

COI Factsheet

Safe Country of Origin concept - Bangladesh

February 2025

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While this factsheet was structured around the defining criteria of a safe country of origin as stipulated in the Asylum Procedure Regulation (EU) 2024/1348, the EUAA (and its partners) played no part in assessing whether such criteria were met for Bangladesh to be designated as a safe country of origin at Union level. That assessment was performed entirely by the European Commission and was based on a range of relevant and available sources of information.

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COI Factsheet - Safe Countries of Origin (SCO)

Bangladesh

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Sources were accessed between 7 January and 6 February 2025. Some additional information was added during the finalisation of this factsheet in response to feedback received during the quality control process, until 21 February 2025. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this document.

Legal and political situation – overview

System of government and political situation

Bangladesh is a parliamentary republic governed by the 1972 constitution.⁸⁶⁷ The constitution prescribes the separation of powers between the executive and judiciary.⁸⁶⁸ The parliament (*Jatiya Sangsad*) holds the legislative power, and its 350 members are elected in direct elections for five-year mandates.⁸⁶⁹ The parliament elects the president to serve as the head of state for a five-year term.⁸⁷⁰ While the president's role is mainly ceremonial, it includes appointing the prime minister⁸⁷¹ who exercises executive power.⁸⁷² Under the lead of the former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was in power from 2009–2024,⁸⁷³ Bangladesh experienced democratic backsliding and an increasingly authoritarian rule.⁸⁷⁴ According to Bertelsmann Stiftung, the situation reached a point where 'Bangladesh transformed into an authoritarian regime with a democratic façade'.⁸⁷⁵

Hasina and her government were ousted from power following nation-wide mass protests in July and early August 2024,⁸⁷⁶ sparked by the reinstatement of a quota system for civil service jobs.⁸⁷⁷ The protests turned violent by mid-July 2024, when protest groups and police clashed.⁸⁷⁸ 'Human rights violations' were reported,⁸⁷⁹ and over 1 000 people are estimated to have been killed with 'many thousands injured' due to excessive use of force by the security forces.⁸⁸⁰ On 5 August 2024, Hasina fled the country,⁸⁸¹ and the parliament was dissolved.⁸⁸²

A care-taker government, led by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, was installed on 8 August 2024.⁸⁸³ The interim government's primary task is to organise new elections⁸⁸⁴ which are foreseen to take place in late 2025 or early 2026, although it may be delayed due to the need of extensive reforms to restore democratic institutions.⁸⁸⁵

⁸⁶⁷ Britannica, Government and society, 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁸ Bangladesh, The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972, [url](#), [art. 22](#)

⁸⁶⁹ Britannica, Government and society, 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁰ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 23

⁸⁷¹ Britannica, Government and society, 1 February 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁷² Daily Star (The), Explained: The branches of Bangladesh's government, 6 January 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷³ Britannica, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, 29 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁴ Bertelsmann Stiftung, Bangladesh Country Report 2024, 19 March 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁵ Bertelsmann Stiftung, Bangladesh Country Report 2024, 19 March 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁶ Al Jazeera, Timeline: The rise and fall of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, 5 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁷ International Crisis Group, Bangladesh on Edge after Crushing Quota Protests, 25 July 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁸ ACLED, Bangladesh's July demonstrations are much larger and more violent than in 2018, 26 July 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁹ UN OHCHR, Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protests and Unrest in Bangladesh, 16 August 2024, [url](#), p. 3

⁸⁸⁰ HRW, Bangladesh: Lasting Reforms Needed to Stop Abuses, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁸¹ International Crisis Group, Bangladesh: The Long Road Ahead, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸² International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸³ Reuters, Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes charge of caretaker government, 8 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁴ Reuters, Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes charge of caretaker government, 8 August 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁵ Al Jazeera, Bangladesh plans to hold elections in late 2025 or early 2026, 16 December 2024, [url](#)

A total of 10 reform commissions have been formed,⁸⁸⁶ tasked with bringing forward proposals on reforming the constitution, police, judiciary, the election commission, public administration and to combat corruption.⁸⁸⁷ Four of the commissions, on the constitution, police, elections, and anti-corruption, reported back to Yunus on 15 January 2025, suggesting, *inter alia*, introducing term limits on the prime minister, amending the constitution,⁸⁸⁸ forming a National Constitutional Council to balance the power of top positions, establishing an ombudsman, establishing an anti-corruption strategy,⁸⁸⁹ limiting the police authority to use force during unlawful assemblies and arrest people without a warrant, as well as 22 legal amendments to reform the police.⁸⁹⁰ The Judicial Reform Commission is to submit its final report to Yunus on 5 February, but according to local media a draft report suggests, *inter alia*, a decentralisation of the High Court by administrative division.⁸⁹¹ Moreover, some of the recommendations of the Judicial Reform Commission include a transparent judicial appointment process, financial independence for the judiciary, and introduction of anti-corruption measures.⁸⁹² The remaining commissions on women's rights, health, labour rights and the media are to submit their reports by mid-February 2025.⁸⁹³

Demographics and migration profile

Bangladesh has a population of over 174 million people,⁸⁹⁴ and it is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.⁸⁹⁵ A great majority of the population belongs to the Bengali ethno-linguistic group,⁸⁹⁶ and most Bengalis are Sunni Muslims.⁸⁹⁷ The most recent census (from 2022) indicated that 99 % of the population were Bengali and that 91 % identified as Muslim.⁸⁹⁸ The Bangladeshi government recognises 50 ethnic groups⁸⁹⁹ but many ethnic minorities identify

