

**POLITICAL VIOLENCE**

**13** KILLING **492** INJURED

**RELIGIOUS MINORITIES FACED**

**21** CASES OF VIOLENCE

**CUSTODIAL DEATHS**

**12** CUSTODIAL DEATHS

**MOB VIOLENCE**

**16** KILLING **53** INJURED

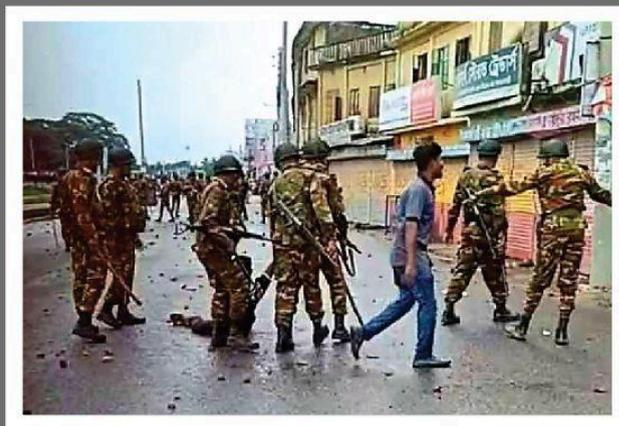
**INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES FACED**

**05** CASES OF VIOLENCE

**JOURNALISTS FACED**

**30** PHYSICAL ATTACK

The month of July 2025 witnessed a continued and concerning trend of human rights violations, marked by various forms of violence, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, and significant challenges to the protection of vulnerable communities. Five people died in Gopalganj from gunfire and torture by security forces after a clash broke out during an NCP rally. A high number of incidents related to political unrest, targeted violence against minorities, and severe limitations on freedom of expression underscore a deteriorating human rights environment. The prevalence of mob violence and incidents of state-perpetrated deaths further highlight the need for greater accountability and the safeguarding of basic human dignities.



**VIOLENCE IN GOPALGANJ**

On July 16, 2025, violent clashes broke out in Gopalganj during a National Citizens Party (NCP) rally. The fighting involved NCP activists, members of the Awami League and Chhatra League, and law enforcement, with the army later joining the effort. The violence, which included stone-pelting, crude bombs, and live gunfire, resulted in five deaths, including a 17-year-old minor. More than 50 people were also injured, among them protesters, police, and journalists. Following the incident, a curfew was imposed and authorities arrested at least 167 people, with cases filed against approximately 2,600 individuals. The event has raised concerns about the excessive use of force by law enforcement and the arbitrary arrests of many people who

**TARGETED MOB VIOLENCE**

In July 2025, mob violence became a serious human rights issue, with 51 reported incidents resulting in 16 deaths and 53 injuries.

These incidents often involved vigilante justice. In one case, a family of three was killed in Muradnagar, Comilla. Other fatal mob attacks occurred in Dhaka and Comilla against people who were suspected of theft. The situation is made worse when public officials appear to condone these actions, which undermines law and order.

These events violate basic human rights, showing a clear need for stronger legal safeguards and more accountability in law

**ATTACK ON MINORITIES**

In July 2025, minority communities in Bangladesh experienced a number of human rights violations across eight reported incidents. These included attacks on at least 18 houses and temples, vandalism of religious idols, legal harassment, and one reported case of rape.

