



Please cite as: EUAA, '[6.1. Public order, crime and mob violence](#)' in *COI Report - Bangladesh: Country Focus*, August 2025.

6.1. Public order, crime and mob violence

The fall of the former government in August 2024 was followed by nationwide lawlessness⁴⁰⁸ and 'a wave of violent mob attacks'.⁴⁰⁹ Mobs sought revenge and targeted perceived Awami League supporters, as well as their businesses and homes. Members of the Hindu minority also experienced some of these attacks, as well as police staff, being perceived as having aided the former government in enforcing its repressive agenda.⁴¹⁰ Mobs set police stations on fire and beat police officers to death.⁴¹¹ According to TIB, 44 police were killed in 'various violent incidents'.⁴¹² Fearing reprisals, police officers abandoned their posts,⁴¹³ and went into hiding.⁴¹⁴ They left behind a vacuum in law enforcement which opened up for a spike in crime,⁴¹⁵ for example 21 people were reportedly lynched in 11 August–19 September 2024.⁴¹⁶ In order to maintain law and order, the military was granted magistracy powers,⁴¹⁷ which was extended throughout the reference period.⁴¹⁸ This means that military officers holding the rank of captain or higher may, inter alia, conduct arrests and place individuals in custody.⁴¹⁹

Police officers gradually returned to work, and the public unrest following the fall of the previous government had stabilised by November 2024.⁴²⁰ Sources, however, reported on a remaining disruption in law enforcement in 2025,⁴²¹ and some elements of society taking advantage of this gap.⁴²² This has led to a general deterioration of law and order in the country compared to previous years.⁴²³ There was a spike in violent crime and rape in the months following the power shift,⁴²⁴ with the highest rates of mugging and robbery in six years according to police data, as reported by media sources, as well as a sharp increase in abductions. For example, in January 2025, the police received reports of 294 murders (in contrast to 231 during the same month in 2024), 171 robberies (in contrast to 114 in January 2024) and the number of abductions had reportedly more than doubled⁴²⁵ from 51 in January 2024 to 104 in January 2025.⁴²⁶ TIB reported in November 2024 that 600 people had been killed and 10 000 injured since the fall of the previous government, that incidents of theft, robbery, snatching had increased, and noted that vandalism of houses, vehicles, and businesses, including arson and looting, still occurred. TIB further reported on violent unrest in nine prisons across the country, including escapes, protests, casualties, and violence, as well as agitations at some industries leading to the death and disappearance of workers.⁴²⁷

According to the publication *The Diplomat*, reporting in March 2025, '[m]ajor cities and towns have become hotspots for crime, with incidents escalating daily'. The *Diplomat* also quoted the Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier explaining that the rise in crime inter alia was an effect of the release of 2 200 prisoners during protests in July–August 2024 uprising, with 700 remaining at large as of March 2025, including 70 'high-risk criminals'. He further stated that 174 prisoners had been released on bail and were 'operating without any restrictions' due to the lack of surveillance and legal oversight, 'making their presence felt again'.⁴²⁸ Other sources also reported on infamous

criminals being released and resuming criminal activities⁴²⁹ and on criminals obtaining weapons through looting during the protests, which has fuelled violent crime.⁴³⁰ The crime rates have reportedly instilled fear among parts of the public,⁴³¹ and many were reportedly afraid of going outdoors.⁴³²

To tackle the crime wave, the interim government launched the joint military and police operation 'Operation Devil Hunt' on 8 February 2025.⁴³³ Thousands were arrested,⁴³⁴ but crime has reportedly continued 'unabated'.⁴³⁵ Following a wave of muggings in Dhaka causing 'panic',⁴³⁶ and student protests calling for his resignation,⁴³⁷ the Home Affairs Adviser held an emergency conference on 24 February 2025. He addressed the deteriorating law-and-order situation, blamed Awami League supporters for trying to destabilise the country, and pledged to increase police presence.⁴³⁸

