima while performing her professional duties at the Chittagong Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board. A general complaint was filed with Pantlaish Police Station in this incident.<sup>40</sup>

On 28 January 2025, *Prothom Alo*'s Narail correspondent Raju Sheikh filed a complaint against threatening her for publishing news in Lohagara, Narail. On the morning of 25 January, a memorial monument located at Narail Government Victoria College and a mural next to the east gate of the college was vandalized. Raju Sheikh sent the news with statements from everyone involved in the incident. The news was published in the online version of *Prothom Alo* at around 10:30 pm. Then, at 11:25 pm, an unknown person from an unknown mobile phone number abused Raju Sheikh in foul language for publishing news of the vandalism and threatened to implicate him in a false case.<sup>41</sup>

On 3 February 2025, Shohag Khan Sujon, a correspondent for the daily *Samakal*, was attacked with a hammer and stabbed in the back after reporting on medical negligence at a clinic in Shariatpur district. According to Sujon, the clinic owner restrained him while a group of men struck his ear with a hammer before stabbing him. Three other journalists - Nayon Das (*Bangla TV*), Bidhan Mojumder Oni (*News 24*), and Saiful Islam Akash (*Desh TV*) - were also injured when they attempted to intervene.<sup>42</sup> The journalists were attacked in front of the Shariatpur District's Deputy Commissioner's Office in Dhaka.<sup>43</sup>

On 3 February 2025, masked attackers armed with bamboo sticks and firearms assaulted four newspaper correspondents in Laxmipur district i.e. Md Rafiqul

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<sup>39</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report September 2024, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 January 2025

<sup>40</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report September 2024, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 January 2025

<sup>41</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report September 2024, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 January 2025

<sup>42</sup>. Bangladesh's Yunus Government Cracks Down on Press: Journalists Face Violence, Legal Persecution, and State Censorship, February 18, 2025  
[https://www.borderlens.com/2025/02/18/bangladeshs-yunus-government-cracks-down-on-press-journalists-face-violence-legal-persecution-and-state-censorship/#google\\_vignette](https://www.borderlens.com/2025/02/18/bangladeshs-yunus-government-cracks-down-on-press-journalists-face-violence-legal-persecution-and-state-censorship/#google_vignette)

<sup>43</sup>. Four journalists injured in attack for publishing news, New Age, 3 February 2025,  
<https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/257096/four-journalists-injured-in-attack-for-publishing-news>

Islam (*Khoborer Kagoj*), Abdul Malak Nirob (*Amar Barta*), Md Alauddin (*Daily Amar Somoy*), and Md Foysal Mahmud (*Daily Alokito Sakal*). The journalists had gone to cover a land dispute.<sup>44</sup>

On 5 February 2025, several journalists including Zabed Akhter, reporter with *ATN News*, were allegedly attacked by members of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party on the premises of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in Dhaka while they gathered for a press release concerning a High Court verdict acquitting previously convicted individuals in a 1994 alleged assassination attempt against then-opposition leader and ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. When BNP activists began causing a disturbance, *ATN News* reporter Zabed Akhter protested. In response, BNP activists began beating him. When some journalists tried to rescue him, they were also attacked. At least ten journalists were injured in the attack, while Zabed Akhter was seriously injured and admitted to Islami Bank Central Hospital in Kakrail.<sup>45</sup> On 6 February 2025, another group of protesters assaulted Mohammad Omar Farok (*Independent24 TV*) and Syed Mainul Ahasan Maruf (*Ekattor TV*) while they covered the destruction of a museum linked to Hasina's family. The police did not intervene.<sup>46</sup>

On 5 February 2025, Zahirul Islam Miron, a correspondent of *Banglavision*, Kuakata and former General Secretary of Kuakata Press Club, was attacked and severely injured by a group of unidentified people outside his house in Kuakata town in Kalapara upazila. Police stated that Miron got off a bus near his home in Tulatali around 12:30am when the attackers, who were lying in wait, launched a sudden attack with sharp weapons, leaving him seriously injured. Miron was admitted for treatment of the injuries at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>. Bangladesh's Yunus Government Cracks Down on Press: Journalists Face Violence, Legal Persecution, and State Censorship, February 18, 2025  
[https://www.borderlens.com/2025/02/18/bangladeshs-yunus-government-cracks-down-on-press-journalists-face-violence-legal-persecution-and-state-censorship/#google\\_vignette](https://www.borderlens.com/2025/02/18/bangladeshs-yunus-government-cracks-down-on-press-journalists-face-violence-legal-persecution-and-state-censorship/#google_vignette)

<sup>45</sup>. Journalists come under attack on High Court premises, Dhaka Tribune, 5 February 2025,  
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/372854/bnp-leaders-and-activists-attack-journalists-at>

<sup>46</sup>. Bangladesh's Yunus Government Cracks Down on Press: Journalists Face Violence, Legal Persecution, and State Censorship, February 18, 2025  
[https://www.borderlens.com/2025/02/18/bangladeshs-yunus-government-cracks-down-on-press-journalists-face-violence-legal-persecution-and-state-censorship/#google\\_vignette](https://www.borderlens.com/2025/02/18/bangladeshs-yunus-government-cracks-down-on-press-journalists-face-violence-legal-persecution-and-state-censorship/#google_vignette)