⁸⁸⁶ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁷ ConstitutionNet, Interim government of Bangladesh extends deadline for constitution reform commission, 6 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁸ Bdnews24.com, 4 commission reports recommend key changes to set path for state, governance reforms, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁹ TIB, Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission, 15 January 2025, [url](#), p. 2; Bdnews24.com, 4 commission reports recommend key changes to set path for state, governance reforms, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁰ Bdnews24.com, 4 commission reports recommend key changes to set path for state, governance reforms, 16 January 2025, [url](#); BSS, PRC suggests amendment, replacement of 22 laws for police reforms, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹¹ Bdnews24.com, Judicial Reform Commission pushes for independent judge appointments, faster trials, 4 February 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹² Dhaka Tribune, Judicial Reform Commission proposes permanent, merit-based attorney service, 5 February 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹³ Prothom Alo, Reform commission report proposes 50:50 quota for deputy secretary post, 2 February 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Electoral Reform Commission to submit its report by Feb 24, 8 January 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 10-member Women's Affairs Reform Commission formed, 18 November 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 11-member media reform commission announced, 18 November 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Govt forms Health Sector Reform Commission led by Dr AK Azad, 18 November 2024, [url](#); BSS, Labour Reform Commission to submit recommendations by Feb 18, 11 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁴ UNFPA, World Population Dashboard, Bangladesh: Total population in 2024, 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁵ BBC News, Bangladesh country profile, 8 January 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁶ MRG, Bangladesh, June 2019, [url](#); Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Population & Housing Census 2022 Preliminary Report, August 2022, [url](#), pp. vii–viii, 1–2

⁸⁹⁷ Britannica, Bengali, 22 January 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁸ Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Population & Housing Census 2022 Preliminary Report, August 2022, [url](#), pp. vii–viii, 1–2

⁸⁹⁹ MRG, Bangladesh, June 2019, [url](#)

as ‘indigenous people’⁹⁰⁰ – which is not a recognised concept.⁹⁰¹ Most individuals belonging to an ethnic minority in Bangladesh also belong to a religious minority group.⁹⁰² The largest religious minorities, as per the census, include Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians.⁹⁰³

Bangladesh is one of the largest countries of origin of migrant workers in the world,⁹⁰⁴ and an estimated 500 000 people migrate from Bangladesh to work abroad every year.⁹⁰⁵ The country is, moreover, one of the world’s top remittance recipients,⁹⁰⁶ with migrants bringing in over USD 21 billion per year (about 5 % of GDP⁹⁰⁷) in the past years.⁹⁰⁸ Mainly men go abroad to work, although thousands of women also do so,⁹⁰⁹ and the main areas of destination are Southeast Asia⁹¹⁰ and Middle Eastern countries,⁹¹¹ such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf states.⁹¹² Most migrants are low- or unskilled workers,⁹¹³ and make use of agents and private recruitment agencies to arrange foreign employment and travel, which are associated with high costs.⁹¹⁴ In some countries Bangladeshi migrant workers have moreover faced widespread abuse, particularly in the Middle East.⁹¹⁵ There are also large diasporas in, *inter alia*, the US, where Bangladeshis tend to have higher skills and higher income jobs.⁹¹⁶

In July 2024, the European Commission (EC) launched the Talent Partnership programme with the Government of Bangladesh to ‘boost labour mobility and step-up cooperation on migration.’⁹¹⁷ In 2024, 43 236 Bangladeshi nationals lodged asylum applications in the EU+, which

⁹⁰⁰ Sweden, UD, Bangladesh – Mänskliga rättigheter, demokrati och rättsstatens principer: situationen per den 31 december 2021, 22 June 2022, [url](#), p. 14

⁹⁰¹ UN Human Rights Council, Bangladesh, Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 30 august 2023, [url](#), para. 69; IWGIA, A letter to Chief Adviser, Interim Government of Bangladesh to take urgent action on violent attacks on Indigenous students, 31 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁰² IRI, The Challenges Facing Plainland Ethnic Groups in Bangladesh: Land, Dignity And Inclusion, 2020, [url](#), p. 4

⁹⁰³ Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Population & Housing Census 2022 Preliminary Report, August 2022, [url](#), p. viii

⁹⁰⁴ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#); IOM, World Migration Report 2022, 1 December 2022, [url](#), p. 84

⁹⁰⁵ UN Human Rights Council, Visit to Bangladesh - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Felipe González Morales, 22 May 2023, [url](#), p. 3

⁹⁰⁶ MPI, Bangladesh’s Economic Vitality Owes in Part to Migration and Remittances, 19 April 2023, [url](#); USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁷ World Bank (The), Personal remittances, received (% of GDP) – Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁸ IOM, Remittance Inflows to Bangladesh (2019–2022), February 2024, [url](#), p. 1; Bangladesh, BMET, Overseas employment and remittances from 1976 to 2023, 27 January 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁹ Bangladesh, BMET, Overseas Employment of Female Workers from 2004 to 2024, 2024, [url](#)

⁹¹⁰ Mahmud, H., International Migration in Bangladesh: A Political Economic Overview, 29 June 2023, [url](#), chapter 3; Bossavie, L., Low-skilled temporary migration policies: The case of Bangladesh, April 2023, [url](#), p. 7

