

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

07 KILLING **386** INJURED

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMAN

63 RAPE **04**
RAPE & KILLED

CUSTODIAL DEATHS

05 CUSTODIAL
DEATHS

MOB VIOLENCE

10 KILLING **43** INJURED

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES FACED

13 CASES OF
VIOLENCE

JOURNALISTS FACED

33 PHYSICAL
ATTACK

The human rights landscape in Bangladesh during July 2025 remained highly concerning, with escalating political unrest, increased gender-based violence, continued attacks on minority communities, and systematic suppression of free expression. The country witnessed widespread political violence, targeting of journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs), mob violence, and alarming custodial deaths. The data presented in this report reflect ongoing institutional failures to uphold democratic norms, equal protection under the law, and fundamental human rights. The state's selective application of justice and repression of dissent indicate a deteriorating rule of law and shrinking civic space.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMAN

In June 2025, violence against women in Bangladesh reached to an alarming level, with at least 63 reported rape cases, 39 incidents of sexual harassment, and 51 cases of physical violence. These figures reflect not only widespread gender-based abuse but also the continued failure of the state to protect women in public, private, and political spaces. The survivors often face social stigma, delayed justice, and institutional hindrances, leaving perpetrators largely unpunished.

TARGETED MOB VIOLENCE

Targeted mob violence intensified this month, claiming the lives of 10 individuals and injuring at least 47 others. Incidents in Khilkhet, Dinajpur, and Comilla reveal a disturbing pattern of collective violence directed at marginalized individuals and groups. In several cases, mobs acted with apparent coordination and were not stopped by authorities, raising serious concerns of state inaction or complicity.

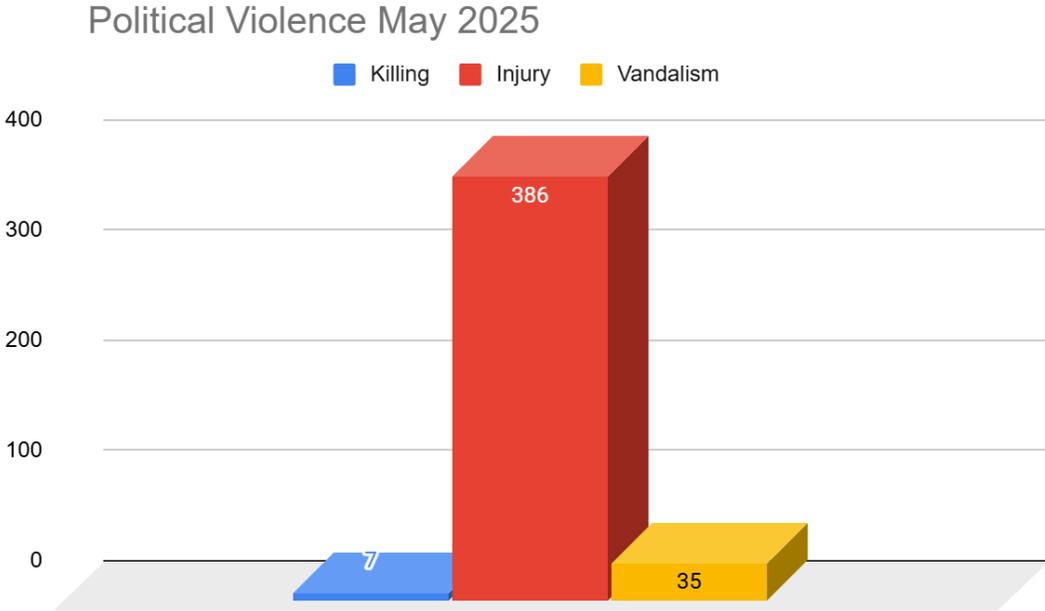
ARRESTING FOR SPEECH

In June 2025, several individuals were arrested across Bangladesh under charges of "hurting religious sentiment," often following mob pressure and public unrest. In Agailjhara, a Hindu youth was arrested after local protests over alleged online remarks. In Lalmonirhat, a mob physically assaulted a Hindu barber and his son over a misunderstanding, followed by their arrest, while a police officer's inflammatory speech to calm the crowd raised serious ethical concerns. In Moulvibazar, a female lawyer was arrested for alleged Facebook posts about Islamic figures after public outrage. These incidents highlight how vague and politically sensitive laws are being used to arrest individuals without due process.

