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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 caseload322 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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