



**BANGLADESH HINDU PERSECUTION
REPORT
August 2023**

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Table of Contents

Overview for August 2023	3
Featured Incidents	6

In 2023, the plight of minorities in Bangladesh continued to worsen, with Hindus and indigenous tribal populations facing acts of aggression such as abuse, looting, destruction, kidnapping, rape, murder, eviction, and coerced conversion to Islam. This report provides an overview of the incidents compiled by Sriti o Chetona (SoC) from public information (including photos) that are available on social media and newspapers. This report provides an overview of the atrocities committed or reported against these communities in Bangladesh in August 2023.

Overview

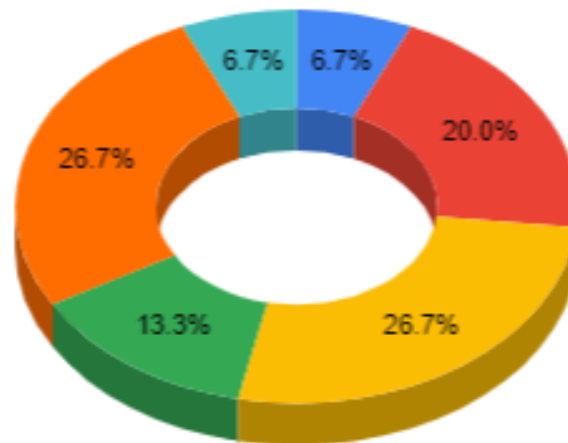
In this report, we analyzed the incidents of persecution primarily by following metrics:

- Persecution category (collated by SoC team)
- Geographical division,
- Victim's social group (individual, family, community)

In addition to the above-mentioned metrics, we will also look into the data by religious belief, gender and age of the victims.

The top categories for August 2023 are “Murder / Mass murder” (26.7%), “Abduction / Kidnapping” (26.7%), “Physical assault / torture / beating” (20%) and “Molestation / Rape / Gang Rape” (13.3%)

Persecution By Category





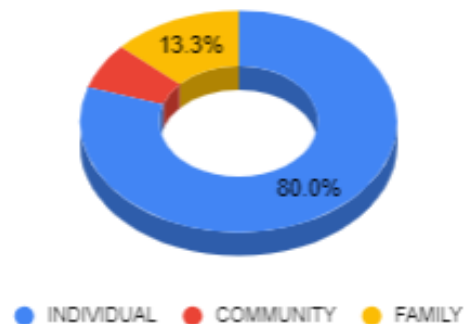
Chittagong division in the south-east adjacent to Myanmar and the Indian state of Tripura, has the highest number of incidents, accounting for almost three-fourth of the incidents followed by Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka

This trend is similar to the last six months, with Chittagong ranking in top couple of spots for persecution incidents. This trend can be due to highest percentage of Hindus (16.65%) in the country (overall 7.95%)

When data is analyzed by the victim's social group, the attacks on temples and other community properties or general anti-hindu slurs, mass threat for conversion, expulsion from the country and abuse are considered affecting the whole community, which accounts for 6.7% of the victim group.

Most of the individual victims faced abduction, rape and forced conversion in case of women and accusation of blasphemy, physical assault, murder in case of men. Individual men and women consist of 80% of the victims.

Persecution By Victim Group



When we analyze data by age, most of the minors are females facing rape and forced abduction for conversion and rape. We reported the case of 13-year-old Oishy Saha in July 2023. She was found in a hospital for excessive bleeding from sexual intercourse. She was kidnapped on May 22, 2023 and her adult kidnapper Kamarul had converted her to Islam, married her and established sexual relationship. The Islamic religious leaders continue to condone rape of minors by actively performing conversion and nikah (islamic marriage) of minors. In August 2023, another case of minor girl Oishy Banik made headlines when she was returned to her family and Muslims are demanding she be returned to the community and not her parents, as a “new Muslim” she can’t be returned to her non-Muslim family.

Looking into data by gender, the female victims outnumber male victims by 2:1. The type of persecution varied between males and females. The vast majority of the persecution incidents are targeted against Hindus, Buddhists and indigenous people. Christians, liberal Muslims and atheists are also targeted, albeit less in number, possibly due to smaller demographics.