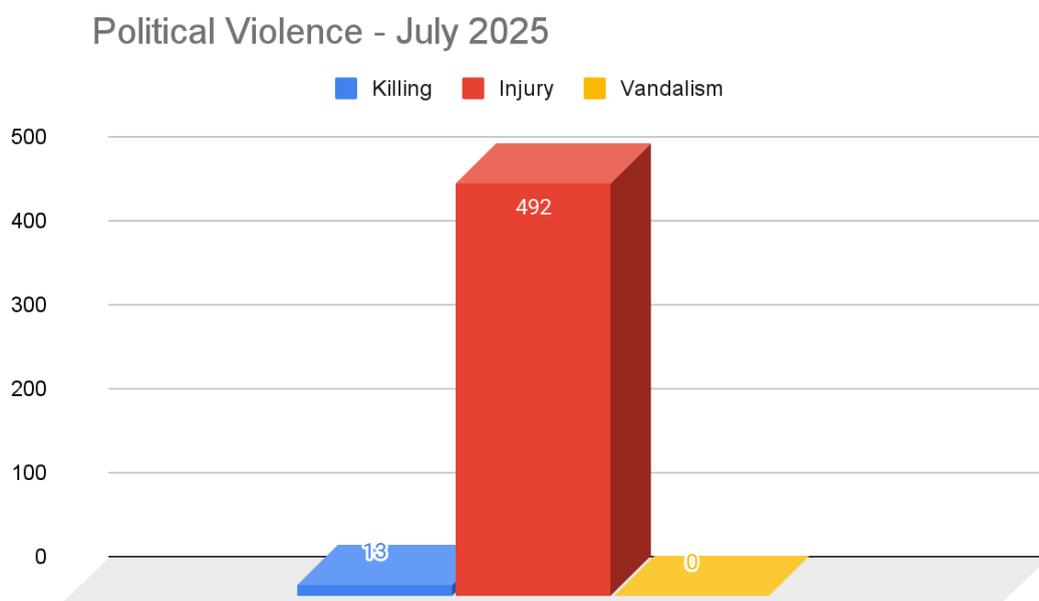
A major incident occurred in Rangpur, where a mob attacked and looted at least 15 Hindu homes and temples. The violence was sparked by an allegation against a teenager on social media. These events highlight the continued vulnerability of minority communities and the urgent need for stronger protection against such targeted attacks.

## 1. Overview

The month of July 2025 witnessed a continued and concerning trend of human rights violations, marked by various forms of violence, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, and significant challenges to the protection of vulnerable communities. A high number of incidents related to political unrest, targeted violence against minorities, and severe limitations on freedom of expression underscore a deteriorating human rights environment. The prevalence of mob violence and incidents of state-perpetrated deaths further highlight the need for greater accountability and the safeguarding of basic human dignity.

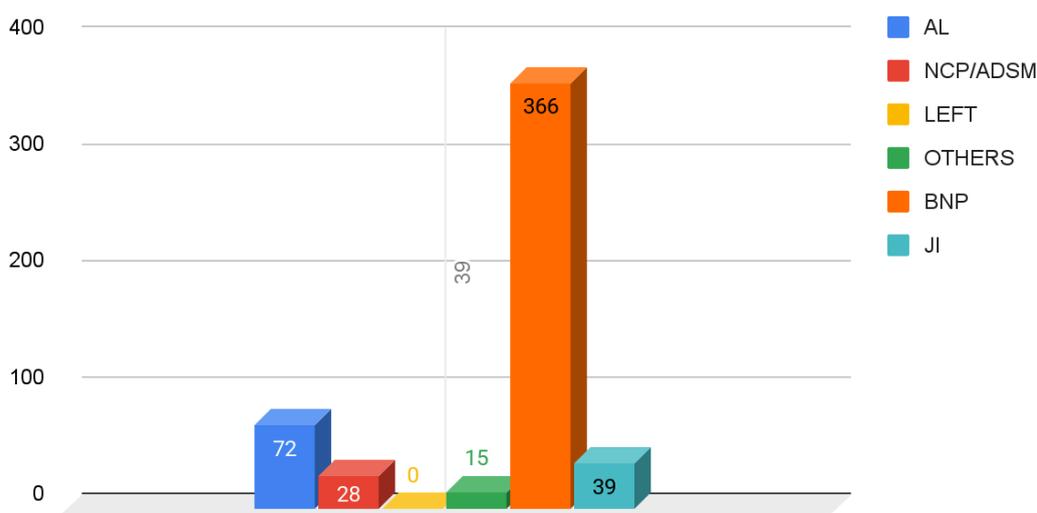
## 2. Political Violence

July 2025 saw a distressing surge in political violence, with a total of 48 reported incidents. These confrontations resulted in a tragic loss of 10 lives and left a staggering 593 individuals injured. Notably, most of these political violence incidents stemmed from internal clashes within the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) like previous months. Such a high number of incidents of political unrest and their violent consequences point to a severe curtailment of the rights to peaceful assembly and association.



