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8.2.2. Violence after the fall of the former government

There is a long history of radical Islamists targeting Hindus and Buddhists in Bangladesh.⁸³⁵ In the aftermath of the former government's fall, there were widespread attacks against Hindu homes, businesses, and places of worship, as well as properties of other minorities.⁸³⁶ Homes and businesses were vandalised, looted and torched.⁸³⁷ Physical assaults also took place and lead to at least one death, according to UN OHCHR.⁸³⁸ Indian state media sensationalised some news on attacks against Hindus,⁸³⁹ and reportedly 'exaggerated' the issue, which⁸⁴⁰ alongside fake news on 'massacres',⁸⁴¹ increased tensions.⁸⁴¹

Many Bangladeshis stereotypically associate Hindus with the Awami League,⁸⁴² and in the aftermath of the former government's fall, most attacks against Hindus were reportedly carried out due to this perceived political connection.⁸⁴³ Nevertheless, UN OHCHR reported on the violence not only being rooted in political biases, but also in religious and ethnic biases in intersecting motives.⁸⁴⁴ Prothom Alo reported on most attacks being carried out during 'victory processions' after the former government's fall.⁸⁴⁵ Some attacks were carried out by local members and supporters of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.⁸⁴⁶ In addition to Hindus, members of the Ahmadiyya community, Christians, and indigenous people experienced attacks,⁸⁴⁷ in overlapping motives such as political revenge, religious and ethnic discrimination, personal disputes and localised communal conflicts. ⁸⁴⁸There were also reports of violent mobs forcing headmasters and teachers to resign,⁸⁴⁹ some of whom were Hindus.⁸⁵⁰ According to a minority rights organisation, at least 49 minority teachers had been forced to resign as of 31 August 2024. 19 of them had been reinstated.⁸⁵¹

In 2024, ASK recorded 147 incidents of violence against religious minorities,⁸⁵² and, most incidents (81) occurred in August.⁸⁵³ This month, hundreds of homes and businesses were attacked, leaving two people dead and 44 injured. Hindus faced most attacks (against 168 homes, 96 business centres and 6 places of worship, two deaths and 20 injured), but the Ahmadiyya community also faced violent attacks (against 156 homes, 6 places of worship and 22 people injured). Moreover, ASK recorded attacks against properties of Christians and indigenous people.⁸⁵⁴ Other sources, however, reported on a larger number of attacks in the aftermath of the former government's fall.⁸⁵⁵ The Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Unity Council reported 1 769 attacks and acts of vandalism against minorities taking place in the

period 4–20 August 2024. The police investigated these cases and stated that the majority (1 234 cases) had a political background.[856](#) Prothom Alo mapped violence in the period 5–20 August 2024 and reported on at least 1 068 homes and businesses of the Hindu minority being damaged, and 22 places of worship being attacked. In at least 506 instances, the owner of an attacked property had been involved in Awami League politics. Most attacks were reported in Khulna Division, where at least 295 homes and businesses were destroyed, but attacks took place across the country, in places such as Rangpur, Mymensing, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet. Prothom Alo also recorded two deaths of Hindus, and described how two Hindu men had been beaten and killed in two separate incidents.[857](#) UN OHCHR reported that most attacks took place in rural and ‘historically tense’ areas such as Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, and Dinajpur, but also reported on incidents taking place in Sylhet, Khulna and Rangpur, and on attacks against places of worship of Hindu, Ahmaddiyya, Buddhist and Christian communities taking place ‘across several regions’ in 5–15 August 2024.[858](#) Local minority groups reported even more incidents (at least 2 000), as well as nine people of minority communities being killed in communal violence in August 2024.[859](#) Netra News investigated the nine alleged killings and reported that there was not a clear religious motive behind them.[860](#) There were also reports of several Sufi shrines being vandalised in the aftermath of the former government’s fall[862](#) and such attacks have reportedly continued with 80 shrines being vandalised by Islamic fundamentalists as of January 2025, according to the Global Sufi Organisation.[863](#)

In response to the violence, the interim government increased security around Hindu temples and neighbourhoods.[864](#) Nevertheless, Hindus interviewed by UN OHCHR and media described a persistent feeling of insecurity.[865](#) Hindus have been protesting in several large demonstrations in different parts of the country, including in Dhaka, demanding protective minority laws, a ministry for minorities, and a special tribunal to handle ‘acts of oppression’ against minorities.[866](#) Meanwhile, TIB reported on a lack of ‘effective initiatives to identify, verify, and investigate allegations of violence against religious minorities, indigenous people, marginalized communities, and those with dissenting opinions.’[867](#) On 22 May 2025, a village of a Hindu minority group (Matua) was looted and torched by four men, following the killing of a local leader of a BNP wing (Krishak Dal) by unknown assailants. Despite police presence, the village’s male inhabitants reportedly went into hiding after the attack.[868](#)

In the period September–December 2024, the monthly average of incidents of religious violence recorded by ASK decreased to about 10 events (from 81 in August), and all incidents targeted Hindus, except for the death of one Ahmadiyya person in November 2024 and 17 indigenous homes being attacked in one incident in December 2024.[869](#) A Hindu representative of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness stated in December 2024 that the situation had improved and referred to the interim government as cooperative.[870](#) In January–April 2025, ASK recorded between one and three instances of religious violence each month.[871](#) Odhakar reported on two attacks against a Sufi shrine in Mymensingh on 8 January 2025 and an attack carried out by Jamaat-e-Islami against homes of Hizb-ut-Tahrir members in Rangpur on 25 February 2025.[872](#)

Anti-Indian and anti-Hindu sentiments have reportedly intensified,[873](#) as Hasina fled to India and as India has expressed concern of Hindu community's security in Bangladesh.[874](#) Tensions intensified further as a Hindu monk was arrested in November 2024,[875](#) on sedition charges for 'insulting' the Bangladeshi flag during a protest action in Chattogram. [876](#)As he was denied bail on 26 November 2024,[877](#) hundreds of his supporters clashed with security forces, causing the death of a Muslim lawyer.[878](#) Indian politicians expressed concern after the event,[879](#) and the Bangladeshi consulate in the Indian state of Tripura was attacked by protesters.[880](#) The consulate attack sparked anti-India protests across Bangladesh.[881](#) The monk was denied bail again on 2 January 2025.[882](#) The hearing was reportedly held 'amid tight security' with heavy security personnel around the court building.[883](#) As of May 2025, 40 people had reportedly been arrested in connection to the violence on 26 November 2024.[884](#)

More information on minorities is available in section [6.3. Chittagong Hill Tracts](#).

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