

8.3.2. Treatment of journalists and media workers

Under the former government, the media landscape was diverse and growing, but journalists were subjected to intimidation and arbitrary arrests, and many resorted to self-censorship.[931](#)

Furthermore, as reported by Freedom House, 'attacks on media workers were enabled by a climate of impunity'[932](#) and other sources indicated that journalists and media outlets criticising the then government were targeted by it as well as by its supporters.[933](#) Journalists had criminal cases launched against them under repressive laws such as the 2018 Digital Security Act (DSA),[934](#) and later the 2023 CSA[935](#) – that have been replaced with the 2025 Cyber Security Ordinance[936](#) as outlined above. In May 2025, the head of the Media Reform Commission however criticised the 'growing climate of fear and self-censorship in the media, fuelled by threats on social media and orchestrated 'mob violence' stating that while the government is supposed to 'strictly control' such behaviour, 'little progress is evident'.[937](#)

During the protests in July–August 2024, journalists were targeted by police, ruling party supporters and protesters.[938](#) In the period 15 July–5 August 2024, at least six journalists were killed and 200 were injured, according to UN OHCHR.[939](#) According to Amnesty International, female journalists stated that they were targeted by the police, groups affiliated with the Awami League, and protesters for their coverage of July–August 2024 protests.[940](#) After the interim government assumed power in August 2024, sources reported on continued attacks against journalists[941](#) by police,[942](#) BNP supporters,[943](#) and mobs.[944](#)

On 7 October 2024, the interim government formed an eight-member committee to monitor harassment cases against journalists.[945](#) On 18 November 2024, the interim government announced the formation of the 11-member Media Reform Commission, with a senior journalist as its chief.[946](#) The Commission submitted its report to the interim government in late March 2025,[947](#) with recommendations to improve the quality of journalism and its independence, including by a minimum starting salary for journalists and restrictions on media ownership.[948](#)

Between late October 2024 and early November 2024, the interim government's Press Information Department revoked the credentials of 167 journalists.[949](#) The revocation was criticised by press groups,[950](#) including Reporters Without Borders (RSF) that stated that it

'encourages self-censorship' and is 'incomprehensible.'⁹⁵¹ In April 2025, three TV journalists were terminated from their respective media organisations⁹⁵² due to alleged lack of professionalism while interviewing a government official, as stated by Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media (BJIM), who implied that the dismissals were retributive.⁹⁵³

Sources reported on journalists perceived as supportive of the former prime minister being arrested in criminal cases.⁹⁵⁴ In August 2024, over 24 journalists were charged with crimes against humanity for the death of a protester in July 2024.⁹⁵⁵ In September 2024, a case was filed by a private citizen against 28 journalists from Chattogram for allegedly attempted abduction, assault, and publishing 'fake news' during the student protests.⁹⁵⁶ In November 2024, RSF reported on nearly 140 journalists accused of allegedly killing protesters which RSF described as '[e]xtremely grave but baseless accusations.'⁹⁵⁷ In April 2025, BJIM expressed concern over Dhaka Metropolitan Police issuing a summon letter to a journalist who was investigating police corruption.⁹⁵⁸

In 2024, local human rights organisation ASK recorded 531 cases of harassment of journalists⁹⁵⁹ with the majority of cases taking place in July–September.⁹⁶⁰ In January–June 2025, ASK recorded 196 cases,⁹⁶¹ in contrast to the same period the previous year when 145 cases were recorded by the organisation.⁹⁶² In February 2025, human rights organisations including BJIM, IFJ, RSF, and CPJ reported on the rise in violence against journalists since the beginning of the month.⁹⁶³ In March 2025, local sources reported on a gang-rape of a female journalist.⁹⁶⁴ Article 19 referred to the attack as characterising of a general increase in violence against women and girls in Bangladesh.⁹⁶⁵ More information on women and girls is available in section [8.4. Women and girls.](#)

- [931](#)

EEAS, EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World, 2023 Country Updates, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 176

- [932](#)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh, 2025, [url](#)

- [933](#)

HRW, Bangladesh: End Crackdown Against Journalists and Critics, 3 May 2023, [url](#); AI, Bangladesh: Press freedom under attack with largest daily newspaper declared an 'enemy' by the Government, 14 April 2023, [url](#)

- [934](#)

Dhaka Tribune, Paris-based Bangladeshi writer Pinaki Bhattacharya sued under DSA, 17 November 2022, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Bangladesh: Türk urges immediate suspension of Digital

Security Act as media crackdown continues, 31 March 2023, [url](#);

- [935](#)

CGS, From Digital to Cyber Security Act: Thoughts of the Politicians, 1 March 2024, [url](#)

- [936](#)

BSS, Govt issues gazette of Cyber Security Ordinance, 22 May 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Cyber security laws in Bangladesh: The ties that bind our past and present, 11 June 2025, [url](#)

- [937](#)

Daily Star (The), Media reform chief decries attacks on journalists, 4 May 2025, [url](#)

- [938](#)

CIVICUS, Bangladesh: Brutal crackdown on quota reform protesters by security forces and ruling party youth wing, 25 July 2024, [url](#); CPJ, CPJ urges Bangladesh to protect journalists as protests oust PM, 5 August 2024, [url](#); RSF, Political crisis in Bangladesh: RSF calls on the interim government to protect journalists, 9 August 2024, [url](#); UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), pp. 48-49

