

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

04 KILLING **546** INJURED

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES FACED

06 CASES OF VIOLENCE

CUSTODIAL DEATHS

13 CUSTODIAL DEATHS

MOB VIOLENCE

21 KILLING **38** INJURED

JOURNALISTS FACED

04 KILLING **65** PHYSICAL ATTACK

August 2025 exposed serious challenges to human rights, justice, and democratic freedoms in Bangladesh. Mob violence claimed lives across several regions, including the lynching of two Dalit men in Rangpur, highlighting how rumor, prejudice, and social discrimination can escalate into deadly attacks. Unidentified bodies recovered from rivers, including Buriganga, underscored systemic gaps in crime prevention and victim identification. Meanwhile, a “Moncho 71” event at Dhaka Reporters Unity was violently disrupted, with participants assaulted and taken into police custody, raising concerns about freedom of speech and peaceful assembly.



ATTACK ON MINORITIES

On August 10, 2025, two Dalit men — Ruplal (43), a cobbler from Kursha union, and his relative Pradeep (42) of Mithapukur — were killed in a mob lynching at Burirhat, Rangpur’s Taraganj upazila, after being falsely accused of theft while returning home with bags of Bengali liquor meant for an upcoming family wedding. Locals beat them severely, leaving Ruplal dead at the scene, while Pradeep died hours later at Rangpur Medical College Hospital. From a human rights perspective, the case reflects deep-rooted caste-based discrimination, misuse of cultural practices as criminal suspicion, and the persistence of mob justice in place of legal due process. The incident underscores the state’s failure to ensure protection for vulnerable minority communities against targeted violence.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

In August, the newly formed civic platform “Moncho 71” faced serious challenges to freedom of expression in Bangladesh. On August 28, a roundtable at Dhaka Reporters Unity on the Liberation War and the Constitution, attended by former minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui and others, was violently disrupted by a group identifying as “July fighters.” Police intervened, taking Siddiqui and several participants into custody for their safety. The disruption, assaults, and removal of speakers under police watch highlighted the fragility of citizens’ right to peaceful assembly and open debate, showing how civic platforms addressing history and governance are increasingly vulnerable to intimidation and restrictive policing.

DEAD BODIES IN RIVER

River police data show a recurring challenge in tracing victims and ensuring justice, with hundreds of bodies recovered nationwide this year, many remaining unidentified. On August 23, four unidentified bodies—including a woman and a child—were recovered from different spots in the Buriganga River in Keraniganj, two tied together and two showing signs of strangulation, later confirmed by autopsies. DNA samples have been preserved, but decomposition and lack of identification may stall investigations, denying families justice. The frequent discovery of bodies in rivers highlights systemic failures in crime prevention, forensic capacity, and victim tracing, raising urgent concerns for the right to life, dignity, and protection of the most vulnerable.