1. Overview

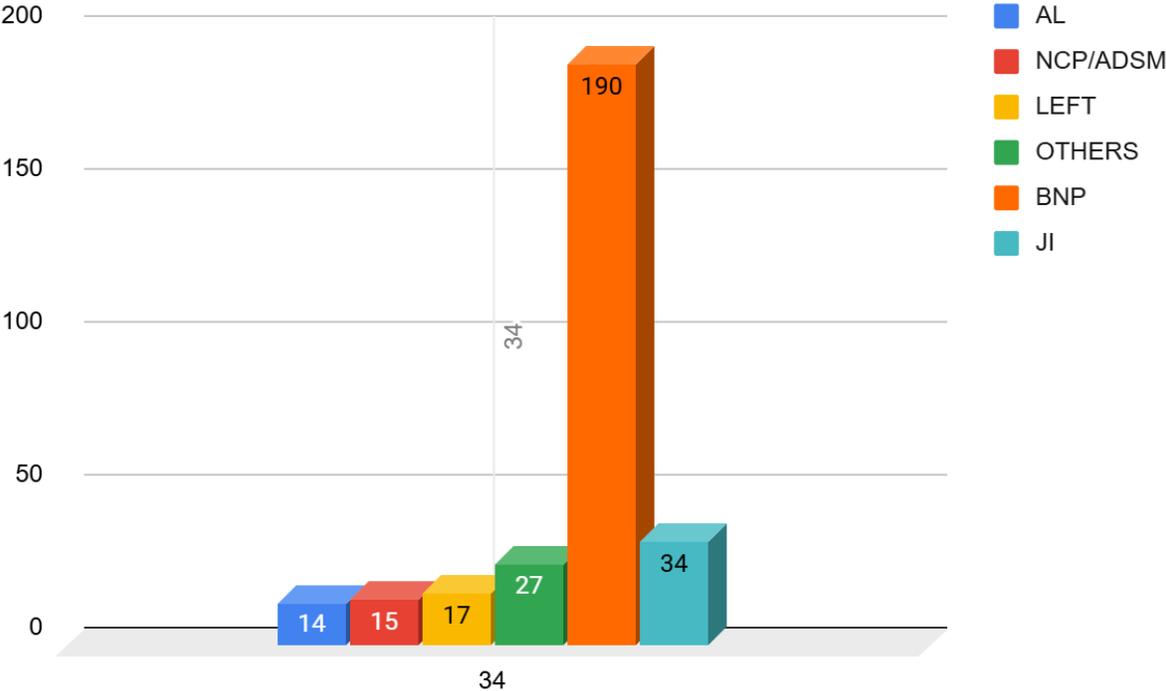
The human rights landscape in Bangladesh during July 2025 remained highly concerning, with escalating political unrest, increased gender-based violence, continued attacks on minority communities, and systematic suppression of free expression. The country witnessed widespread political violence, targeting of journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs), mob violence, and alarming custodial deaths. The data presented in this report reflect ongoing institutional failures to uphold democratic norms, equal protection under the law, and fundamental human rights. The state's selective application of justice and repression of dissent indicate a deteriorating rule of law and shrinking civic space.

2. Political Violence



June 2025 witnessed a sharp increase in political violence, resulting in 7 deaths, 386 injuries, and 35 incidents of vandalism. A significant portion of this violence stemmed from internal

clashes within the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), reflecting a growing breakdown of discipline between the party's central leadership and its local units. Tensions also intensified among BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the emerging National Citizen Party (NCP), particularly over leadership struggles and regional dominance. The NCP, which had previously played a peripheral role, was increasingly involved in confrontational activities and violent incidents this month.

