



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY, PLURALISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REPORT ON **BANGLADESH MINORITIES UNDER SIEGE**

A WAKE UP CALL FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



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About CDPHR



Introduction

Centre for Democracy, Pluralism and Human Rights (CDPHR) is an organisation broadly working in the area of human rights. Our motto is- equality, dignity and justice for every individual on this planet. We are committed to advocate upholding values of democracy and pluralism for a conducive environment for equality, dignity and justice. We endeavour to voice out human rights violations of individuals, groups and communities so as ultimately viable solutions maybe worked on. We dream of a world that accepts pluralistic ways of life, tradition and worship through democratic means and practices.

Vision

CDPHR envisions an equitable and inclusive society based on dignity, justice, liberty, freedom, trust, hope, peace, prosperity and adherence to law of land. We believe that multiple sections of societies are deprived of basic human rights and violation of their social, political, economic, religious and developmental rights is a sad reality. We consider that advocacy, education and intervention are required from multiple fronts to ensure an all-inclusive and just society.

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Methodology

The report is based on CDPHR's partnered field investigations, news reports, fact-finding reports by minority organizations in Bangladesh and global media sources. The use of these diverse sources was done to triangulate the evidence of the happenings after the quota related protests began and atrocities leashed against minorities and political opponents through authenticated data. In this regard, CDPHR especially partnered with some Bangladeshi human rights activists who collected and confirmed the reports of atrocities. Due to security reasons, CDPHR cannot disclose their identity as these activists face considerable risks. These activists were contacted by phone and with their consent the data they collected has been added to the report. Throughout this process of collection of data and report compilation, these local activists remained in touch with the CDPHR team.

In the case of local and global news sources, the CDPHR team verified the authenticity of the news reports before using them. To improve the authenticity of data, no single news organisation was relied upon, and diverse mainstream sources were used to verify the accounts.

Historical data was collected by looking at reports from other human rights organisations, data from Bangladeshi government websites, and scholarly articles. The historical data was important to look at the larger historical pattern of anti-minority and anti-Hindu violence in the country. This *longue durée* approach was useful in the part where the future of minorities has been explicated.

Executive Summary

The illegal ouster of democratically elected Sheikh Hasina's on August 5, 2024 triggered an alarming resurgence of violence against minorities, particularly Hindus.

The CDPHR Ground Report exposes the horrors within the first four days of Hasina's resignation: 190 cases of looting and vandalism, 32 homes burned post-loot, eight instances of illegal land and temple occupation, 16 temple desecrations, two abductions, two rapes, and two murders. Further, on August 6 alone, reportedly around 200 Hindu homes and businesses were vandalized, and 15-20 temples were looted and destroyed. By August 20, around 2,010 incidents of violence, including desecration of 69 temples and attacks on 157 Hindu families were recorded by different Human Rights Organisations.

As Md. Yunus (Chief Advisor) led Interim Government on 8th August sworn in, it was hoped that the anarchy on streets will be controlled by the new government apparatus but this hope never came to fruition and violence against Minorities continued unabated. In the social contract between the state and the individual, a state is entrusted with the responsibility of protecting individual rights. But what happens when the state itself becomes the violator, actively eliminating its citizens? This horrifying reality is what minorities in Bangladesh are enduring under the illegitimate government. Yunus administration has institutionalized state-sponsored and state-enabled victimisation of minorities and political dissenters, charting a path disturbingly similar to that of Afghanistan and Pakistan in curbing the political dissent and erasing minority populations.

As reported by ground level organisations from August to October, anti-quota protests left 33,000 injured and 818 dead. Additionally, 477 cases of violence against women and children, 96 attacks on journalists, and 146 minority houses vandalized have been documented. Mob violence has resulted in 63 deaths and 45 injuries within just three months.

Open Genocide Calls with genocidal slogans like “Ekta ekta hindhu dhor, dhore dhore jobai kor” (Catch Every Hindu, Slaughter Them) have been normalised. Atrocities against minorities extend to horrifying personal violations. A Hindu woman, in the supposed safety of her home, was attacked by 35 masked radicals who looted her house before taking turns to rape her. On October 12, a journalist in Mymensingh district was hanged to death because of his Hindu identity. The destruction of 3,000 handmade musical instruments and the torching of a 140-year-old heritage house reveal the radicals' utter contempt for anything outside their Islamist worldview.

Voices of resistance, like Chinmoy Krishna Das, who dared to organize minorities, have been silenced through state-backed persecution. Das was jailed, and the 70 lawyers defending him faced death threats, forcing them to withdraw from their professional duties. For minorities, life has become a nightmare of fear and trauma. Incidents such as the forced resignation of a Hindu Vice-Chancellor, the public assault on 15-year-old Utsav Mondal on fabricated blasphemy charges, and the lynching of a Hindu policeman underscore the complete breakdown of protection for minorities.

Despite Yunus's claims of inflated reports and misinformation campaigns by India, his lies were exposed globally on December 10 when his press secretary, Shafiqul Alam, admitted to 88 incidents of targeted communal violence, primarily against Hindus. Also, his shameful statement that these deaths were of Awami League supporters exposes his Islamist mindset where dissenters do not have human rights. These undeniable facts highlight the utter failure of the Yunus administration to ensure the safety and rights of Bangladesh's minorities.

Chief Advisor to an Interim (Nay, Islamist) Government: Leading/Supporting the Pogrom Against Minorities

Md. Yunus, once hailed as a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, has turned enabler for radical Islamists. Not only has he legitimized these extremist factions by including them in his interim government, but the police and military, instead of acting as protectors, have become complicit in atrocities. The doctrine of jihad, promoted by extremist groups like Jamaat-e-Islami, seeks to establish an Islamic state by targeting minorities and enforcing Sharia law. Attorney General Mohammad Asazzam's statement advocating the removal of secular and Bengali nationalism from the constitution symbolizes this regressive shift, aligning with efforts to radicalize society. Reports reveal coercion of destitute Hindus to join Jamaat-e-Islami in Kalmati Ward and children being indoctrinated through revised, Sharia-compliant textbooks.

The government's complicity in fostering extremism is evident in its actions. Radical figures like Mamunul Haq and Jashimuddin Rahmani have been released and empowered. The judiciary has been weaponized to punish minorities and dissenters under the guise of sedition laws, furthering the state's Islamist agenda. Cultural erasure is rampant, with historical symbols of secularism, such as statues and images of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, removed from public spaces and currency. Incidents like the desecration of Hindu temples and violent cow slaughter on university premises reflect growing intolerance, often backed by state inaction. The systematic persecution of minorities, particularly Hindus, paints a grim picture. Over 10,000 Hindu temples have been vandalized, women subjected to rape and forced conversions, and economic

marginalization institutionalized. Reports highlight mobs savaging Hindu neighbourhoods, while the army and police either turn a blind eye or actively participate. Hate speech and violence on campuses have become common, with students raising militant black flags and calling for the banning of Hindu festivals. Veena Sikri, a former Indian Ambassador to Bangladesh, underscores the broader ambitions of radical groups like Hizbut Tahrir and Hifazat-e-Islam to pursue Gazwa-e-Hind, highlighting the existential threat to regional stability.

Deinstitutionalisation of Minorities

During these four months, the interim government under Muhammad Yunusepitomised a catastrophic failure in protecting minority rights, marked by blatant complicity and systematic exclusion. Rather than upholding democratic ideals, the administration presided over one of the most regressive periods for minorities in Bangladesh, deliberately enabling their de-institutionalisation. The mass resignation of 49 Hindu teachers and the dismissal of 252 trainee sub-inspectors under fabricated pretexts were not mere administrative lapses but calculated purges aimed at erasing minority representation in key sectors.

The desecration of temples, extortion demands during Durga Puja, and systemic attacks on Hindu cultural symbols reveal a chilling strategy of cultural erasure. The theft of a gold crown from the Jeshoreshwari Kali Temple and the vandalism of historic temples like those in Khulna highlight the government's inability or unwillingness to safeguard minority heritage. These actions were compounded by a government that failed to act against over 2,000 communal violence incidents, resulting in deaths, sexual assaults, and the displacement of 1,705 families. And these are only reported cases and many go unreported in hinterlands due to fear psychosis unleashed by Islamists.

Economic sabotage further cemented minority exclusion, with fraudulent land grabs displacing entire communities, such as the 25 Hindu families in Sylhet. The sedition charges against 19 Hindus for raising a saffron flag and the violent crackdown in Hazari Gali underline a deliberate targeting of minorities under the guise of maintaining order.

Yunus's government not only failed to protect minorities but actively contributed to their disenfranchisement. Its apathy toward addressing these injustices, coupled with inflammatory statements by Muhammad Yunus such as equating Hindus with Awami League supporters, reflects a disturbing normalisation of institutional bias. This period remains a damaging indictment of Bangladesh's commitment to secularism, demanding immediate accountability and systemic reform. Anything less would be an endorsement of oppression and a betrayal of the nation's pluralistic ideals.

The Dark Days Under Yunus Regime: Reminiscences of the 1971 Genocide

Bangladesh under the Yunus regime has become a cauldron of extremism, lawlessness, and terror. The calculated release of hardcore terrorists 144 militants and criminals, coupled with the Narsingdi jailbreak that freed over 900 prisoners, signals a deliberate strategy to empower jihadist groups like Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Ansar Al Islam. These moves have stoked violence and fostered chaos, eroded democratic values and paved the way for authoritarian control. Hindus, already marginalized, now face ethnic cleansing reminiscent of the 1971 genocide. This is no mere sectarian violence; it is a coordinated effort to erase Hindus from Bangladesh's social fabric.

The Yunus regime's alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami - infamous for its collaboration with Pakistani forces in 1971- has reignited the spectre of those dark days. Attacks on Hindu temples, such as the savaging of a Mandir in Sunamganj by a Muslim mob, and the arrest of Hindu leaders like Chinmoy Krishna Das on fabricated sedition charges, highlight the state's complicity in these atrocities. Even the military, instead of safeguarding minorities, has been accused of participating in the violence. Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations turned into bloodbaths, and law enforcement, rather than intervening, looted Hindu businesses during incidents like the Hazari Line attack. The state-sponsored persecution of Hindus, masquerading as internal governance, exposes the regime's blatant disregard for human rights and justice.

Why South Asia and South East Asia Should Not Remain Silent and Inactive?

Critical movements in history of nations require timely support and action, however, inaction of the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh including India and Myanmar may prove detrimental to their geopolitical and security interests.

The political upheaval in Bangladesh, marked by the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government, has unleashed far-reaching implications across South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Indo-Pacific. Bangladesh's strategic position, controlling access to the Bay of Bengal and critical ports, places it at the centre of a geopolitical contest. The Yunus-led interim government, with its tacit support for radicalization, has destabilized the nation internally and created severe security challenges for its neighbours. Events like the jailbreak of 2,241 inmates, including 88 death-row convicts tied to extremist groups like Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), highlight the escalating threat. Extremists, emboldened by the government's actions, are inciting violence against minorities and destabilizing regions like India's Northeast and Myanmar, exacerbating already volatile conditions. For India, it also opens another launch pad for cross-border terrorist activities apart from Kashmir. Sheikh Hasina's allegations of Western designs to create a Christian-dominated 'Zo' state in the region add another dimension to the ongoing crisis.

Why is Global Majority Silent on the Persecution of Global Minority?

The ethnic cleansing of Hindus in Bangladesh has revealed the glaring hypocrisy of global human rights institutions and international powers. While Western nations and media outlets like Al Jazeera amplify issues concerning Muslim and Christian communities in conflict zones like Gaza and Myanmar, they remain conspicuously silent about the systemic atrocities faced by Hindus in Bangladesh. Despite credible reports of violence, forced displacement, and legal persecution of Hindus, organizations like the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have failed to act decisively. The OHCHR's recent fact-finding mission to Bangladesh excluded incidents beyond August 15, 2024, neglecting overwhelming evidence of continued violence.

The West's selective outrage underscores its prioritization of political and economic interests over universal human rights. The Biden administration, which sanctioned Myanmar over its treatment of Rohingyas, has ignored the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh. This aligns with the entrenched U.S. “deep state” policy that values geopolitical leverage in South Asia over addressing humanitarian crises. Meanwhile, Hindu genocide in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and now Bangladesh has been met with indifference, treating global minorities like Hindus with contempt. The apathy of the international community emboldens perpetrators, bringing Bangladesh closer to complete Islamization and erasing its minority communities.

Future of Minorities in Bangladesh: Hostage in Their 'Own' State

The latest round of atrocities is nothing but a continuation of the project that began with the Pakistan formation: the creation of two nations with minorities held hostage in the Muslim majority province. Hindu bodies and society have been a site for contestation ever since. This latest round is not an aberration but a rule. Because Hindus come under attack whenever there is unrest in the country, it is logical to ask a simple but pertinent question about their future: what is the future of Hindu minorities in the country?

The actions of the interim government so far reveal that the violent trend against minorities is only going to hasten in the coming future. Within less than five months of their rule, they have pandered to Islamists of every hue and colour. Firstly, extremist Hefazat leader has been declared as the religious advisor in the country. Hefazat is an extremist movement that has protested in the country for their 13-point demands that include blasphemy laws, Pakistan-style anti-Ahmadiyya laws and the reduction of the role of women in public affairs. Secondly, the interim government released a terrorist from Ansarullah Bangla, convicted in the murder of a secular blogger, Jashimuddin Rahmani on parole. Pandering of such extremists along with others reveals the true nature of the interim government of Muhammad Yunus. Minorities can never be safe in a government that is accommodating such extremists. Finally, the ban against the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing the

Chhatra Shibir, with their long and well-documented history of violent attacks against minorities and secularists, has been approved.