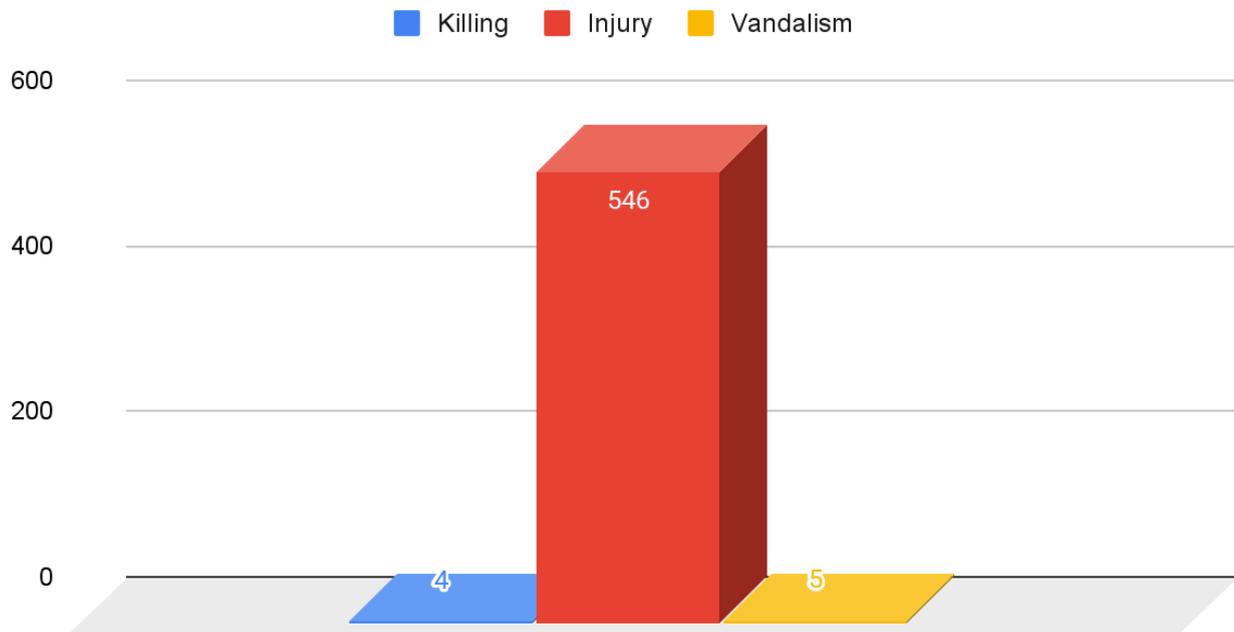
1. Overview

August 2025 revealed severe challenges to human rights, justice, and democratic freedoms in Bangladesh. The month recorded 51 incidents of mob violence, leaving 21 dead and 38 injured, reflecting a collapse of public trust in legal institutions and the lethal consequences of extrajudicial action. The lynching of two Dalit men in Rangpur over false theft accusations highlighted how rumor, prejudice, and caste discrimination can escalate into brutal deaths. Similar incidents occurred in Bogura, Mymensingh, and Keraniganj, disproportionately affecting the poor, minorities, and socially marginalized. Between January and July, river police recovered 301 bodies nationwide, including four in Buriganga on August 23, underscoring systemic failures in crime prevention, victim tracing, and forensic capacity. Meanwhile, a “Moncho 71” event on August 28 at Dhaka Reporters Unity was violently disrupted, with participants, including former minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, assaulted and taken into police custody, raising concerns about freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. Together, these incidents illustrate urgent gaps in state protection, justice delivery, and democratic rights.

2. Political Violence

Political violence during August left at least **4 people dead, 546 injured, and 5 incidents of vandalism** across the country. The majority of victims were members of the BNP, which recorded 232 casualties in factional fighting, while 320 others were caught in clashes involving other groups, and 3 cases were linked to Jamaat-e-Islami. This illustrates the normalization of intra-party violence, where internal leadership disputes are settled through physical confrontation rather than dialogue. From a human rights perspective, such violence not only strips citizens of their right to political participation but also destabilizes educational institutions, local governance, and social harmony.