Women have been attacked by groups of men in public spaces, and violence against women and girls in general is reportedly on the rise,⁴³⁹ including gang rape.⁴⁴⁰ Cases drawing national attention⁴⁴¹ included the robbery and sexual harassment of women on a moving bus on 24 February 2025.⁴⁴² A witness told local media that a Hindu woman was raped in front of her family, and many other female passengers were bitten in 'their sensitive areas'.⁴⁴³ In another case, which sparked nationwide protests,⁴⁴⁴ an eight-year-old girl was raped by her sister's in-laws in Magura in early March 2025 and later died in hospital.⁴⁴⁵ The houses of the accused were set on fire by a mob.⁴⁴⁶ The police violently dispersed one of the subsequent protests against rape in Dhaka.⁴⁴⁷ On 16 March 2025, Save the Children and four other NGOs held a joint press conference to address the increased violence against girls and the 'recent wave of sexual violence, abuse, rape, murder, and attempted murder in the country'.⁴⁴⁸

Mob violence has continued to break out,⁴⁴⁹ often targeting individuals suspected of crime.⁴⁵⁰ People have, however, been targeted by mobs also for various other reasons, such as political retribution, land disputes, and personal conflicts,⁴⁵¹ and in some instances for seemingly minor acts, for example a woman was beaten to death for 'behaving unusually',⁴⁵² a taxi driver involved in a traffic incident was beaten to death, as well as a man asking two youths to stop smoking in public.⁴⁵³ In April 2025, a human rights activist explained that the perpetrators of mob beatings are not possible to identify, and are not being caught.⁴⁵⁴

Local human rights organisations, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF),⁴⁵⁵ ASK and Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) recorded increased levels of mob beatings. Both ASK and HRSS documented the highest rates of deaths due to mob beatings in a decade.⁴⁵⁶ Both MSF and ASK provided monthly data indicating a sharp increase in mob-related deaths in August 2024, and remaining on higher levels throughout the rest of the year (an average of 19 deaths per month). In contrast, during the first seven months of 2024, MSF and ASK recorded an average of 6 and 5 deaths per month, respectively.⁴⁵⁷ The higher levels of recorded deaths continued in the first months of 2025, with cases peaking anew in March 2025.⁴⁵⁸ MSF recorded 56 deaths this month and referred to it as an 'alarming increase' in mob beatings,⁴⁵⁹ while ASK recorded 20 deaths.⁴⁶⁰ The data on the 2024 annual total also differ as HRSS recorded 173 deaths,⁴⁶¹ MSF 146,⁴⁶² and ASK 128.⁴⁶³

Some protests also turned violent in 2025.⁴⁶⁴ On the night of 5 February 2025, a mob demolished the house of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman⁴⁶⁵ (independent Bangladesh's first president and Hasina's late father).⁴⁶⁶ As Rahman has been viewed as an 'independence icon',⁴⁶⁷ his house was reportedly an important place for Awami League supporters.⁴⁶⁸ The event was triggered by an online speech delivered by Hasina on the same day, from exile in India, in which she discredited the protest movement that caused her downfall and called upon her supporters to stand up against the interim government.⁴⁶⁹ Agitated protesters stormed Rahman's house, armed with sticks,

hammers and other tools, looted the property, set it on fire, and demolished it with a crane and an excavator.[470](#) The house was almost levelled to the ground.[471](#) Netra News reported on the interim government not making any statement or attempt to calm the situation and described the police presence as 'minimal' and 'largely disengaged'.[472](#) The interim government later referred to the event as 'undesirable', but also emphasised that it was triggered by Hasina's speech.[473](#) Hasina's former residence Sudha Sadan was also set on fire and vandalised on the same night,[474](#) as well as homes of other exiled party leaders.[475](#) Over the following two days, similar attacks continued in various locations.[476](#) According to Prothom Alo, at least 33 properties of Awami League leaders were attacked, as well as eight party offices and 50 murals of the Sheikh family,[477](#) in 19 cities.[478](#)

On 7 April 2025, widespread protests against Israel's military campaign in Gaza turned violent in Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Sylhet, Gazipur, Bogura and Cumilla,[479](#) where mobs vandalised brands perceived as associated with Israel, such as Bata, KFC and Pizza Hut.[480](#)

- [408](#)

VOA, Deadly mob violence underscores Bangladesh's security breakdown, 21 September 2024, [url](#); Sharma, P., Rush over trial may be Yunus's way of keeping Hasina out of Bangladesh, 24 November 2024, [url](#)