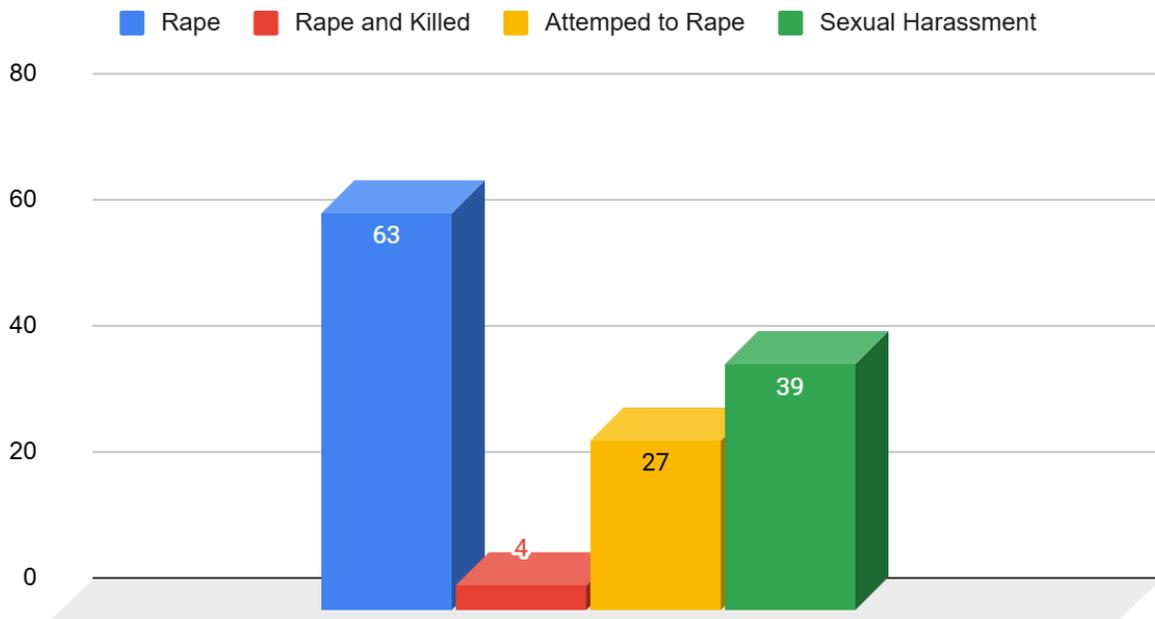


The lack of coordination and central control has contributed to volatile conditions on the ground, with factional rivalries often escalating into public disorder. Although the Awami League reported fewer incidents, their activists and local offices were also targets in scattered clashes. These developments indicate a deepening crisis in party-based political culture, marked by intolerance, absence of internal accountability, and the normalization of violence as a tool of political negotiation. The continuing failure of law enforcement to prevent or impartially respond to such violence further compounds public insecurity and erodes trust in democratic institutions.

3. Violence Against Women

June 2025 saw 63 reported rape cases, 39 incidents of sexual harassment, and 51 cases of physical assault. Notable cases include the [rape and public shaming](#) of a minority woman in Comilla, a [gang rape in Bhola](#) linked to political activists, and a drug-facilitated rape in Narsingdi involving a ride-sharing driver.