⁹¹¹ Mahmud, H., International Migration in Bangladesh: A Political Economic Overview, 29 June 2023, [url](#), chapter 3; UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Official visit to Bangladesh of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, [2023], [url](#), p. 3

⁹¹² Mahmud, H., International Migration in Bangladesh: A Political Economic Overview, 29 June 2023, [url](#), chapter 3

⁹¹³ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

⁹¹⁴ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

⁹¹⁵ UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Official visit to Bangladesh of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, [2023], [url](#), p. 3

⁹¹⁶ IOM, Remittance Inflows to Bangladesh (2019–2022), February 2024, [url](#), pp. 3–4; Dhaka Tribune, America is a thriving source of remittances: Should we utilize this opportunity?, 3 June 2023, [url](#)

⁹¹⁷ EC, Talent Partnership with Bangladesh, 8 July 2024, [url](#)

represents a 7 % increase from 2023 and a 28 % increase from 2022. Recognition rates stood at 4 % in 2024, 5 % in 2023, and 4 % in 2022.⁹¹⁸

Bangladesh hosts about one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar living in Cox's Bazar, the largest refugee camp in the world, 'amid mounting instability and growing humanitarian needs'.⁹¹⁹ According to a 2024 Human Rights Watch report, Rohingya refugees live in precarious conditions in camps and are subjected to violence by armed groups and gangs.⁹²⁰ Bangladesh is not party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and lacks specific national legislation governing refugee and asylum affairs.⁹²¹ In September 2024, the head of Bangladesh's interim government Muhammad Yunus called for an expedited resettlement process of Rohingyas from Bangladesh to third countries⁹²² as a new wave of Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh⁹²³ due to escalating violence in Myanmar.⁹²⁴ Cases of forced return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar by the Border Guard Bangladesh were reported by a Myanmar based human rights NGO,⁹²⁵ with more than 5 000 cases of *refoulement* recorded in 2024.⁹²⁶

International legal instruments

Bangladesh ratified the following human rights conventions: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).⁹²⁷ Bangladesh is not party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and lacks specific national legislation governing refugee and asylum affairs.⁹²⁸ Bangladesh has refrained from signing the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which aims to abolish the death penalty.⁹²⁹

The constitution enshrines fundamental rights in chapter three, and guarantees, *inter alia*, the right to life and personal liberty, freedom of speech and expression, equality before the law and

⁹¹⁸ EUAA, EPS data as of 3 February 2025, [url](#)

⁹¹⁹ UNHCR, Global Focus, Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

⁹²⁰ HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#)

⁹²¹ UNHCR, Global Focus, Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

⁹²² OWP, Bangladesh calls for faster resettlement process for Rohingya after escalating violence in Myanmar, 17 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹²³ OWP, Bangladesh calls for faster resettlement process for Rohingya after escalating violence in Myanmar, 17 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹²⁴ OWP, Bangladesh calls for faster resettlement process for Rohingya after escalating violence in Myanmar, 17 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹²⁵ Fortify Rights, Bangladesh: End Rohingya Refugee Pushbacks, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹²⁶ AI, Myanmar/Bangladesh: Rohingya community facing gravest threats since 2017, 24 October 2024, [url](#)

⁹²⁷ UN OHCHR, UN Treaty Body Database, Bangladesh, n.d., [url](#)

⁹²⁸ UNHCR, Global Focus, Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

⁹²⁹ UN OHCHR, UN Treaty Body Database, Bangladesh, n.d., [url](#)

freedom of religion.⁹³⁰ Special laws also strive to protect specific rights including the Labour Act (2006),⁹³¹ the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017),⁹³² the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act (2000),⁹³³ as well as numerous laws addressing specific forms of violence against women, including dowry-related violence, domestic violence, and acid violence.⁹³⁴ Article 28 of the constitution outlines that '[t]he State shall not discriminate against any citizen' on the grounds of religion, race, cast, sex or place of birth.⁹³⁵ An Anti-Discrimination Bill which prohibits discrimination based on *inter alia* these grounds was placed in parliament in 2022, but its adoption was still pending as of 22 April 2024.⁹³⁶

Bangladesh did not ratify the CED until 30 August 2024⁹³⁷ and enforced disappearance is not a recognised crime in domestic law.⁹³⁸ The former government used law enforcement as a tool to enforce its own agenda, including to undermine the political opposition. In particular the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) carried out human rights abuses such as extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture.⁹³⁹ Soon after its installation the interim government 'made commitments to pursue accountability for torture, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, and ensure human rights protection' and also set up a commission of inquiry to investigate enforced disappearances, as reported by Human Rights Watch.⁹⁴⁰ In the period 2009–June 2024, the local human right organisation Odhikar recorded 708 cases of enforced disappearances.⁹⁴¹ The commission of inquiry's first report however suggests that 3 500 enforced disappearances took place under Hasina's administration.⁹⁴² Abducted dissidents have been held in secret prisons,⁹⁴³ while the authorities denied their arrest.⁹⁴⁴ Some of the prominent dissidents were released following the government change.⁹⁴⁵

⁹³⁰ Bangladesh, The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972, [url](#), chapter III

⁹³¹ Bangladesh, The Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006, [url](#)

⁹³² Bangladesh, The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017, [url](#)

⁹³³ Bangladesh, Parliament of Bangladesh, Prevention of Oppression against Women and Children 2000, [url](#)

⁹³⁴ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 74

⁹³⁵ Bangladesh, The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972, [url](#), art. 28

