

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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