<sup>47</sup>. Journalist hacked in front of house in Patuakhali, The Daily Star, 5 February 2025,  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/journalist-hacked-front-house-patuakhali-3817066>

On 9 February 2025, six journalists covering a student protest in Dhaka were beaten, punched, and kicked by the Bangladesh Police. The victims—Kawser Ahmed Ripon (*The Report Live*), Asif Uz Zaman and Muhammad Mahadi (*Kaler Kantho*), Azhar Rakib (*Bangladesh Pratidin*), Mohammad Redwan (*Jaago News*), and Shimul Khan (*Breaking News*)— were targeted despite showing press credentials.<sup>48</sup> They were attacked while performing professional duties during the protests of the students.<sup>49</sup>

On 20 February 2025, the BNP activists attacked journalist Abdullah Al Mahmud, a representative of Nasirnagar Upazila of *NTV Online*, after a video of a banned Chhatra League activist on the Shaheed Minar in Nasirnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria. The attackers broke the camera of the journalist and took away his cellphone.<sup>50</sup>

On 3 March 2025, editor-in-chief of the daily *Bhola Times*, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, alias Rajib, and editor of the online news portal *Bhola Prakash*, Bijoy Bain, were attacked while covering clashes on Khalpar Road adjacent to Sheeshmahal Gali in Bhola city around 9 am.<sup>51</sup>

On 19 March 2025, journalist Abdus Salam Biswas captured an altercation of the police officers in front of Badarganj police station in Rangpur. ASI Rabiul Alam, constables Al Amin Hossain, and Mojibur Rahman snatched the mobile phone, pushed him to the ground, and punched him.<sup>52</sup>

On 21 March 2025, intern doctors and medical students beat up journalists while collecting news about the death of a woman due to wrong treatment. The four journalists beaten up were *Jamuna Television's* Comilla bureau chief, Rafiqul Islam and camera person Jihadul Islam, and Channel 20's Comilla staff reporter Zahidur Rahman and camera person Belayet Hossain.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>48</sup>. Bangladesh's Yunus Government Cracks Down on Press: Journalists Face Violence, Legal Persecution, and State Censorship, February 18, 2025  
[https://www.borderlens.com/2025/02/18/bangladeshs-yunus-government-cracks-down-on-press-journalists-face-violence-legal-persecution-and-state-censorship/#google\\_vignette](https://www.borderlens.com/2025/02/18/bangladeshs-yunus-government-cracks-down-on-press-journalists-face-violence-legal-persecution-and-state-censorship/#google_vignette)

<sup>49</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report September 2024, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 28 February 2025

<sup>50</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report September 2024, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 28 February 2025

<sup>51</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 March 2025

<sup>52</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 March 2025

<sup>53</sup>. Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (msf), 31 March 2025

On 27 March 2025, two journalists N Amin Russell and Monirul Islam were assaulted near Barishal Court on March 27, whilst three employees of Dhaka Reporter's Unity were left with serious injuries during an armed attack in Dhaka on March 28.<sup>54</sup> They were hospitalised at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College.<sup>55</sup> According to the journalists, the attack was allegedly led by Sohel Rari, Organising Secretary of the Barishal District Chhatra Dal, along with a group of his associates who ambushed the journalists near the main gate of the District and Sessions Judge Court, set Russell's motorcycle on fire, and accused the journalists of affiliation with the Awami League.

On 28 March 2025, three journalists identified as Zakir Hossain Babul, Zahidul Islam and Robidul Islam of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) were injured during two attacks led by local assailants and employees of the Karatoa Courier Service near DRU premises in Dhaka.<sup>56</sup>

On 2 April 2025, a woman journalist identified as Rafia Tamanna working with *New Age* and her brother were attacked after they protested against some youths who were stalking her near their house in Rampura area, Dhaka. According to the journalist, three to four youths came out from a shop, stalked and stood beside her, and when her brother protested against them, they attacked him and started beating him. She was also attacked and beaten up by the group when she tried to save her brother from them. Further, she alleged that local people in the area just enjoyed the incident like audience and no one came forward to save them, and the perpetrators even called more people to create a mob.<sup>57</sup>

The Detective Branch of the Bangladesh Police under Bogura district arrested six members of a teen gang in connection with an attack on three people i.e. Khorshed Alam, northern bureau chief of *The Business Standard*, Asafudoula Neon, staff correspondent at online portal *Bogura Live*, and Taufiqul Islam Nirab

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<sup>54</sup>. Bangladesh: Five journalists assaulted as violent attacks on media escalate, International Federation of Journalists, 10 April 2025, <https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/reports/detail/bangladesh-five-journalists-assaulted-as-violent-attacks-on-media-escalate/category/press-releases>

<sup>55</sup>. 2 journos attacked at Barishal court, Daily Star, Mar 28, 2025, <https://www.thedailystar.net/top-news/news/2-journos-attacked-barishal-court-3858951>