- [409](#)

Daily Star (The), Insecurity grips city as many police stations deserted, 7 August 2024, [url](#)

- [410](#)

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

- [411](#)

UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), paras. 214-216; HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); Netra News, An eye-witness account from inside Jatrabari Police Station of the last bloodbath, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

- [412](#)

TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8

- [413](#)

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

- [414](#)

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

- [415](#)

HRW, After the Monsoon Revolution, 27 January 2025, [url](#); VOA, Deadly mob violence underscores Bangladesh's security breakdown, 21 September 2024, [url](#); Sharma, P., Rush over trial may be Yunus's way of keeping Hasina out of Bangladesh, 24 November 2024, [url](#)

- [416](#)

Daily Star (The), Lynch mobs acting with impunity, 20 September 2024, [url](#)

- [417](#)

Business Standard (The), Armed forces' magistracy powers extended for third time by 60 more days, 13 March 2025, [url](#)

- [418](#)

Bdnews24.com, Executive magistracy powers for army officers extended for fourth time, 8 May 2025, [url](#)

- [419](#)

Daily Star (The), Armed forces: Magistracy power extended again, 14 March 2025, [url](#)

- [420](#)

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

- [421](#)

Dhaka Tribune, Our law enforcement is getting better, but it must do more, 23 April 2025, [url](#); Hindu (The), Panic persists across Bangladesh as mob violence continues unabated, 22 March 2025, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

- [422](#)

Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); New York Times (The), As Bangladesh Reinvents Itself, Islamist Hard-Liners See an Opening, 3 April 2025, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

- [423](#)

Bonik Barta, Rise in mob violence linked to judicial inaction, 1 April 2025, [url](#); Sharma, P., Rush over trial may be Yunus's way of keeping Hasina out of Bangladesh, 24 November 2024, [url](#)

- [424](#)

Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

- [425](#)

Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

- [426](#)

Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

- [427](#)

TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8

- [428](#)

Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

- [429](#)

TIB, 'New Bangladesh', Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime, 18 November 2024, [url](#), p. 8; Prothom Alo, Top terrors Subrata Bain, Picchi Helal, Killer Abbas, others, active after release, 11 October 2024, [url](#)

- [430](#)

Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

- [431](#)

Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

- [432](#)

Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Diplomat (The), Crime Wave Sweeps Post-Hasina Bangladesh, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

- [433](#)

Dhaka Tribune, What is Operation Devil Hunt?, 9 February 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#)

- [434](#)

Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); New Age, Extortion unabated before Eid, 27 March 2025, [url](#)

- [435](#)

Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); New Age, Extortion unabated before Eid, 27 March 2025, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Expats returning home targeted in rising night robberies on Dhaka-Chattogram Highway, 7 March 2025, [url](#)

- [436](#)

Al Jazeera, 'Gotham but no Batman': Crime grips Bangladesh 6 months after Hasina fled, 4 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Growing unease in the city amid crime spree, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

- [437](#)

Business Standard (The), Home adviser calls emergency briefing on law-and-order situation at 2:30am, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

- [438](#)

Prothom Alo, Awami League's backers trying to destabilise the country, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

- [439](#)

Diplomat (The), Bangladesh Women Rise up Against Increasing Incidents of Rape, 25 March 2025, [url](#); Netra News, Moral policing, vigilante justice, and the persistence of patriarchy, 30 September 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Harassment of women in public spaces on rise, 8 October 2024, [url](#);

- [440](#)

Prothom Alo, Dhaka records 17 gang rape, 216 rape cases in just 7 months, 8 April 2025, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Number of rapes in March over double that in February, 31 March 2025, [url](#)

- [441](#)

Daily Star (The), Crime rates spike, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

- [442](#)

Dhaka Tribune, Case filed over bus robbery on Dhaka-Tangail highway, 21 February 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Police scramble after victim recounts robbery, 'rape' on bus in Tangail, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

- [443](#)

Business Standard (The), Police scramble after victim recounts robbery, 'rape' on bus in Tangail, 24 February 2025, [url](#)

- [444](#)

Hindu (The), Panic persists across Bangladesh as mob violence continues unabated, 22 March 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#)

- [445](#)

Bonik Barta, Court begins proceedings, testimonies on Apr 27, 24 April 2025, [url](#)

