

**Democracywatch**  
**Human Rights Monitoring Report**  
**March- May, 2010**

The human rights cell of Democracywatch, a private Human Rights organization, has been regularly observing the reports regarding human rights published on the national dailies such as Prothom Alo, Kaler Kantha, Samakal, New Age and Daily Star since March 2010. The subjects or incidents those were taken under the observation are: Murder, social clash, rape, dowry, acid throwing, suicide, eve teasing, violence against journalists, torture in police custody/ safe custody and crossfire. This report is a brief illustration of these occurrences that happened during the above mentioned three months.

**Homicide:** From March 1 to May 30, total 330 people were killed for various reasons such as terrorist attack, robbery, clashes for land and properties, dowry, rape, acid throwing etc. In March, this number was 50 while in April it became 125 and in May it increased to 165. Among these victims 115 women, 208 men and 7 were children.

**Violence against women:**

- 1) **Dowry:** In April, 8 women were killed for dowry when in May it became 12, among the victims 2 were carrying. In March killing wives for dowry was 15 in number. In addition 18 women were severely tortured for this purpose. These incidents happened in Sherpur, Dhaka, Sylhet, Faridpur, Rangpur, Brahmanbaria, Rajshahi, Pabna, Manikganj, Jaypurhat etc.
- 2) **Acid Throwing:** During the period of March-May 2010, 20 persons were victim of acid violence. Among them 13 women, 2 children and 5 were men. Previous enmity, clashes for properties, failure in love was the main reasons behind these violences. These happened in Tangail, Madaripur, Faridpur, Chittagong etc.
- 3) **Rape:** In March, 20 women were raped among them 5 were children. In April, this number was also 20 and the number of children was 3. In May total 16 women and 2 children went through this violence. Of these victims, 10 women and 2 children were killed after rape. These incidents happened in Dhaka, Chandpur, Manikganj, Habiganj, Faridpur, Khulna, Bogra, pirojpur, Chittagong, Narrayanganj, Gaibandha, Bhola etc.

**Suicide:** From March to May, total 29 incidents of suicide happened. Among them 22 were women and 7 were men. The main causes are poverty, dowry, family conflict, eve teasing etc. 9 girls committed suicide only for eve teasing in these 3 months. These were occurred in Dhaka, Gazipur, Pirojpur, Manikganj, Keraniganj, Khulna, Rajshahi etc. In March 6, in April 7 and in May 16 people committed suicide.

**Death in Police Custody/ jail:** 7 people were died in jail/ police custody during these three months. 3 of them are Shamsu Mia, Dhaka; Khokon, Noakhali and Manik, Chittagong.

**Crossfire:** In March 6, April 3 and in May 15, total 24 people were killed in crossfire. The victims were supposed to involve in anti law activities and the police and RAB said that they were trying to arrest them but the criminals tried to shoot. These incidents happened in Dhaka, Chittagong, Kushtia, Pabna, Barishal, Comilla, Shatkhira, Shoilkupa etc.

**Violence against the journalists:** In March 4, in April 4 and in May 4 incidents Regarding violence against journalists occurred. Among them 1 was killed.

On March 1, Monirul Islam of the Daily Lokshamaj of Jessore was bitten with hammer. On March 12, two journalists, Ramimul Hasan, staff reporter of ABC radio and Munir Momtaz, reporter of the Shaptahik 2000 studying at Dhaka University were beaten. On March 20, Azizul Huq, Daily Naya Diganta was beaten. All these three incidents happened by political persons. On March 31, Salahuddin Mahmud, senior reporter of Channel-1 was physically assaulted by a police man. In April, Anis Raihan of Shaptahik and Ahmed Fayeaz of Budhbaar were beaten by some political workers at Dhaka University. On the other hand a photo journalist of The Daily Prothom Alo was chased. At Habiganj, two journalists of Habiganj New Nation and The Daily Hobiganj Shamachar were wounded by hijacker. On May 9 the robbers killed Mithu, the senior cameraman of ATN Bangla. He was killed for introducing himself as a journalist. Mojaffar Hossen, the Savar representative of My TV, Opu Ohab, the Savar representative of Desh TV and Mahfuzur Rahman of Jaijaidin accused some police men for assaulting them at Ashulia. Some anti law activists ransacked the place of Atiqur Rahman, the chief assistant editor of the Daily Jugantar for money. On the other hand Shakil Anwar, the Shakhipur representative of the Daily Kaler Kantha was attacked by the nephew of the local MP of the ruling party, Shawkat Momen Shahjahan in Tangail.

**Recommendations:**

- The Government should take the immediate steps to ensure the proper usage of the law and the law enforcement agencies.
- Proper training and awareness raising programs should be provided to the law enforcement agencies.
- The Government can provide the mass people with awareness raising programs, campaigns, training etc to build awareness among them so that they can play a role with more responsibility to protest and reduce the crimes. This will also help them to know the proper way to get legal help.
- The Highways should be more secured, so the Government can increase the number of skilled patrol/ mobile police in those places.
- Political influence over the law enforcement agencies must be reduced.

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