Featured Incidents

At Sriti O Chetona we strive to cover as many stories as possible. However, due to lack of resources we are not able to cover each and every incident. Only a handful of the occurrences get published. The section contains a selection of the news reports on the persecution of minorities that the SoC team compiled in August 2023.

Noakhali: Hindu minor girl Oishy Banik converted to Islam

August 2023: On 22nd June 2023, a Hindu minor girl, Oishy Banik was converted to Islam in Begumganj, Noakhali District. Her Islamic name was Sadiya Akhter Urmi. She was also recorded to be an adult in her conversion documents.

On 15th July, 2023 she was sent to her parents by the police. Muslim community accused her of being forced by her family to possibly re-convert to her parent’s faith. They said that in her conversion document it was stated she was an adult and she converted to Islam willingly. Muslims said that article 41-1A of Bangladesh constitution gives her fundamental right to practice her chosen faith and they want her to stay away from her birth family to ensure she continues to practice Islamic faith. This incident has created a lot of uproar in the society and might lead to disputes and clashes among the two communities.



Khulna: U-17 Khulna soccer player Mangali Bagchi attacked for defending her Muslim teammate wearing shorts during game

August 2023: When girls belonging to Super Queen Football Academy were practicing, a lady named Nupur Khatun took a picture of a Muslim player, Sadia Nasrin and sent it to her family accusing her of un-Islamic and vulgar clothing. When Sadia confronted the family who took the picture, she was beaten up. The mother of the accused taunted, "You will play in shorts and we can't comment?" ("তুমি হাফপ্যান্ট পরে ফুটবল খেলবা আর আমরা সেটা নিয়ে কিছু বলতে পারবো না!")

The next day Sadia, her family and teammate Mangali went to the accused Nupur's home again to confront why she was beaten by them. The family of the accused hit Sadia's mother and when Mangali tried to prevent it, the father of the accused hit her on the head with an iron rod. When Mangali lost consciousness, the accused family took her inside the house and tied her up. Sadia sought help from the local football club and was able to get her friend released and provide adequate medical help at Batiaghata Upazila Health Complex.

Another team member Jui Mandal said the accused family threatened them with false accusations of attack and set fire to their homes. Sadia has filed a police complaint against Nupur (22), her mother and father Nur Alam.



Injured Mangali Bagchi



Female soccer players from Super Queen Football Academy

Narail: Radhaballav Biswas murdered in a clash while harvesting crops

August 2023: Salam Sheikh and Radhaballav Biswas had a dispute over the farm where the latter grew jute. Sheikh claims he purchased the land from Biswas' family members while Biswas claimed Sheikh was encroaching and trying to forcibly evict him. When the Biswas family tried to harvest the crop, they were attacked with sharp weapons by family members of Sheikh.. Sixteen people were injured including family members of both Sheikh and Biswas. Later Radhaballav Biswas died in the hospital.



The deceased Radhaballav Biswas

Pirojpur: Tumpa Roy (26) gang-raped in an abandoned house by four miscreants

August 2023: On 24th August, the victim had rented a ride with Mohammed Imran. The perpetrator, instead of dropping her in her destination, took her to a lonely abandoned house and held her captive. He then called three more accomplices, Muhammad Sohag Mir(34), Amin Khan(40) and Muhammad Rakib Shikdar(25). All four accused repeatedly raped her, and left her bleeding by the roadside.

Locals found the victim and had her admitted to the hospital. Later, the victim filed a complaint against the perpetrators in Pirojpur Sadar Police Station. Later the case was transferred to Rapid Action Battalion (RAB). On 26th August, RAB arrested the main accused Mohammed Imran from Barisal. The other three perpetrators are still absconding.



Mohammed Imran arrested from Barisal

Chittagong: Minor Hindu boy Sayan Das (13) found dead, his Muslim girlfriend's family suspected of murder

August 2023: Body of Sayan Das, a 7th grade student of Haji Mohammad Mohsin School in Chittagong City was found in Karnafuli river on 31st August 2023. Two days earlier, his father had filed a complaint of him not returning home from school in the local Bakalia police station.