- [446](#)

Hindu (The), Panic persists across Bangladesh as mob violence continues unabated, 22 March 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#)

- [447](#)

Prothom Alo, Police charge batons on protesters during anti-rape march, 11 March 2025, [url](#)

- [448](#)

Save the Children, NGOs demand justice over incidents of child rape, abuse, and murder, 16 March 2025, [url](#)

- [449](#)

International Crisis Group, A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, 14 November 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Why can't mob violence be contained, 6 April 2025, [url](#)

- [450](#)

Bonik Barta, Rise in mob violence linked to judicial inaction, 1 April 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Mob justice is not justice, 9 March 2025, [url](#)

- [451](#)

Bonik Barta, Rise in mob violence linked to judicial inaction, 1 April 2025, [url](#)

- [452](#)

Daily Star (The), Mob justice is not justice, 9 March 2025, [url](#)

- [453](#)

Daily Star (The), Why can't mob violence be contained, 6 April 2025, [url](#)

- [454](#)

Bonik Barta, Rise in mob violence linked to judicial inaction, 1 April 2025, [url](#)

- [455](#)

MSF, Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, 31 March 2025, [url](#), p. 9

- [456](#)

Daily Star (The), Mob violence: Causes, consequences, and pathways to justice, 11 April 2025, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating Jan-Dec 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2023), 8 January 2024, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2022), 3 January 2023, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2021), 13 January 2022, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2020), 31 December 2020, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating (Jan-Dec 2019), 6 January 2020, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating : January-December 2018, 14 January 2019, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating : January-December 2017, 17 January 2018, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating : January-December 2016, 8 January 2017, [url](#); ASK, Mob Beating : January-December 2015, 7 January 2016, [url](#)

- [457](#)

ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#); MSF, Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#), p. 5

- [458](#)

MSF, Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report January 2025, 31 January 2025, [url](#), p. 1; MSF, Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, 31 March 2025, [url](#) p. 2; ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, n.d., [url](#)

- [459](#)

MSF, Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report March 2025, 31 March 2025, [url](#), pp. 2, 9

- [460](#)

ASK, Statistics Monthly 2025, n.d., [url](#)

- [461](#)

HRSS, Annual Human Rights Situation In Bangladesh 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#)

- [462](#)

MSF, Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#), p. 5

- [463](#)

ASK, Mob Beating Jan-Dec 2024, 31 December 2024, [url](#)

- [464](#)

Bdnews24.com, Gaza protests: Demonstrators attack Bata, KFC outlets in 6 districts in Bangladesh, 7 April 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters torch family home of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

- [465](#)

Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters torch family home of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

- [466](#)

Benar News, Bangladesh rewrites history, leaves millions of schoolchildren without textbooks, 17 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), New textbooks will say Ziaur Rahman declared independence, 1 January 2025, [url](#)

- [467](#)

Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

- [468](#)

Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

- [469](#)

Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

- [470](#)

Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#); Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

- [471](#)

Al Jazeera, Bangladesh protesters torch family home of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

- [472](#)

Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

- [473](#)

Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Will firmly resist arson, vandalism attempts: govt, 7 February

2025, [url](#)

- [474](#)

Netra News, Government looks the other way as mob tears down Number 32, 6 February 2025, [url](#); Prothom Alo, Dhanmondi 32: People taking away books, iron rods, anything available, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

- [475](#)

Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

- [476](#)

Prothom Alo, BNP tells government to get control of the situation, 7 February 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Sheikh Mujib's mural demolished in Sylhet, 6 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Protesters demolish Mujib's murals, AL offices in different districts, 6 February 2025, [url](#)

- [477](#)

Prothom Alo, BNP tells government to get control of the situation, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

- [478](#)

Al Jazeera, Why a Bangladesh mob burned down home of independence icon Mujibur Rahman, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

- [479](#)

Bdnews24.com, Gaza protests: Demonstrators attack Bata, KFC outlets in 6 districts, 7 April 2025, [url](#)

- [480](#)

Firstpost, Why are Bangladeshis attacking Bata, Pizza Hut, KFC outlets?, 9 April 2025, [url](#); NDTV [YouTube],

Bangladesh Protest News, 8 April 2025, [url](#)