The trajectory of 'new' Bangladesh looks very dark for the religious minority in the country. With only 8 percent of minorities left, this government appears to be orchestrating a complete erasure of these communities. Concrete actions are urgently required to prevent further atrocities.

Recommendations

United Nations and International Human Rights Organizations

1. Understand the Gravity of Rights Violations in Bangladesh and Establish a Special Commission:

Form an investigative body to document atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh since August 2024, culminating in a comprehensive white paper for global accountability.

2. Fact-Finding Missions: Expand the scope of missions to address ongoing and potential future atrocities, ensuring transparency and justice.

3. Deploy Peacekeeping Missions: Send peacekeeping forces to protect minorities in Bangladesh, as survival without external intervention is increasingly impossible.

4. Impose Sanctions: Target individuals and organizations within the Bangladeshi government complicit in the violence, and implement punitive measures to deter future violations.

Bangladesh Interim Government

1. Maintain the Secular Character of the Constitution: Against Islamist onslaught on the Constitution, Bangladesh Government must protect the secular tenets of the Constitution to protect the rights of minorities.

2. Honour the International Treaties and Maintain the Dignity of Noble Prize: Bangladesh has signed several UN and other international treaties for the protection of women, minorities and political and civil rights, it must honour these by upholding these. Dr. Yunus must uphold the values associated with the Noble Prize, and if he is unable to do so, he must surrender the accolade.

3. Cease Support for Extremist and Punish Perpetrators: Reinstating bans on extremists organizations like Jamaat-e-Islami and Ansarullah Bangla is crucial to breaking the cycle of violence. Bring all individuals responsible for violence against minorities to justice through fair trials.

4. Restore Rights and Representation: Reinstate minorities to government positions and educational institutions, ensure reparations for destroyed temples, and guarantee safe environments for religious and cultural gatherings.

5. Promote Political and Civil Harmony: Foster a secure, inclusive environment to uphold the rights of all citizens, irrespective of their religion or ethnicity.

Western Nations (USA and European Union)

- 1. Legislative Condemnation:** Pass resolutions highlighting the ethnic cleansing of Hindus, emphasizing the disparity in global responses compared to communities like Rohingyas and Palestinians.
- 2. Suspend Non-Humanitarian Aid:** Halt aid to the Yunus-led government until meaningful actions are taken to protect minorities and end extremist violence.
- 3. Demand UN Intervention:** Advocate for UN punitive actions, including economic sanctions, if the atrocities against minorities persist.

India, If Not India Then Who Else?

- 1. Ensure safety of Hindus in their own civilizational land:** Indian Government act before its too late for the Bangladeshi Minorities.
- 2. Apply Diplomatic Pressure:** Exert robust diplomatic influence to demand the protection of minorities and cessation of violence.
- 3. Implement Economic Sanctions:** Consider punitive measures, such as an essential goods blockade, against the Yunus regime if it fails to act.
- 4. Strengthen Border Security:** Bolster measures to prevent illegal migration and curb criminal activities arising from Bangladesh's turmoil.
- 5. Support Refugees:** Develop a comprehensive refugee policy to assist and resettle displaced minorities, reinforcing India's civilizational duty.

Global Media

- 1. Ethical Reporting:** Ensure accurate and unbiased coverage of the atrocities in Bangladesh, emphasizing the religious and ethnic targeting of minorities.
- 2. Counter Misinformation:** Actively debunk false narratives and highlight the systemic violence being ignored by global powers.
- 3. Amplify Minority Voices:** Create platforms to showcase the plight and resilience of persecuted communities, urging global accountability.

International Civil Society

- 1. Advocacy Campaigns:** Launch global initiatives to highlight the atrocities and rally international pressure against the Yunus regime.
- 2. Support Human Rights Efforts:** Collaborate with local organizations to provide aid and document the injustices faced by minorities.

3. Call for Global Action: Mobilize public opinion to push for international interventions, ensuring justice and equality in Bangladesh.

4. Global Majority must Act on the persecution of Global Minorities: The global religious majority like Christians and Muslims must support the for the fundamental rights of the Hindus and Jains in Bangladesh. Their religious superiority must not support the calls for the genocide of the religious and ethnic minorities of Bangladesh.

These demands reflect the urgency of the situation in Bangladesh, where systematic marginalization and violence against minorities are reaching genocidal proportions. The international community must act decisively to prevent further atrocities and restore democracy and pluralism in Bangladesh.

Silence is no longer an option!!!

As the anti-quota protests turned violent in Bangladesh after the ouster of the democratically elected President, Sheikh Hasina, mayhem was let loose in the entire country. The situation became extremely scary for Awami League leaders and workers. Killings happened, properties were torched, and fear spread in the air. However, Bangladesh's religious and ethnic minorities bore the brunt of the entire situation as they have always been at the receiving end of the Islamists historically. The post-5th August mayhem was no different. Our team focussed on the atrocities inflicted on minorities in the aftermath of the ouster and fleeing of Sheikh Hasina.

1.1 Persecution of Minorities in the Failed State of Bangladesh Under the Observation of its Chief

Advisor, Md. Yunus

1.1.1 Division-wise Ground Report of Violence against Minorities

Hindus being the major minority in Bangladesh, were the target of the Islamists post-5th August. CDPHR collaborated with the Hindu rights activists in Bangladesh who documented the district-wise instances of attacks against the minorities between August 5th to August 9th.¹

Note: This is only a division-wise tabulation of attacks, vandalisation, looting and burning of temples, houses and properties. It can certainly be elaborated by doing more micro-survey of the country. Also, the list excludes the details of sexual violence and killing of minority Hindus.

Table 1: Division-wise Ground Report of Cases of Atrocities against Minorities (5th Aug - 9th Aug 2024)								
	Barisal	Chattogram	Dhaka	Mymensingh	Khulna	Rajshahi	Rangpur	Sylhet
Attacked/Injured	3	9	14	10	7	4	10	1
Houses Looted/ Vandalised	8	43	55	35	20	8	19	2
Houses Arsoned	-	5	20	3	4	-	-	-
Temples Desecrated	-	6	6	2	-	-	2	-
Abduction	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rape	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killed	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Land Grabbing	-	2	4	1	-	-	1	-

Source: CDPHR Report on Hijacked Students Protest and Havoc on Minorities in Bangladesh, 2024²

The 64 districts of Bangladesh are grouped and administered under 8 divisions namely Barisal, Chattogram, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet. According to the Ground Report collected majority of the cases of attacks on Hindus, their houses, shops and temples occurred in Chattogram, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna and Rangpur divisions. Most affected districts were Sherpur, Mymensingh, Noakhali, Khulna, Jashore, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Tangail and Rajbari.³

According to the CDPHR Division-wise Ground Report showed in Table 1, just within 4 days of Sheikh Hasina's resignation there were about 190 cases of looting and vandalising of Hindu houses and shops, about 32 cases of burning those houses after the loot, 8 cases of illegally occupying lands of Hindus and their temples. About 16 cases of reported temple loot and desecration. There were 2 incidents of abduction, 2 of rape of Hindu women, and killing of 2 men, one of which was a Hindu policeman who was brutally murdered in public and hung from a tree in Jashore on August 5.

Under the Interim Government formed on August 8th, led by Md. Yunus there was yet increase in targeted attacks on minorities in Bangladesh especially on Hindus who are the major minority. The Nobel Peace Prize winner of 2006, Yunus, has failed to maintain communal peace within Bangladesh. Apart from the gruesome persecution of minorities, there have been an attempt to silence the voice of pro-minority journalists and advocates. In a passage of these 4 months (August 5 – December 5) numerous innocent lives have been lost, houses of minorities looted and vandalised, Hindu temples desecrated, Hindu women molested, abducted, raped, and murdered. Despite reported atrocities on minorities in Bangladesh by the media, there is a lack of agency to curb such attacks in the part of Yunus' Interim Government. The minorities of Bangladesh are being denied basic human rights, living in constant fear and chaos, hopeless and forsaken by even the International Human Rights Organisations who have failed to restore harmony in the region. Bangladesh is a failed state, like Hitler's Nazi Germany. Islamists are carrying out a genocide against Hindus while the Interim Government has turned a blind eye towards it. These incidents are attributed to religious intolerance but are disguised as political retaliation, as many Hindus were aligned with Hasina's Awami League, a party known for its secular stance. Yunus himself has been in convenient denial mode in accepting the failure of his 'government' in stopping atrocities on minorities. Rather, he has termed them as inflated reporting of cases and miscreation of India, when gruesome images, videos and news have kept emerging from the country.

The data of atrocities and mayhem during the rule of the Interim government headed by Yunus has been gathered by CDPHR. The organisation has also analysed the data provided by other organisations and through statistics, the lies of the current power regime in Bangladesh have been exposed.

Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF), a Human Rights Organisation in Bangladesh, in its monthly Human Rights Situation Monitoring Reports from August to October have presented the dire situation of minorities, and complete failure of law enforcement agencies and the Interim Government to uphold the rule of law.⁴ A month-wise summary of MSF's Human Rights report on Bangladesh is given in the forthcoming pages of the report.

In August 2024, there have been several incidents of attacks on the homes of minorities and attacks on their places of worship. According to media reports, such incidents have taken place in 37 districts which pose a serious threat to the safety of minorities. There have been 12 incidents of arson attacks on the religious minority Hindu community. On the other hand, in 129 incidents, houses, temples were looted and vandalized. Ahmadiyya Mosque, Jamia (Theological School) and Jalsa Gah (Annual Conference Ground) of Ahmadiyya community in Panchagarh, their worship places at Taraganj of Rangpur and houses, business establishments of Ahmadiyya community at Shyamnagar of Satkhira have also been vandalized, arson and premises and land occupied, injuring 20 people.⁵

In September 2024, there were 9 incidents of persecution of religious minorities and 1 incident of persecution of ethnic minorities. A total of 10 incidents occurred. There have been incidents of vandalising murtis of Hindu deities, attempts to grab property and land, attacks, and demands for extortion. In the reported attacks on tribals, 5 people were killed, and at least 60 were injured in Khagrachari and Rangamati, firing, burning of houses and businesses. Also, 86 shops were burnt, according to the Dighinala Upazila administration. 55 of them are hilly, 31 are Bengalis. Apart from this, 26 shops belonging to minorities were vandalised.⁶

In October 2024, there were 22 cases of persecution of religious minorities and 1 of persecution of ethnic minorities. 12 cases of vandalizing idols and shrines of orthodox religious minorities, 2 cases of attempt and attack to occupy property and land, 1 case of extortion, 3 minorities arrested for insulting the Prophet on social media, 1 case of performing Islamic songs in a Hindu Puja mandap, 2 cases of theft and a woman being killed in miscreants attacked at the residence of a Sanatan Dharmabalambi took place.⁷

Table 2: MSF Bangladesh Human Rights Situation Monitoring Report (July 24 – October 24)

Subject	Type	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Anti-Discrimination Student Related Programs	Arrested	2856	1254 (Approx)	-	-
	injured	6700(Approx)	26300(Approx)	-	6
	killed	253	556	7	2
Ex-government sued over killings and violence after government collapse	Case	-	268	238	1092
	Defendant (named)	-	26264	19283(Approx)	12180(Approx)
	Defendant (unknown)	-	168555	30235(Approx)	15799(Approx)
Political violence	injured	29	195	619	412
	killed	4	9	5	12
Law enforcement agencies	Death in Custody	1	-	3	-
	Injured by torture	-	1	2	-
	Death while fleeing in fear	-	1	-	1
Violence against journalists	Torture, Assault, Injury, Threats and harassment	21	37	27	32
Use and Misuse of Digital/Cyber Security Act	Case	4	2	6	3
	Arrested	1	1	3	7
	Accused	7	10	126	55
Minority oppression	Idol vandalism	1	11	15	12
	Houses vandalized	-	118	26	2
	Attack/Set Fire	-	3	86	3
	Killed	-	-	5	2
	Injured	-	20	60	2
Violence against women and children	Rape	41	19	35	51
	Gang rape	13	8	9	15
	Rape and murder	1	2	2	1
	Attempt to rape	15	9	14	16
	Sexual Harassment	18	13	15	12
	Physical torture	22	14	25	29
	Acid attack	1	-	-	1
	murder	67	41	62	84
Mass Beating	killed	4	20	24	19
	injured	2	4	22	19

Source: CDPHR Analysis based on Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation(MSF)^{8 9 10}

1.1.2 District-wise Cases of Violence against Minorities

CDPHR collaborated with the Hindu rights activists in Bangladesh who documented the district-wise instances of attacks against the minorities between August 5th to August 9th.¹¹

Note: This is only a district-wise instances of attacks, vandalisation, looting and burning of temples, houses and properties. It can certainly be elaborated by doing more micro-survey of the country. Also, the list excludes the details of sexual violence and killing of minority Hindus.

August 5:

A Hindu leader, Shri Sumon, was attacked at Sribordi Upazila, Sherpur. The fanatics looted all belongings from his house.