⁹³⁶ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), pp. 82–83; IDSN, UN rights review calls for stronger anti-discrimination measures in Bangladesh, April 19th, 2024, [url](#); AI, Bangladesh: 10-point human rights charter ahead of the elections, 4 January 2024, [url](#)

⁹³⁷ UN OHCHR, UN Treaty Body Database, Bangladesh, n.d., [url](#)

⁹³⁸ AI, Human Rights Charter – Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#), p. 3; RFK Human rights, Bangladesh: Government must investigate all cases of enforced disappearance, stop acts of retaliation, hold perpetrators accountable, and ensure the security of victims' families, 25 May 2023, [url](#)

⁹³⁹ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 33

⁹⁴⁰ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴¹ AI, Bangladesh: Signing of Convention on Enforced Disappearances is a much welcome first step, 30 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁴² New York Times (The), Ex-Bangladeshi Leader Orchestrated Mass Disappearances, Inquiry Finds, 16 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁴³ New York Times (The), Ex-Bangladeshi Leader Orchestrated Mass Disappearances, Inquiry Finds, 16 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁴ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁵ HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

Security situation

Bangladesh is not engaged in any international or non-international armed conflict.⁹⁴⁶ However, the three districts comprising the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are affected by protracted political instability and tensions, which have included skirmishes between Bangladeshi security forces and militant rebel groups,⁹⁴⁷ and violence between the local indigenous population and Bengali settlers.⁹⁴⁸ This situation stems from a previous conflict, which took place between 1973 and 1997 between the Bangladeshi government and the local Indigenous population, during which Bengali settlers were relocated to the area in order to change the demographic balance.⁹⁴⁹

Reports of a militant group called the Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA) emerged in mid-2022.⁹⁵⁰ The KNA has carried out attacks against Bangladeshi security forces,⁹⁵¹ killed military personnel⁹⁵² and also abducted civilians.⁹⁵³

As part of the Bangladeshi security forces' response to the attacks of this group, travel restrictions were imposed in parts of the district of Bandarban in 2022; the last restriction was lifted on 22 January 2024.⁹⁵⁴ Violence has however continued with an attack on a bank in Bandarban in April 2024,⁹⁵⁵ and Bangladeshi security forces killing three militants in Bandarban in November 2024.⁹⁵⁶ The skirmishes and crackdowns on civilians by the Bangladeshi security forces, in their response to the security concerns posed by the KNA,⁹⁵⁷ have reportedly led to the displacement of 4 000 individuals of the Bawm community – one of the smallest indigenous groups in the CHT. There is reportedly a media blackout in the CHT region as it is an area under military control.⁹⁵⁸

Incidents of shelling and firing across the border in clashes between the Myanmar army and armed groups also occurred.⁹⁵⁹ On 5 February 2024, two civilians died as a house in the district

⁹⁴⁶ RULAC, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Conflicts, 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁷ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 29

⁹⁴⁸ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 29; International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Bangladesh, September 2024, January 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴⁹ USDOS, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), section 2.f

⁹⁵⁰ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Bangladesh, July 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁵¹ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Bangladesh, July 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁵² International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Bangladesh, July 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁵³ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Bangladesh, February 2024, 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁴ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 30

⁹⁵⁵ Business Standard (The), Why Kuki-Chin National Front raising tensions in Chittagong Hill Tracts?, 26 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁶ Prothom Alo, 3 KNF militants killed in Bandarab army operations, 24 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁷ AI, Bangladesh: Over 100 Indigenous People Arbitrarily Arrested: Bawm Villagers, 22 May 2024, [url](#); IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁸ IWGIA, Caught in the Crossfire: The Plight of the Bawm Community and Unveiling the Complex Ties Between the Bangladesh Military and the Kuki-Chin National Front, 9 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁹ RFA, Bangladesh, Myanmar border police agree to work jointly against militant groups, 20 November 2022, [url](#); AA, 68 Myanmar border police take refuge in Bangladesh as fighting between junta, rebels intensifies, 5 February 2024, [url](#)

of Bandarban was hit.⁹⁶⁰ Following the change of government there have been reports of local indigenous people clashing with settlers, including mob attacks, leading to deaths and injuries.⁹⁶¹

In a 2024 Global Terrorism Index published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Bangladesh recorded a score deterioration. The country ranked 32nd out of 163 countries (placed in a rank from 1 to 89 places)⁹⁶² in comparison to the 43rd place in the previous edition of the IEP's report.⁹⁶³

Several violent Islamist groups reportedly operate in Bangladesh, including regional groups such as al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and the Islamic State (IS). The former government denied these groups' presence. There are also domestic Islamist groups, with Neo-JMB (an offshoot of the defunct Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), affiliated with IS) and Ansar al-Islam (also known as Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), affiliated with AQ) being the most prominent. A 'wave of terrorism' took place in the early and mid-2010s when several secular bloggers and LGBTIQ activists were killed, culminating in the Holey Artisan Attack in 2016 when 22 people were killed. The previous government launched intense counter-terrorist operations, and alleged Islamic militants were reportedly tortured and forcibly disappeared. The number of terrorist attacks has declined since. Moreover, the war tribunal set up by the former government⁹⁶⁴ convicted and executed several top-leaders of the largest Islamist party in the country, Jamaat e-Islami, in 2013–2016, for war crimes committed during the 1971 independence war.⁹⁶⁵

