

EVERYONE IS LIVING IN FEAR OF THE MOB

# MOB FEAR SILENCES A NATION

RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WARN: EVEN COURTS AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ARE TERRIFIED



Bangladesh's human rights activists claim that serious rights violations continue even under the so-called interim government. ***"The entire nation is living in fear of the mob,"*** they said — ***"even the courts and rights workers are not safe."*** In this climate of terror, they demanded a free and fair election and the immediate transfer of power to elected representatives of the people.

### "Human Rights in Transition"

The discussion took place at a roundtable on post-July uprising human rights conditions, organized at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro by Sopran (Safety for All Lives).

Researcher Apsara Islam Tandra presented key findings:  
Between August 2024 and July 2025, Bangladesh saw —



**496**

attacks on journalists



**35**

extrajudicial killings



**2,878**

murders



**45**

worker deaths



**195**

incidents of  
mob violence



**300**

injuries from labor  
rights violations



**35**

attacks on  
ethnic minorities



**34**

killings at the border



**640**

cases of child abuse



**2,000**

push-ins from India

## Government Reaction: "Reports Aren't Reliable"

Interim Government's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam questioned the credibility of human rights data, saying: ***"Reports depend on newspapers — but are those reports even accurate? Do these papers have the resources for real investigation?"***

He claimed the situation was "stable" and that the interim government was "performing well despite challenges."

He blamed Facebook for fueling communal violence, citing incidents in Ramu, Nasirnagar, Bhola, Cumilla, and Sunamganj, and even linked misinformation to the Rohingya crisis.

## Rights Defenders Push Back

Human rights leader and "Disappearance Commission" member Nur Khan responded sharply: ***"It's tragic that we must now hear such denial from a representative of the interim government."*** He warned against normalizing mob violence: ***"Today, everyone — even the courts — lives in fear of the mob. Judges have been attacked, courtrooms stormed. This is not justice; this is mob rule."*** Khan added that fear now comes not from state agencies alone, but also from ***"groups branding dissenters as fascists in the streets."*** He demanded a swift national election and a peaceful handover of power to elected political representatives, urging all to unite in a movement to defend human rights.

## We Are Ignoring the Deaths in Custody

Lawyer and rights advocate Sara Hossain thanked Sopran for its research, noting: ***"For a year, we've only discussed the human rights situation before August 5, 2024. What's happening after that? Very little attention is being paid."*** She pointed out that several prisoners — including members of the Bawm indigenous community and Awami League activists — have died in custody with no investigations launched. ***"We're not even acknowledging these deaths anymore,"*** she said grimly.

## Commissions Won't Save Us

Rights activist Rezaur Rahman Lenin warned that impunity persists: ***"Extrajudicial killings continue. We keep forming commissions, but no commission has ever solved anything. What Bangladesh needs now is preparation for a real national election."*** Other speakers included Professor Asif M. Shahan (Dhaka University), Saimum Parvez (BNP research adviser), and Supreme Court lawyer Manjur Al Matin, who echoed calls for accountability and democratic restoration.