Voiance against Women - June 2025

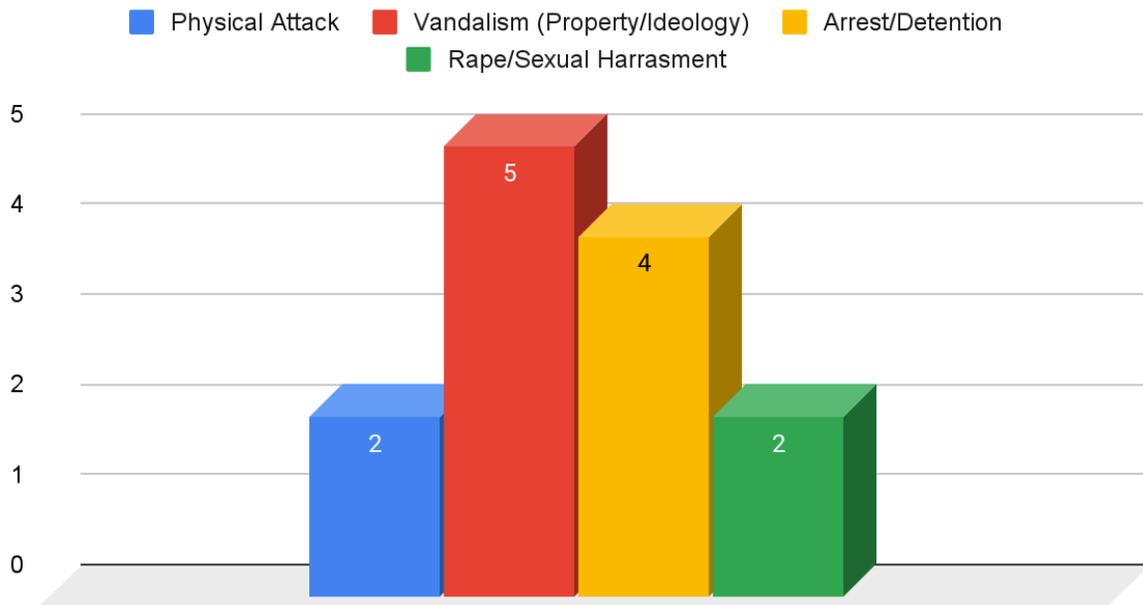


These incidents reflect a pattern of gender-based violence, digital abuse, and political impunity. Despite existing laws, enforcement remains weak, and victims continue to face stigma, slow justice, and institutional neglect. [Another shocking incident took place in Narsingdi](#), where a woman was allegedly drugged and raped after hiring a motorcycle.

These cases reveal a horrifying blend of sexual violence, political protection, and digital humiliation, particularly targeting marginalized and vulnerable women.

4. Violence Against Religious Minorities

Attack on Religious Minority Groups May 2025



Violence and repression against religious minorities continued in July, with increased incidents of harassment, mob violence, and desecration of places of worship. A youth from the Hindu community was arrested in Barisal's Agailjhara for allegedly hurting religious sentiments following a protest rally by locals.

In Lalmonirhat, a [mob assaulted a Hindu barber](#) and his son over an allegation of religious insult, followed by a highly controversial statement by the local police officer, raising concerns of bias and incitement. Both victims were later arrested.

In Rajshahi's Godagari upazila, a religious program at Kheturi Dham attended by Hindu and indigenous devotees was [violently disrupted by a local BNP leader](#) and his group, leading to the

cancellation of the event. In Chattogram's Sitakunda, [miscreants vandalized and set fire](#) to idols in a temple, suspected to be linked to attempts at illegal land occupation.

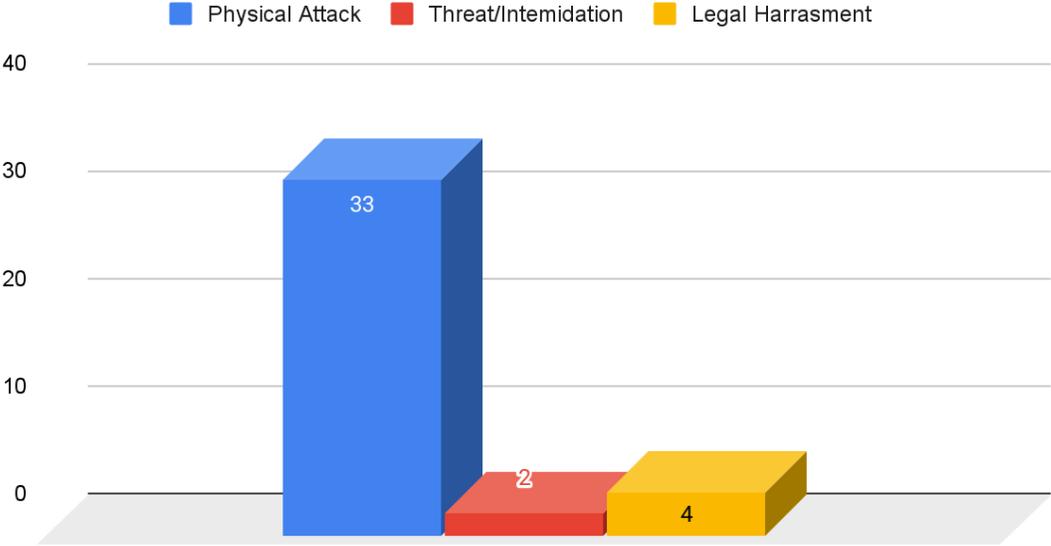
These incidents demonstrate how both legal provisions and mob violence are used to marginalize and intimidate minority communities, particularly the Hindu religious minorities. The continued misuse of religious sentiment laws and the lack of timely protection and justice for victims severely undermine religious freedom and safety in the country.