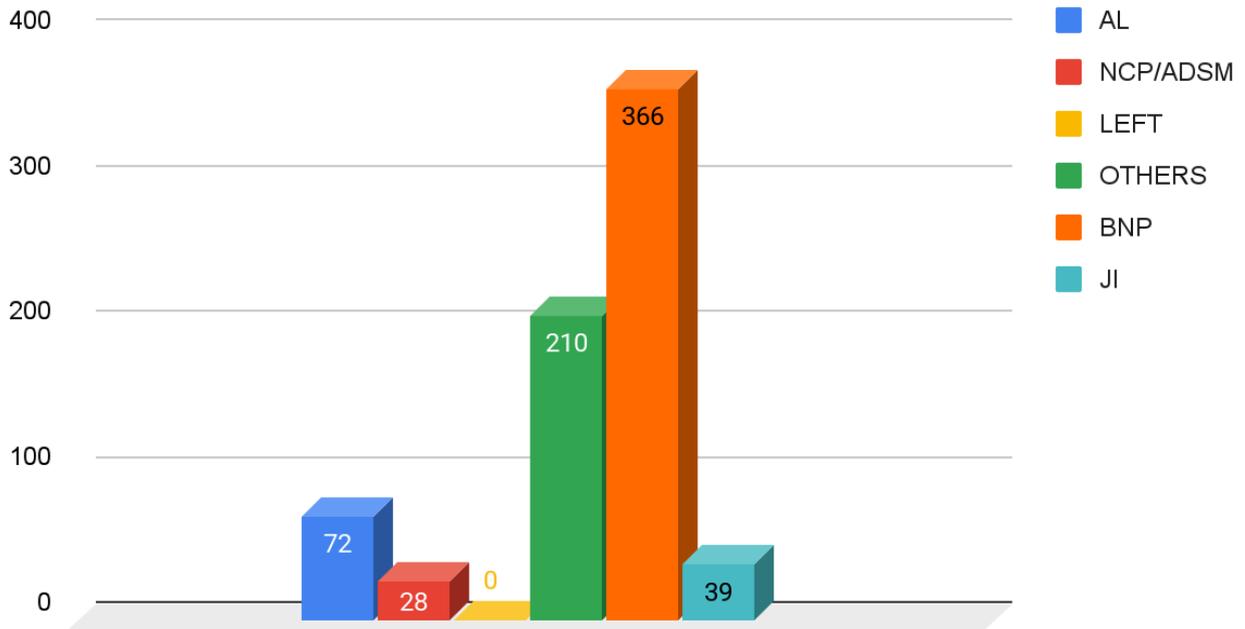
Political Violence - August 2025



Several incidents illustrate the breadth of this violence. At [Chittagong University](#), [students clashed with local villagers](#) after a female student alleged sexual assault by her residence caretaker, leading to two days of running battles that left over 200 people injured, including university officials. In **Sunamganj**, [rival BNP factions fought over the formation of a ward committee](#), injuring at least 50 people and requiring police intervention. In **Rajshahi**, political supporters vandalized opposition offices after disputes over local leadership, adding to the climate of fear. These cases show how political violence permeates both educational and local political spaces.

[Jatiyo Party office attack, & Noor](#)