Following the change of government in Bangladesh, ABT chief Jashimuddin Rahmani was released from prison, having been convicted for the murder of a secular blogger in 2013.⁹⁶⁶ A 'terrorism narrative' has moreover reportedly been used by the former government against individuals and groups in the CHT, *inter alia* to motivate the continued presence of Bangladeshi security forces in the area.⁹⁶⁷

Bangladesh's strategic location is reportedly exploited by cross-border criminal networks involved in drug and arms trafficking.⁹⁶⁸ While drug-related criminal activities are established on the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar, criminal organisations in India set up clandestine

⁹⁶⁰ AP, For the first time, Myanmar forces flee into Bangladesh during fighting with an ethnic armed group, 5 February 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Database, February 2024, 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁶¹ Cultural Survival, Renewed Violence in Chittagong Hill Tracts: Bengali Settlers Target Indigenous Jumma Communities, 24 September 2024, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Clashes Erupt in Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts, 23 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁶² Institute for Economics and Peace. Global Terrorism Index 2024: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism, February 2024, [url](#), pp. 39, 72

⁹⁶³ Institute for Economics and Peace. Global Terrorism Index 2023: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism, March 2023, [url](#), p. 8

⁹⁶⁴ Dawn, Bangladesh arrests top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, 10 October 2017, [url](#)

⁹⁶⁵ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), pp. 26, 31–32

⁹⁶⁶ Print (The), Who is Jashimuddin Rahmani, pro-al-Qaeda chief of Islamist outfit freed by interim Bangladesh govt, 27 August 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁶⁷ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 32

⁹⁶⁸ Husain, T. Cross Border Security Challenges for Bangladesh: A Thematic Analysis. Society and Sustainability, 6 (1), 21-34, [url](#), p. 30

factories along the Bangladeshi border, ‘producing illicit goods such as phenyl, beer, and unlawful small arms and light weapons.’⁹⁶⁹

Human rights situation

During Hasina’s rule, **activists and non-governmental organisations** (NGOs) reported increasing instances of government scrutiny and bureaucratic restrictions and delays.⁹⁷⁰ The media landscape was diverse and growing, but journalists were subjected to self-censorship, intimidation and arbitrary arrests.⁹⁷¹ Arbitrary arrests and surveillance were also imposed on **human rights activists and political dissidents**.⁹⁷² The former government reportedly also made use of enforced disappearance as a tool to suppress dissent and spread fear, and thousands of extrajudicial killings took place.⁹⁷³ In August 2024, UN OHCHR indicated that a number of those arrested during the protests were subjected to ill-treatment and torture while in police custody.⁹⁷⁴ More information on the human rights abuse committed by the former government and state actors is available in section [Legal and political situation – overview](#).

Bangladesh retains the **death penalty** in national law⁹⁷⁵ and enforced it as reported by the local media in 2024.⁹⁷⁶ Capital punishment applies to 33 offences,⁹⁷⁷ including several non-lethal crimes such as rape, and certain drug-related offences.⁹⁷⁸ In 2023, over 248 death sentences were issued and 5 executions were enforced, according to Amnesty International.⁹⁷⁹ Meanwhile, there were at least 2 400 persons on death row by the end of 2023, according to the same source.⁹⁸⁰

Mob violence and public lynching of suspected criminals were reported to take place under the former government,⁹⁸¹ and continued to break out after the interim government took office.⁹⁸² Voice of America (VOA) described a ‘wave of mob violence’ as part of nationwide lawlessness following the change of government including the lynching of a man known for struggling with

⁹⁶⁹ Husain, T. Cross Border Security Challenges for Bangladesh: A Thematic Analysis. *Society and Sustainability*, 6 (1), 21-34, [url](#), p. 30

⁹⁷⁰ USDOS, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), section 2.b

⁹⁷¹ EEAS, EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World, 2023 Country Updates, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 176

⁹⁷² HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁷³ ADPAN et al., Bangladesh, Government must cease enforced disappearances, stop harassment of the victims’ families and hold perpetrators accountable, 29 August 2023, [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, Bangladesh Country Report 2024, 19 March 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁴ UN OHCHR, Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protests and Unrest in Bangladesh, 16 August 2024, [url](#), p. 8

⁹⁷⁵ Bangladesh, The Penal Code 1860, [url](#), art. 53

⁹⁷⁶ Daily Star (The), Rethinking capital punishment in Bangladesh, 22 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁷ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 34

⁹⁷⁸ EEAS, EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World, 2023 Country Updates, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 176; EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 34

⁹⁷⁹ AI, Death penalty, Bangladesh 2023, 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁸⁰ AI, Death sentences and executions 2023, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 21

⁹⁸¹ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 36

⁹⁸² International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

mental health issues accused of theft at University of Dhaka in September 2024.⁹⁸³ Other sources also reported on mob violence surging in Bangladesh, including 21 deaths from mob lynching in 35 days since early August 2024.⁹⁸⁴

Corporal punishment is permitted by law also for children if it is ‘done in good faith for a person under twelve years of age, or of unsound mind’ and committed by a guardian ‘or other person having lawful charge of that person’.⁹⁸⁵ According to UNICEF, ‘9 out of 10 children aged 1-14 years experience violent discipline each month by caregivers.’⁹⁸⁶

Bangladesh’s **prison** conditions were reported as ‘harsh and at times life threatening due to severe overcrowding, inadequate facilities, and physical abuse.’⁹⁸⁷ As of October 2024, the prison population stood at 53 831 inmates,⁹⁸⁸ corresponding to a 125.5 % occupancy level (based on official capacity).⁹⁸⁹ On 23 December 2024, Bangladesh’s interim government formally requested India for the extradition of Hasina.⁹⁹⁰

Specific profiles

The overview below is not an exhaustive list of profiles that may face specific human rights concerns.