<sup>56</sup>. Three injured in attack at DRU by unidentified men; two arrested, The Business Standard, 28 March, 2025, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/three-injured-attack-dru-unidentified-men-two-arrested-1104251>

<sup>57</sup>. New Age female journalist, brother attacked for protesting at stalking, New Age, 2 April 2025, <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/261389/new-age-female-journalist-brother-attacked-for-protesting-at-stalking>



in the district's Jailkhana intersection area on 5 April 2025.<sup>58</sup>

On 6 April 2025, Sajedul Islam Selim, Editor of *Daily Prantojon* and a Lecturer at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib College in Chandrakala, sustained multiple injuries during an armed attack in Chandrakala Bazar while he was returning home after work. A group of unidentified men affiliated with the Bangladesh National Party intercepted Selim near Chandrakala Bazar, forcibly taking him to a nearby tea stall where they robbed him of his mobile phone and beat him with cricket stumps and bamboo sticks. The attackers also vandalised his motorcycle and threatened him “not to return to the college” before fleeing the scene. Selim was rushed to Sadar Hospital, sustaining multiple fractures to his arms and hands.<sup>59</sup>

On 6 April 2025, editor of *Daily Prantojon* Sajedul Islam Selim sustained multiple injuries after an armed attack in Chandrakala Bazar.<sup>60</sup>

On 15 April 2025, two journalists in Chattogram have alleged that they were attacked while covering a story related to graft allegations against former foreign minister and Awami League leader Hasan Mahmud in the Dewan Bazar area of Chattogram near his residence. Hossain Abbas, a staff reporter at the Chattogram-based IP television channel *CPlus*, and cameraman Md Sharif, who also claimed their camera equipment was targeted during the incident.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>58</sup>. 6 Teen Gang Members Arrested over Attack Journalists Bogurra, The Business Standard, 8 April 2025, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/6-teen-gang-members-arrested-over-attack-journalists-bogura-1110841>

<sup>59</sup>. Assailants assault, smash arms of Natore journalist Selim in broad daylight, bdnews24.com, 6 April 2025, <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/fd119bc4f073>

<sup>60</sup> Bangladesh: Two editors harassed and assaulted, International Federation of Journalist, 17 April 2025, <https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/reports/detail/bangladesh-two-editors-harassed-and-assaulted/category/press-releases>

<sup>61</sup>. 2 Ctg journos reportedly attacked while covering news on ex-minister Hasan Mahmud, The Business Standard, 15 April, 2025, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/crime/2-ctg-journos-reportedly-attacked-while-covering-news-ex-minister-hasan-mahmud>



## 4. Other acts of intimidation against journalists by the Interim Government

The Interim Government of Dr Muhammad Yunus had adopted a number of tactics to intimidate and silence the journalists such as launching financial inquiry against at least 85 journalists, forcing sacking of the journalists who report or ask difficult questions, closure of the media houses like the *Bhorer Kagoj* because of the continued detention of its editor Shyamal Dutta and denial of accreditation to at least 167 journalists.

### 4.1. Financial Inquiry Against 85 Senior Journalists

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), anti-terror investigating agency initiated inquiries against 85 senior journalists, sending a chilling message to the journalists to remain silent from August 2024 to March 2025 as given below.

On 30 October 2024, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) directed various banks of the country seeking information about 28 journalists seeking details such as bank lockers, savings cards, credit cards and other financial instruments in their name or whether money has been transacted or not. The journalists whose information has been sought are Naeem Nizam, editor of *Bangladesh Pratidin*; Farida Yasmin, former president of *Jatiya Press Club*; Zayedul Hasan Pintu, head of news, *DBC News*; Subhash Singh Roy, editor-in-chief of *abnews24.com*; Haider Ali, executive editor of *Kaler Kantha*; J.I Mamun of *ATN*; Syed Borhan Kabir of *Bangla Insider Editor*; Shaban Mahmud former Press Minister of Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi; Mirza Mehdi Tamal, City Editor of *Bangladesh Protidin*; Zulkarnain Rono, Chief Reporter; Alamgir Hossain, Editor of *Samakal*; Madhusudan Mandal of *BSS*; Masud Ayub Curzon of *DBC*; Mainul Islam, Executive Editor of *Amader Somoy*; Journalist Faraji Ajmal Hossain; Ashok Chowdhury of *Baisakhi TV*; Rahul Raha, Executive Editor; Rezaul Karim Lotus, Editor of *Daily Sun*; Ashikur Rahman Shrabon, Deputy Chief News Editor of *News 24*; Abdullah Al Mamun, Special Correspondent of *Jugantor*; Rafiqul Islam Ratan, Former Editor of *Swadesh Pratidin*; Sheikh Jamal Hossain, Editor of *Dainik Mukhopatro*; Aditya Arafat, Special Correspondent of *DBC News*; Tauhidul Islam Sourav, *ATN News* Special Correspondent; Sheikh Mamunur Rashid, Special Correspondent of *Jugantor*; journalist Shyamal Sarkar;

Abul Khair, City Editor of *Ittefaq* and Santosh Sharma, Editor and Administrator of *Daily Kalbela*.<sup>62</sup>