Political Violence by Party - August 2025

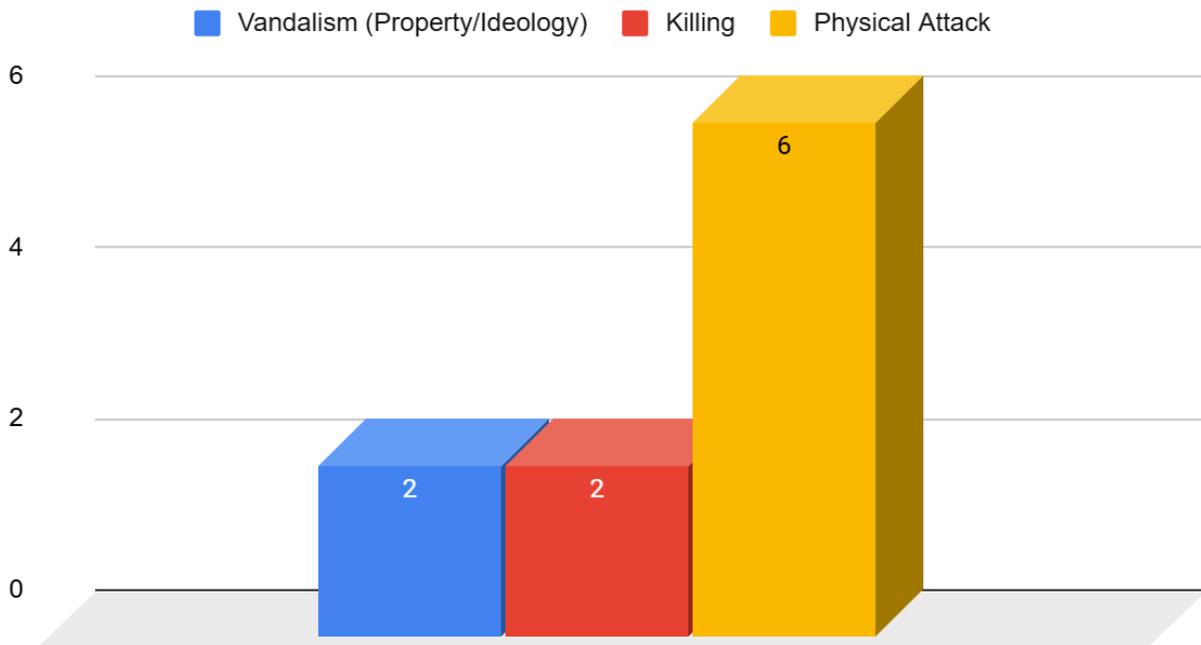


In conclusion, the repeated eruption of political violence reflects the fragility of democratic culture and the lack of institutional mechanisms for conflict resolution. Unless party structures embrace democratic practices and the state ensures impartial enforcement of law, political spaces will remain unsafe for ordinary citizens.

3. Violence Against Minorities

The month recorded **6 incidents of violence against minorities**, resulting in **2 deaths, 2 cases of vandalism, and 6 physical assaults**. The victims were mainly from religious and caste-based minority groups, with incidents ranging from mob lynching to targeted attacks on property and places of worship. These incidents represent not only immediate physical harm but also a violation of the constitutional guarantee of equal protection for all communities. Minority insecurity remains deeply rooted in systemic prejudice, compounded by the state's failure to ensure justice.

Attack on Religious Minority - August 2025



One of the most shocking incidents occurred in [Rangpur's Taraganj, where two Dalit men](#) — Ruplal Das and Pradeep Das — were lynched on allegations of theft and alcohol possession. Despite video evidence showing the victims begging for their lives, the mob killed them brutally. Violence against minorities in August exposed how criminal motives are frequently weaponized against vulnerable communities. Without strong state intervention and consistent accountability, minorities will continue to live in fear of targeted violence.