Shri Shymol Kumar Das and Shri Sajan Kumar Das, from Haisgati, Rupsha, Sherpur, were attacked. The mobs looted all belongings and set fire to their houses.

Shri Biman Bihari and Animesh Sarkar Rintu from Tutpara, Khulna, were attacked, their houses demolished, and belongings looted. They managed to save their lives.

Shri Jayanto Gain, a local union parishad member from Dakop, Banishantar, Khulna, was attacked and injured. His house and property were demolished.

In Kaiyra, Daspara, Khulna, a Hindu village was attacked, houses demolished, and belongings looted.

Fani Durga Mandir was attacked and destroyed by mobs.

In Fultala, Dinajpur, a temple land was grabbed by local Muslims.

In Parbotipur, Dinajpur, fanatics destroyed five mandirs and injured Hindu people.

In Satabgonj, Bochagonj, Dinajpur, a Hindu village was attacked, and belongings looted.

In Dhallah, Chirirbandar, Thana No. 09, a Hindu village was attacked and looted.

Dr. Dipok Saha from Norshindi, Kalibari area, was attacked by fanatic mobs who also looted several Hindu families.

Shri Goutom Saka from Chandragonj, Lakmipur, was attacked, and his house was looted. He was injured.

Shri Nukul Kumar and Sushanta Das from Village Agarpur, Kuliachor, Kishorgonj, were attacked.

Muslims attacked the Hindu village and looted it.

Shri Ujjal Chakrabarty from Rausan, Chittagong, was attacked and injured, his house looted.

In village Dhopadi, Palpara, Avainagar, three Hindu families were attacked, and their belongings looted.

On August 6, 7, 8 and 9th August 2024:

- Shri Tapash Kanti Datta from Bajalia, South Chittagong, was attacked and injured. Mobs looted his house.
- Engineer Likhan Das was attacked, his pharmacy shop demolished and looted by fanatics.
- Shri Sourab Nath from Baskhali, Chittagong, was attacked and his computer shop looted.
- Shri Kaja Kanti Lod from Potenga, Chittagong, was attacked. Two Hindu villages, including Sadar Chakbazaar, were attacked and looted.

DINASPUR

- Seventeen Hindu families were attacked, including Shri Debashish Bhattachiya, Bikash Chakrabarty, and Sanjib Biswas, who are in critical condition. The fanatic mobs demolished mandirs and looted all belongings.
- In Village Gouripur, Mymensingh, Prodip Debnath was attacked and his shops were demolished. In Tarakanda, Mymensingh Sadar, two Hindu villages were attacked and looted.

BOGRA

- In Bhabanipur Shaktipith, Pirgacha, Madhupur, Shibgonj, several Hindu villages were attacked and looted, injuring many Hindu families.

FARIDPUR

- In Krishnapur, Gangamari Sadar, Madhukhali, fanatic mobs with local sharp weapons attacked three Hindu villages, injuring people and looting all belongings

PIROZPUR

- In Rayerkathi, Gopalpur, Pirojpur Sadar, Nasirpur, and Sriram Kathi, four Hindu villages were attacked, injuring several people, including Shri Narayan Ray Chowdhury, Gopal Chandra Basu, and Dilip Kumar Midha, who are in critical condition. The mobs demolished establishments and looted houses.

JESSORE

- In Manirampur, Kasabpur, Avoyanagar, Bagharpara, and Jhikargacha, several Hindu families were attacked. Mobs looted and set fire to houses and Hindu businesses.
- On August 5, the Army Chief made a grave mistake for the Hindus by repeatedly legitimizing Jamaat and influencing violence in his brief speech. He stated that the army would not use bullets, which emboldened the mobs. It is in this context, a Hindu police officer sought shelter but was taken away from an army van and openly killed, then hanged on a tree by the mobs.

DHAKA

- Extremists forcefully captured three shops of Shri Sanjoy Ghosh beside the Laxmi-Narayan Temple at Surapur area.
- Attacked, vandalised, looted the Kali Temple at Khilgaon Nandipara as well as nearest Hindu minorities houses, shops and properties.
- Fundamentalists and extremists are threatening more than 50 Hindu families around the Shiv temple in Tanti Bazaar area.
- Severely Vandalised, looted the gold shops and pharmacy of Shri Gopal Rajbongsheet, 71 No. Ward under Mughda Police Station.
- Severely Vandalised, looted the shops and houses of Hindu minorities at Rajarbag under Sobujbagh Police Station.
- Vandalised the house and properties of Ms. Deepali Chakrovarty who is leader of Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian Unity Council at Dha Shri area.
- Fundamentalists are threatening Shri Maniklal Chowdhury in the area of Baily Road.

NARAYANGANJ

- Vandalised and looted the house and properties of Shri Ashok Sarker at Kashipur, Fatullah area in Narayanganj.
- Vandalised, looted and torched the house and properties of Shri Makhon Chandra Sarker who is President of Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) at Bhullar, Fatullah in Narayanganj District.
- Vandalised, looted and torched the house and properties of Dr. Ram Chandro at Araihaazar Upazila in Narayanganj District.
- Vandalised, looted and torched the house and properties of Shri Sujon Saha at Araihaazar Upazila in Narayanganj District.
- Vandalised, looted and torched the house and properties of Shri Gonesh Paul at Rupganj Upazila in Narayanganj District.
- Vandalised, looted and torched the house and properties of Sree Moti Sima who is an advisor of the Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council in Narayanganj District.

MUNSHIEANJ

- Vandalised and looted a temple, house, and properties of Sadar Upazila area in Munshiganj

FARIDPUR

- Vandalised, looted, burned, and destroyed the shops, houses, and properties of Hindu Minorities at the Pribadi Bazar, Madhukhali Upazila in Faridpur District.

SHARIATPUR

- Vandalised, looted, burned, and destroyed the Dhanuka Temple and houses and properties of Hindu minorities around this temple in the Shariatpur Sadar Upazila, Shariatpur.

CHITTAGONG

- Severely vandalised, looted the personally owned shops and pharmacy of Engineer Likhon Kanti Das, leader of Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, Satkania Upazila, Chottogram.
- Severely vandalised, looted and burnt the personally owned computer shops of Shri Surav Nath Das, Banshkhali Upazila, Chottogram.
- Attacked, vandalised, looted and destroyed the shops, houses and properties of Hindu Minorities at Noapara, Raozan Upazila, Chottogram.
- Severely vandalised, looted the Shops and houses Shri Kazal Kanti Dodh in Patenga, Chottogram
- Attacked, vandalised, looted and destroyed the shops, houses and properties of Hindu minorities at Chawkbazar, Sadar Upazila, Chottogram
- Attacked, vandalised, looted and destroyed of Navagraha Temple Sadar Upazila, Chottogram.
- Attacked houses and properties of the minorities in Hazari Goli, Chottogram. The attack was repelled only when minorities from the locality organised and resisted the attackers.
- Attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed Ujjal Chkarobaty' house and property in Raozan Upazila.
- Attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the house and properties of Shri Robindrolal Chaowdhury, Chairman Union Porishad, Rowzan, Chottogram.
- Attacked, vandalised, looted and destroyed the house and properties of Shri Shamir Dashgupta, Panel Mayor, Rowzan Pourashova, Rowzan, Chottogram.
- Fundamentalists and extremists are threatening the Hindu minority community at Kathgarh, Chottogram. Severely vandalised, looted, and destroyed of the House and properties of Shri Taposh Kanti Datta who Chairman, Bazalia Union Porishad and joint Secretary of Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council, Chottogram.

- Attack, looted and vandalised the house and properties of Shri Sujon Das at Pahartoli, Sadar Chattogram
- Fundamentalists and extremists are threatening Shri Maniklal Chowdhury at the area of Baily Road, anytime they can attack
- Attackers attacked minority community by wearing masks at 10 No. Ward, North Kathtoli, and were prevented as the community united and foiled the attempt.

FENI

- Extremists attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the central Durga Temple in the District town of Feni District.

LAXMIPUR

- Severely vandalised, looted, destroyed, and burnt the house of Shri Goutam Mozumdar at Chandroganj.

NOAKHALI

- Severely vandalised, looted destroyed, and burnt the house of Shri Sohaev Roy at Hatia, Sonadia in Noakhali District. Fundamental extremists also committed sexual violence with females in these houses.
- Brutally vandalised, looted, destroyed, and burned the house of Shri Haran Master, at Charhazari, Bosurhat Upazila Noakhali. Then hijacked and kidnapped Shri Bikash Chakrovarty to unknown areas. Extremists forcefully occupied the minority-owned gas station and shop on Sonapur Road, Kobir Hat Upazila, Noakhali.
- Forcefully occupied the minority-owned Sotota LP gas station and shop at the Uttompukur area, Kobir Hat Upazila, Noakhali
- Brutally vandalised, looted, and destroyed the house of Shri Shibcharon, at 7 No. Ward, Charvata Union Subarnachar Upazila, Noakhali.

CHANDPUR

- Brutally vandalised, looted and destroyed house of Shri Haripada Das, Faridganj Upazila, Chandpur.
- Brutally vandalised, looted and destroyed the Hindu community villages at the Gupti Union, Faridganj Upazila Chandpur District

CUMILLA

- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the Hindu Community villages at the Rohitpur Union, Muradnagar Upazila, Cumilla District
- Vandalised Goddess statues and temples in Muradnagar Upazila, Cumilla District

- Brutally vandalised, looted and destroyed house of Shri Tapos Adhikari, Organising Secretary, BHBCUC, Malika Union, Doudkandi Upazila, Cumilla.

BRAHMANBARIA

- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the Boilabvum Ashrom and Temple, occupied the temple-owned ponds and lakes at Puri Paikpara, Sadar Upazila, Brahmanbaria District

MYMENSINGH

- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, tortured, assaulted people, and destroyed the houses, properties, and temple of Hindu minorities at Duklum Village, Balia Union, Phulpur Upazila, Mymensingh District
- Looted two vans of gas business owner Shri Prodip Debnath in Gouripur Upazila, Mymensingh District.
- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, tortured, and destroyed the houses, properties of Hindu minorities of Tarakandi Upazila, Mymensingh District.
- Vandalised, looted and destroyed houses of Shri Ashok Paul, and Shri Ujjal Saha, Muktagacha Upazila, Mymensingh District.
- Attacked, vandalised, looted and destroyed houses and shops of Shri Shomnath Saha, Chairman Upozela Porishad, Gouripur Upazila, Mymensingh District.
- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, tortured, and destroyed the houses, shops, and properties of Shri Prodip Chakraborty President of HBCUC, Tarakandi Upazila, Mymensingh District
- Attacked and vandalised house of Shri Shyamol Poul, Ward 32, Shambhuganj Upazila Porishad, Mymensingh District.
- Extremists are threatening Ms. Rekha Rani Sarker and her family members to get out of the country, leaving all their properties and land. The local extremists in Mymensingh city town live near Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh
- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, tortured, and destroyed many houses and properties of Hindu minorities of Goforgaon Bazar, Goforgaon Upazila, Mymensingh District.
- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, tortured, assaulted people, and destroyed the house, properties, and Chamber of Advocate Pijush Kanti Sarker in Mymensingh proper. His properties and lands were illegally captured and occupied by extremists in Dhobaura Upazila, Mymensingh District.
- Vandalised, looted, burned, and destroyed the house and property of Shri Manik Nandi at Goforgaon Road, Bhaluka, Mymensingh District.

SHERPUR

- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the house and property of President of BHBCUC, Sreebordi Upazila, Sherpur District.
- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the house and property of Shri Debasish Vattacharya Secretaof BHBCUC, Sherpur District.
- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the house and property of Shri Gopal Chandra Sorker, Secretary of Bangladesh Puja Ujjapn Parishad, Sherpur District.
- Brutally attacked, vandalised, looted, tortured, and destroyed many houses and properties of Hindu minorities in villages and communities in Nalitabari Upazila, Sherpur District.
- Vandalised, burned and destroyed of the Debi Murti (Goddess statue) in Ramakrishna Mission Temple at Paikpara in Tongibari Upazila.
- Vandalised, looted, burned and destroyed the house and properties of Shri Poritosh Debnath, President of Youth Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) at Sirajdikhan Upazila in Munshiganj, District.
- Vandalised, looted, burned and destroyed of the house and properties of Shri Ratan Saha, Member-Vagyokul Union Porishod at Sreenagar Upazila in Narayanganj District.

NARSINGDI

- Vandalised, looted, burned, and destroyed the house and properties of Shri Deepak Saha, leader of Bangladesh Hindu Puja Ujjapon Porishad, Sadar Upazila in Narsingdi District.

MANIKGANJ

- Attacked, vandalised, and hijacked Shri Borun Chakravarty of Tegore Bari of GL Pur Union, Doulatpur Upazila in Manikganj.
- Attacked and destroyed Durga and Kali Temple at the house of Rahul Guha Mazumdar and Swadhin Guho Mojumder at Boro Batia Village, Ghior Upazila.

KISHOREGANJ

- Attacked vandalised, looted, destroyed and firing of the house and properties of Prof. Pranab Kumar Sarker, Convener of the Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council and Puja Ujjapon Porishad in Kishoreganj District
- Attacked and fired at the house and properties of Shri Nakul Kumar and Shri Sushanto Kumar at Agarpur, Kuliarchar Upazila.

- Vandalised, looted, burned and destroyed the houses and properties of Hindu minorities at Kuliarchar, Tarakandi.

