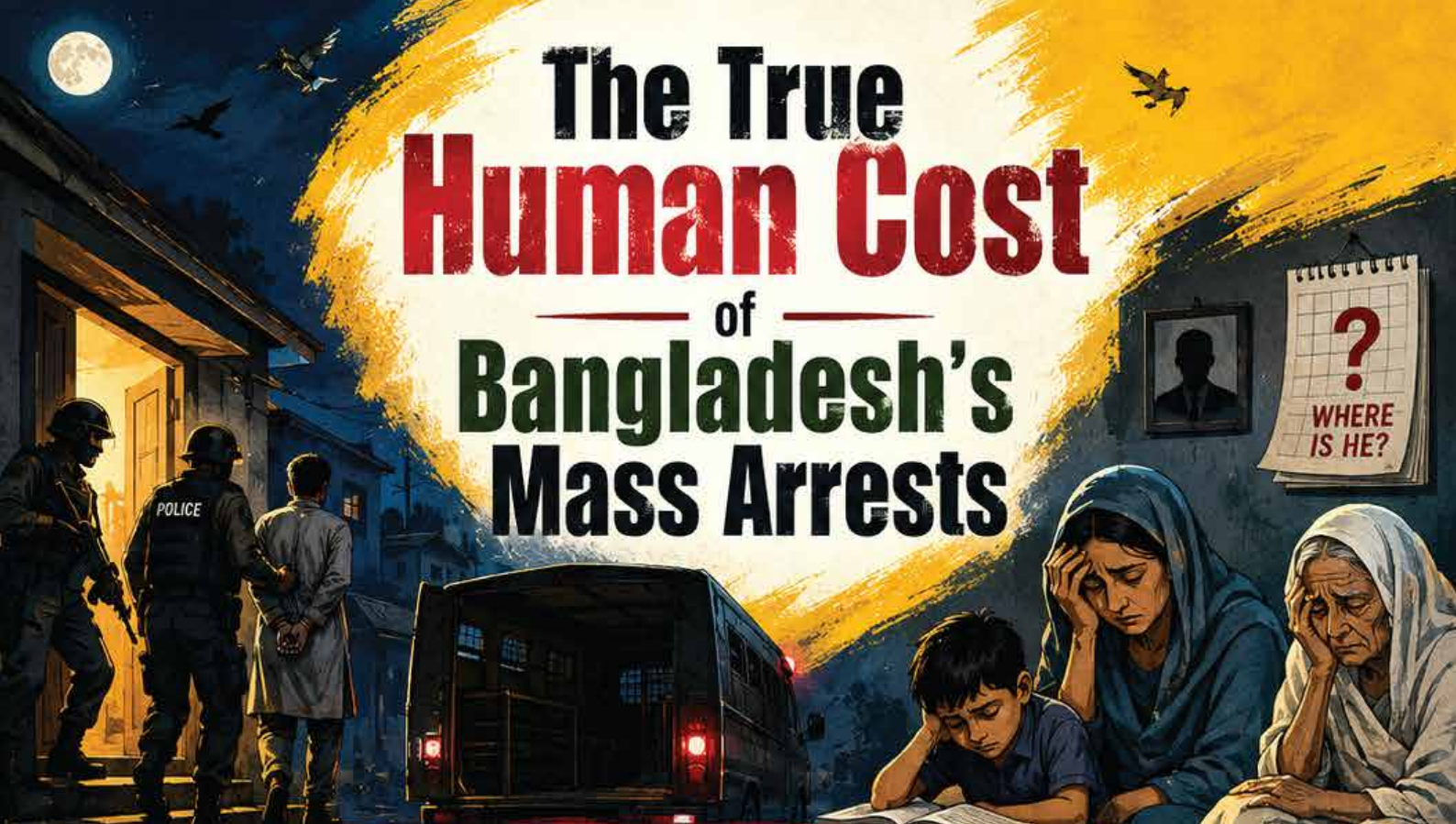


# The True Human Cost

## of Bangladesh's Mass Arrests



**OVER 18,000 PEOPLE ARRESTED UNDER 'OPERATION DEVIL HUNT PHASE-2' IN ONE MONTH ACROSS BANGLADESH**

- FINANCIAL HARDSHIP**: A document labeled 'BILL' with a red stamp 'UNPAID'.
- BROKEN EDUCATION**: A school desk with a sign 'SCHOOL DROPPED' and a red 'X'.
- LOSS OF HEALTHCARE**: A tray of various pills and medicine bottles.
- SHATTERED CAREERS**: A document labeled 'JOB APPLICATION' with a photo and a red stamp 'REJECTED'.
- STIGMA AND SOCIAL ISOLATION**: Silhouettes of people and a small house with a dark interior.