On the day of his disappearance, from CCTV footage, Sayan was found to be talking with a girl and a woman wearing fully covered clothing. He later went with them. Sources say he had a relationship with a Muslim girl student from his school. It is accused that family members of his Muslim girlfriend had murdered him and thrown his body in the river, as the relationship between a Muslim girl and Hindu boy is not accepted in Muslim faith. Police are awaiting the autopsy report to ascertain the cause of death.



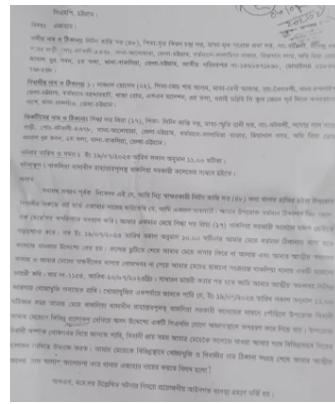
Sayan Das was found conversing with two women before his disappearance

Chittagong: Multiple cases of abduction, rape and conversion of Hindu women and minor girls

August 2023: Police recovered minor Hindu girl Snigdha Datta(17) on August 9th and arrested her abductor Sajjad Hossain. The victim was abducted in front of her college on 19th July 2023 and her father had filed the police complaint in Bakalia police station the next day. Initially the police were unwilling to file an FIR. After the demand and intervention, police filed the FIR on 3rd August that eventually led to the recovery of the victim and arrest of the perpetrator from the Hathazari. During the time of her



Perpetrator Sajjad Hossain

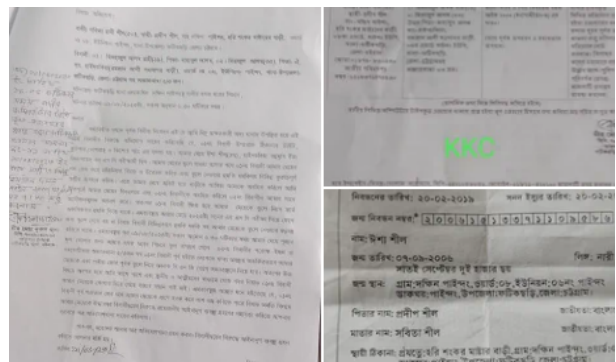


FIR filed by Snigdha's family

In another abduction incident, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) recovered minor Hindu girl Isha Shil and arrested the perpetrator Minhajul Alam Rahi (18) and his two accomplices. Isha was missing from 9th August 2023 from her home in Paidong, under Fatikchori PS in Chittagong. Her mother Sabita Shil filed a police report on the same day and the victim was recovered after two days.



Perpetrator Minhajul Alam Rahi



FIR filed by Isha's family



A 5th grade minor girl (11) in Nandankanan Paharika Girls' School was abducted by Muhammad Manjurul Islam(34) on 12th August 2023. The accused taught religion in the same school. He abducted the victim from the streets and took her to a hotel in the Bandarban area. The girl's family filed a police complaint on 12th August in Kotwali Police Station and police were able to arrest the perpetrator immediately by tracking his mobile phone.

Chittagong: Physical assault on Hindu woman Mukta Rani in Sandwip

Mukta Rani Das, a widowed mother of two minor children (4th and 7th grade) from Swandip was severely beaten by her neighbor Mohammed Musharaf and Shahin. According to the eyewitnesses, Mukta and Musharaf are neighbors and got involved in altercations. The accused's wife said this was the first time the families had any conflict.

Local political leaders did not intervene when the victim had complained. However, he sought to diffuse the conflict when Musharaf requested remediation. This incident of abuse only became known when someone posted picture of injured Mukta in social media



Mukta Rani showing her injuries

Rajshahi: Woman physically assaulted for declining sexual relationship

August 2023: Chitra Rani Bhowmik(40), a healthcare worker in Kadwa Community Clinic in Pabna district was physically assaulted by Abdul Motin Hussain (38), s/o Akram Hossain from Kadwa village. According to the victim, the perpetrator used to harass her regularly to establish a sexual relationship with him. After the victim repeatedly denied his advances, he physically assaulted her at her workplace on 30th July 2023. When the victim's daughter Arpita Bhowmik tried to help her mother, the accused physically assaulted the daughter also and threatened both

of them that he will make sure they can't stay in the village. The injured victim was admitted to Sujanagar Upazila Health Complex. She said, "Motin frequently came to the community health center and proposed me to be in illicit sexual relationship with him. I refused. He tortured me, beat me." She filed a police report against the accused in Sujanager police Station on August 2nd 2023. The perpetrator was absconding at the time of this report.

