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4.1. The justice system under the previous government

As reported in the [2024 EUAA COI Report Bangladesh - Country Focus](#), Bangladesh has a common law system.[320](#) The judiciary has been facing capacity issues, including significant backlogs, delays in case disposal,[321](#) and an insufficient number of judges in relation to caseload[322](#) and population size.[323](#) The average time for a judgement from districts courts was six years according to a research study from 2023,[324](#) while some cases could take decades to resolve.[325](#) Integrity issues included a lack of judicial independence stemming from the then government's influence appointments,[326](#) that also judicially harassed the opposition and other dissenting voices.[327](#) There were moreover high rates of corruption within the justice sector, including bribery,[328](#) and a selective justice administration.[329](#) Some sources indicated that it is possible to 'purchase' outcomes of court verdicts.[330](#)

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