On 9 July 2025, in front of Mitford Hospital in Dhaka, [a scrap metal businessman was brutally beaten to death](#) with sticks, iron rods, cement blocks, and stones. This brutal attack was captured on video and went viral the next day, 10th July, sparking nationwide outrage and protests. Local activists from BNP-affiliated Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, and Swechchhasebak Dal were accused of involvement; while BNP expelled five members for life, the party claimed that three key culprits seen in CCTV footage were excluded from the case. The government announced the arrest of five people and said the case would be sent to a Speedy Trial Tribunal, with DMP leading the main investigation and RAB conducting a shadow probe. Social media campaigns targeting BNP and Tarique Rahman have intensified political tensions, while BNP has announced a “purification drive” from the central to grassroots level.

Political Violence by Party - July 2025



On 16 July 2025, [violent clashes erupted in Gopalganj](#) during the National Citizens Party (NCP) “March to Gopalganj” rally. Confrontations broke out between NCP activists, Awami League and banned Chhatra League members, and law enforcement, later joined by the army. Violence involving stone-pelting, crude bombs, and live fire left four people dead on the day — Dipto Saha (30), Ramzan Kazi (17), Sohel Rana (35), and Imon — with over 50 injured, including police and

journalists. Autorickshaw driver Ramzan Munshi, shot during the violence, died in Dhaka Medical early on 17 July, raising the death toll to five. Witnesses and journalists alleged police inaction early on, with some claiming police fired live rounds; authorities denied targeted shooting.

The families of the deceased in Gopalganj said that their bodies had bullet wounds. Although there are allegations of the use of deadly weapons and excessive force, the law enforcement agencies are denying it. The families of the victims alleged that they were pressured to take the bodies [from the hospital without an autopsy](#). However, in Gopalganj, the [army was forced to use force in self-defense](#), according to a press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). After widespread criticism, [the bodies of three people were finally exhumed](#) from their graves five days after the clashes and autopsies were conducted. The incident sparked nationwide political shock and opposition criticism. Curfew was imposed on Gopalganj from the night of the 16th, extended to the 18th, with the city under heavy joint force patrols.

By 18 July, police filed three cases in two days naming and implicating 2,600 people; at least 167 people were arrested. Many families claim the detainees are non-political civilians, including at least six minors — some as young as 13 — along with students, factory workers, and rickshaw pullers. Relatives allege wrongful arrests and mistreatment; police say they are verifying involvement before formally charging suspects.

The Gopalganj clashes raise serious human rights concerns, including possible excessive use of force by law enforcement resulting in five deaths, including a minor. Allegations of live ammunition use, lack of timely autopsies, and pressure on families undermine transparency and accountability.

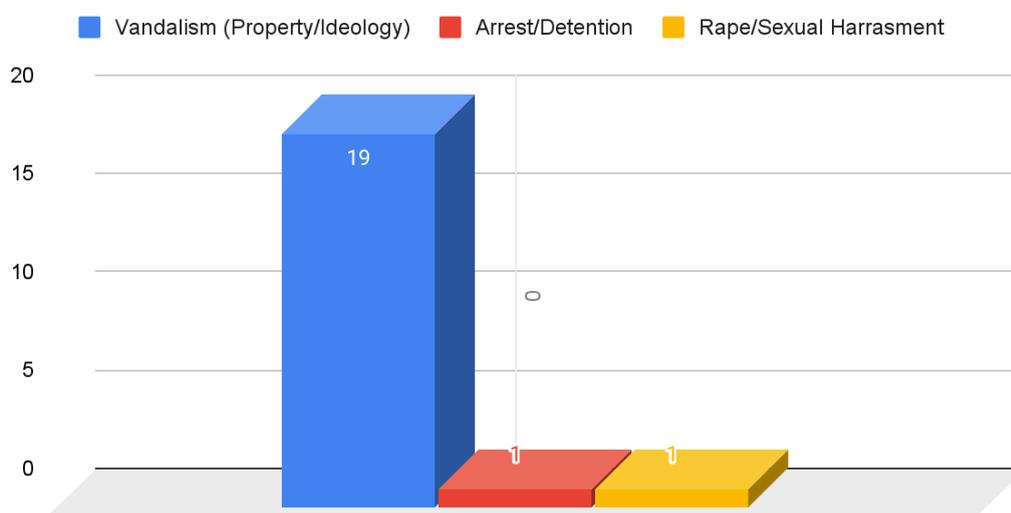
On July 11, 2025, Mahbubur Rahman Molla, former vice president of Khulna's Jubo Dal, [was shot multiple times](#) and had his leg arteries cut in front of his home, resulting in his death. Police recovered five bullet casings and suspect the killing was due to local territorial disputes. On July 17, two suspects, Kazi Raihan Islam and Hasib Molla, were arrested in Satkhira's Tala Upazila. Earlier, two others were also detained but later sent to jail. Police continue investigating the case and working to identify all involved.