On 24 November 2024, the BFIU once again directed various banks to provide the accounts details of 10 journalists, including two chief editors and the immediate past president of National Press Club Shafiqur Rahman. These include Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, editor-in-chief of *TV Today*; Abdul Gaffar Khan, chief in editor of *Dainik Amar Somoy*; Chowdhury Jafarullah Sharafat, acting editor of *Dainik Bangla*; Ashish Gosh Saikat, chief news editor at *independent24.tv*; Naznin Nahar Munni, assignment editor of *DBC News*; Anjan Roy, editor for research of *GTV*; and Komol Dey, bureau chief of Chattogram at *somoynews.tv*; AZM Sajjad Hossain, former minister (press) at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC; and Raju Ahmed, former Narayangaj correspondent of *The Daily Jugantor*.<sup>63</sup>

On 31 December 2024, the BFIU further sought information about the banks regarding the bank accounts of 12 journalists and their privately owned organisations. The journalists were Subhash Chandra Badal, former managing director of the Journalists' Welfare Trust; Arifur Rahman Dolan, editor of *Dhaka Times*; Nurul Islam Hasib, special correspondent of *Bangladesh Post*; Dwip Azad, chief news editor of *Nagorik TV*; Abul Kalam Azad, former chief news editor of *Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha* (BSS); Md Omar Faruque, deputy chief news editor of *BSS*; Zafar Wazed, former director general of the Press Institute, Bangladesh; Hosne Ara Mamata Islam Soma, special correspondent of *Channel I*; Obaidul Kabir Molla, deputy editor of *Daily Janakantha*; Abed Khan, editor of *Daily Jagoran*; Ajay Das Gupta, freelance journalist; and Syed Ishtiaque Reza, editor-in-chief of *Global TV*.<sup>64</sup>

On 5 January 2025, the BFIU also directed various banks to provide details regarding 21 journalists including Saiful Alam, editor of the *Daily Jugantor*; Hasan Zahid Tushar, former deputy press secretary to the prime minister; Pranab Saha, head of news at *DBC News*; M. Shamsur Rahman, editor-in-chief and CEO of *Independent TV*; Mamun Abdullah, head of news at *Independent TV*; Animesh Kar, special correspondent of *Independent TV*; Md. Ruhul Amin Russell, Managing Editor of *Bangladesh Pratidin*; senior reporter of *Daily Khola Kagoj* Zafar Ahmed; editor of the *Daily Jatiya Orthoniti* MG Kibria Chowdhury, Chief Reporter of *Amader Somoy* and *Amader Orthoniti* Deepak Chowdhury, Head of Input at

<sup>62</sup>. BFIU summons bank accounts details of 28 journalists, The Business Standard, 30 October 2024, <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bfiu-summons-bank-accounts-details-28-journalists-979761>

<sup>63</sup>. BFIU seeks account details of 10 journalists, The Daily Star, 24 November 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bfiu-seeks-account-details-10-journalists-3760761>

<sup>64</sup>. BFIU seeks bank account details of 12 journalists, The Finance Today, 31 December 2025, <https://www.thefinancetoday.net/article/national/27060/BFIU-seeks-bank-account-details-of-12-journalists>

*Ekushey TV* Akhil Kumar Poddar, journalist Jhumur Bari of *Ekattor TV*, Ziadur Rahman, Editor of the *Ekushey Sangbad*, Angur Nahar Monti, special correspondent of *Daily Kalbela* and Nasir Uddin Sathi of Chairman of *My TV*.<sup>65</sup>

On 15 January 2025, the BFIU targeted another set of 14 journalists from various media outlets across the country. The letter specified that information, including account opening forms, KYC (Know Your Customer) documents, transaction histories, and related data of the 14 journalists, as well as their spouses, children, and related businesses. Among the journalists whose bank account details have been requested are Julhas Alam, Farid Hossain, Shahjahan Sardar, Ali Asif Shawon, Nadim Quader, Rajib Ghosh, Tahmida Sadeque Jesy, Azizul Haque Bhuiyan, Swapan Basu, Niladri Shekhar Kundu, Nazrul Kabir, Iqbal Karim Nishan, Saju Rahman and Aminur Rashid.<sup>66</sup>

#### 4.2 Sacking of the journalists for reporting and asking questions

Any journalist reporting against the Anti Discrimination Students Movement or the government can be sacked instantly without any explanation as the owners of the media succumb to the pressure. This has led to massive self censorship.