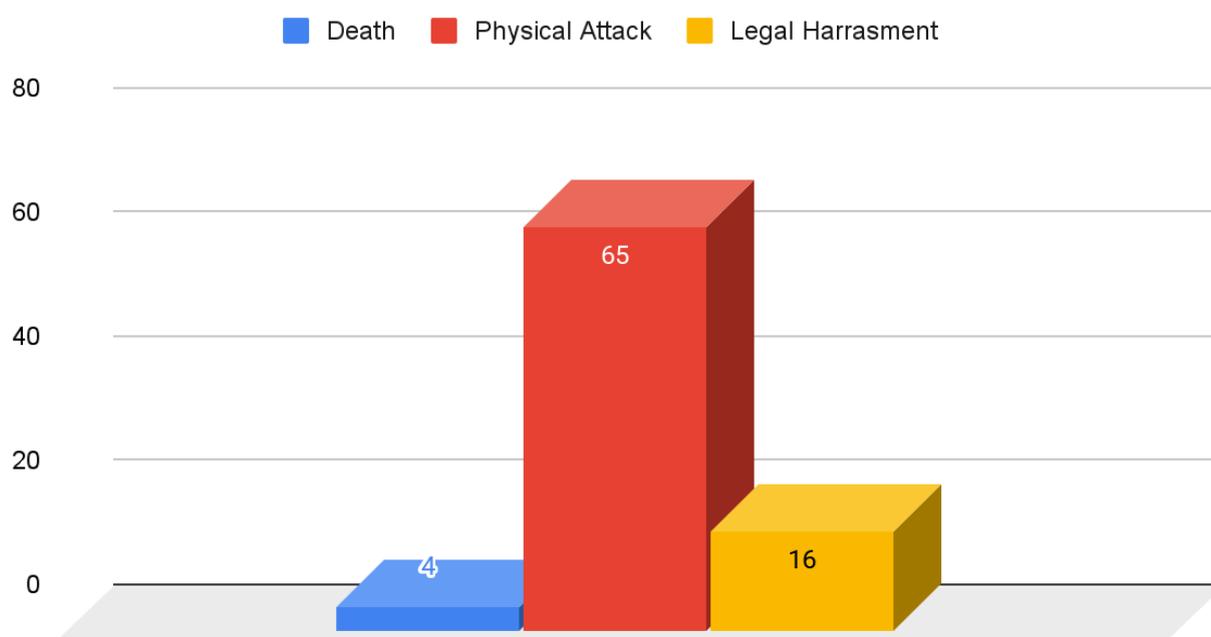
4. Freedom of Expression

A. Attack on Journalists

Attacks on freedom of expression intensified in August, with **19 incidents documented**. These included the **killing of 4 journalists, at least 65 physical assaults, 16 cases of legal harassment, 3 First Information Reports (FIRs), and the arrest of 2 journalists**. The combined picture demonstrates a hostile environment for media workers where both state and non-state

actors actively suppress dissent. The human rights implications are severe: when the press is silenced, citizens lose access to truthful information and democratic accountability collapses.

Voilance against Journalists - August 2025



In [Gazipur](#), journalist [Md. Asaduzzaman Tuhin](#) was hacked to death by unknown assailants, while the previous day, journalist Anwar Hossain was attacked for filming extortion in the same city. In **Dhaka**, a reporter was detained and charged under the Digital Security Act after publishing reports critical of local administration. In **Gopalganj**, journalists and opposition supporters faced mass arrests during demonstrations, reflecting the use of state machinery to repress dissent. These cases show how threats to expression are both lethal and systemic.

In conclusion, the freedom of expression crisis in August reflects a coordinated silencing of dissent through murder, harassment, and legal repression. Protecting journalists and ensuring press freedom is no longer simply a professional issue but a core human rights concern.