The incidents of political violence in July highlight serious human rights violations, particularly regarding the rights to life, security, and peaceful assembly. The high number of deaths and injuries, including the brutal killing in front of Mitford Hospital and the lethal clashes in Gopalganj, point to systemic failures in preventing violence and protecting civilians during political conflicts. Allegations of excessive use of force, delayed or obstructed investigations, and pressure on victims' families undermine accountability and transparency.

### 3. Violence Against Minorities

Minority communities faced significant threats and violations during July 2025, with 8 reported incidents of violence. This included 2 instances of vandalization of idols, and a worrying 18 cases where houses and temples belonging to minorities were vandalized. Furthermore, there was 1 report of legal harassment and 1 incident of rape, adding to the grave concerns regarding their safety and dignity.

Attack on Religious Minority - July 2025



In Gangachara Upazila of Rangpur, [at least 15 houses and temples of the Hindu community were attacked and looted](#) after a teenager was accused of insulting the Prophet on Facebook. After the

police arrested the teenager, they sent him to jail through the court. A case has been filed against him under the Cyber Protection Act. It is learned that people from nearby villages were gathered by using microphones to accuse the teenager of insulting the Prophet.

Dilip Roy, a resident of the area, said that the person against whom the accusations have been made, told them that he had not done anything like this. "The boy denied the accusation. Even then, we handed him over to the police for security reasons. Even then, some eager people gathered and attacked our houses with a procession. They vandalized and looted 15-16 houses. The police later said that five people have been arrested in this incident.

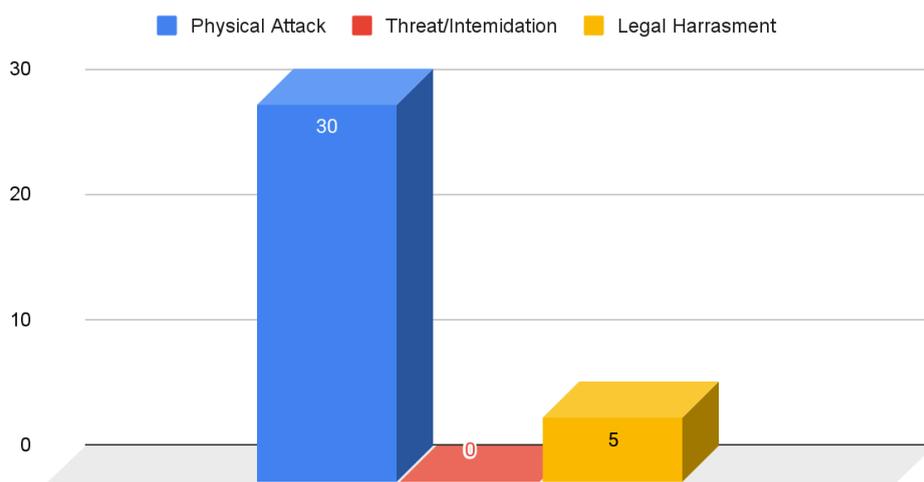
These acts represent clear violations of the rights to freedom of religion, protection of property, and security of person, indicating a systemic vulnerability of minority groups and a lack of effective measures to safeguard their fundamental human rights from targeted attacks.

