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### 3.1.1. Capacity and integrity

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI report Bangladesh - Country Focus](#), the Bangladeshi police force is led by the Inspector General of Police (IGP)[188](#) and is organised into various units based on district, metropolitan area, and specialisation.[189](#) As of early 2024, there were over 200 000 police officers[190](#) but both women[191](#) and minorities were underrepresented.[192](#)

The police faced integrity issues and political influence in selection procedures, favouring candidates aligned with the ruling party for recruitment,[193](#) postings and promotions.[194](#) Influential individuals have also been able to impact crime investigations and their outcome.[195](#) Sources reported on the police lacking equipment and training,[196](#) but there were also integrity issues hampering the implementation of those skills that were available within logistics, human resources, and technology.[197](#) Police officers reportedly demanded bribes to file a report,[198](#) and there were cases of police staff being involved in crimes such as robbery,[199](#) drug trade,[200](#) and rape.[201](#) Disciplinary action was rarely taken,[202](#) and irregularities negatively impacted public trust,[203](#) and deterred many from approaching the police.[204](#) Some surveys suggested that the police was perceived as the least trusted[205](#) and most corrupt public institution.[206](#)

In the absence of a general victim or witness protection mechanism,[207](#) (except for some provisions for victims and witnesses of trafficking in human beings[208](#)) victims, witnesses and their family members have faced threats, harassment and assault by offenders for filing complaints,[209](#) and have refrained from testifying in court fearing for their or their family members' safety.[210](#) In 2023, Arafat Reza Jaan, research associate at the Centre for Peace and Justice at BRAC University, stated that those living in rural areas were particularly discouraged to seek justice due to fear of reprisals from influential community members.[211](#)

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