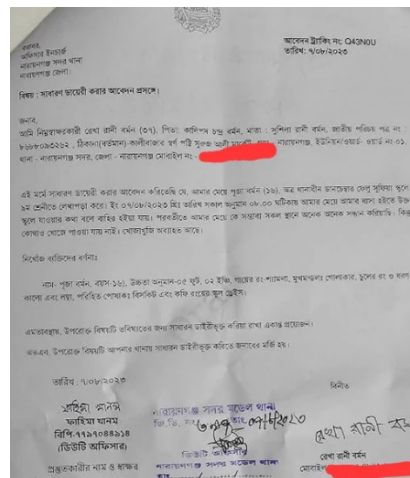


Accused Abdul Motin, who was a patient of the victim and sexually harassed her in her workplace

Dhaka: Hindu minor girl Puja Rani Barman feared kidnapped

August 2023: A minor Hindu girl, Puja Rani Barman (13) is missing from 7th August 2023. She is from Narayanganj town, Ward-01.

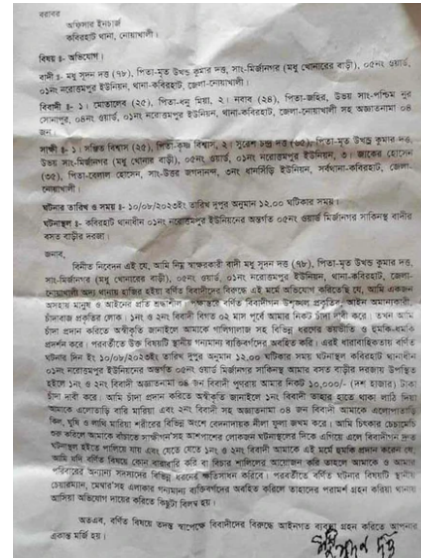
Her mother Rekha Rani Barman has filed a complaint in Narayanganj Police Station on the day of her disappearance. Her parents said she might have been kidnapped, a fear prevalent among parents of minority girls as number of kidnapping, conversion to Islam, rape and marriage is on the rise



Report filed in Narayanganj PS for Puja's disappearance

Chittagong: Hindu family assaulted for not paying extortion money

August 2023: Madhusudan Datta (78) and his son from Mirzanagar village, Kabirhat, Noakhali district were assaulted on 10th August 2023 for not paying extortion money of BDT 10,000 (USD 100). In his complaint to the police Mr Datta accused Motaleb Mian, Nawab Mian and four others of beating up the father and son. The victim in his report accused Motaleb and Nawad for threatening him for extortion money for a long period of time. He also mentioned that the accused threatened them of grave consequences if the money was not paid.



Injured Madusudan Datta, his son and the police report filed by him

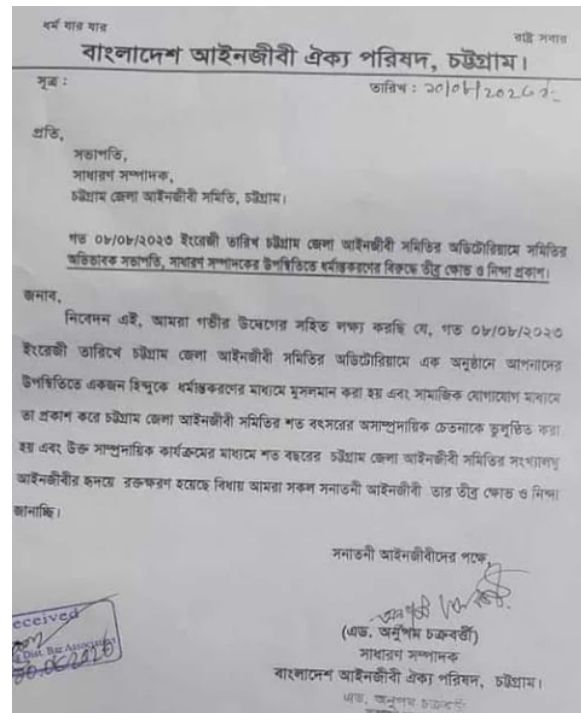
Rajshahi: Amrit Roy (32) killed while trying to defend female family member from sexual assault

