

GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION

THE COST OF POLITICAL IDENTITY



People are being attacked and killed simply for their political beliefs. When they cannot be found, their innocent families are paid a violent price.

A mother **died** trying to shield her son from a mob.

Her crime?
Her son said
"JOY BANGLA".



HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT OPTIONAL.

The international community must speak out for safety, fair trials, and an end to mob rule.

**SILENCE TODAY, BRUTALITY TOMORROW.
THE WORLD MUST ACT NOW.**

KEY STAT OVERLAY



FAMILIES TARGETED

Innocent family members are being attacked, beaten and even killed for their loved ones' political identity.



POLITICAL VIOLENCE ESCALATING

Attacks, killings and abductions are rising across the country in 2026.



MOB JUSTICE REPLACING RULE OF LAW

Mobs act as judge, jury and executioner while the state fails to protect.

**JUSTICE.
ACCOUNTABILITY.
HUMANITY.
FOR BANGLADESH.**



HOW POLITICAL AFFILIATION BECAME A RISK

From expression to persecution — a dangerous path where dissent is criminalized.



WHEN DISSENT IS CRIMINALIZED, ANYONE CAN BE NEXT.

SPEAKING A DIFFERENT OPINION SHOULD NEVER BE A CRIME.

The Cost of Political Identity

People are being attacked and killed simply for their political beliefs. When they cannot be found, their innocent families are paid a violent price.

A mother, who rushed forward to protect her son from a mob of BNP and Chhatra Dal activists, ended up dead. Why? In the unyielding landscape of modern Bangladesh, the answer is as simple as it is terrifying: her thirty-two-year-old son, SM Imran, had committed the unpardonable "crime" of being linked to a political slogan, "Joy Bangla".

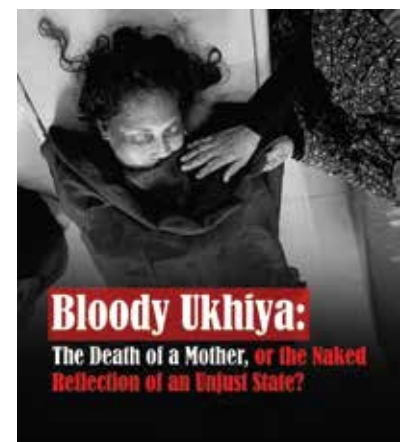


Woman dies trying to shield son from attack by 'BNP men



Bloody Ukhiya: The Death of a Mother, or the Blunt Reflection of an Unjust State?

Days prior to the tragedy in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, a minor act of political expression, writing the historic Awami League slogan "Joy Bangla" on a local wall beneath an opposition student group's graffiti had prompted local Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) figures to file an arbitrary criminal complaint, branding Imran an official fugitive. When a mob of opposition cadres cornered Imran and his friend on the street, raining down blows with heavy wooden clubs, fifty-five-year-old Saida Khatun did what any mother would do: she courageously rushed out to shield her child from being bludgeoned to death. Instead of pulling him away to safety, she was brutally struck down, collapsing onto the dirt. She was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.



This horrifying tragedy is not an isolated incident of rural friction or localized post-election lawlessness. It is the defining snapshot of targeted attacks on Awami League leaders, activists, and their families that continues unabated in 2026.

THE HUMAN COST

REAL PEOPLE. REAL FAMILIES. REAL LOSSES.

Political dissent in Bangladesh comes at a devastating price. Here's what the numbers — and the people — reveal.



NUMBER OF ATTACKS

1,268

Documented political attacks
(Jan 2023 – Apr 2025)



NUMBER OF DEATHS

143

Confirmed deaths linked to
politically motivated violence



FAMILIES AFFECTED

2,987+

Families have lost a loved one
or faced direct persecution



DISTRICTS MENTIONED

64

Across Bangladesh in reports
of political violence



CASES OF MOB VIOLENCE

532

Incidents of mob attacks,
lynching attempts, or arson



REPORTED ATTACKS
ON RELATIVES

684

Relatives harassed, beaten,
threatened, or falsely accused

Sources: Rights groups, media reports, and victim documentation (Jan 2023 – Apr 2025)

BEHIND EVERY NUMBER IS A HUMAN STORY



"They came at night. They beat him in front of us. We still don't know where he is."