On 24 December 2024, a gang of Bangladesh student protesters led by Hasnat Abdullah, Convener of the Anti Discrimination Students Movement, entered the offices of the City Group, who invest in *Somoy Television* and accused it of “spreading propaganda, twisting his comments, and accommodating the views of a fallen political party”. Immediately, five journalists including one Omar Faroque, a senior editor, were terminated from job without any reason because of the intimidation from the students led by Hasnat Abdullah.<sup>67</sup>

On 28 April 2025, where celebrated filmmaker and newly appointed Cultural Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki organized a press conference at the Secretariat in Dhaka regarding Bangladesh’s participation at the Cannes Film Festival. A few journalists posed critical queries surrounding political violence, national unity, and public accountability and about the number of people killed during the July-August political unrest. Thereafter, because of the government pressure Rahman

<sup>65</sup>. BFIU seeks bank account details of 21 more journalists, The Financial Express, 05 January 2025, <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bfiu-seeks-bank-account-details-of-21-more-journalists>

<sup>66</sup>. BFIU seeks bank account details of 14 more journos, The Dhaka Tribune, 15 January 2025, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/370930/summoning-bank-account-details-of-14-more-journo>

<sup>67</sup>. Bangladesh Protesters Enter TV Station Owners, Journalists Sacked, 24 December 2024, <https://www.barrons.com/news/bangladesh-protesters-enter-tv-station-owners-journalists-sacked-d8adb8b0>

Mizan of *Deepto TV* and Fazle Rabbi of *ATN Bangla* were summarily terminated from their positions while Rafiqul Bashir of *Channel I*, who had questioned the motif behind the use of Sheikh Hasina's image in the Pahela Baishakh parade, was relieved of his duties pending an internal investigation. *Deepto TV*'s Head of News, S.M. Akash, confirmed the suspension of the channel's entire news coverage "until further notice," citing intimidation and reputational threats".<sup>68</sup>

#### *4.3 Closure of the media houses*

On 20 January 2025, authorities announced the closure of the head office of the national daily *Bhorer Kagoj*. The notice posted at the office gate stated that the decision was taken for reasons 'beyond the owner's control.' The employees rallied under the office to protest the authorities' decision. The closure has been caused among others because of the arrest of Shyamal Dutta, the editor of the newspaper, from the border area of Mymensingh's Dhobaura Upazila on 16 September 2024. Mr Dutta has been in jail since then.<sup>69</sup>

#### *4.4 Cancellation of accreditation to 167 journalists*

The Interim Government has been using press accreditation as a weapon to target journalists for their work. Press accreditation cards are required for access to the Secretariat.<sup>70</sup> The government revoked press accreditation of at least 167 journalists for their alleged links with the previous government including revocation of accreditation of 20 journalists on 29 October 2024,<sup>71</sup> 29 journalists on 3 November 2024,<sup>72</sup> and 118 journalists on 7 November 2024<sup>73</sup> thereby crippling press freedom.

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<sup>68</sup>. Journalism in Bangladesh : Ask questions, lose your job, The Borderlens, 30 April 2025, <https://www.borderlens.com/2025/04/30/journalism-in-bangladesh-ask-questions-lose-your-job/>

<sup>69</sup>. Bengali-language daily 'Bhorer Kagoj' shuts down after 33 years of operation, BDnews24.com, 20 January 2025, <https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/50418562deal>

<sup>70</sup>. Govt strips 118 more journos of accreditation, Dhaka Tribune, 11 November 2024, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/364880/govt-strips-118-more-journos-of-accreditation>

<sup>71</sup>. Press accreditation cards of 20 journalists canceled, Dhaka Tribune, 29 October 2024, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/363584/press-accreditation-cards-of-20-journalists>

<sup>72</sup>. Govt revokes accreditation of 29 more journalists, The Daily Star, 6 November 2024, <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-revokes-accreditation-29-more-journalists-3745326>

<sup>73</sup>. Govt strips 118 more journos of accreditation, Dhaka Tribune, 11 November 2024, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/364880/govt-strips-118-more-journos-of-accreditation>



The Interim government altogether suspended journalists' access to the Secretariat on 29 December 2024 following a fire accident at the Secretariat, a move condemned by the Editors Council of Bangladesh.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Editors Council strongly protests cancellation of journalists' entry to Secretariat, Dhaka Tribune, 29 December 2024, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/369412/editors-council-strongly-protests-cancellation-of>

## 5. Annexures

### ANNEX-1

#### *Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation*

*[Foundation for Human Rights Culture]*



- Incidents of torture of journalists and filing of cases under the Digital/Cyber Security Act continue.
- Unidentified body recovery continues.
- Incidents of taking the law into their own hands, such as lynchings, are on the rise.
- Incidents of violence against women, children, and minorities continue to increase.
- Attacks, vandalism, and casualties have occurred at shrines in a new form this year.

#### January-December 2024 Statistical data

Types of human rights violations		January- December 2024												Total
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Gunfight	Incident Involved	-	-	-	4	4	5	1	-	1	-	1	-	16
Extrajudicial killings	Joint operations led by Army	-	-	-	2	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
	Army	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	3	-	3	-	11
	BGB	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Police	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	RAB	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Death in Custody	Police	1	-	-	2	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	9
	During the joint operation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	2	8
	Death in Custody	19	19	12	10	11	7	2	7	5	5	5	6	108
Death to avoid arrest		1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	3	8
Kidnapping in the identity of law enforcers		-	4	3	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	1	13
Political Violence	Killed	14	5	3	9	12	11	4 <sup>1</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>	5	7	7	3	89
	Injured	830	301	179	168	606	683	32	195	619	412	407	402	4830
	Lodge Case	6	1	-	-	-	1	789	268	238	102	74	32	1520
	Arrest	106	59	144	147	79	7	10372	16	90	1760	433	266	13468
Border situation	Shot dead	2	4	4	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	31
	Killed by Khasia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	4
	Killed under torture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
	Shot wounds	-	-	-	5	1	5	3	3	4	-	4	-	25
	Injured by torture	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
	Killed	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	5