## 4. Freedom of Expression

### A. Press Freedom & Violence against Journalists

Freedom of the press faced severe challenges in July 2025, with 19 incidents directly affecting journalists. This included 30 instances of torture, attack, injury, or legal harassment, demonstrating a concerted effort to stifle independent reporting. Additionally, 3 First Information Reports (FIRs) were filed against journalists, and 2 journalists were arrested.

Attack On Journalists - July 2025



These actions represent a grave assault on the freedom of the press and the public's right to information. The intimidation and physical harm inflicted upon journalists create a chilling effect, undermining their crucial role in holding power accountable and informing the public.

## **B. Freedom of Speech**

On July 6, a young man named [Khorshed Alam was arrested](#) in Natore for making provocative comments on social media about an NCP leader Hasnat Abdullah, charged with incitement to violence. These cases highlight challenges in balancing free speech rights with maintaining public order and call for careful protection of lawful expression without resorting to violence or undue legal restrictions.

A [worshipper hacked and injured mosque imam](#) Nur Rahman Madani during Friday prayers in Chandpur town. The incident took place at Mollabari Mosque in Professor Para area on Friday. Local worshippers have arrested a man named Billal Hossain in this incident and handed him over to the police.

## **5. Freedom of Movement/Assembly**

The documented instances of political violence and mass arrests also suggest potential restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly throughout July 2025. When violence or repression becomes prevalent, individuals may be deterred from exercising their right to move freely or gather peacefully, out of fear for their safety or legal repercussions. This creates an environment where fundamental civil liberties are not fully guaranteed.

### **A. Mass Arrest and Targeted Repression**

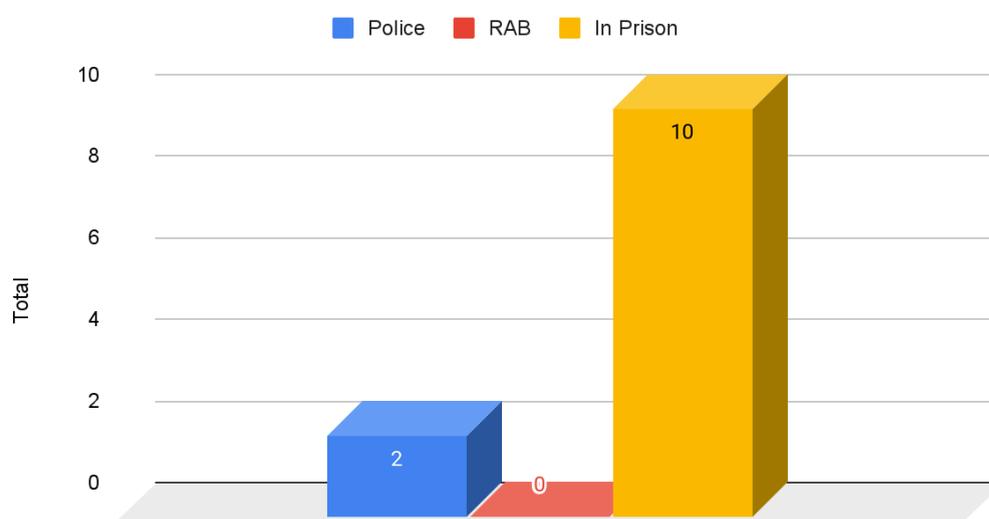
The month also saw reports of mass arrests and targeted repression, particularly noted in Gopalganj. While specific numbers are not provided, such actions, when carried out without due process or targeting specific groups, represent a severe infringement on the rights to freedom of

assembly and association. They can lead to arbitrary detentions and a broader atmosphere of fear, deterring citizens from exercising their legitimate rights to protest and express dissent.

## 6. State Violence and Custodial Deaths

July 2025 recorded deeply troubling incidents of state violence and deaths in custody. One death was attributed to law enforcement agencies, while 10 individuals died in prison. These figures raise serious questions about accountability within state institutions and adherence to due process.