FARIDPUR

- Attacked, vandalised, looted, destroyed and chopped men with sharp weapons at Dngamari and Krishnapur Village at Sadar Upazila, Faridpur. For this reason, all Hindu families are spending scary days and nights in this area.

TANGAIL

- Attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the temple, house and properties of Shri Vajon Kumar Mitra, Delduar Upazila Market.
- Attacked and vandalised in the Boro Kalibari area.
- Attacked, vandalised, looted, and destroyed the business, house and properties of Shri Suvash Kundu, Secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council Gopalpur Upazila, and his mother was seriously injured.
- Extremists and fundamentalists have occupied the temple and temple land of Vushandi Rthkhola in Ranail Village Mirjapur Upazila, Tangail.
- Extremists attacked, vandalised and fired at the house and properties of Shri Ananda Mohon, President of the Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC}, Tangail District.

GAZIPUR

- Vandalised, looted, burned and destroyed the houses and properties of many Hindu villagers including Shri Sanjit Mollik, Secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC), in Gazipur City Corporation.

RAJBARI

- Vandalised, looted, burned and destroyed the houses, shops and properties of Hindu minorities at Rathobazar in Shimulbari Unin in the Rajbari District.
- Extremists vandalised, looted, and destroyed the shops and properties of Shri Arobinu Biswas, an Assistant Head Teacher at Dharmatala High School, in Jangal Union in Rajbari District.
- Extremists threatened many Hindu householdsto get out of the country, leaving their property and houses in Jangal Union in Rajbari District. Extremists also demanded illegal money (forced illegal subscription money) from the minority Hindu community people in Jangal Union. They had already stolen money from many households by scaring them by killing threats.

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council's General Secretary Rana Dasgupta told Reuters that around 200 Hindu homes and businesses had been vandalised in a day, i.e. 6th August 2024, and about 15-20 temples had been looted and damaged.^{12 13} As per another media report, 205 incidents of persecution of minorities, mainly Hindus and others are reported.¹⁴

Reports of 2,010 incidents of attacks on minorities were made between August 4th and 20th alone. This included attacks on 69 temples and 157 families. Later on incidents of murders of several Hindus, and Buddhists of the Chakma tribe of the Chittagong Hill Tracts also surfaced. A sense of the brutal massacre facing the minority community in Bangladesh can be gauged from a facebook post by the Islamic Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the Jamaat, that claims of killing seven Hindus in Chittagong to teach the Hindus who had grown too bold, a well-deserved lesson.¹⁵

Not only Hindus but other religious and ethnic minorities of the country also have been the victims of the Islamic extremists under the watch of the Nobel Laureate, Yunus. There are verified reports of attacks and threats against the members of Ahmadiyya Muslim communities. At least 22 Ahmadiyyas were reported to have been injured and 5 mosques were attacked by the fundamentalist mob. According to a report in one local newspaper, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat's spokesperson released the following statement:

“After the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her departure from Bangladesh on August 5, 2024 anarchism has spread all over the country... In the meantime, thousands of extremists and their supporters attacked our Ahmadnagar Ahmadiya Mosque, Jamia and Jalsa Gah and about 70 houses of Ahmadiyas. They burnt the central store of the Jalsa Gah, broke the wall of Jamia and mosque and set fire. Houses and properties of Ahmadiyas have been attacked and set on fire, 18 Ahmadiyas were injured including students of Jamia.”¹⁶

One should not forget that organisations like Hefazat, which are now part of the interim government as religious affairs advisors, are traditionally and historically hostile towards Ahmadis.

The last four months have been dreadful for the minority groups (both religious and ethnic) of Bangladesh, where lots of lives have been lost, personal property looted or destroyed, temples and religious shrines desecrated by Islamists, jobs taken away, Pro-Minority voices of journalists, advocates and activists have been silenced, all such atrocities happened because the Yunus Government failed to do something to curb the attacks.

1.2 Highlights of A Few Specific Cases/Instances of Atrocities Against Hindus

Following are some of the specific instances of atrocities faced by the minorities of Bangladesh till the first week of December 2024 under the Md. Yunus led Interim government.

a. Wrongful Confinement of Chinmoy Krishna Das Swami

The arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das Swami, a prominent Hindu leader and former ISKCON member in Bangladesh, has sparked significant controversy. One needs to understand that Chinmay Swami played a crucial role in uniting and institutionalising Hindus against the atrocities suffered at the hands of Islamists.

Chinmoy Krishna Das has been a tireless advocate for the protection of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh, fighting for their rights and calling for legal protections against systemic violence. His rallies, which have seen overwhelming participation from the Hindu community, have been a beacon of hope for those suffering under the oppression of the state. However, rather than responding to the legitimate demands for justice, the Yunus government has chosen to target the very voices that speak out against this tyranny. By imprisoning leaders like Das, the government sends a clear message: dissent will not be tolerated, and those who fight for minority rights will be crushed.

Here is a detailed account of key events and all allegations regarding the case.

Chinmoy Krishna Das was arrested on November 30, near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka, based on charges of sedition filed earlier in October. He was falsely accused of disrespecting Bangladesh's national flag during a Hindu community rally in Chattogram on October 25, 2024. The case was filed by a leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at the Kotwali Police Station.

Allegations stem from a rally organized to demand protection for religious minorities in Bangladesh. The prosecution claims actions at the event dishonored national symbols and incited tensions. The government framed the arrest as a response to potential threats to sovereignty and public order, though his supporters argue the charges are politically and communally motivated.¹⁷

Among the accused were prominent figures like Chandan Kumar Dhar aka Chinmoy Krishna Das (ISKCON divisional secretary), Ajay Dutta (Hindu Jagran Manch coordinator), and Leela Raj Das (ISKCON temple principal). Individuals detained are, Rajesh Chowdhury (28) and Hriday Das (25), Gopal Das Tipu (38); Dr Kathak Das (40); Amit Dhar (38); Roni Das (38); Rajib Das (32); Krishna Kumar Dutta (52); Jiku Chowdhury (40); Newton Dey (38); Tushar Chakraborty Rajib (28); Mithun Dey (35); Rupan Dhar (35); Rimon Dutta (28); Sukanta Das (28); Biswajit Gupta (42); while 15-20 others remain unidentified, escalating tensions within minority communities in Bangladesh.

The court in Chattogram denied bail, citing the nature of the charges. Das was placed in judicial custody and permitted to observe religious practices per prison guidelines. Officials stated the arrest was not a community-based action but a legal response to sedition. The government defended its position, emphasizing its responsibility to uphold national dignity. Hindu communities in Dhaka and Chattogram staged protests demanding his release. These protests highlighted broader concerns about the treatment of minorities in Bangladesh.

Around 70 lawyers were falsely sued in a case to prevent their participation in the arrested monk's bail hearing.¹⁸ Meanwhile, the High Court in Bangladesh admitted a petition calling for a ban on ISKCON in the country. Student leaders in Bangladesh, who form an important block of support for the interim government, also called for an immediate ban. “ISKCON is acting as an agent of the Awami League, attempting to destabilise the country,” student coordinator Hasnat Abdullah said.¹⁹



The case has intensified debates about the treatment of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh, bringing international attention to rising communal tensions. ISKCON and other organizations have distanced themselves from the allegations, emphasizing their non-political, peace-oriented missions. Global Hindu groups and religious organizations condemned the arrest, calling for Das's release and highlighting systemic issues related to minority rights.

As of now, Chinmoy Das remains in custody, with ongoing legal proceedings. The case has become emblematic of broader issues involving communal harmony, governance, and minority protections in Bangladesh.²⁰

b. Lynching of Hindus over Alleged Blasphemy Charges

Utsav Mandal, a 15-year-old, Class XI student from Khulna district was the victim of mob violence following accusations of making derogatory comments about Prophet Muhammad on Facebook. Reports indicate he was brought to the police station by madrasa students, but tensions escalated as a large crowd gathered outside the station, demanding extrajudicial punishment. Despite assurances from the authorities that legal action would follow, the mob stormed the police station and assaulted him, leaving him critically injured.

Notably, the boy will be tried as a 19-year-old in the matter. He has been accused of hurting religious sentiments and destroying communal harmony and deteriorating the law and order situation. He has been charged under sections 27, 28 and 31 of the Cyber Security Act.

The incident has sparked widespread outrage, highlighting severe lapses in law enforcement's ability to manage such situations and raising concerns about the safety of minorities in Bangladesh.²¹

A similar case transpired on September 30th, when a frenzied mob comprising mostly local madrasa students laid siege to the Patiya police station in Chittagong district, demanding that the cops hand over a 22 year old Hindu boy, Partha Biswas Pintu who was accused of insulting Prophet Muhammad on facebook.²²

Hridoy Pal, a student of Class XI of Kadirdi Degree College was saved by the army when a mob of madrasa students attacked him accusing him of publishing blasphemous posts against the Prophet. The fanatic Islamist mob gheraoed the principal's office, and vandalised motorcycles and school property.²³

Multiple Hindu houses and temples have been vandalized by the Islamist mob in Doarabazar, Sunamganj area of Bangladesh on the night of 3rd December, as reported by multiple social media handles from Bangladesh. This is following an alleged blasphemous Facebook comment that locals claim caused insult to Islam.²⁴

On October 16th, police arrested a Hindu youth named Rana Chandra Sarkar (35) from Netrokona city for insulting Islam and the Holy Prophet on Facebook. On October 28th, a minority teenager was arrested and severely beaten by locals in Faridpur for insulting the Holy Prophet of Islam on Facebook.²⁵

Unfortunately, Islamists committing such cases of mob violence against minorities have found a moral refuge as on November 23rd the High Court of Bangladesh recommended strengthening the Cyber Security Act to make 'blasphemy' punishable by life imprisonment and death penalty in the country.²⁶

c. Arson, Looting and Land Grabbing of Hindu Property

On December 3rd, more than 100 houses and business establishments of the Hindu community were attacked, vandalised and looted in Manglargaon and Monigaon East Gunigram. Doara Bazar Loknath Mandir was heavily damaged in the attack. The amount of loss is at least 15 lakh taka, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council wrote in a press release. The minority group said there was “deep terror” permeating the area, with many locals going elsewhere out of fear.²⁷

On October 9, a court case is ongoing where land robbers (a group of alleged BNP activists) trying to grab the record land of 21 Hindu families in the Town Kalikapur area of Patuakhali. Given the incident of this day, based on the written complaint, the two parties are trying to resolve the matter through the mediation of the police administration.²⁸

On September 24, Islamists tried to grab land and shops of Hindu minorities in Galandi market, Deviganj Upazila in Panchagarh district.²⁹

On September 19 members of the Buddhist Chakma community, Hindu Tripura community and tribal Marma community were brutally tortured, their houses and shops vandalised, looted and set ablaze.³⁰

On September 2, 5 Hindu houses in Baguladangi village under Bhulli Police station of Thakurgaon district were attacked and set ablaze.³¹

On August 9, a shocking video of the attack on a Hindu in Bangladesh emerged. A video shared by journalist Aditya Raj Kaul on social media showed the pain of a Hindu identified as Bimal Chandra Dey who recorded the arson attack at his own automobile shop.³²

The case of Rahul Ananda, a prominent Bangladeshi folk musician and frontman of the band Joler Gaan, highlights the violence against religious minorities in Bangladesh amid political unrest. On August 5, 2024, a mob attacked Ananda's home in Dhaka, looted valuables, and set the house on fire. This property, a 140-year-old cultural hub, housed over 3,000 handmade musical instruments and had hosted international figures, including French President Emmanuel Macron during his 2023 visit. Thankfully, Ananda, his wife, and their teenage son escaped unharmed but were deeply shaken.³³

Sunil Gangopadhyay's ancestral house Grabbing in Madaripur and rescued with the help of administration, possession of five shops of Sanatani against Jubo Dal leader in Mymensingh, handing out an anonymous letter demanding Tk 5 lakh extortion from temples in Dakop, Khulna.³⁴

d. Desecration of Hindu Temples (Mandirs)

Attacks on Hindu temples in Bangladesh are a recurring concern, reflecting underlying communal tensions and vulnerabilities faced by the Hindu minority. These incidents often escalate during political unrest, elections, or religious festivals, highlighting a pattern of targeted violence. Durga Puja, widely celebrated among the Bengali Hindus of Bangladesh was far from celebratory this year due to the attack and looting in Mandirs and Puja Mandaps by Islamist radicals. “Since October 1, 35 incidents related to the ongoing Durga Puja celebrations have occurred across the country, leading to 11 cases being filed, 24 general diaries (GD) registered, and 17 individuals arrested,” newspaper The Dhaka Tribune said quoting Inspector General of Police (IGP) Md Moinul Islam.