<sup>1</sup> This figure does not include the killing of July-August 2024

<sup>2</sup> This figure does not include the killing of July-August 2024

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## Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation

[Foundation for Human Rights Culture]



<i>EC Members</i>
<i>Advocate Sultana Kamal</i> Founder President
<i>Advocate Saidur Rahman</i> Secretary
<i>Advocate Sanaizya Faheem Ansari</i> Treasurer
<i>Advocate Dalia Afroz</i> EC Member
<i>Advocate Tanvia Roselin Sultana</i> EC Member
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<i>Sayed Ahmed</i> EC Member
<i>Md. Mesbaul Haque</i> EC Member

Torture of journalists	Assault and injury	9	10	13	28	26	8	260	35	13	17	19	10	440
	Bullying and threats	5	4	18	15	8	6	6	2	4	2	8	3	81
	Legal harassment Legal harassment	-	-	1	11	1	9	6	39	73	25	27	14	192
Cyber Security Act	Lodge Case	3	3	-	2	6	8	4	2	6	3	-	1	38
	Arrest	1	2	-	-	2	7	-	1	3	7	-	1	24
Unidentified body found		26	34	43	58	51	52	35	29	49	53	44	30	504
Rape	Child	29	32	37	31	31	28	30	12	25	32	22	22	331
	Women	18	31	14	25	35	24	25	17	23	35	18	16	281
Attempt to Rape		13	11	14	14	23	27	15	9	14	16	14	15	185
Sexual Harassment		16	32	22	15	38	26	21	13	15	12	18	8	236
Physical Torture		24	31	37	38	39	41	22	14	25	29	99	49	448
Suicide		59	63	53	67	78	61	52	22	35	49	53	58	610
Murder		86	76	62	76	68	76	67	41	62	84	82	71	851
Acid throw		-	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	10
Illegal Arbitration		-	4	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	14
Newborn	Alive	3	3	3	2	3	2	7	-	5	-	2	1	30
Rescue	Dead	7	7	5	8	6	3	5	2	7	4	4	6	64
death by Mass Beating/ Lynching		10	5	9	9	5	3	7	20	24	23	14	17	146
Incidents of Minority Violence		14	4	4	3	8	4	2	159	10	23	21	12	264

### Casualties in political violence

The political scenario before and after the 12th National Parliament elections in early 2024 was completely different. BNP and like-minded parties announced a boycott of the polls. To ensure the government-backed parties' election from thwarted, the Government took several steps through law enforcement agencies, including filing cases against opposition leaders and activists and arbitrarily detaining them. In this case, the main campaign of the Government was 'sabotage' and anti-election activities. In this case, the main campaign by the Government was 'sabotage' and anti-election activities. As a result, the opposition party BNP and its affiliate organizations carried out peaceful activities. Various forms of violence emerged centered on the internal conflicts between the ruling party, Awami League and Chhatra League. The leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organizations were mainly affected. The ruling party and the Government had created an atmosphere of fear by harassing, attacking, filing cases, filing cases for disappearances, arrests, and mass arrests against opposition political party leaders and activists. According to information published in the media and collected by the msf, 4,919 people became victims in 701 incidents of political violence in 2024. Of them, 89 were killed and 4,830 were injured. Of the wounded, 198 were shot. Among the dead, 53 were Awami League members, 23 were BNP members, and 13 were ordinary citizens of different classes, professions, and ages with no political affiliation. In addition, 23 leaders and activists of various political parties were killed later due to miscreants and previous political enmity. Of the dead, 16 were Awami League

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**ANNEX-2**

**Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation**  
[Foundation for Human Rights Culture]



**Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report January 2025**  
**manabadhikar shongskriti foundation (msf)**  
**31 January, 2025**

Human Rights Violation at a Glance for December 2024 and January 2025

**Comparative statistics of Violent Incidents**  
**for December 2024 and January 2025:**

Subject	Type	Total Event	December 2024	Total Event	January 2024
Anti-Discrimination Student Movement-Related Incidents	Arrested		120		-
	Injured		-		24
	Died while undergoing treatment		1		2
Ex-government sued over killings and violence after government collapse	Case		17		72
	Accused		1209		5856
	Accused t (unknown)		2100		5517
Political violence	Injured	54	312	58	594
	Killed		9		10
Operation of law enforcement or joint forces	Death	2	2	2	2
	Injured		1		1
Gunfights with law enforcement	Killed	1	2	2	2
	Shot		1		-
	Detention		2		-
Law enforcement agencies	Death by torture	1	-	-	-
	Injured by torture		-		-
	Death while fleeing in fear		1		-
Jail custody	Death		7		8
Violence against journalists	Torture, Assault, Injury, Threats and harassment	17	17	13	21
	Arrest in case		-		2
Use and Misuse of Digital/Cyber Security Act	Case	2	2		-
	Arrested		1		-
	Accused		4		-
Unidentified body	Recovery		37		49
Border Situation	Killed	6	4	8	3
	Shot		1		2
	Torture		2		3
	Bodies recovered from the border.		-		2
Minority oppression	Idol vandalism	12	4	9	4
	Houses vandalized		2		1
	Assault/Fire/Property Related		4		2
	Killed		-		-
	Injured		3		2
Violence against women and children	Rape	241	31	271	42
	Gang rape		7		15
	Rape and murder		5		2
	Attempt to rape		15		16
	Sexual Harassment		8		19
	Physical torture		43		37
	Acid throw		1		1
	Suicide		435		46
	murder		74		62
	Kidnapping and Missing		13		15
	Illegal Arbitration		2		2
	Newborn Rescue		7		10
Mass Bealing	killed	24	19	21	12
	injured		19		18