Death in Custody - July 2025



On July 9, 2025, Firoza Ashrawi, a senior lecturer at Dhaka Independent University, [died from 'poisoning' while in custody at Bhatara police station](#). Police claim she obtained the poison before detention and planned suicide. Her death raised concerns about how poison entered custody. A Sub-Inspector and two female constables were suspended, and two transgender individuals, including a BLAST employee, were arrested for allegedly supplying the poison.

On July 21, 2025, [Jubo Dal leader Asif Sikder died after being arrested](#) during a joint forces raid in Mirpur, Dhaka. He and three others were detained early morning, and Asif died en route to the

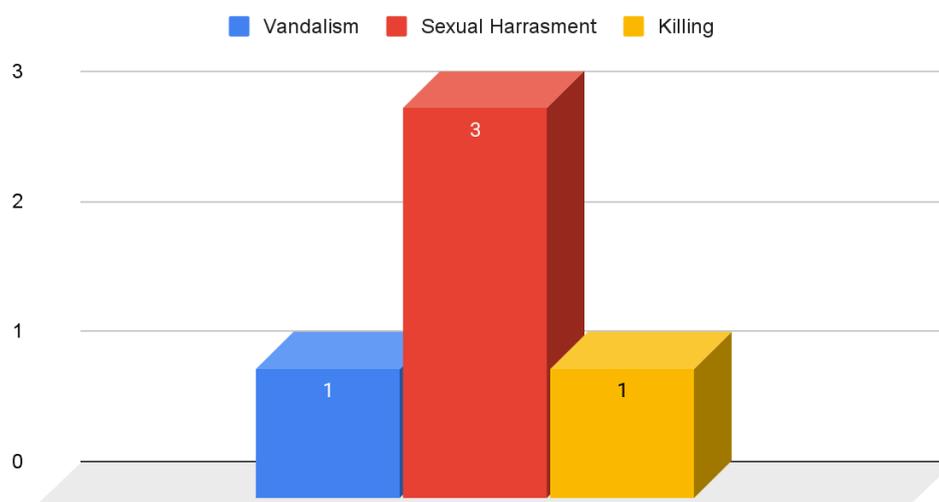
hospital. His family alleges he was tortured during the raid. Police reported recovering 30 bullets from the suspects and stated that Asif fell ill and was taken to the hospital, where he later died.

Every death in custody or at the hands of law enforcement warrants a thorough, independent investigation to determine culpability and prevent future occurrences. These incidents are direct challenges to the right to life, the right to a fair trial, and the protection against torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

## 7. Violence Against the Indigenous Community

In June–July 2025, a series of grave human rights violations against Indigenous communities were reported, highlighting patterns of sexual violence, custodial deaths, and military abuse in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Attacks on Indigenous communities - July 2025



On June 27, [an Indeginus Tripura girl was gang-raped in Khagrachari](#). However, her relatives came to know about the incident a few days later. Later that night, the girl's father filed a case with the police station. The police arrested four of the six accused the same night after the case was filed. The other two accused in the case are Munir Islam and Sohel Islam. The girl also tried to commit

suicide while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Chittagong. All those accused in the case are said to be associated with BNP.

Van Lal Rual Bawm, a 38-year-old member from Bangladesh's indigenous Bawm community, [died on July 17 in Chattogram Medical College](#) Hospital after more than a year in detention without formal charges or trial. His death marks the third in three consecutive months of Bawm detainees dying in custody during an ongoing military crackdown in the country's southeastern Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), raising serious concerns about systemic abuses and the erosion of legal safeguards. Mr. Bawm's family says he was transferred to the hospital in critical condition following repeated delays in receiving medical care while imprisoned.

All three men had been detained in the wake of Bangladesh Army operations launched in April 2024, targeting the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF), a small armed group accused of attacks on military and financial installations. Over 120 people, including women and children, were arrested after a bank looting incident in Bandarban.