On October 11, there was an incident of theft of a hand-crafted golden mukut (crown) at the Jeshoreshwari Kali Temple in Satkhira gifted by Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Bangladesh in 2021. The incident prompted the Indian High Commission here to urge the Bangladesh government to investigate the theft and recover the crown apart from taking action against the perpetrators.³⁵

On November 29, in Chattogram, three Hindu temples were vandalised during a mob attack amidst ongoing protests sparked by the arrest of former ISKCON member Chinmoy Krishna Das under sedition charges.³⁶ A violent Muslim mob attacked Hindus and vandalised three religious sites, the Shantaneshwari Matri Temple, the Shoni Temple, and Shantaneshwari Kalibari Temple. While speaking about the matter, local Hindu leader Tapan Das informed BDNews24, “A procession of hundreds arrived after the Juma prayers. They started shouting anti-Hindu and anti-ISKCON slogans.” He added, “The attackers began hitting the main gate of the Shantaneshwari Temple, and threw brickbats. At the time, they vandalised the Shoni Temple and the Kali Temple. Several nearby shops were also targeted,” he added.³⁷

On 11th October, a petrol bomb was hurled at a Durga Puja mandap in the Tanti Bazar neighbourhood in Dhaka city of Bangladesh. On 25th September, a radical Muslim man named Yasin Mia vandalised the idols of Goddess Durga and other Hindu deities in Gouripur town in the Mymensingh district of Bangladesh.³⁸

In August 2024, the ISKCON temple in Meherpur, located in the Khulna division of Bangladesh, became a focal point of targeted violence against religious minorities. Following political upheaval and the resignation of Sheikh Hasina, the temple was set ablaze by assailants. The fire destroyed the sacred idols of Lord Jagannath, Baladev, and Subhadra Devi, while the building itself sustained significant damage. Fortunately, three devotees residing in the ashram narrowly escaped the attack.

In the Sunamganj district, Muslim fundamentalists recently carried out a barbaric attack on a Hindu Mandir, destroying sacred idols and religious artifacts while shouting slogans of violence.³⁹ These attackers did not stop at vandalism. Hindu homes, businesses, and properties were looted and destroyed,

e. Atrocities Against Hindu Women

The situation of Hindu women in Bangladesh has been a matter of concern for many years due to reports of targeted violence, discrimination, and systemic challenges. Hindu women, being a religious minority in Bangladesh, often face a disproportionate share of harassment.

On August 5th, at around 7:00 pm, soon after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, a mob of 30-35 men break into a Hindu house in Khulna district. After looting and vandalising the place, they dragged the 35-year-old woman who was unfortunately alone in the house, behind the cowshed and took turns to rape her. Armed with sharp weapons, the masked man coerced her into silence. The victim could not identify the perpetrators, since their faces were covered.⁴⁰

In the heart of Khagrachari, a chilling crime has sent shockwaves through the community. A Hindu woman, Chumki Rani Das (50), was savagely murdered in her own home, in what appears to be a robbery that spiraled into brutality. Her home, once a haven, became the site of an unthinkable act of violence. The victim's son, Pranto Das, a key coordinator of the Sanatan Jagaran Mancha Khagrachari, had recently been the target of online harassment and provocation by extremists. Social media posts using his photo, tagged with ISKCON references, were used to incite hostility-an ominous backdrop to this unspeakable tragedy.

On the fateful night of December 5th, intruders broke into their home, robbing it of both precious valuables and a beloved matriarch. Gold jewelry, including her sacred Tulsi mala, was ripped from her body. The victim bore brutal wounds to her head and body, with nail marks visible around her neck-a final desecration of her sanctity. This heinous act took place at her residence in Rukhui Chowdhury Para, Mahila College Road, Khagrachari Sadar. The assailants not only looted but shattered the very fabric of safety and faith. Her husband, Tapan Kanti Das, and son are left to grapple with an unimaginable loss.

Chumki Rani Das is yet another victim in the rising tide of targeted violence against Hindu minorities. Her murder, a grotesque mingling of greed and hate, serves as a dark reminder of the vulnerability of Hindu families in this region.⁴¹

Bharati, resident of the Khulna district of Bangladesh describes the horrific night of August 11 when two unknown men forcefully entered her house threatening to decapitate her son. While the male members of the house were out on their jobs, it was a premeditated attack on Bharati's dignity. The two men took turns raping her and despite the noise and commotion none of the neighbours came forward, leaving Bharati helpless and forsaken.⁴²

Sabita Rani Dey, of Jessore district was abducted in the morning of September 24th and was allegedly raped. Her dead body was found in the septic tank of absconding Ramzan Sheikh.⁴³

A Hindu woman, resident of Chougram village, of Singra Upazila, Natore district narrates how she was raped at gunpoint by an Islamist named Md. Naibul on September 29th.⁴⁴

There have been numerous reports of Hindu women being subjected to sexual violence, including rape and abduction. Such incidents are often accompanied by forced conversions and marriages. These cases frequently go unpunished due to a lack of accountability and a culture of impunity.

f. Unlawful Termination of Hindus in Academia

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad reported in September, almost 15 days after the setting up of the Interim government that around 49 Hindu teachers at various state universities and colleges were made to forcibly resign under duress from protesting students.⁴⁵ Other reports coming in pegged the figure at 70, suggesting a precarity on the ground related to the situation of the minorities.⁴⁶ Hindu teachers have been compelled to resign from government and academic posts under duress. These incidents have often involved coercion by mobs, students, or even military presence in some cases.

On December 7, Bangladesh's eminent educationist and internationally acclaimed sociologist Dr Anupam Sen resigned as Vice Chancellor of Chittagong Premier University, a post he had been holding since the year 2006. A mob of Islamist students had been agitating in the Chittagong Premier University campus since December 4 pressing for Dr Sen's resignation on the ground that he had been a member of the ousted Awami League's advisory council and was close to the 'fascist' regime that had been ousted on August 5. Having put up with the trouble for two days finally put in his papers to the President. He had also been conferred the 'Ekushe Padak', highest civilian award in Bangladesh, by the government there in

the year 2014 in recognition of his role in the freedom movement of 1971.⁴⁷

Sonali Rani Das, a professor in Red Crescent Nursing College, Dhaka was forced to resign by the students after the present political turmoil erupted in Bangladesh. She informed at a press conference that she was kept captive in her office for hours, was denied use of the washroom till her thumb impressions were forcibly taken on the resignation letter.⁴⁸

On the 18th of August, a mob of students gheraoed a Hindu teacher, Khuku Rani Biswas, who oversaw Jessore Nursing Institute. They protested in her office for five hours demanding resignation, due to alleged corruption charges. But they forced her to resign without any investigation or proof.⁴⁹

One notable case is of Shukla Rani Halder, the principal of Bakerganj Government College, who was pressured by a mob to resign on September 1st. Videos circulating on social media depict such events, amplifying the fear among minority educators.⁵⁰

Similar instances occurred at institutions like Shaheed Smriti Degree College, where Hindu teachers were also forced to vacate their positions under intimidation from fundamentalist groups and local unrest.⁵¹

Unless the administration's convergence of interests with the Islamists is checked, more such cases may continue to flow in till such time, not improbable anymore, when no member of the minority community would be allowed to hold a dignified post in any public or private body in Bangladesh.

g. Attacks on Pro-Hindu Journalists and Advocates

On December 2nd, Ramen Roy, the Bangladeshi lawyer defending ISKCON monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, was brutally attacked at his home by Islamists leaving him critically injured. ISKCON vice president and spokesperson Radharaman Das claimed that Roy's only "fault" was that he was defending Prabhu.⁵²

In the month of August as violence spread across Bangladesh centered around anti-discrimination student

movements. One journalist was killed and 28 others were injured while collecting news about the incident. Among them, only on August 4, a journalist named Pradeep Kumar Bhowmik was killed in Sirajganj during the non-cooperation program of the anti-discrimination student movement and 23 journalists were injured in different districts including the capital Dhaka. Among the injured, 3 journalists were shot. Besides, on August 05, house of journalist Jawad Nirjhar in Magura, journalist Sanjit Saha in Pabna, journalist Ibrahim Khalil in Cox's Bazar and journalist Md. Taimur Farooq of Sirajganj was attacked and vandalized.⁵³

On November 30, Editor of the online news portal 'Ek Taka Khabor', Munni Saha, a prominent Hindu journalist in Bangladesh was targeted following the undemocratic ouster of PM Sheikh Hasina. She was booked along with 7 other journalists in a 'murder case'. A 17-year-old rioter named Nayeem Howlader, who participated in the violent 'student protests', was shot dead by the police in Jatrabari. Saha was arrested by the police from Karwan Bazar in Dhaka city.

According to reports, the victim was surrounded by a mob after stepping out of a media office at Janata Tower. The mob heckled her, blocked her way and demanded her trial. Soon after, the police were called in, and Saha was arrested. She was later released on payment of a bond under Section 497 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Munni Saha will now have to seek bail from a court and adhere to police summons.⁵⁴

On October 12, A journalist was hacked to death by extremists in the Shambhuganj Bazar-Majhipara area of Bangladesh's Mymensingh district. The victim, Swapon Bhadra, 65, from the Hindu community, was involved with the local daily Doinik Swajan and was a vice president of the Tarakanda upazila Press Club in Mymensingh. Following his writings, around one year ago, he had also been attacked but survived, said the victim's family member. In social media, he stood against racially based attacks and incitement to violence on minority communities, said a local journalist seeking anonymity.⁵⁵

On October 25, the President of the Khagrachari Journalists' Union and Khagrachari district representative of the Samkal newspaper, Pradeep Chowdhury, was arrested by the police.⁵⁶

h. Proselytization and Religious Conversion of Hindus

Amid the Islamist onslaught against Hindus in Bangladesh, human rights activist and exiled Bangladeshi blogger Asad Noor revealed that the minority community is now being coerced into joining 'Jamaat-e-Islami'. He made the revelations in a Facebook post on Sunday (8th September). Noor informed that on September 7th, members of the radical Islamist outfit visited Kalmati Ward No.2 in Khuniagach Union of Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila. They preyed upon 27 poor, destitute Hindus and forced them to join 'Jamaat-e-Islami.' According to Asad Noor, the radicals threatened to kill the victims and remove them from the nation.⁵⁷

On August 19th, in a speech made by the Home Minister of India, Amit Shah, he highlighted the drastic decline in the Hindu population in Bangladesh from 27% during partition to 9%, attributing it to forced conversions and displacement.⁵⁸

A video surfaced on social media from Rangpur district during September where Hindu girls of Moslem Uddin Girls High School are seen protesting the headmaster's order of wearing Hijab to school and reciting the Quran.⁵⁹

I. Yunus' Acceptance of Atrocities on Minorities and Still No Action to Control Them

On December 3, Md. Yunus claimed that the minority Hindu community was more protected in Bangladesh under the rule of the interim government than they were during the administration of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In an exclusive interview with India Today, Shafiqul Alam, the press secretary of the Md. Yunus government, claimed that Indian media was running an “industrial scale misinformation campaign” to spread false narratives about minorities being targeted in Bangladesh.⁶⁰

On December 10, Alam confirmed 88 incidents of communal violence targeting minorities, mainly Hindus, after the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August. Alam mentioned that 70 people have been arrested in connection with the communal violence incidents. The disclosure came a day after foreign secretary Vikram Misri raised concerns over attacks on minorities and conveyed India's concerns regarding their safety and welfare during meetings with Bangladeshi leadership.⁶¹

ATROCITIES FACED BY HINDUS



HINDU RESISTANCE



Unit 2: Islamisation of Bangladesh: Going Down the Path of Pakistan and Afghanistan

Of late, Bangladesh is bearing a witness to chants like “Kill the Hindus and Demolish ISKCON after Friday namaz”⁶² Muhammad Yunus led Bangladesh has been pushed to the brink of collapse, fostering an environment of fear, violence, and lawlessness that threatens to plunge the nation and the region into an irreversible spiral of extremism. With the regime's reckless release of 144 militants and notorious criminals, Bangladesh's fate hangs precariously in the balance. This is not a mere blunder; it is a deliberate strategy designed to destabilize the country and impose an authoritarian, fascist rule that suppresses all forms of opposition.

As the radical elements of Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Ansar Al Islam continue to operate unchecked, the sinister legacy of their violence looms large. The recent jailbreak in Narsingdi, where over 900 dreaded terrorists were freed, exposes the grim reality of Bangladesh's descent into chaos. Under Yunus's administration, we witness an unforgivable display of weakness and, quite possibly, deliberate complicity, allowing these jihadist forces to arm themselves with over 8,000 rounds of ammunition.⁶³ This is not mere governance failure; it is a calculated move to strengthen the forces of Islamism, creating a breeding ground for terror and instability.

The persecution of religious minorities, particularly Hindus, is one of the most horrific consequences of Yunus's reign. The violence unleashed upon the Hindu community since 5th August, 2024 is reminiscent of the genocidal violence of 1971. Hindus have been massacred, raped, and displaced from their homes, businesses, and temples in a manner that recalls the darkest days of the country's history. In Chittagong, entire neighbourhoods have been decimated, while sacred temples have been desecrated with impunity. What is happening in Bangladesh today is not simply sectarian violence; it is a systemic ethnic cleansing aimed at erasing the Hindu presence in the region.