Society Registration No.S-12758/05.11.2017 and NGOAB Registration No.3210/21.07.2019  
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## ANNEX-3

*Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation**[Foundation for Human Rights Culture]*

## Comparative statistics of Violent Incidents for January 2025 and February 2025:

Subject	Type	Total Event	January 2025	Total Event	February 2025
Anti-Discrimination Student Movement-Related Programs	Arrested		-		172
	injured		24		-
	died while undergoing treatment		2		-
Ex-government sued over killings and violence after government collapse	Case		72		4
	Defendant (named)		5856		360
	Defendant (unknown)		5517		200
Political violence	injured	58	594	31	319
	killed		10		3
Operation of law enforcement or joint forces	Death	2	1		-
	Injured		2		-
Gunfights with law enforcement	killed	2	2	2	3
	shot		-		-
	detention		-		5
Torture by law enforcement agencies	Death in custody	-	-		1
	Death by torture		-		-
	Injured by torture		-		-
	Death while fleeing in fear		-		1
Jail custody	Death		8		14
Violence against journalists	Torture, Assault, Injury, Threats and harassment	13	21	21	38
	Arrest in case		2		1
Use and Misuse of Digital/Cyber Security Act	Case		-	1	1
	Arrested		-		-
	Accused		-		1
Unidentified body	Recovery		49		46
Border Situation	Killed	8	3	8	1
	Shot		2		-
	Torture		-		6
	Catch and take to the border.		-		8
	Throwing/mine blast		3		1
	Bodies recovered from the border.		2		2
Minority oppression	Idol vandalism	9	4	5	2
	Houses vandalized		1		2
	Assault/Fire/Property Related		2		1
	Killed		-		-
	Injured		2		-
Violence against women and children	Rape	271	42	295	57
	Gang rape		15		17
	Rape and murder		2		2
	Attempt to rape		16		19
	Sexual Harassment		19		26
	Physical torture		37		36
	Acid throw		1		-
	Suicide		46		48
	murder		62		65
	Kidnapping and Missing		15		18
	Illegal Arbitration		2		2
	Newborn Rescue		10		5
	killed		12		8
	injured		18		19
Mass Beating		21		18	

Society Registration No.S-12758/05.11.2017 and NGOAB Registration No.3210/21.07.2019  
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## ANNEX-4

**Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation***[Foundation for Human Rights Culture]***Comparative Statistics of Violent Incidents for February 2025 and March 2025:**

<i>EC Members</i>
<i>Advocate Sultana Kamal</i> Founder President
<i>Advocate Saidur Rahman</i> Secretary
<i>Advocate Sanaizya Faheem Ansari</i> Treasurer
<i>Advocate Dalia Afroz</i> EC Member
<i>Advocate Tanvia Roselin Sultana</i> EC Member
<i>Advocate Sadia Tasneem</i> EC Member
<i>Advocate Toufiq Al Mannan</i> EC Member
<i>Sayed Ahmed</i> EC Member
<i>Md. Mesbaul Haque</i> EC Member