5. Freedom of Expression

a. Harassment of Journalists

Journalists faced escalating violence in June 2025 with 33 physical attacks, 2 incidents of vandalism of property, 2 cases of threats, and 4 instances of legal harassment.

Attack On Journalists



In Satkhira, [15 journalists were injured](#) in a violent clash over the leadership of the local press club. The attack, reportedly led by rival factions, reflects growing internal press conflict and a breakdown in protections for media workers.

In Jhalakathi, [journalist Khan Mainuddin was brutally assaulted](#) and thrown into a canal after publishing a report on local corruption. In Narail's Kalia upazila, [journalist Jihadul Islam was attacked](#) while returning home at night. Both attacks sparked protests by the press community demanding justice.

These incidents show how both political and local power groups are increasingly targeting journalists with violence and intimidation. The absence of swift justice and institutional protection continues to erode press freedom across the country.

b. Mass Arrest and Targeted Repression

Repression continued with the arrest of 148 Awami League leaders, workers, and supporters, and 1,057 people accused in 7 politically sensitive cases. While the arrests were legally justified under revised anti-terror laws, critics have questioned the disproportionate use of state power. The pattern suggests targeted political repression rather than neutral enforcement of the law.

c. Freedom of Movement/Assembly

Freedom of assembly remained under pressure in June 2025. On June 1, [hundreds of female workers from the 'Tathya Apa' project](#) gathered near the Chief Advisor's residence to demand job regularization and back pay. Police forcibly removed them from the Jamuna area, with eyewitnesses reporting baton charges, physical abuse, and verbal harassment, including the assault of a pregnant protester. Protest materials were seized, and several workers were briefly loaded into prison vans. In contrast to earlier permitted political rallies in the same location, the

harsh response to these grassroots female demonstrators highlights systemic discrimination and selective enforcement, undermining the right to peaceful assembly.

Additionally, officials and staff of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) launched a widespread shutdown demanding reforms and the removal of the NBR chairman. Their protests disrupted revenue collection and port operations, prompting the government to declare customs services as 'essential'. [Several senior officials were forcibly retired or suspended](#), contributing to an atmosphere of fear and deterrence. This response underscores the government's readiness to suppress labor action within state institutions under administrative cover.