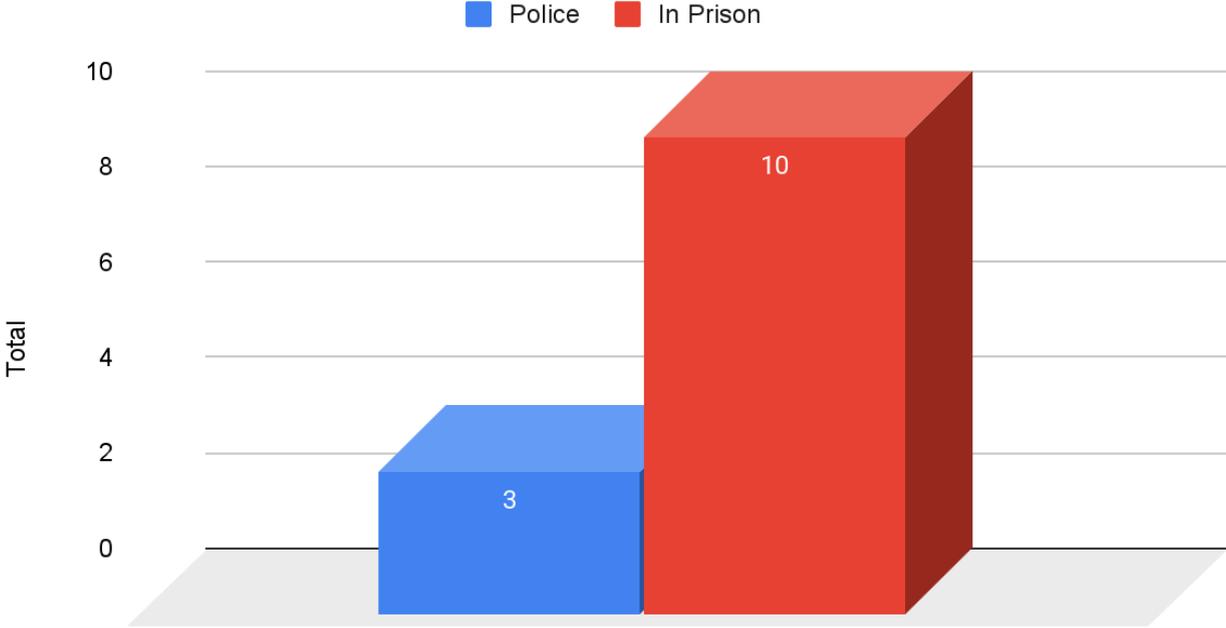
5. Freedom of Assembly

In August, events surrounding the newly formed civic platform “Moncho 71” raised serious questions about freedom of expression in Bangladesh. [On August 28, a roundtable discussion at Dhaka](#) Reporters Unity on the Liberation War and the Constitution, attended by former minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui and other public figures, was violently disrupted by a group identifying as “July fighters.” Police then intervened, taking Siddiqui and several others into custody, reportedly for their safety. However, the breaking up of the event, physical assaults on participants, and removal of speakers under police watch signaled the fragility of citizens’ right to peaceful assembly and open debate. From a freedom of speech perspective, the incident illustrates how civic platforms addressing history and governance are becoming increasingly vulnerable to disruption, intimidation, and restrictive policing, undermining democratic dialogue.

6. State Violence and Custodial Deaths

August saw **1 death caused by law enforcement and 10 deaths inside prisons**, underscoring the structural failures of Bangladesh’s criminal justice system. These deaths are often linked to torture, denial of medical care, and lack of oversight in custodial environments. From a human rights perspective, they represent grave violations of the right to life and dignity, with accountability mechanisms either absent or ineffective.

Death in Custody - August 2025



Reports indicate that in **Dhaka**, a young man died after being taken into police custody, with family members alleging torture. In **Kashimpur Jail**, multiple prisoners died within a span of days due to untreated illnesses and neglect, while in **Chattogram Central Jail**, another prisoner’s death sparked protests among fellow inmates over poor conditions. These examples highlight systemic abuse across both policing and correctional facilities.

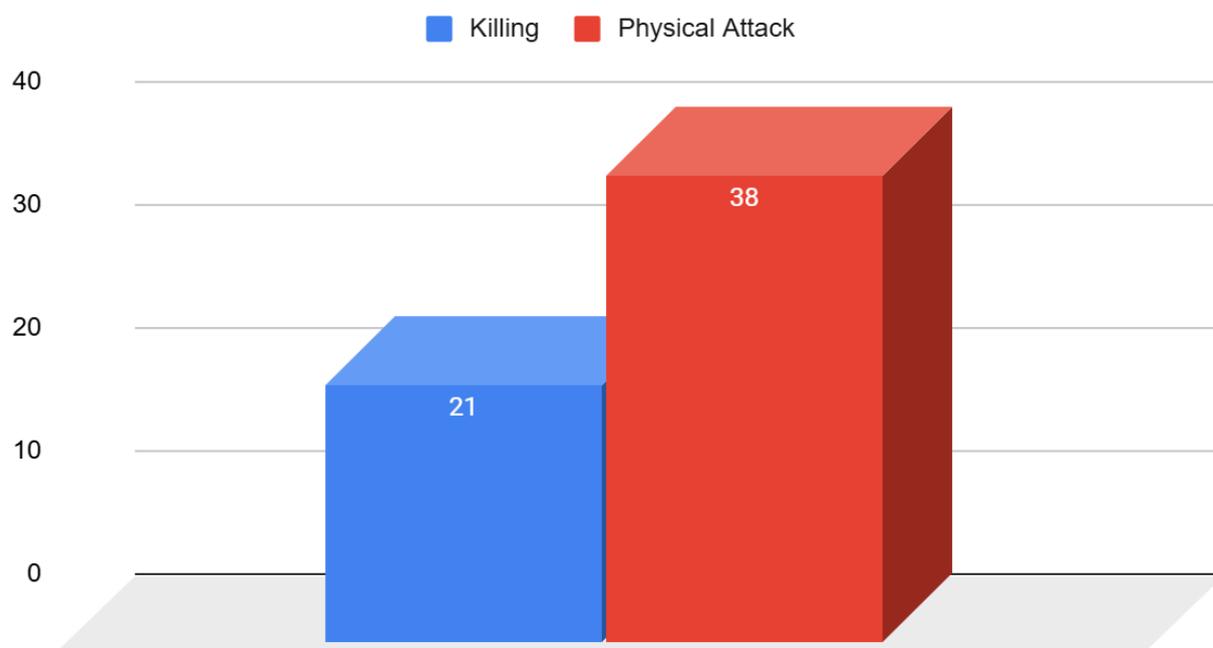
In conclusion, custodial deaths in August reaffirm the urgent need for prison reform, judicial oversight, and independent monitoring of law enforcement agencies. Without these steps, citizens remain at constant risk of abuse under state custody.