The current alarming drift towards extremism and violence under Yunus's regime mirrors the dark history of collaboration with foreign oppressors. The Jamaat-e-Islami party, now empowered in the current administration, has long been associated with a legacy of brutality and treachery. Its role in supporting foreign forces against the Bengali people and its history of war crimes cannot be overlooked. Despite some efforts

at accountability, many of the party's leaders, complicit in heinous acts of violence, have never truly faced justice. Today, under Yunus's leadership, Jamaat-e-Islami's dangerous extremism thrives once more, and the same forces of terror and oppression are being allowed to flourish, threatening the nation's security and stability. During the 1971 liberation struggle, several prominent Jamaat-e-Islami officials who actively fought alongside the Pakistani Army against Bangladeshi nationalists were found guilty of war crimes and subjected to war crimes trials.⁶⁴

In the recent unrest of Chittagong, concerns have been raised by several Hindu community leaders regarding the crackdown's purported targeting of Hindu citizens. They asserted that law enforcement forces were unduly hostile to the Hindu establishments despite tensions between the two communities.⁶⁵

2.1 Islamic Forces Hands in Gloves with the State

The situation in Bangladesh which worsened with the violent protests, popularly known as Monsoon Revolution, has turned out into nightmare for the minorities on various grounds like-

i) Establishment of compliant judiciary to Islam Shariah law and punishing the Kafirs on the grounds of sedition charges like Chinmoy Krishna Das and other seers with earlier house arrest then life threatening sentences to taking them in court of law.⁶⁶

ii) Use of Draconian Cyber Security Act with 11 cases filed and no repeal to the Act and the accused.

iii) Dissolution of NHRC by forcing 7 members to resign when the reports released by them did not cover up the sins of the interim government.⁶⁷

iv) Over 10,000 Hindu temples in Chattogram, Bangladesh like Santaneshwar Matri Temple, the Shoni Temple, and the Shantaneshwari Kalibari Temple were vandalised by mob after Friday prayer on November 10, 2024.⁶⁸

v) Temple authorities confirmed the extent of the damage, which included broken gates and other vandalised structures are irreplaceable. A YouTube video from a university in Dhaka shows clear shouting slogans in Madhu canteen, a canteen named after a Hindu person, for slaughter of a cow in the premises of the university and forcing people around to eat beef.⁶⁹

The statement released by Bangladesh's Attorney General, Mohammad Asazzam, emphasized that terms like "secular" and "Bengali Nationalism" are unnecessary in the country's constitution, as 92 percent of the population is Muslim.⁷⁰ The Yunus government's support to such a statement has resulted in creation of a 9-member committee of which the so-called Nobel Laureate is the Chief Advisor. The committee constitutes the Islamic religious preachers and people like Adil Ur Rahman and Nazrul Hassan allying with the militant groups like Al Qaeda and ISIS.

The government on 5 December 2024 has proposed eradication of the father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Ur Rahman's photo from the currency notes. The question that here arises is the reason behind the removal of a Muslim ruler who is not a kafir. The answer to this question lies in the affirmation of Islamic solidarity and militancy where there lies no space for tolerance and acceptance of the people from other communities. Sheikh Mujibur Ur Rahman gave the slogan of "Bang Bandhu" which asserted solidarity on the base of cultural and spatial unity than the animosity over the religious grounds.⁷¹

The illegitimate status of Bangladesh's interim unelected government supported by radical groups like Jamat E Islami and Hifazat E Islam clearly show the ambitions to create a kafir free state through the hate slogans. It is apparent that the government is practicing Jihad with and without arms by creating policies conducive to Islamic Brotherhood for getting stronghold over the state and world. The meeting between the Malaysian Prime minister Mohd. Anwar and Mohd. Yunus reiterates the statement.

Bangladesh administration has welcomed Islamic solidarity with warm hugs by allowing Pakistan army to enter the state and carry out their fanatic actions. The government has undoubtedly forwarded the hand of solidarity by releasing top 144 militant and alleged terrorists like Mammol Haq and Jasumdin Rahmani (vocal supporters of Al Qaeda).

2.2 Renewed Love for Pakistan and the Militant Stand

As per a report of the Financial Express,⁷² Bangladesh shall receive a substantial shipment of defence materials from Pakistan, including 40,000 rounds of ammunition, tank ammunition of 2000 quantity, 40 tons of RDX explosive in wax consistency, and 2,900 high-intensity projectiles.

This represents a significant increase from the previous year's order, which included 12,000 rounds of ammunition. However, what lies in implication is the real purpose behind the same.

Cold-blooded and unrelenting, notorious terrorist organizations like Jamaat Ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Al Qaeda have now forged dangerous alliances with Ansar Al-Islam, collaborating in a transnational network of terror. After being freed from restrictions, these groups have resurged with even greater determination, using their newfound freedom to expand their reach and intensify their violent operations across borders. The violent jailbreak in NarSingdi District on July 19, 2024, where over 900 inmates escaped and substantial arms were looted is a tipping point. Such incidents are not isolated from the ideology but an audacious display of systematic destabilization for law and order to create a Pro-Islamic state.⁷³

Animosity culminates into amnesia as the reign of terror of Islamization in Bangladesh deepens. Vandalisation and usurping the properties of Hindus arises from the pledge to kill kafirs with a trickle-down effect and shelve the existence of Hindus in Bangladesh. For instance, a young Hindu Industrialist named Ambuj Sharma from Chittogram district was tortured naked and killed on the streets after which his business of 10,000 crores was immediately usurped by government for the economic and social welfare of the country under the Bangladesh Vested Property Act, originally referred to as the Enemy Property Act which has a long history of systematic marginalisation and dispossession of the country's Hindu communities. The chronology of previous Acts can be traced from 1965 to present 2024 interim government.⁷⁴

2.3 Links with Pro-Taliban Leaders

Maulana Habibur Rahman, a madrasa principal of Sylhet and one of the organisers of Hefazat-e Islam's 5 August protest, claimed that he met Osama bin Laden and members of the banned militant organisation Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami, in 1998. The German ambassador Albrecht Conze told “The Economist” that Bangladesh's Hifazat E Islam demands fundamentalism in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh under the aegis of a radical ecosystem works through various interconnected sub-systems. These include the rise of Hifazat-e-Islam as a powerful political pressure group gaining consensus within the community, the strategic use of madrasa students for political purposes, and the expansion of both homegrown and globally connected separatist movements. Along with the mushrooming of madrasas in the country since the past few years, the government is reviewing the national curriculum to create Shariah-compliant textbooks for children, while Shariah-compliant banking systems are being developed to support Halal products, Islamic banks, and the palm oil market.⁷⁵

According to ISIS Malaysia, by 2027, Pakistan and Bangladesh will get a Shariah-compliant banking model, following a landmark ruling by its federal Shariah court. This picture presents Malaysia as a global leader in Islamic finance, with an opportunity to share expertise in Islamic financial products like Sukuk.⁷⁶

Mohd. Anwar's 5th October 2024 visit carried particular significance as he became the first foreign leader to visit the country under its interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. He lauded Muhammad Yunus as “the embodiment of selfless leadership, dedicated to the betterment of his people.” The Ummah, Anwar argues, must rise above its divisions of the boundaries and embrace Iqbal's vision of intellectual self-reformation and societal progress. Anwar's strong assertion of the principle of “ijtihad” represents that the Muslim world must move forward together.⁷⁷

The uncontrolled freedom of speech in the form of hate speeches by the previously censored religious organisations is spewed not only through words but by the actions of the young minds who use "black flags" reminiscent of the Islamic State (IS) from the Middle East to South and South-East Asia. Veena Sikri, Former Indian Ambassador to Bangladesh has pointed out that the organisations like HizabutUl Tahrir and Hifazat E Islam envision making Gazwa E Hind with new energy and vigour, promoting a wide range of activities.⁷⁸

Students from Dhaka's educational institutions took to the streets, participating in rallies and meetings, on religious issues. The demonstrators raised their voices against the genocide in Palestine (West Bank and Gaza), condemned the insults against the Prophet Muhammad, and called for the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate governed by Sharia. These black flags resemble those used by militant Islamic groups, including the Islamic State. The Asia News states that these protests may have been instigated by radical pressure groups.⁷⁹

2.4 Issue of Existence of Bangladesh in View of the Pro-Pakistan Stand of Yunus

Mohd. Yunus in his recent statement has stated that the ties with Pakistan is necessary to reaffirm their existence as one nation. Sheikh Hasina in her address has mentioned that Yunus and pressure groups are committing genocide to achieve a radical militancy. Now as the rules on Pakistani Visa and entry have been relaxed, the parcels from Pakistan shall travel to Bangladesh now. Veena Sikri, Former Ambassador of India to Bangladesh clearly states that attempts are being made to reaffirm pre-1971 stance of East and West Pakistan.⁸⁰

The relaxations given to Pakistan by Bangladesh are as follows:

- Lifting the ban from Jamat E Islami and Hifazat E Islam.
- Import Laws relaxed for import of ammunition from Pakistan
- No security clearance for Pakistanis in Bangladesh

Developing Dhaka- Islamabad axis to strengthen the Bay of Bengal corridor for economic and militant infrastructure.

2.5 Deinstitutionalization of Hindu Minorities

Taslima Nasrin, a renowned author exiled from Bangladesh since 1994 in an interview with Rajdeep Sardesai from India Today Group mentions that Quran prescribes violence, mass slaughter and intolerance.⁸¹ In a bold expression of her mind the author clearly stated that Human rights, Women's rights and democracy are “Haram” in Islam. She points out that Bangladeshi Sunni Fanatics believe in Allah's Law and not in the manmade law of democracy. She substantiated her stance by mentioning Roshan Imitaz, a prime accused in Dhaka Café blasts on his Facebook page saying that “all Muslims should be Radicalists and swear to follow nothing but Quran”. She further stated that the terrorist was a follower of Zakir Naik. The founder of Peace TV took a strong stance on conversions of 'Kafirs' into Islam.

According to an OpIndia staff, human rights activist and exiled Bangladeshi blogger Asad Noor exposed the harsh reality faced by the minority community, revealing that they are now being coerced into joining 'Jamaat-e-Islami.' In a Facebook post on September 8, 2024, Noor disclosed that members of radical Islamist organizations had visited Kalmati Ward in Khuniagach Union of Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila, Bangladesh. The fanatics preyed upon 27 poor, destitute Hindus and forced them to join 'Jamaat-e-Islami. They threatened to murder, exile, or ostracise the victims from the nation.’⁸²

In the present scenario, Hifazat E Islam is one of the prima facie in the tyranny against the minorities of Bangladesh. Former Ambassador Veena Sikri points out that Hifazat e Islam as a pressure group is the flag bearer behind the provocation of the Muslim solidarity and kafir theory taught to the young minds. It is a pressure group formed in 2010 that comprises teachers from several madrasas in Chittagong and various other districts in Bangladesh.⁸⁴



Bangladesh is burning. The Jihadi elements, capturing the anti-government protests, have overrun the country and its administration since 8th August 2024, the day the 'Interim government' was formed. Although Bangladesh was never a secular paradise, the extremist elements within Islam, the state religion, were relatively under check before the anti-quota protests and the violence that followed. As the protests raged on, bloody mayhem ruled the country for months, and the minority communities, particularly the Hindus, caught in the crosshair, were left at the mercy of a ruthless radical mob. Hindus were killed, raped, tortured, looted; Hindu festivities interfered with; Hindu temples attacked, and businesses destroyed. It was expected that the Interim Government headed by Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus would bring the much-needed respite to the country and an assurance of dignity and security to the minority communities. The hopes have been betrayed as the caretaker Yunus administration turns out to be a puppet, as it were, in the hands of the Jihadi elements and often found propagating their agenda.

3.1 Emboldening Jihadi Forces

In one of his earliest decisions, Yunus legalised several hitherto banned pan-Islamist fundamentalist outfits (with established terror links with the Al-Qaeda and LeT et al.) like the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and the Hizbut-Tahrir. He has been ordering release from prison of identified terrorists and other Islamist fundamentalist leaders viz. Jasimuddin Rahmani et al. whose concerted aim has been to convert Bangladesh into an Islamic State, further imperiling the lives of its multi-million minority communities.

The Yunus administration in Bangladesh is overseeing an ongoing project of minority victimisation and invisibilisation. Hindus are being forcibly removed from government jobs; students from the community targeted and killed; journalists falsely charged and jailed; Hindu temples destroyed; the ISKCON, under whose banner the minorities have been organising to sound out their fears and complaints, is being attacked with threats of ban. None of this can happen without the support of the government machinery even as the army and the police are often found siding with the Jihadi mobs in targeting the Hindu minority. All this even as Yunus includes radicals in his government; parleys with them openly viz. Mamunul Haque; lambasts India; and most unabashedly tries to whitewash, in the media and at the international fora, the veritable 'ethnic cleansing' of Hindus, as sometimes legitimate, sometimes political but never communal and premeditated.

3.2 The Government Hobnobbing with the Terrorists

“Laxity has appeared in policing after the changeover in politics. Top criminals have secured bail and are coming out of jail one after another, taking advantage of the changed situation”.⁸⁵ The interim government of Bangladesh under the Chief Adviser, Mohammad Yunus, has been releasing terrorists and other criminals incarcerated for decades for heinous crimes. On 19th July, during the so-called anti-discrimination protests itself, hundreds stormed the state prison in Narsingdi district and freed up over 700 inmates, several of them hardened criminals and looted firearms from the police stations.⁸⁶ In the weeks that followed, another high-security facility in Kashimpur was attacked. It housed some of the most notorious criminals and terrorists of the country.⁸⁷ Several of these criminals were apparently controlling the crime scene of Dhaka from inside the jail and their release is supposed to cause a sharp spike in crime cases across Bangladesh and in the neighbourhood too.⁸⁸ The jailbreak and looting of police weapons is part of a deliberate plan to push the country into a state of perpetual civil unrest, making the lives of the religious and ethnic minorities increasingly insecure.