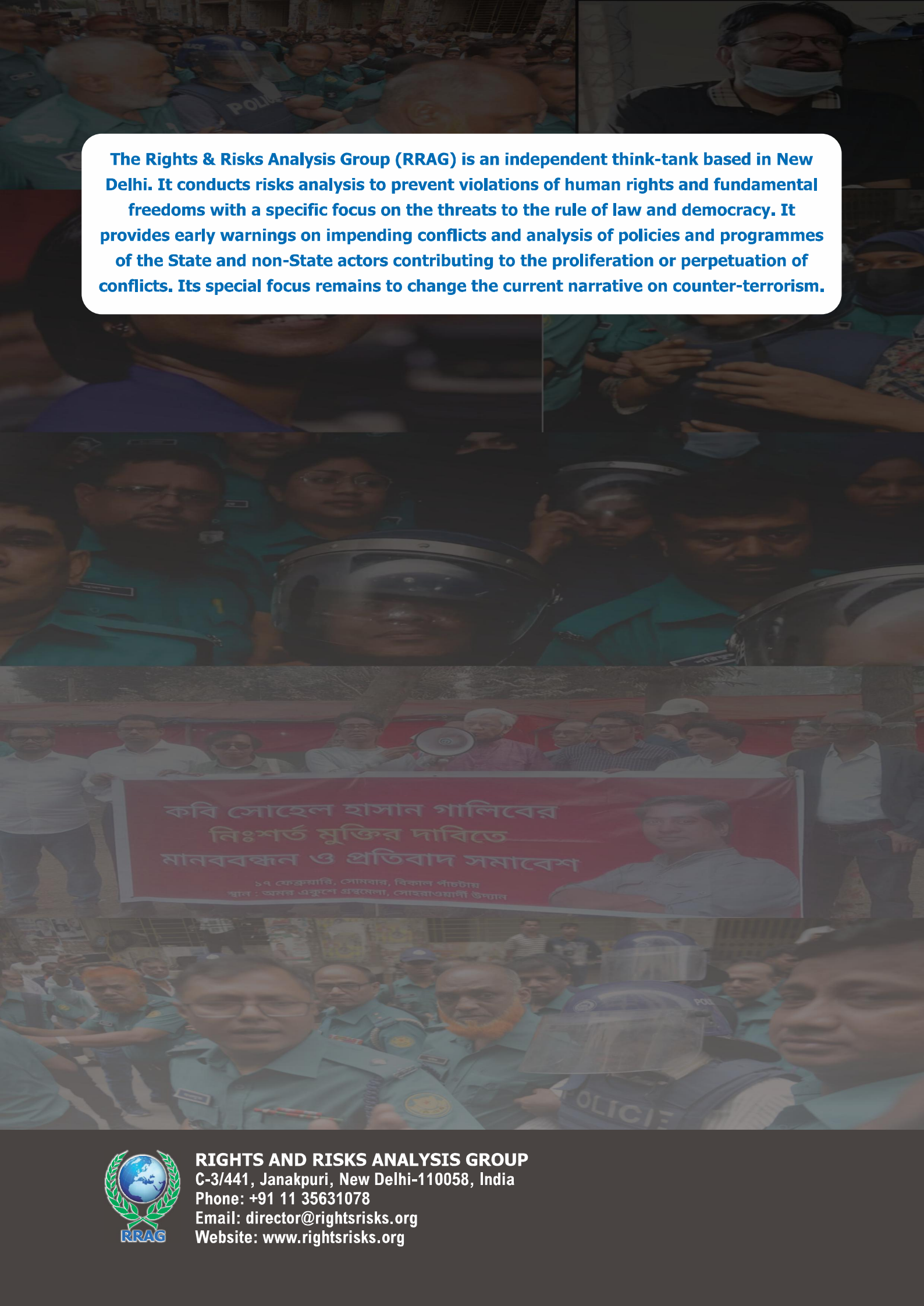
Subject	Type	Total Event	February 2025	Total Event	March 2025
Anti-Discrimination Student Movement-Related Programs	Arrested		172		404
	injured		-		-
	died while undergoing treatment		-		1
Ex-government sued over killings and violence after government collapse	Case		4		9
	Defendant (named)		360		1914
	Defendant (unknown)		200		1840
Political violence	injured	31	319	52	447
	killed		3		12
Custodial Death/ Operation of law enforcement or joint forces	Death		-	1	1
	Injured		-		-
Gunfights with law enforcement	killed	2	3		-
	shot		-		-
	detention		5		-
Torture by law enforcement agencies	Death in custody		1	2	-
	Death by torture		-		-
	Injured by torture		-		1
	Death while fleeing in fear		1		1
Jail custody	Death		14		6
Violence against journalists	Torture, Assault, Injury, Threats and harassment	21	38	18	34
	Arrest in case		1		1
Use and Misuse of Digital/Cyber Security Act	Case	1	1	2	2
	Arrested		-		1
	Accused		1		2
Unidentified body	Recovery		46		49
Border Situation	Killed	8	1	9	3
	Shot		-		2
	Torture		6		1
	Catch and take to the border.		8		-
	Throwing/mine blast		1		3
	Bodies recovered from the border.		2		-
Minority oppression	Idol vandalism	5	2	8	3
	Houses vandalized		2		1
	Assault/Fire/Property Related		1		1
	rape		-		2
	Attempt to rape		-		1
Violence against women and children	Rape	295	57	428	132
	Gang rape		17		25
	Rape and murder		2		3
	Attempt to rape		19		61
	Sexual Harassment		26		34
	Physical torture		36		38
	Acid throw		-		-
	Suicide		48		41
	murder		65		65
	Kidnapping and Missing		18		16
	Illegal Arbitration		2		5
	Newborn Rescue		5		8
Mass Beating	killed	18	8	39	13
	injured		19		56

Society Registration No.S-12758/05.11.2017 and NGOAB Registration No.3210/21.07.2019  
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The Rights & Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) is an independent think-tank based in New Delhi. It conducts risks analysis to prevent violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms with a specific focus on the threats to the rule of law and democracy. It provides early warnings on impending conflicts and analysis of policies and programmes of the State and non-State actors contributing to the proliferation or perpetuation of conflicts. Its special focus remains to change the current narrative on counter-terrorism.



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