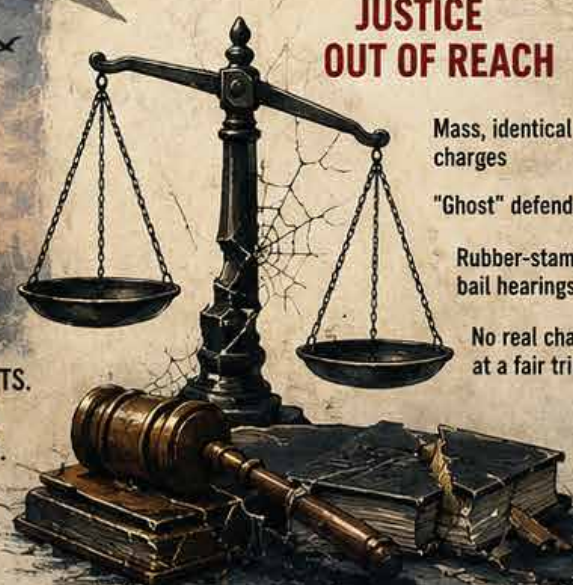
### LIVES LOST BEHIND PRISON WALLS

39 die in custody in first 3 months of 2026: HRSS report



WIDOWS. ORPHANS. PARENTS. LEFT TO CARRY ON WITH UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

### JUSTICE OUT OF REACH



Mass, identical charges  
"Ghost" defendants  
Rubber-stamp bail hearings  
No real chance at a fair trial

HUMAN DIGNITY IS NOT OPTIONAL  
JUSTICE FOR ALL  
ACCOUNTABILITY NOW

**STAND FOR HUMANITY. DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

**BANGLADESH MUST CHOOSE: POWER OR PEOPLE. THE WORLD IS WATCHING.**

## The True Human Cost of Bangladesh's Mass Arrests

Imagine a father is taken from his home late at night. There's no specific complaint against him, no clear evidence, and often no formal charges. His family is left behind—confused, frightened, and suddenly facing an uncertain future.

For many households, the consequences go far beyond the individual. The main breadwinner's absence can quickly lead to financial hardship. Bills pile up, children may have to leave school, and elderly parents lose their support. Careers built over years can vanish overnight as employers avoid any association with "political trouble." Even after release, the stigma often remains, making it hard to find work or rebuild trust in the community.

In Bangladesh today, under the current administration of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), a deeply troubling pattern has taken hold. Across major metropolitan areas and quiet villages alike, arbitrary mass arrests are being carried out without formal charges, proper legal complaints, or valid warrants. What is presented as a measure for public stability has instead transformed into a weaponized dragnet that leaves behind a trail of devastated lives.

The fallout of this sweeping campaign extends far past prison cells. It cuts straight through the heart of the community, wiping out hard-earned careers, damaging family reputations overnight, and tearing households apart. For those caught up in this institutional nightmare, the emotional and practical impact is overwhelming, unfair, and profoundly life-altering.



## How One Arrest Ruins A Household: A Climate of Fear and Helplessness

The typical reality of an arrest in Bangladesh today is sudden and disorienting. Security forces frequently arrive late at night or during sudden sweeps through busy markets. Before anyone can ask for an explanation or request a legal warrant, the primary breadwinner is forced into a vehicle and driven away. In that single, unprompted moment, an entire family's world is turned upside down.

For observers looking in from the outside, it is easy to misclassify these events as routine law enforcement or simple political friction. But this perspective misses the profound human heartbreak occurring on the ground. An arbitrary arrest doesn't just impact the person in custody; it pushes an entire household into financial panic and acute anxiety.



*Over 18,000 people arrested under 'Operation Devil Hunt Phase-2' in one month across Bangladesh*

When an income earner disappears into the legal system, the family is left with an immediate crisis. Rent goes unpaid, elderly parents are suddenly cut off from vital medicines, and children are pulled from school because tuition is no longer within reach. Families are forced to spend their life savings or take out high-interest loans just to cover the basic legal fees required to navigate a confusing and unresponsive court system.

*An arbitrary arrest does not stop with the person being detained. It punishes the innocent— forcing parents, spouses, and children into sudden poverty, continuous worry, and an uncertain future.*



## The Heartbreaking Reality of Custodial Deaths

Some stories end even more tragically. Singer and Awami League leader Proloy Chaki died in custody, with his family alleging inadequate medical care. Similar concerns surround other cases, including that of former minister Ramesh Chandra Sen. The HRSS data on 39 custodial deaths in early 2026 includes both convicts and undertrial prisoners. For grieving families, the pain is compounded by a lack of clear answers or accountability.