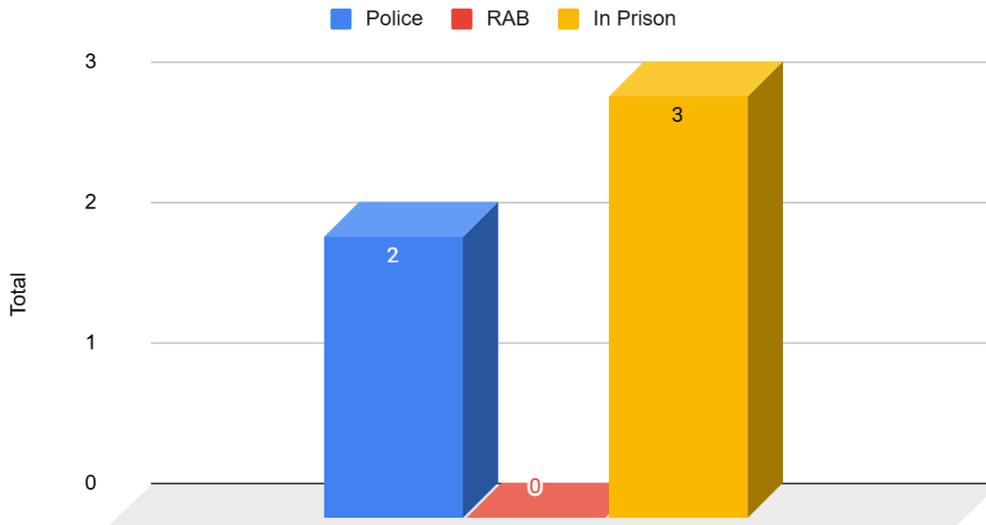
d. HRDs Are Targeted

Human Rights Defenders and dissenting voices continued to face significant repression in June 2025, marked by the shrinking of civic space.

In June, four cases under the Digital Security Act were registered involving eight accused, seven of whom were arrested. In Netrokona, [18-year-old Sumon Ahmed was arrested under the Cyber Security Act](#) for a Facebook post criticizing the July Uprising. In Rangpur, Mahmudul Haque, a professor at Begum Rokeya University, [was detained in a contentious murder case](#) widely regarded as politically motivated due to his vocal support for student protests. In Dhaka, YouTuber and social media activist [SA Sabbir has been in jail since April](#), but his detention only came to public attention in June after widespread concern on social media. These cases highlight the increasing use of digital laws and politicized charges to suppress critical voices.

6. State Violence and Custodial Deaths

Death in Custody - May 2025



Two deaths in state custody further highlight growing concerns over state violence. In Comilla, Sheikh Jewel, a BNP-affiliated internet service provider, died hours after being arrested with yaba pills; his family alleges police torture. In Dhaka's Keraniganj Central Jail, former Savar union chairman Saidur Rahman Sujon, accused in 15 political cases, allegedly died by suicide—raising questions due to his links with the July protests. These cases reflect the increasing use of vague laws, custodial abuse, and intimidation to suppress opposition and silence critical voices.

7. Violence Against the Indigenous Community

One member of an indigenous community was killed in June, signaling the ongoing vulnerability of ethnic minorities to violence and discrimination. Such incidents often go unreported and rarely lead to convictions, reinforcing cycles of impunity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and other indigenous-populated areas.

[Lal Tleng Kim Bom](#), an indigenous young man from the Bom community of CHT was arrested in connection with a bank robbery carried out by the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF) in Ruma and Thanchi of Bandarban on April 2 and 3 last year. While in custody at Chattogram jail, he died last Thursday, prompting protests at Dhaka University by students and activists who demanded justice for the Bom community, the release of detained members, and accountability for the alleged rape and murder of Chingma Khiyang.

On the pretext of a joint operation following the April 2, 2024 KNF-led bank robbery in Ruma and Thanchi, state forces began widespread repression of the Bom community—arresting, torturing, and detaining innocent women, children, students, and the elderly—leading to the custodial deaths of Lal Tleng Kim Bom and Lalsangmoy Bom, [which 235 eminent citizens have strongly condemned as structural killings and indiscriminate persecution.](#)

8. Organized and Targeted Mob Violence

Mob violence took a deadly turn, resulting in 10 deaths and 47 injuries. Incidents included attacks in Khilkhhet Mondir, Dinajpur, and Comilla, and a reported killing linked to a former Chief Election Commissioner. In many cases, mobs appeared organized and acted with implicit state tolerance or failure to intervene. Authorization or inaction by local authorities in the face of mob activity raises urgent concerns about complicity. The state's failure to prevent and prosecute

mob violence constitutes a gross violation of its protective obligations under national and international law.

9. Conclusion

The human rights situation in Bangladesh during June 2025 underscores growing political instability, deepening social division, and state complicity in violations. The pattern of arbitrary arrests, gender-based and religious violence, repression of expression, and institutional impunity signals a deteriorating rule of law. The government must take immediate steps to uphold its commitments under international human rights treaties, ensure justice and accountability, and protect all citizens—especially the most vulnerable—from systemic abuse and violence.