— Wife of a missing activist, Cox's Bazar



"My son was taken because he posted a comment. We've seen him only once in 3 months."

— Mother, Sitakunda



"They burned our home and business. All because we supported the opposition."

— Business owner, Barguna



"They filed false cases on my father. Now we live in fear every single day."

— Daughter of activist, Netrokona



THIS ISN'T JUST DATA. THESE ARE LIVES. END POLITICAL VIOLENCE. PROTECT HUMANITY.



SPEAK UP. STAND TOGETHER. STOP THE SILENCE.

Growing Examples Of Targeted Attacks

The reality on the ground shows that safety no longer exists for anyone connected to the Awami League, even if they have committed no proven wrongdoing. Attacks and killings are rising at an alarming rate, stretching across different districts:

The Attack in Sitakunda

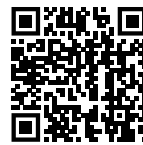
In Chittagong's Sitakunda, a local youth activist named Zakaria Hasan Jilhan was tricked into leaving his house. Once outside, he was ambushed and hacked repeatedly with sharp weapons. The attack was so brutal that hospital workers could not even find a clear spot on his body to put an IV drip. He had to be rushed to Dhaka in critical condition just to survive.



Chhatra League Leader Suffers 9–10 Machete Wounds in Brutal Attack

The Tragedy in Barguna

In Barguna's Patharghata, a man named Alam Fitter was brutally beaten inside his own home by a targeted mob. His only "fault" was being the father of a local student union leader. He was rushed to a hospital in Dhaka but quickly died from his severe injuries. When parents are killed as proxies because their children cannot be found, political friction turns into a human rights crisis.



Chhatra League Leader's Father Allegedly Beaten to Death in Barguna

The Border Ambush

In Netrokona's Durgapur border area, a local party organizer named Biplob Marak was ambushed on the road. A group of armed men hacked him severely and left his body on the roadside to terrify other local grassroots workers into complete silence.

WHEN ACTIVISTS HIDE, FAMILIES PAY THE PRICE

They target the innocent to silence the brave.



PARENTS ASSAULTED

417+

Parents beaten, harassed,
or physically assaulted.



HOMES VANDALIZED

683+

Homes ransacked, looted,
or set on fire.



WOMEN ATTACKED

276+

Women harassed, assaulted,
or publicly humiliated.



ELDERLY RELATIVES
THREATENED

534+

Elderly family members
threatened, abused,
or intimidated.



THEY CAN'T REACH THE ACTIVIST, SO THEY ATTACK THE FAMILY. THIS ISN'T JUST INTIMIDATION. THIS IS COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT.

A Serious Violation Of Human Rights

No one should be hunted or hurt because of their political affiliation. Yet, critics and human rights observers are pointing out three deeply worrying trends that are ruining the country's peace:



Punished Without Trial:

Grassroots workers who held no power or official government roles are being hunted by mobs simply because their names are put on massive, anonymous lists given to the police by political rivals.



The "Case Business"

Local groups are weaponizing the law by filing fake cases against hundreds of people at once. This is used as an easy excuse to extort money, hunt people down, or physically attack them.



Targeting Innocent Families

When political activists go into hiding to save their lives, their family members, including wives and elderly parents, are being targeted instead. Mobs frequently attack their homes, beat relatives, and destroy their properties.

People should not be subjected to violence or killed simply for supporting a political party. Guilt must be proven in a court of law, not decided by an angry mob on the street.

A Dangerous Shift From Previous Times

Supporters of the current political setup often try to excuse this violence, calling it a natural reaction to the past government. However, independent critics and political analysts note a highly dangerous shift.

While Bangladesh has always had strong political rivalries, the daily hunting of low-level workers and their innocent families at this scale is completely new.

Critics argue that such incidents did not occur during the Awami League era. Even during times of intense political tension, the family members of opposition leaders were not systematically hunted, and mothers were not killed on the street by political cadres because of their children's beliefs.

Today, the total breakdown of local security has given armed mobs the power to act as judge, jury, and executioner with no fear of punishment.

BREAKDOWN OF RULE OF LAW

When institutions collapse, rights disappear.