The alacrity shown by the Yunus administration in lifting the ban from some of the most fundamentalist pan-Islamist outfits in Bangladesh reeks of a tacit agreement between the two parties where each benefits the other. Yunus has legalised the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh, the Al-Qaeda connected Ansar al-Aslam that pose a grave security threat to the religious minorities of Bangladesh, and to the entire subcontinent too. Under the influence of the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Yunus government has ended the detention of extremist leaders of terror-linked outfits.⁸⁹ Jasimuddin Rahmani, leader of the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) directly linked to al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and the Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Taiba.⁹⁰ Jasimuddin was facing charges for murdering an atheist blogger, Rajib Haider, in 2013 by hacking him to death for speaking against religious fundamentalism.⁹¹ Since his release, Rahmani has been warning to “break up India” and “hoisting Islamist flags in Delhi”.⁹² The convergence of agendas between the extremist Islamist groups and Yunus' government has allowed the Jihadi outfits to gain ground in Bangladesh further alienating the religious minorities.

In August, Yunus was seen holding meetings with Mamunul Haque, a polarising leader of the extremist Hefazat-e-Islam, known for upholding conservative Islamist values and opposing progressive reforms.⁹³ Extremely popular with his admirers, Haque has a frequent history of taking anti-India stances, and recently rallied for a ban on Hindu organisations like the ISKCON in Bangladesh.⁹⁴ The clout Haque enjoys in the country's new corridors of power can be traced from the fact that the announcement for a caretaker government under Mohammad Yunus was announced only after Haque held meetings with the President of

Bangladesh, the Chief of Army Staff, and the Opposition leaders.⁹⁵ Haque's fundamentalist interests were taken care of by including AFM Khalid Hossain, vice-president of Hefazat-e-Islam, as no less than the Adviser for Religious Affairs in the new Yunus ministry.

Most sensational of all, if true, is the association of Mahfuz Alam, one of Yunus's recent additions to the cabinet, with the banned Islamist fanatic terrorist outfit, Hizbut-Tahrir (HuT). Yunus has introduced Alam, educated at two radical Salafi madrassas, as the brain behind the student uprising that ousted the Hasina regime.⁹⁶ Yunus has used his liberal image to facilitate Bangladesh's descent into a fundamentalist Islamic State by extending a free run to the fanatical elements within Islam, the religion of about 90% of Bangladesh's population, who in turn are expected to let him rule the country with no chance of democracy's restoration in close sight.⁹⁷ Rubbing salt on the wounds of violence-stricken minority community is Yunus' repeated stands in the media and at the international fora where he never fails to rationalize the violations, calling them 'overhyped' and emanating from the communities' own track record and misplaced political affiliation.^{98 99}

3.3 Legal and Executive Tools Used against Minorities

Human rights violations are nothing new to the religious and ethnic minorities of Bangladesh who constitute approximately 8% of its total population. It is only the alarming multiplication of such violations accompanied with administration's partisan character and/or its paralysis in protecting them that has spelt fresh doom for the country's multi-million strong minorities, comprising Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, et al. Hindus form the largest group within the minority population. They are also the commonest target of Jihadi hostility which associates them with India and the support base of the Awami League.¹⁰⁰

Clashes between the Islamist mob and the police on one side and supporters of arrested spiritual leader, Chinmoy Krishna Das, on the other, leading to the death of a Muslim lawyer, have further deepened tensions. The state has been disproportionately targeting Hindu protesters while overlooking the broader context of rising anti-minority sentiments. Whereas the Bangladesh government claims that Das's arrest is a judicial matter, the state has implicitly enabled an atmosphere of impunity for those who perpetuate violence against minorities. Activists argue that the arrest of Das is part of a broader trend of marginalization, where leaders advocating for minority rights are silenced through judicial harassment or extrajudicial measures.¹⁰¹

The Hindu minority has frequently been targeted during political unrest, with instances of land-grabbing, arson, and physical violence against their communities. Rights groups have criticized the government for its failure to ensure justice or provide adequate protection. The case of Chinmoy Krishna Das serves as a poignant reminder of the systemic challenges faced by minorities in Bangladesh, where state mechanisms, either by action or inaction, often fail to uphold their constitutional rights.¹⁰²

3.4 Judiciary Fails to Rescue

The judiciary in Bangladesh plays a critical role in shaping the socio-political landscape, particularly in the context of ongoing political transitions and challenges to minority rights. However, its role has been increasingly criticized for partisanship, lack of independence, and failure to uphold justice for vulnerable groups, including minorities. The judiciary in Bangladesh is often perceived as being influenced by the ruling government, regardless of the administration in power. Under the current interim government led by Muhammad Yunus, there are concerns that judicial decisions are being used to suppress dissent and target political or minority activists, such as Chinmoy Krishna Das. Delays in hearing bail applications and appeals, especially in politically sensitive cases, undermine the judiciary's credibility. For instance, the judiciary's repeated postponement of Chinmoy Krishna Das's bail hearing reflects a pattern of judicial inefficiency that disproportionately impacts minority and marginalized groups. Although Bangladesh has constitutional provisions to protect minority rights, the judiciary often fails to enforce them effectively. For example, perpetrators of communal violence against Hindus are rarely convicted, fostering a culture of impunity.

The judiciary is often accused of colluding with law enforcement to suppress activists and minority leaders under the guise of sedition or other politically motivated charges. Example: Chinmoy Krishna Das's arrest on sedition charges, with the judiciary failing to question the credibility of the evidence, exemplifies how legal mechanisms are weaponized against minorities.

Advocate Ramen Roy, who represented Chinmoy Krishna Das, was murderously assaulted, and his office vandalized. Following the attack on Roy, other lawyers willing to represent Das have faced threats and intimidation, leading to reluctance in taking up his case. This atmosphere of fear has resulted in delays in legal proceedings, including the postponement of Das's bail hearing to January 2, 2025, due to the absence of defense counsel.^{103 104}

Muslims in Bangladesh are known to evade prosecution under blasphemy laws, just like Pakistan, while the draconian legislation unilaterally targets Hindus and other religious minorities. Currently, the maximum punishment imposed by the blasphemy law in Bangladesh is 2 years imprisonment and a fine of 5 lakh Taka. In a major development, the High Court of Bangladesh recommended strengthening the Cyber Security Act to make 'blasphemy' punishable by life imprisonment and death penalty in the country.¹⁰⁵

The systemic failure of the Bangladeshi state to protect minorities, particularly Hindus, highlights a troubling pattern of institutional bias, political exploitation, and weak governance. Law enforcement often acts selectively, the judiciary remains compromised by political interference, and cultural prejudices within state institutions foster impunity for perpetrators of violence. This neglect not only exacerbates the marginalization of minorities but also erodes public trust in the state's commitment to justice and equality. Comprehensive reforms are urgently needed to ensure the protection of minority rights and uphold the principles of democracy and pluralism.

3.5 Dubious Role of Army and Police

This period has been marked by increased violence against religious minorities, particularly the Hindu community, raising concerns about the state's role in protecting these vulnerable groups. The failure of Bangladesh's police and military to protect minorities, especially Hindus, is a long-standing issue tied to systemic bias, political expediency, and institutional weaknesses. Numerous cases highlight how these state forces either fail to act, act too late, or even enable violence and discrimination against minorities.

There are a lot of incidents where the machinery of the state like the army and police suppressed the minorities, tortured them and detained them illegally.

In the Hindu-majority Hazari Lane area of Chittagong, an incident raised significant concerns when security forces, accompanied by a group of Islamists, reportedly broke into homes and businesses at night, disabling CCTV cameras in the process.¹⁰⁶ The operation, involving both the army and police, left the community shaken as the area was surrounded, but the number of injuries or fatalities remains unclear due to the absence of media coverage. Despite the inflammatory statements from militant groups, no arrests were made. While the army maintained it acted neutrally, critical questions remain unanswered, such as: “Why were CCTV cameras deliberately disabled?” and “Why were civilian individuals involved alongside security forces during the operation?”

Tensions escalated in Chittagong's Hazari Lane after a Muslim man, Osman Mollah, posted inflammatory remarks against ISKCON on social media, sparking protests from the Hindu community. Although local Hindu and Muslim shop owners managed to mediate the situation with a written apology from Osman, extremist groups, dissatisfied with this resolution, sought revenge. That night, militant Islamists, with the active collaboration of the police and army, launched a brutal assault on the Hindu community. In a horrifying spree, they looted 15-20 gold shops, arrested numerous individuals—most of whom were innocent—and targeted prominent businessmen like Rubel Saha, Amit Dhar, and Dr. Kathak Das for extortion.¹⁰⁷

In a chilling account, young Aaradhya Saha reported to a human rights organization that she was at home alone when security forces and Jamaat supporters stormed her house, looting her belongings. Police continued their raids, targeting activists involved in the earlier protests. A team from the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM), led by Suman Sikder, Lucky Bachar, and Sujit Das, met with the local police commissioner but received no satisfactory answers.¹⁰⁸

Voices of despair and fear echo through the Hindu community, with pointed questions being raised: “Are Hindus safe in the hands of the army?” “Is this the Bangladeshi army or a reincarnation of the Pakistani army?” and “How can such soldiers and police officers represent a UN peacekeeping mission?”

From the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das to attacks on Ganesh Chaturthi procession, loot of Hindu business owners, mob attacks on Hindu temples and on festive processions, displacement of Hindus, harassment at the hands of the police and army, state's collaborating with radical Islamists is painfully evident.¹⁰⁹

The Bangladesh police have consistently failed to protect the Hindu minority due to systemic bias, selective enforcement, and inaction during critical incidents. Instead of addressing violence against Hindus, the police often arrest minority leaders under politically motivated charges. When Hindus protest against violence or injustice, police use teargas, live ammunition, and other excessive measures, leading to injuries and fatalities. The police in Bangladesh are failing to fulfill their duty to protect the Hindu minority, contributing to a cycle of fear, insecurity, and erosion of trust in state institutions. Reforms are urgently needed to ensure impartiality, accountability, and better protection for vulnerable communities.¹¹⁰

3.6 Invisibilisation of Minorities from Government Jobs

As part of an organised strategy, there has been a movement to remove persons from the minority communities from public offices. This ensures an invisibilisation, a silencing of the communities, further weakening them. This took place during the so-called Students' Uprising when lawlessness was the norm, but continues unabated even under Yunus's watch, betraying the administration's silent nod to the fundamentalist mob's diktats. Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad reported in September, almost 15 days after the setting up of the Interim government that around 49 Hindu teachers at various state universities and colleges were made to forcibly resign under duress from protesting students.¹¹¹

In another update, approximately 232 trainee sub-Inspectors at the Bangladesh Police Academy were discharged from duty even before the completion of their training. The official reason as cited by the adviser for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury was “...violations of academic discipline and not political reasons”. The numbers consist of several from the minority Hindu community. The reason being speculated, however, is the discharged Sub-Inspectors' allegiance to the now ousted Awami League.¹¹²

In a fresh turn of events, on 6th December 2024, Anupam Sen, an academic of great acclaim, and Mohammad Yunus' former colleague at the Chittagong University, was forced to submit his resignation as the Vice-Chancellor of the private-run, Premier University, Chittagong, which he had also helped establish.¹¹³

Unless the administration's convergence of interests with the Islamicists is checked, more such cases may continue to flow in till such time, not improbable anymore, when no member of the minority community would be allowed to hold a dignified post in any public or private body in Bangladesh.

3.7 State-led Restrictions on Media

A glaring example of how the State under Mohammad Yunus has extended impunity to fundamentalist and anarchic elements in the mob are the sinister reports of continuous and unabated witch hunts of mediapersons supposedly close to the former dispensation. The mob and state's ire at the media also flows from its carrying out reports highlighting news of minority persecution in Bangladesh since the fall of the Hasina regime. In the 100 days of Yunus' government, hundreds of journalists have been made target of violent attacks, false cases, and cancellation of press accreditation.¹¹⁴ Press accreditation cards are necessary to get access to the

Secretariat. The Yunus administration has used the cancellation of press accreditation as a vendetta to settle scores with journalists who have been working to ensure a transparent connection between the outside world and Bangladesh, necessary for the security of the marginalized, especially the minority communities. The journalists are being implicated in false cases of abduction, murder, and provocation pertaining to the students' protest and detained with no judicial remedy. Shyamal Dutta, editor of the of BhorerKagoj was arrested on similar charges and kept in police remand for at least a week, along with several of his colleagues across media platforms.¹¹⁵ An increasing number of journalists have also been attacked and heckled by mobs, many from the minority Hindu community, viz. veteran journalist and TV host Munni Saha was attacked and heckled by a mob of Islamist radicals accusing her of running an agenda for India.¹¹⁶ An independent media is a prerequisite for an independent democracy. The Interim Government's targeting of the journalists show signs of the State relenting to mobocratic elements. It also betrays Yunus' lack of trust in democracy and reforms.