*Musician, AL leader  
Proloy Chaki dies in  
jail custody*



*39 die in custody in first 3  
months of 2026: HRSS  
report*

These losses leave behind widows, orphans, and parents who must somehow carry on while questioning how such things can happen in their country.

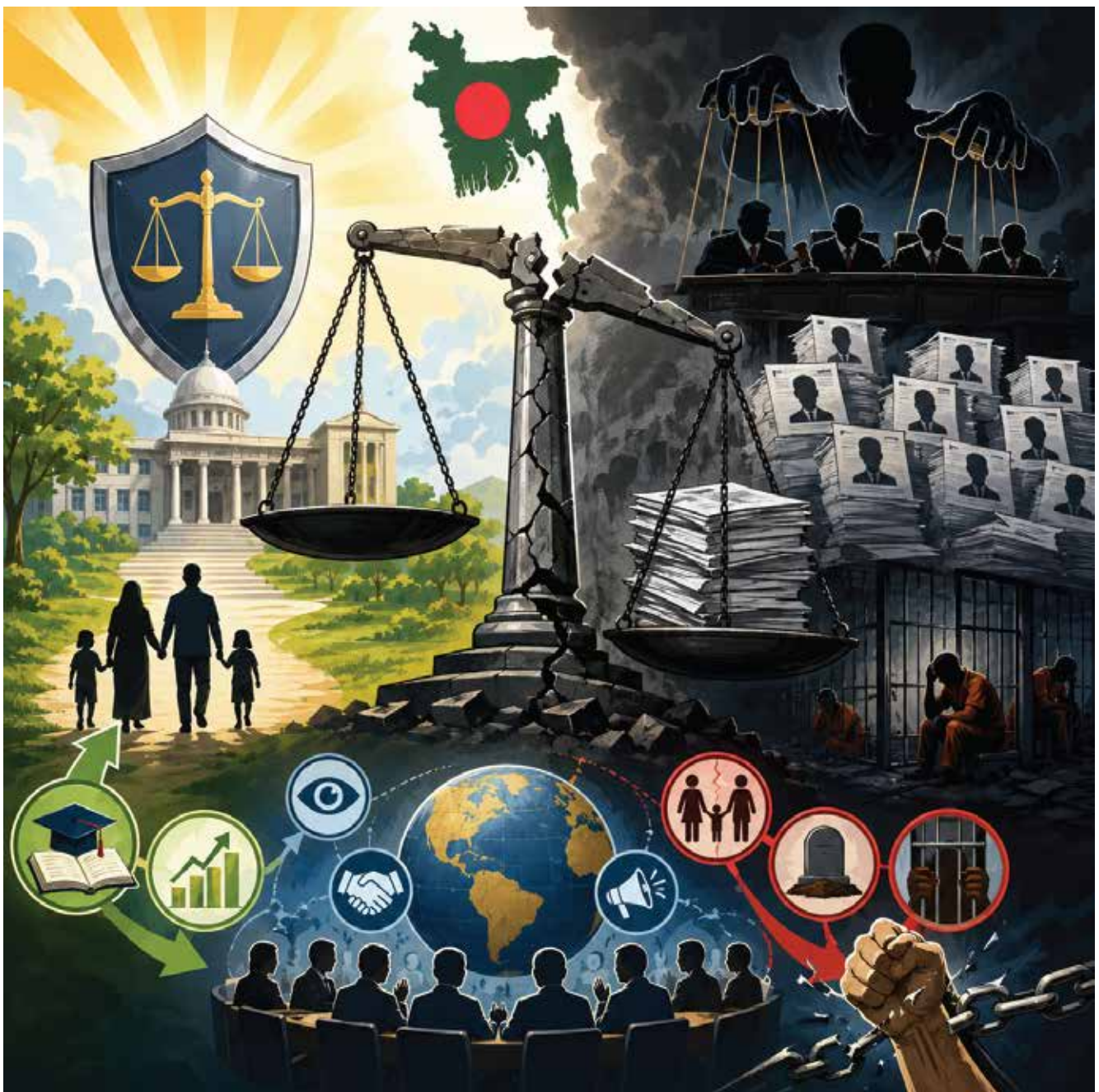


## The Search For Justice In A Broken System

For the thousands of ordinary people currently suffering under these policies, the most painful question is also the most basic: Where can they turn for help?

The domestic judiciary— designed to stand as a citizen's final shield—has been systematically hollowed out. Lower courts are flooded with thousands of identical, mass-produced indictments featuring sweeping blocks of unnamed "ghost" defendants. This calculated loophole reduces routine bail hearings to a rubber-stamping exercise for the prosecution, turning the right to a fair trial into a mathematical impossibility for families lacking elite wealth or political leverage.