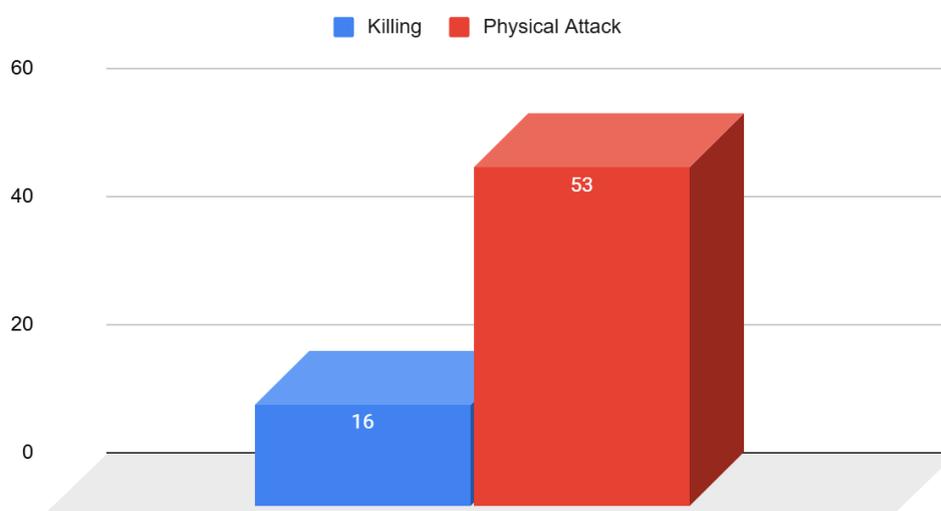
It has been reported that [two Indigenous women were sexually assaulted and three were tortured](#) in a military operation conducted by the Bangladesh Army in Tongkabati Union of Bandarban Sadar Upazila under Bandarban district.

These incidents reflect a deeply concerning pattern of violence, sexual abuse, and custodial deaths targeting Indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Such abuses not only violate fundamental human rights but also erode trust in state institutions, underscoring the urgent need for independent investigations, legal safeguards, and stronger protection mechanisms for Indigenous peoples.

## 8. Organized and Targeted Mob Violence

Organized and targeted mob violence emerged as a significant human rights concern in July 2025, with 51 reported incidents. These acts of collective aggression resulted in a horrific 16 deaths and left 53 individuals injured. The sheer scale and lethality of these incidents point to a breakdown in law and order and a failure of state authorities to protect citizens from vigilante justice or politically motivated group attacks.

Mob Violence - July 2025



On July 3, 2025, [three members of the same family were beaten to death](#) in Muradnagar, Comilla, on charges of drug dealing. The murder took place this morning in Karaibari village of Akabpur union under Bangra police station of the upazila. The deceased in the incident are Ruby Begum (58), her son Russell (35), and daughter Jonaki Akhter (27).

RAB arrested six people in the incident. Based on the information obtained during the initial interrogation and investigation of the incident, RAB says that the brutal murder was [planned by local union council member Bachchu Mia](#).

In Dhaka's Mugda area, [a 20-year-old man named Al Amin died](#) after being subjected to a public beating on suspicion of attempted robbery. Similarly, in Comilla, a [29-year-old man named Tuhin](#)

[died](#) following a mob assault on allegations of theft near a police plaza. These incidents reflect a pattern of communities taking the law into their own hands, often leading to fatal consequences. Furthermore, when people in important positions in the government condone these mob violence, the mobsters become even more emboldened. For example, on July 3, Md. Mahfuz Alam, advisor to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said that the [revolutionary student masses of July are not 'mob'](#).

These events underscore serious violations including the right to life, protection from arbitrary violence, and the failure of due process. Mob violence bypasses legal safeguards and often results in disproportionate and extrajudicial punishments. The deaths caused by such acts reveal systemic weaknesses in law enforcement, inadequate protection for suspects, and challenges in ensuring access to justice.

## **9. Conclusion**

The human rights situation in July 2025 presents a grim picture, characterized by widespread violence, suppression of fundamental freedoms, and inadequate protection for vulnerable populations. The high incidence of political violence, targeted attacks on minorities, and severe restrictions on press freedom are particularly alarming. Furthermore, the significant number of state violence and custodial deaths, coupled with pervasive mob violence, underscores a pressing need for immediate and comprehensive reforms. Addressing these challenges requires a renewed commitment to upholding the rule of law, ensuring accountability for abuses, protecting freedom of expression and assembly, and safeguarding the rights of all citizens, especially those from marginalized communities.