Violence against women remains a prevalent issue in Bangladesh.⁹⁹¹ At least 50 % of women in Bangladesh have reportedly experienced physical or sexual violence from men in their lives according to local media.⁹⁹² UN Women reported that incidents of sexual harassment at workplaces and schools remain widespread and normalised.⁹⁹³ According to Human Rights Watch, ‘women and girls in Bangladesh have little recourse to seek protection or access justice’ for crimes related to sexual and gender-based violence.⁹⁹⁴ A local women’s human rights organisation, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, indicated a 27 % increase in cases related to violence against women and children in September 2024.⁹⁹⁵ Lack of government’s action to address a series of incidents of rape and sexual violence against children triggered nationwide student-led protests in February 2025, with protesters demanding ‘stricter law enforcement, the establishment of special tribunals for rape cases, increased police presence and enhanced

⁹⁸³ VOA, Deadly mob violence underscores Bangladesh’s security breakdown, 21 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁸⁴ AA, Why is mob violence surging in Bangladesh?, 25 September 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁸⁵ Bangladesh, The Penal Code 1860, [url](#), art. 89

⁹⁸⁶ UNICEF, 9 out of 10 children in Bangladesh experience violent discipline at home every month, 13 June 2024, 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁸⁷ USDOS, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), section 1.c

⁹⁸⁸ WPB, Bangladesh, 15 October 2024, n.d., [url](#)

⁹⁸⁹ WPB, Bangladesh, 15 October 2024, n.d., [url](#)

⁹⁹⁰ Guardian (The), Bangladesh formally asks India to extradite former PM Sheikh Hasina, 23 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹¹ UN Women, Gender Equality Brief: Bangladesh 2024, 2 May 2024, [url](#), p. 5

⁹⁹² Dhaka Tribune, The nation still failing its women, 25 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹³ UN Women, A step forward for women’s safety in Bangladesh: The push for sexual harassment legislation, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁴ HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁵ Daily Star (The), Violence against women jumps by 27pc in September, 1 October 2024, [url](#)

protection for victims.⁹⁹⁶ In January 2025, the EU and UN Women signed a partnership agreement to prevent sexual and gender-based violence in public spaces, workplaces and tertiary educational institutions in Bangladesh, in support of the Government's National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2018–2030) (NAPVAWC).⁹⁹⁷

Trafficking in human beings is a prevalent issue both for Bangladeshis working abroad, and inside Bangladesh.⁹⁹⁸ Inside Bangladesh, women and girls were trafficked for sexual exploitation,⁹⁹⁹ but sources also reported on women and children being trafficked overseas for the purposes of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.¹⁰⁰⁰ Some of the groups vulnerable to sex trafficking included victims of child marriage and gender-based violence.¹⁰⁰¹ There are laws in place to combat trafficking in human beings, specialised tribunals, and Bangladeshi police also cooperate with INTERPOL on trafficking cases. However, attitudes among police officers, corruption, and social stigma preventing victims from reporting were among related challenges to combat trafficking in human beings.¹⁰⁰² In the 2022 Eurostat data, Bangladesh was ranked as the 4th non-EU country of origin of trafficking victims with a total of 227 registered victims. The same source reported that the majority of Bangladeshis trafficked victims identified in the EU were male.¹⁰⁰³ Bangladeshis were mainly trafficked for labour exploitation with 137 registered victims,¹⁰⁰⁴ followed by other forms of exploitation, including criminal activities, forced begging and removal of organs.¹⁰⁰⁵

LGBTIQ persons face discrimination and harassment. According to a 2023 USDOS report, generalised social stigma regarding sexual orientation was common in Bangladesh¹⁰⁰⁶ while same-sex conduct is criminalised by law.¹⁰⁰⁷ Penalties range from ten years to life in prison,¹⁰⁰⁸ but the law was not actively enforced by Hasina's government, as reported by USDOS.¹⁰⁰⁹ Neither the constitution, nor any domestic anti-discrimination framework identifies sexual orientation or gender identity as prohibited discrimination grounds.¹⁰¹⁰

⁹⁹⁶ Daily Star (The), Sexual violence: Protests flare on campuses, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁷ UN Bangladesh, European Union and UN Women Sign €4.8 Million Agreement to Advance Gender Equality in Bangladesh, 22 January 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁹⁸ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), pp. 21, 54; UN Human Rights Council, Visit to Bangladesh - Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally, 28 April 2023, [url](#), para. 19

⁹⁹⁹ UN Human Rights Council, Visit to Bangladesh - Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally, 28 April 2023, [url](#), para. 19

¹⁰⁰⁰ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰¹ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, June 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰² EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 55

¹⁰⁰³ Eurostat, Eurostat statistics for trafficking in human being in the European Union in 2022, 15 February 2024, pp. 9-10

¹⁰⁰⁴ Eurostat, Eurostat statistics for trafficking in human being in the European Union in 2022, 15 February 2024, p. 4

¹⁰⁰⁵ Eurostat, Eurostat statistics for trafficking in human being in the European Union in 2022, 15 February 2024, pp. 4-5

¹⁰⁰⁶ USDOS, 2023, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), section 6