This institutional failure leaves behind an indictment the world can no longer afford to ignore. Who answers for the stolen years, the shattered careers, and the children pulled from classrooms? Who answers for the lives quietly snuffed out in the darkness of a prison cell? Bangladesh stands at a critical tipping point. If the international community continues to rely on empty diplomatic pleasantries and look away, it signals to autocrats everywhere that human dignity is entirely secondary to political convenience. The BNP government must be held directly, unequivocally accountable for this ongoing assault on human life.






**OVER 18,000 PEOPLE ARRESTED  
UNDER 'OPERATION DEVIL HUNT PHASE-2'  
IN ONE MONTH ACROSS BANGLADESH**



**SCHOOL  
DROPPED**

**BROKEN  
EDUCATION**

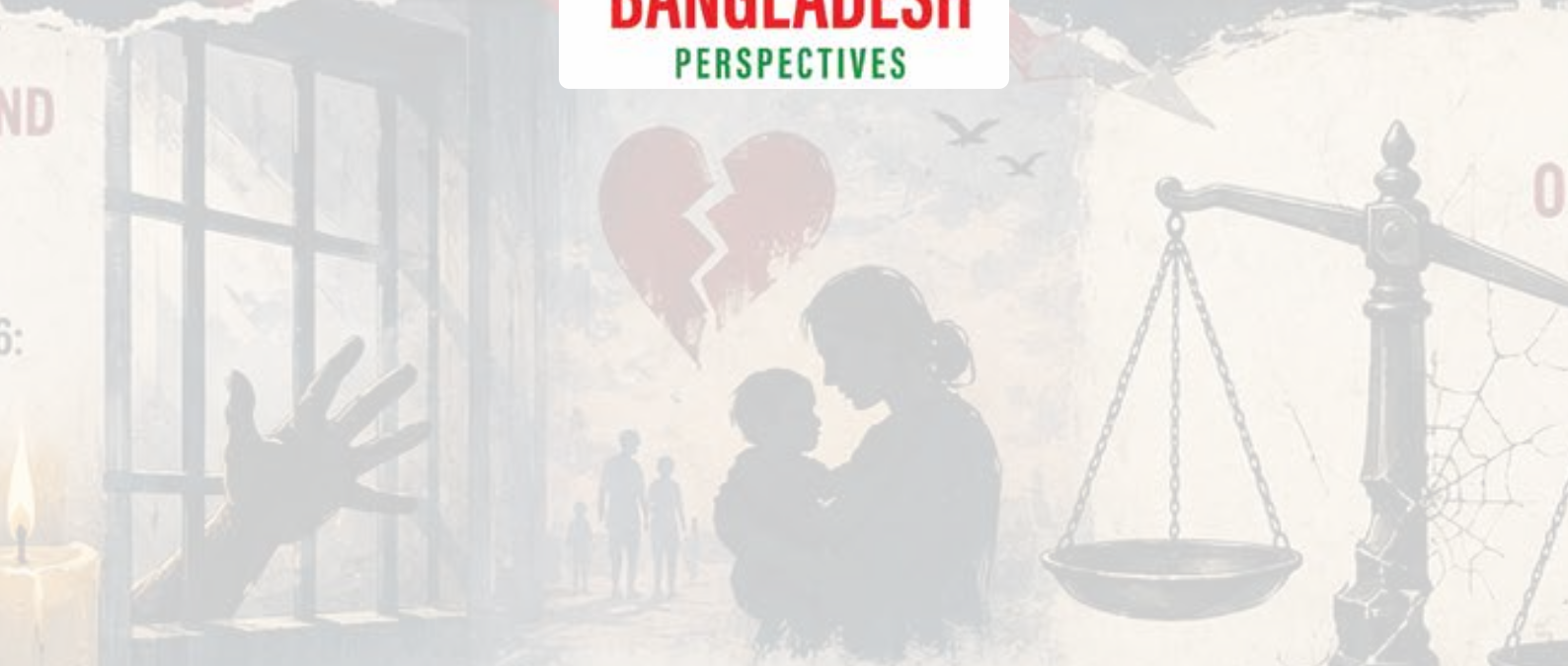


**JOB APPLICATION**

**SHATTERED  
CAREERS**



**BANGLADESH**  
PERSPECTIVES



**WIDOWS. ORPHANS. PARENTS.  
LEFT TO CARRY ON WITH  
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.**



**ACCOUNTABILITY  
NOW**

**JUSTICE FOR ALL**