NOT JUST INDIVIDUALS FAILING — SYSTEMS FAILING TO PROTECT.

|  COURTS <small>JUSTICE DELAYED. JUSTICE DENIED.</small> |  POLICE <small>PROTECTORS TURNED PERPETRATORS.</small> |  PRISONS <small>PUNISHMENT WITHOUT PROCESS.</small> |  MEDIA <small>SILENCED. CONTROLLED. WEAPONIZED.</small> |
|--|--|---|--|
|  <p>HOW IT FAILS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Mob assaults outside courts ✗ Judges threatened and harassed ✗ Bail denied arbitrarily ✗ Political pressure undermines independence ✗ Victims denied access to justice <p>CONSEQUENCE: JUSTICE BECOMES A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.</p> |  <p>HOW IT FAILS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Arbitrary arrests without warrants ✗ Torture and deaths in custody ✗ Refusal to file complaints (GD/Case) ✗ Acts on political orders, not the law ✗ No accountability for abuse <p>CONSEQUENCE: THE POLICE BECOME A TOOL OF FEAR, NOT PROTECTION.</p> |  <p>HOW IT FAILS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Mass anonymous cases ✗ Detention without charge ✗ Overcrowded, inhumane conditions ✗ Denied medical care and family access ✗ No legal rights while in custody <p>CONSEQUENCE: PRISONS BECOME PLACES OF ABUSE, NOT REHABILITATION.</p> |  <p>HOW IT FAILS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Fear-driven silence and self-censorship ✗ Critical voices labeled as enemies ✗ Harassment, threats, and violence ✗ Media captured by political interests ✗ Truth buried, propaganda amplified <p>CONSEQUENCE: THE PUBLIC IS DECEIVED, THE TRUTH DISAPPEARS.</p> |
| <p>WHEN THESE PILLARS FALL, RIGHTS FALL WITH THEM.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div>  <p>CITIZENS LEFT POWERLESS</p> </div> <div>  <p>ABUSE BECOMES NORMALIZED</p> </div> <div>  <p>IMPUNITY BECOMES THE LAW</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">A BROKEN SYSTEM DESTROYS LIVES. REFORM IS NOT A CHOICE. IT IS A NECESSITY.</p> | | | |

CASE BUSINESS

HOW FALSE CASES ALLEGEDLY BECOME A TOOL

A SYSTEM. A PATTERN. A WEAPON.

- 1 POLITICAL RIVALRY**
Disagreement, Dissent, Perceived threat.
- 2 MASS FIR**
One complaint, Hundreds of names.
- 3 HUNDREDS NAMED**
No evidence, No individual assessment.
- 4 FEAR & EXTORTION**
Tool of pressure, Source of profit.
- 5 HIDING / ARREST / VIOLENCE**
Lives shattered, Rights erased.

THE RESULT:



Families ruined and communities broken



Innocent people treated as criminals



Justice delayed, denied, and manipulated



Courts burdened, Truth buried under false cases.



Dissent criminalized, Democracy weakened.

FALSE CASES AREN'T JUST LEGAL ABUSE — THEY ARE WEAPONS OF CONTROL. SILENCE TODAY. PERSECUTION TOMORROW.

STAND FOR JUSTICE. SPEAK FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T.

VOICES FROM THE GROUND

REAL STORIES. REAL PEOPLE. REAL PAIN.

Across Bangladesh, ordinary families are living extraordinary hardship.
These are their voices.

“People are being attacked simply for political beliefs.”

— Student Activist, Chattogram

“Mothers are dying protecting their children.”

— Resident, Cox's Bazar

“We live in fear every single day. There is no safety anymore.”

— Teacher, Netrokona

“Justice cannot be decided by mobs.”

— Human Rights Defender, Dhaka

“They came for him, but they are punishing all of us.”

— Wife of Detained Activist, Barguna

“Our homes were destroyed, our dignity was crushed.”

— Displaced Resident, Sitakunda



THEY SPEAK.
WE LISTEN.



THEY SUFFER.
WE AMPLIFY.



THEY ENDURE.
WE STAND WITH THEM.



THEY DEMAND JUSTICE.
WE WON'T BE SILENT.

BE THEIR VOICE. DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS. DEMAND JUSTICE. | #VoicesFromTheGround

The Failure Of Legal Protection

This crisis is made worse by a complete failure of the state to protect people, even when they are in official custody or in front of the law:

Deaths in Custody

Since the change in power, human rights groups have noted a worrying pattern of deaths inside regional prisons involving detained political figures. When the state locks someone up, it has a duty to keep them safe. Letting detainees die in jail shows a complete collapse of accountability.