¹⁰⁰⁷ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), pp. 88, 90

¹⁰⁰⁸ HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁹ USDOS, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh, 22 April 2024, [url](#), section 6

¹⁰¹⁰ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 88

There is however a third gender in Bangladesh, referred to as *hijra*, which can be described as an umbrella term for intersex individuals, castrated men and transwomen.¹⁰¹¹ Based on a 2013 Bangladesh cabinet directive, the government recognised *hijras* as a legal third gender category.¹⁰¹² The precise definition of *hijra* was not provided¹⁰¹³ and the gender recognition has not been reflected in laws and policies.¹⁰¹⁴

According to a report on violence against LGBTIQ persons in 2023, by the Bangladeshi advocacy group JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF), there were 56 incidents of killings, physical assault, suicides, harassment and extortion, with 219 victims in total. The most frequent target were transpersons, accounting for 61 % of the incidents. *Hijras* were also targeted in 5 incidents, which victimised 70 individuals. According to the report, police officers were part of 20 incidents, victimising 54 individuals, and criminal activity targeting the LGBTIQ community often went unpunished.¹⁰¹⁵ Under Hasina's government, organisations and activists advocating for LGBTIQ rights faced legal barriers, limited access to funding, as well as security risks, as reported by CIVICUS.¹⁰¹⁶ LGBTIQ activists were also targets of violence, threats, and murder.¹⁰¹⁷ The only Pride event has been organised online.¹⁰¹⁸

In October 2024, Asian Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA Asia) expressed concern over the interim governments' collaboration with far right and Islamist political parties, that have been part of anti-LGBTIQ movements.¹⁰¹⁹ According to the news website Erasing 76 Crimes, there has been a 'disturbing rise in violence and discrimination against LGBT educators' under the interim government, as its priority of political reorganisation has created a governance vacuum and allowed for 'extremist elements to gain ground'.¹⁰²⁰ In two instances in late 2024, the Islamic University in Kushtia barred educators from teaching due to student protests accusing them of being gay¹⁰²¹ or 'pro-LGBT'.¹⁰²² On 23 January

¹⁰¹¹ Daily Star (The), The twisted plight of Bangladeshi transgender community: A critical error in policymaking, 10 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰¹² HRW, Bangladesh: Gender Recognition Process Spurs Abuse, 23 December 2016, [url](#)

¹⁰¹³ Daily Star (The), The twisted plight of Bangladeshi transgender community: A critical error in policymaking, 10 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁴ BoB, Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh, 44th Session, April 2023, [url](#), p. 6

¹⁰¹⁵ Erasing 76 Crimes, Anti-LGBTQI+ violence rises in Bangladesh, 4 June 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁶ CIVICUS, Bangladesh: 'The legal vulnerability of LGBTQI+ people leads to harassment and discrimination, 4 September 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁷ Outright International, Country Overview: Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#); Lawyers for Lawyers, Statement on the ongoing harassment of lawyer and human rights defender Shahanur Islam, 14 August 2023, [url](#); Erasing 76 Crimes, Anti-gay Bangladesh group seeks ban on LGBT rights activist, 11 July 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁸ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 90

¹⁰¹⁹ ILGA Asia, Bangladesh: Student Protests, Government Transition, and Implications for LGBTIQ Communities, 10 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁰ Erasing 76 Crimes, Commentary: With priority given to political reorganization, social protections falter, 2 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰²¹ Erasing 76 Crimes, Academic in Bangladesh barred from teaching in response to anti-gay protesters, 28 October 2024, [url](#); Voice7 News, IU Students Protest for Permanent Expulsion of Teacher, 29 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰²² Erasing 76 Crimes, Bangladesh school principal fired for being gay, 4 November 2024, [url](#)

2025, a female student was reportedly expelled from the Islamic University, and her female friend was handed over to police after being accused of being a lesbian couple.¹⁰²³

Religious and ethnic minorities often overlap, and although many communities identify as indigenous, Bangladesh does not recognise this concept or any particular rights associated with it.¹⁰²⁴ According to Freedom House, ethnic and religious groups remained underrepresented in politics and state agencies.¹⁰²⁵ According to the EU Election Expert Mission to Bangladesh, indigenous and religious minorities experienced ‘obstacles to full participation in political life, including fear of reprisals and the destruction of their property’.¹⁰²⁶ Attacks against the Hindu minority have been reported during the past decades.¹⁰²⁷ According to a local human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), violence against Hindu minority has increased significantly from 101 reported cases in 2023¹⁰²⁸ to 668 in 2024.¹⁰²⁹ Religious minorities have seen their houses, shops, and places of worship being attacked.¹⁰³⁰ Upon the resignation of Hasina in August 2024, the EU Delegation to Bangladesh expressed concern about ‘reports of multiple attacks against places of worship and members of religious, ethnic and other minorities’.¹⁰³¹ Attacks on Hasina’s supporters, including Hindus, Ahmadi Muslims, and ethnic minorities by rioters were reported.¹⁰³²

According to Human Rights Watch such attacks led to the death of 200 persons.¹⁰³³ Al Jazeera however reported that these deaths occurred ‘across religions’ and many were Awami League supporters and police officials. Al Jazeera noted that several Indian media reports soon after the change of government exaggerated the number of attacks against Hindu targets inside Bangladesh.¹⁰³⁴ Ethnic minorities in the CHT continued to face violence, including mob attacks.¹⁰³⁵ More information on the security situation in the CHT and indigenous communities is available under [Security situation](#).