- [939](#)

UN OHCHR, Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh, 12 February 2025, [url](#), p. 48

- [940](#)

AI, The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2025, 28 April 2025, [url](#), p. 92

- [941](#)

IFJ, Bangladesh: Attacks on journalists continue amid ongoing violence, 22 November 2024, [url](#); ICFJ, ijnet, Amid power reshuffle in Bangladesh, journalists remain under attack, 14 April 2025, [url](#)

- [942](#)

BJIM, BJIM condemns police attack on photojournalist in Dhaka, 17 January 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BJIM condemns police brutality on 5 journos, 10 February 2025, [url](#)

- [943](#)

New Age, 3 journalists injured by BNP activists at SC, 6 February 2025, [url](#); New Age, Journalist beaten by BNP leader in Thakurgaon, 27 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Thakurgaon BNP expels leader for assaulting journo, 26 February 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), BNP leader sued for assaulting journalist in Thakurgaon, 26 February 2025, [url](#)

- [944](#)

New Age, Four journalists injured in attack for publishing news, 3 February 2025, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Media self-censoring amid mob violence, intimidation, says Kamal Ahmed, 17 May 2025, [url](#)

- [945](#)

Daily Star (The), Govt forms committee to monitor harassment cases against journoes, 7 October 2024, [url](#); Bdnews24.com, Information ministry forms 8-strong panel to monitor 'harassment cases' against journalists, 8 October 2024, [url](#)

- [946](#)

Daily Star (The), Govt forms 11-member media reform commission, 18 November 2024, [url](#); Business Standard (The), 11-member mass media reform commission formed, 18 November 2024, [url](#)

- [947](#)

Business Standard (The), Media Reform Commission's recommendations to be implemented for journalists' benefit: Adviser Mahfuj, 22 March 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Media Reform Commission submits report to chief adviser, 22 March 2025, [url](#)

- [948](#)

Business Standard (The), Media Reform Recommendations: Better pay and ownership control sound good on paper. But how do you implement it?, 26 March 2025, [url](#)

- [949](#)

AP, Rights groups condemn Bangladesh for canceling accreditation of 167 journalists, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

- [950](#)

Business Standard (The), In Bangladesh 2.0, state of journalism remains far from ideal, 3 May 2025, [url](#); JMBF, JMBF Strongly Condemns the Recent Cancellation of Press Accreditation Cards for 167 Journalists by the Interim Government of Bangladesh, 10 November 2024, [url](#); Women Press Freedom, Bangladesh: Revoking Press Accreditations of Bangladeshi Journalists is an Attack on Press Freedom, 7 November 2024, [url](#)

- [951](#)

Business Standard (The), In Bangladesh 2.0, state of journalism remains far from ideal, 3 May 2025, [url](#)

- [952](#)

BJIM, BJIM expresses deep concern over TV journalists 'dismissals', 29 April 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Govt had no role in wrongful termination of 3 journos: CA Deputy Press Secy, 2 May 2025, [url](#)

- [953](#)

BJIM, BJIM expresses deep concern over TV journalists 'dismissals', 29 April 2025, [url](#)

- [954](#)

DW, Bangladesh: Journalists supportive of ex-PM Hasina targeted, 14 October 2024, [url](#); CPJ, Journalists supportive of ousted Bangladesh leader targeted with arrest, criminal cases, 19 September 2024, [url](#)

- [955](#)

Daily Star (The), Crimes against humanity: Hasina, over two dozen journos sued in ICT case, 29 August 2024, [url](#); RSF, Bangladesh: RSF condemns the outrageous charges of crimes against humanity brought against at least 25 journalists, 30 August 2024, [url](#)

- [956](#)

Daily Star (The), 109 including ex-info minister, 28 journos sued, 4 September 2024, [url](#)

- [957](#)

RSF, More press freedom violations in Bangladesh although panel created to monitor harassment of journalists, 12 November 2024, [url](#)

- [958](#)

BJIM, BJIM condemns police summoning journalist over corruption report, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

- [959](#)

ASK, Journalist Harassment (Jan-Dec 2024), 31 December 2024, [url](#)

- [960](#)

ASK, Statistics Monthly 2024, n.d., [url](#)

- [961](#)

ASK, Journalist Harassment (Jan-June 2025), 10 July 2025, [url](#)

- [962](#)

ASK, Journalist Harassment (Jan-June 2024), 8 July 2024, [url](#)

- [963](#)

BJIM, BJIM Condemns Armed Attacks on Journalists in Bangladesh, 4 February 2025, [url](#); IFJ, Bangladesh: Four assaults on journalists within a week, 11 February 2025, [url](#); RSF, Bangladesh: violent attacks on journalists are surging — the government must take action, 14 February 2025, [url](#); CPJ, Bangladesh journalists face threats from attacks, investigations, and looming cyber laws, 17 February 2025, [url](#)

- [964](#)

Bdnews24.com, Journalist 'gang-raped' in Dhaka's Pallabi, 2 arrested, 19 March 2025, [url](#); Dhaka Tribune, Female journalist hospitalized following gang-rape in Pallab, 19 March 2025, [url](#)

- [965](#)

Article 19, Bangladesh: Authorities must investigate rape of woman journalist urgently, 19 March 2025, [url](#)