7. Organized and Targeted Mob Violence

The month recorded **51 incidents of mob violence**, leaving **21 dead and 38 injured**. This scale of vigilante justice points to a collapse of public trust in legal institutions, where communities take the

law into their own hands. Mob violence disproportionately affects the poor, minorities, and socially marginalized, often resulting in brutal deaths without trial.

Mob Violence - August 2025



The lynching of two Dalit men in **Rangpur** was one of the most visible cases, but similar incidents were reported elsewhere. In **Bogura**, two men accused of robbery were beaten to death by a mob before police arrived. In **Mymensingh**, villagers set upon a group of suspected cattle thieves, leaving one dead and several injured. In **Dhaka's Keraniganj**, a man was killed after being accused of child abduction, later proven false. These incidents demonstrate how rumor and prejudice rapidly escalate into lethal violence.

Mob violence in August illustrates a dangerous erosion of the rule of law, where citizens resort to extrajudicial measures in the absence of effective state protection. Unless law enforcement regains public trust through timely and impartial justice, mob rule will continue to undermine human rights.

8. Law and Order Situation

In August 2025, four unidentified bodies were recovered from the Buriganga River in Keraniganj, Dhaka, raising serious concerns about safety, violence, and the effectiveness of law enforcement in Bangladesh. On August 23, two bodies—a man and a woman—were found tied together at the hands, floating near Madaripur Ghat. They had been dead for several days, and their faces were unrecognizable due to swelling. Their identities remain unknown.

On the same day, the bodies of a woman and a young child were discovered near Mirerbag Cold Storage. The woman had a burqa wrapped around her neck, and the child's body was found wrapped in a veil. These deaths also remain unexplained, with no immediate information available about who they were or what caused their deaths.

These cases are part of a troubling pattern, as a total of 56 unidentified bodies were reported across the country that month. The nature of the deaths, the presence of children, and the state in which the bodies were found point to possible violence and neglect. There is little clarity on whether these deaths are being thoroughly investigated, and the lack of identification further isolates the victims from any chance of justice or recognition. The incidents reflect deep challenges in ensuring the safety of individuals and in responding meaningfully when lives are lost under mysterious and disturbing circumstances.

9. Conclusion

The human rights landscape in August 2025 reveals a deepening crisis where political violence, communal prejudice, state repression, and mob justice intersect to create widespread insecurity. Political clashes undermine democratic practice, minorities remain under siege, journalists face lethal threats, and custodial deaths highlight systemic impunity within state institutions. The persistence of mob lynching further demonstrates a collapse of trust in formal justice systems. Without urgent structural reforms, accountability, and stronger protection of fundamental freedoms, the cycle of violence and repression will remain entrenched, eroding Bangladesh's commitments to human rights and democratic governance.