‘Hundreds’ of members and supporters of the Awami League were arrested by the security forces following the fall of Hasina’s government, based on allegations of taking part in the violence during the July-August 2024 protests.¹⁰³⁶ International Crisis Group further reported that

¹⁰²³ Erasing 76 Crimes, Despite lack of evidence, Bangladesh university ousts two alleged lesbians, 23 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁴ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 82

¹⁰²⁵ Freedom House, Freedom in the World: Bangladesh, 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁶ EU, Election Expert Mission to Bangladesh 2024, Parliamentary Election, 7 January 2024, [url](#), p. 16

¹⁰²⁷ BBC News, ‘There is no law and order. And Hindus are being targeted again’, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁸ ASK, Violence Against Religious Minorities (Jan-Dec 2023), 8 January 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁹ ASK, Violence Against Religious Minorities (Jan-Dec 2024), 31 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁰ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), p. 85

¹⁰³¹ European Union in Bangladesh [X], posted: 6 August 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³² HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³³ HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁴ Al Jazeera, ‘Our lives don’t matter’: Bangladeshi Hindus under stack after Hasin exit, 12 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁵ HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁶ HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#); International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

judges hearing the cases remanded most of them to custody,¹⁰³⁷ but also noted that there had been ‘no massive outpouring or retribution towards Awami League supporters or others associated to Sheikh Hasina’s government’.¹⁰³⁸ Four Awami League leaders had reportedly died in custody in the four-week period until 10 December 2024.¹⁰³⁹ Local media also reported on students beating and handing over Awami League supporters to the police in November 2024, after they were heard chanting slogans supporting Hasina.¹⁰⁴⁰ Journalists seen as being in favour of the former government have also reportedly been arrested.¹⁰⁴¹

Climate-induced displacement - Due to its geographical location, Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change, including seasonal flooding, landslides, and cyclones.¹⁰⁴² Some estimates suggest that disasters triggered the internal displacement of 3.4 million between 2021 and 2023¹⁰⁴³, leading to the rapid growth of informal settlements with precarious living conditions as reported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in February 2024.¹⁰⁴⁴

Legal remedies against human rights violations

Bangladesh has a common law system, which incorporates elements of English common law with Islamic law applying to Bangladeshi Muslims in family and inheritance laws, and Hindu personal law applying to Bangladeshi Hindus and Buddhists.¹⁰⁴⁵ The Supreme Court is the highest instance.¹⁰⁴⁶

As law enforcement was used as a tool for political purposes by the former government, which involved human rights abuse and other irregularities (such as demanding bribes, police officers being involved in robbery, drug trade and rape), there is a lack of trust in police.¹⁰⁴⁷

The courts moreover face capacity issues due to a large backlog of cases, delays in the disposal of cases, and a lack of digital infrastructure. There is an insufficient number of judges in relation to the case backlog and the population size.¹⁰⁴⁸ There are integrity issues such as ‘endemic’ corruption and demanding bribes.¹⁰⁴⁹ According to a 2024 survey carried out by Transparency

¹⁰³⁷ International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁸ International Crisis Group [Youtube], Bangladesh Three Months After Hasina’s Downfall: Opportunities and Challenges, 5 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁹ Daily Star (The), Four AL leader died in Bogura jail custody in last one month, 10 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁰ Bdnews24.com, People chanting ‘Joy Bangla’ slogans beaten, handed over to police, 10 November 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴¹ HRW, World Report 2025, Bangladesh: Events of 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴² EC, ECHO, Bangladesh, 15 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴³ IDMC, Data Portal: Bangladesh 2021-2023, 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁴ GIZ, Integrating persons displaced internally due to climate change in Bangladesh (INTEGRATE), February 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁵ USA, CIA World Factbook – Bangladesh, 30 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁶ Bangladesh, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁷ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), pp. 46-47

¹⁰⁴⁸ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), pp. 48-49

¹⁰⁴⁹ EUAA, Bangladesh – Country Focus, July 2024, [url](#), pp. 50 – 51

International Bangladesh (TIB), judicial services were identified as the fourth most corrupted sector in Bangladesh, with 62.3 % households that received services from this sector being faced with different forms of corruption.¹⁰⁵⁰ Under Hasina's rule, reportedly court costs were an obstacle to access justice,¹⁰⁵¹ including the need to pay bribes.¹⁰⁵² As mentioned, the interim government has formed several commissions that have been tasked with compiling suggestions reforms of the judiciary (including on reducing court fees and case backlogs¹⁰⁵³), the police and the public sector and other sectors by the first two months of 2025.¹⁰⁵⁴ Thereafter the interim government will decide on what reforms are to be enforced before the next election.¹⁰⁵⁵

¹⁰⁵⁰ TIB, Corruption Is Pervasive in Service Sectors, According to the TIB National Household Survey 2023y, 4 December 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵¹ USA, USAID, Assessment of Rule of Law and Justice Sector in Bangladesh, 12 March 2022, [url](#), p. iii

¹⁰⁵² USA, USAID, Assessment of Rule of Law and Justice Sector in Bangladesh, 12 March 2022, [url](#), p. 13

¹⁰⁵³ Dhaka Tribune, Judiciary Reform Commission to focus on reducing litigation costs, 8 October 2024, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁴ ConstitutionNet, Interim government of Bangladesh extends deadline for constitution reform commission, 6 January 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁵ Bdnews24.com, People must decide on short or long-term reform agenda before elections, says Yunus, 24 January 2025, [url](#)

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