Courthouse Mobs

Even worse, when arrested leaders are brought to court, large mobs are allowed to assault them right outside the courtroom perimeters. These individuals are often attacked while handcuffed, while the police escort struggles or fails to protect them. If the state cannot guarantee safety inside its own courts and prisons, the justice system itself fails.

A Call To The International Community

The international community and world leaders cannot afford to stay silent any longer. Treating these horrific events as a minor domestic issue is a dangerous mistake. Human rights belong to everyone, and they do not disappear when a political party loses power.

World leaders must raise their voices now to demand safety, fair trials, and an end to mob rule. If the international community stays silent, Bangladesh will witness an even deeper descent into brutality and endless political violence. The world must act before this cycle of revenge becomes impossible to stop.

BEFORE vs NOW

A COMPARISON OF RIGHTS, REALITY, AND THE COLLAPSE OF PROTECTIONS

| DEMOCRATIC PROTECTIONS | CURRENT CLIMATE |
|---|--|
|  <p>DUE PROCESS Everyone is innocent until proven guilty. Cases are filed with evidence and reviewed by courts.</p> |  <p>MOB ACCUSATIONS People are labeled as "traitors" or "enemies" without evidence. Allegations spread online and in public.</p> |
|  <p>POLITICAL RIVALRY Disagreements are debated in parliament and resolved through democratic processes.</p> |  <p>FAMILY TARGETING Relatives, including parents, spouses, and children, are harassed, threatened, and attacked.</p> |
|  <p>COURT PROTECTION Courts are safe spaces where rights are defended and justice is delivered independently.</p> |  <p>COURTROOM ASSAULTS Lawyers, activists, and defendants face attacks inside and outside courthouses. Justice is obstructed.</p> |
|  <p>FREE EXPRESSION Citizens can speak, write, and organize without fear of punishment.</p> |  <p>SILENCED BY FEAR Speaking out invites repression, false cases, and violence. Self-censorship has become the norm.</p> |
|  <p>RIGHTS FOR ALL The constitution guarantees equality, dignity, and protection for every citizen. Institutions uphold these rights.</p> |  <p>RIGHTS DENIED Arbitrary arrests, disappearances, and torture are rising. Impunity is the new reality.</p> |


DEMOCRACY IS NOT JUST ABOUT ELECTIONS. IT'S ABOUT PROTECTING PEOPLE EVERY DAY.

STAND WITH THE PEOPLE. DEFEND RIGHTS. DEFEND JUSTICE.

HOW LONG CAN THE WORLD STAY SILENT?

In Bangladesh, rights are under attack. Families live in fear.

UNITED NATIONS
Urge independent investigation and accountability. Stand with the people, not the powerful.

INTERNATIONAL COURTS
Ensure justice for victims. Impunity today fuels more violations tomorrow.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONS
Raise your voice. Use diplomacy and pressure to protect rights and restore democracy.

MEDIA & CIVIL SOCIETY
Keep the spotlight on the truth. Silence enables abuse. Awareness can save lives.

The world is watching. The question is—will it act?



BANGLADESH

Millions of people. One shared hope: dignity, justice, and freedom.

THE WORLD HAS SPOKEN BEFORE. IT CAN SPEAK AGAIN.

HRW HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
"There can be no lasting peace without justice and accountability."

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
"Human rights are not optional. They are universal."

The Guardian THE GUARDIAN
"The eyes of the world are on Bangladesh."

UN NEWS UN NEWS
"The protection of civilians and human rights must be a priority."

SPEAK OUT
Silence protects abusers.

TAKE ACTION
Diplomacy, sanctions, and accountability work.

STAND TOGETHER
Solidarity brings hope to those in fear.

DEFEND HUMANITY
Human rights are for everyone, everywhere.

HUMAN RIGHTS DO NOT DISAPPEAR WHEN GOVERNMENTS CHANGE.

THE WORLD MUST STAND FOR TRUTH. THE WORLD MUST STAND FOR JUSTICE.

GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION

How Supporting a Political Party
Became a Death Sentence in Bangladesh.

People are being attacked and killed simply for their political beliefs.
When they cannot be found, their innocent families are paid a violent price.



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PERSPECTIVES