August 2023: Amrit Roy (32) from Gabtali upazila in Bogra district was lynched to death by Rifat Islam(17), his father Enamul Haque and other associates. The minor Rifat attempted to sexually assault a woman in Amit's family while she was working in her home. Hearing her cries, Amit caught Rifat and demanded remediation with the locals before letting the perpetrator free. Rifat's father Enamul Haque and his associates lynched Amrit and freed her son. Amrit Roy died on the way to the hospital. The accused Rifat and his father Enamul have been arrested.



Chittagong: A religious minority man publicly converted to Islam by members belonging to local lawyers forum

August 2023: A Hindu man was converted to Islam on 8th August 2023 by senior officials of Chittagong District Lawyers Forum at an event held in the Lawyers Forum Auditorium. Several minority organizations and law body "Bangladesh Ainjibi Oikyo Parishad, Chattogram" opposed the incident which they accused of promoting communalism by a secular legal organization.



Memo by "Bangladesh Ainjibi Oikyo Parishad, Chattogram" protesting the public display of communalism by a secular legal organization

Online: Religious bigotry and misogyny in social media posts by Bangladeshi national team cricket player Ranzim Hasan Sakib

Recently a series of social media posts by Bangladeshi cricketer Sakib became viral. His posts (English and Bengali) since 2022 promote misogyny, Hinduphobia and intolerance. He proudly calls Hindus "kafir" and encourages Muslims not to partake in Hindu celebrations. It is indeed strange that left liberal western media choose to ignore misogyny, homophobia, religious bigotry in Muslim majority countries for the sake of diversity. We appeal to the media to have similar yardsticks for everyone, irrespective of nationality. If such comments by a western athlete is condemned, Sakib should also be condemned for hateful posts.

Some examples of the content from his posts are shared below:

Post from Sep 9 2022: "If the wife works, the husband's rights are not fulfilled, if the wife works, the children's rights are not fulfilled, if the wife works, her charm is lost, if the wife works, the family is destroyed, if the wife works, the veil is ruined, if the wife works, the society is destroyed."

Tanzim Hasan Sakib  30 Sep 2022 · 

আপনার ধর্ম আপনাদের জন্য আর আমার ধর্ম আমার জন্য



আম্ব না পূজা দেখতে যাই!
অনেক মজা হবে আম্ব

উমার ইবনুল খাতাব (রা.) বলেছেন,
'তোমরা কাফির-মুশরিকদের উপস্থানলয়ে
আদের উৎসবের দিনগুলোতে প্রবেশ করো না।
কারণ সেই সময় তাদের ওপর আল্লাহর
পষব নাযিল হতে থাকে।'
[আবদুর রাযযাক, আলমুমুসায়েফ : ১৬০৯]



ইমানিয়াহ! জাযকিয়াহ হাইরান
আমিও আর যাবো না



Tanzim Hasan Sakib  • [Follow](#)

Sep 9, 2022 · 

স্ত্রী চাকরী করলে স্বামীর হক আদায় হয়না,
স্ত্রী চাকরী করলে সন্তানের হক আদায় হয়না,
স্ত্রী চাকরী করলে তার কমনীয়তা নষ্ট হয়,
স্ত্রী চাকরী করলে পরিবার ধ্বংস হয়,
স্ত্রী চাকরী করলে পর্দা নষ্ট হয়,
স্ত্রী চাকরী করলে সমাজ নষ্ট হয়।



Sriti O Chetona stands for 'memories and consciousness' - memories of the once vibrant Hindu life and culture in East Bengal and the consciousness about the present plight of Hindus in Bangladesh. Sriti O Chetona is a not for profit project that regularly monitors and reports the ongoing incidents of persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh.

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