3.8 State-Sponsored Cultural Cleansing

Temples across the nation were desecrated, idols smashed, and rituals interrupted under the pretense of public order. These actions went beyond physical destruction; they sought to erase the cultural identity of minorities. Cultural suppression is not incidental but deliberate, aimed at rendering minority identities invisible. By failing to protect these symbols, the state condoned their destruction. In October 2024, a mob attacked a historic temple in Khulna, desecrating idols and destroying centuries-old artifacts. The attack was reportedly led by local political activists seeking to intimidate the Hindu community. Law enforcement took no significant action against the perpetrators.¹¹⁷

Jeshoreshwari kali Temple is counted among 51 Shaktipeeth, often pictured as a major Hindu symbol and religious gathering point. The gold crown, gifted by Prime minister of India on his visit to Bangladesh, March 2021 went missing on 10th of October after the priest ended the worship ritual.¹¹⁸

Under the leadership of Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh has descended into a nightmare of religious persecution, where the state has become an active participant in the marginalization and brutalization of religious minorities. The Hindu community faces an unprecedented wave of violence, discrimination, and suppression. The Yunus government in Bangladesh has faced severe criticism for suppressing news about minority persecution and misrepresenting the reality of violence against these communities. Reports indicate that since Sheikh Hasina's resignation in August 2024, over 205 incidents of violence against minorities have

occurred, including attacks on temples, forced evictions, and physical assaults. However, the government has been accused of providing false narratives to international organizations and limiting the visibility of these atrocities in both domestic and international media.¹¹⁹

Additionally, religious texts other than the Quran were excluded during state functions under the Yunus administration, contradicting the country's constitutional principles of secularism. Community leaders have described widespread fear and displacement among minorities, with many families seeking refuge or leaving their homes. The Yunus government's failure to address these issues and its reluctance to hold perpetrators accountable has drawn significant condemnation. Critics argue that such actions damage Bangladesh's reputation and demonstrate a lack of commitment to protecting the rights of all citizens.¹²⁰

The persecution of minorities under the Yunus-led interim government demonstrates a systemic failure at multiple levels: muted media coverage, insufficient advocacy from human rights organizations, and a lack of international accountability. The silence of global institutions perpetuates the suffering of vulnerable communities. Immediate and coordinated international action is essential to protect minority rights and hold perpetrators accountable.



Unit 4: Global Silence, Local Agony: The Plight of Minorities Under the Yunus Government

The international community remains shamefully silent in the face of these horrors. Bangladesh's fall into the hands of extremist forces should send shockwaves through the global order, yet nations continue to turn a blind eye to the suffering of the minorities in Bangladesh. The Yunus government, under the guise of progressivism, has allowed the forces of extremism to run rampant while dismissing concerns about minority rights as “internal matters” and the claims of attacks against Hindus by members of the community as “propaganda”.^{121 122} This gross negligence not only violates human rights but also undermines Bangladesh's credibility on the world stage.

4.1 Lack of Human Rights Advocacy

Global inaction has been a significant barrier to addressing the persecution of minorities in South Asia. While organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch issued initial statements condemning the violence, they failed to sustain their campaigns, resulting in minimal global awareness and pressure. On the domestic front, human rights groups have faced significant challenges under the Yunus-led administration, with many activists being threatened, arrested, or forced into hiding.

The neglect of critical issues such as the desecration of temples—over 50 temples vandalized since August 2024, including major cultural landmarks—has been met with little attention from rights groups. Similarly, forced evictions, particularly those affecting Hindu families in Noakhali and Barisal, have seen little to no significant advocacy.

Internationally, the lack of accountability has been equally striking. The United Nations and its allied agencies have been largely silent, offering only vague remarks calling for “peace and stability” without addressing the specific violence targeted at minorities. Neighbouring India, despite the presence of many victims' relatives, has confined its response to diplomatic protests rather than taking proactive, substantive measures.

Global inaction has been evident in several key incidents of violence and desecration. The Ganesh Chaturthi attack, which involved the desecration of idols and violence during the festival, went unnoticed on the international stage. Similarly, the Faridpur temple burnings, despite being widely documented and shared online, failed to attract any global condemnation. These examples highlight the ongoing neglect of such atrocities in global discourse.

4.2 Why South Asia and South East Asia should not Remain Silent and Inactive?

The ongoing political turmoil in Bangladesh, marked by the forced ouster of the Hasina government, has set the stage for far-reaching consequences across South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the broader Indo-Pacific. The strategic importance of Bangladesh, particularly its control over the Bay of Bengal and access to vital ports like those in Myanmar, could place it at the centre of a new Cold War in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, the Yunus-led interim government's tacit support for political radicalization is not only destabilizing Bangladesh internally but also heightening security concerns for neighbouring regions.

The international community remains disturbingly silent, either indifferent or complicit in the rise of such a fascist regime. Countries that once saw Bangladesh as a rising democratic beacon now view it with disgust as a breeding ground for jihadism. Foreign investments have already begun to dwindle, with investors unwilling to risk their capital in a country ruled by militants and under threat from internal strife. Yunus's connections with global elites only deepen the suspicion that the international community is turning a blind eye to the suffering of Bangladesh's minorities. The world's failure to act now could embolden this regime, making Bangladesh a hotbed for international terrorism.

4.2.1 A Region on the Brink - Threats to South Asian Stability

South Asia is facing an unprecedented security crisis following the orchestrated regime change in Bangladesh. This upheaval has plunged the region into turmoil, with significant ramifications for stability and security.

On July 19, Bangladesh experienced a coordinated jailbreak, an alarming incident that saw the escape of over 2,241 inmates, including 88 death-row convicts. Among the escapees were militants from extremist groups such as Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT).¹²³ This incident has intensified fears of rising violence against minorities, including Hindus and organizations like ISKCON, which have historically been frequent targets of extremist aggression.

Under the interim leadership of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh has become a **safehaven for radical fundamentalists**. A stark example is the release of Jashimuddin Rahmani Hafi, the leader of ABT and an al-Qaeda affiliate. Imprisoned since 2013 for his role in the murder of a secular blogger, Rahmani's release has emboldened extremist sentiments. He has publicly incited violence, calling for the breakup of

India and urging West Bengal's Chief Minister to declare independence from “Modi's rule.”¹²⁴

For India, the political instability in Bangladesh poses grave security challenges, especially for its northeastern states. The rise of pro-China and pro-Pakistan factions, coupled with extremist groups like Jamaat-e-Islami and Hefazat-e-Islam, could exacerbate cross-border issues, including illegal migration, drug trafficking, and arms smuggling. The removal of security clearance for Pakistani citizens visiting Bangladesh further complicates matters.¹²⁵ This policy shift coincides with warming Pakistan-Bangladesh ties, as evidenced by a Pakistani cargo ship docking at Chittagong Port for the first time since 1971.¹²⁶ Such developments raise concerns about Pakistan's ISI exploiting insurgent movements in India's North-East, potentially with Bangladesh's tacit support.

India, Bangladesh's largest neighbour, stands to suffer most from this turmoil. The ripple effects of an unstable Bangladesh are already being felt, with militants and arms spilling across borders and radicalization spreading like wildfire. Entire Indian subcontinent's security is directly threatened by this chaos, with the growing strength of extremist groups in Bangladesh threatening to destabilize not just the subcontinent, but the entire region. This is the moment for the international community to take an extremely decisive action. The forces of extremism and religious persecution must be confronted head-on, and the Yunus government must be held accountable. The world cannot afford to remain silent while Bangladesh, once a symbol of hope, becomes a playground for extremists and a menace to its neighbours. The time for action is now. Failure to confront the Yunus regime will have disastrous consequences for the future of South Asia.

Similarly, **for Myanmar** which is already undoing in a civil war like conflict, the present volatility in Bangladesh is going to further complicate the situation in the country by providing safe heaven to Rohingya militants and other Christian extremists groups. Additionally, Sheikh Hasina has alleged Western designs to create a Christian-dominated 'Zo' state in the North-East, akin to East Timor, which could exacerbate separatist activities in the region. These unfolding events underline the escalating regional tensions and their significant implications for both India and Myanmar's security and stability.¹²⁷

Creation of a new volatile front in South Asia adds to the geo political designs of United States to counter the China's rising influence in the region as well as pressuring India to conform to its foreign policy goals. **For example**, Sheikh Hasina accused the U.S. of plotting to establish a naval base on St. Martin's Island to expand

its influence in the Bay of Bengal highlighting external manipulation in the region's instability. The U.S. reportedly orchestrated a regime change through covert meetings with opposition leaders, NGOs, and Islamist groups, leveraging expatriate Bangladeshis in the West. The Clinton Foundation's links to Yunus, revealed by Wikileaks, exemplify such interventions. This long-term strategy reflects America's historical pattern of destabilizing nations under the guise of promoting democracy. Historical examples, including the removal of leaders like Assad, Gaddafi, and now Hasina, illustrate a recurring pattern of creating power vacuums, leaving regions vulnerable to extremist forces.^{128 129}

Also, **Bangladesh's evolving foreign alignments, particularly its pivot towards Pakistan** signals a profound departure from its historical ties with India and poses serious threats to the regional stability. **This shift is fraught with irony** and raises questions about the nation's collective memory and values. India, which played a pivotal role in Bangladesh's liberation-sacrificing 17,000 soldiers, sheltering 10 million refugees, and supporting freedom fighters-is now viewed as an adversary. Conversely, Pakistan, responsible for the 1971 genocide of 3 million Bangladeshis and systemic sexual violence against 200,000 women, is being embraced as a friend despite its unapologetic stance on past atrocities.¹³⁰

Recent events in Bangladesh highlight this realignment. On September 11, the Nawab Salimullah Academy commemorated Muhammad Ali Jinnah's 76th death anniversary, asserting that Bangladesh's independence was indirectly facilitated by Pakistan's creation. Such narratives not only whitewash Pakistan's role in Bangladesh's traumatic history but also foster public acceptance of closer ties. Similarly, the erection of a “Shaheed Felani Road” sign near the Indian High Commission, protesting alleged BSF “border killings”, underscores the growing anti-India sentiment in public discourse.¹³¹ Educational institutions have become hotspots for anti-India propaganda. Reports of **Indian flags being desecrated** at Bogura Polytechnic Institute, BUET, Dhaka University, and Noakhali Science and Technology University highlight the deliberate targeting of Indian and Hindu symbols.¹³² Pakistan's influence in Bangladesh extends to radicalization efforts through its allies, particularly Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh (JIB) and its student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir. These groups have been instrumental in fostering anti-India ideologies and fuelling extremist activities.

4.3 Silence of Global Majority on Persecution of Global Minority

The ongoing ethnic cleansing of Hindus in Bangladesh has exposed the indifference of global powers and international human rights institutions. The Biden administration's silence on this humanitarian crisis is particularly alarming. **While the United States has imposed sanctions on Myanmar for its treatment of Rohingyas, it has failed to take any meaningful action against Bangladesh**, where religious minorities, especially Hindus, are subjected to systematic violence, forced displacement, and legal persecution. This selective approach underscores the U.S.'s prioritization of geopolitical and military interests in the Indo-Pacific over universal human rights. Despite Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric supporting Bangladeshi Hindus, the entrenched “deep state” of U.S. foreign policy makes any future policy shift unlikely, regardless of leadership changes.

India, a nation with deep civilizational and cultural ties to Bangladesh's Hindus, is also failing to fulfil its moral duty to protect them. Statements of condemnation by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have been met with outright dismissal by the Yunus-led regime, which is bolstered by its alignment with U.S. geopolitical interests. **A glaring example of this disregard is the Bangladeshi government's rebuttal to India's criticism of the arrest of an ISKCON leader.**¹³³ Hindus in Bangladesh, who once constituted 33 percent of the population in East Bengal, have dwindled to less than 8 percent today. This demographic collapse, exacerbated under the Yunus regime, reflects systemic societal intolerance and unchecked violence against minorities. Diplomatic efforts, such as Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's December visit to Dhaka, have so far failed to address the underlying crisis.

The apathy of global human rights institutions, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), further compounds the issue. Despite credible reports of systemic violence, these bodies have failed to act decisively. **A recent OHCHR Fact-Finding Team invited by Bangladesh to investigate human rights violations excluded incidents beyond August 15, 2024**, despite overwhelming evidence of continued persecution.¹³⁴ Such symbolic measures reflect a lack of genuine commitment to addressing the broader patterns of violence. Similarly, systematic persecution of religious minorities in Bangladesh reveals the **hypocrisy of the Islamic world. media outlets like Al Jazeera dismissed the violence as politically motivated**, ignoring its communal and genocidal nature.¹³⁵ This selective outrage not only downplays the gravity of the violence but also provides implicit support to the perpetrators by failing to acknowledge the victims.

The stark contrast between the proactive stance of international organizations on issues like Gaza and their silence on the plight of Bangladeshi Hindus highlights a troubling double standard. This neglect emboldens perpetrators and risks the complete Islamization of Bangladesh, with minorities systematically erased through violence and harassment. To prevent further atrocities, international human rights bodies must urgently expand their mandates, conduct thorough investigations, and recommend actionable measures to protect minorities. Inaction will not only lead to the obliteration of the Hindu community in Bangladesh but will also undermine the credibility of global institutions as protectors of justice and equity. The world must recognize and address this genocide, as silence equates to complicity in these atrocities.

4.4 Hollow Words Without Tangible Actions

In Bangladesh, the sustained attacks on Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian minorities present a sobering contradiction. These communities, constituting a vulnerable minority within the predominantly Muslim population, have faced systemic discrimination, violence, and disenfranchisement, often met with silence or insufficient action from authorities. While global leaders and human rights organizations have voiced concern over the deteriorating conditions, the rhetoric of condemnation rarely translates into tangible measures for safeguarding these communities. This invisibilization of minority persecution underscores a troubling trend: the erosion of accountability in the face of targeted violence and the international community's failure to prioritize effective interventions.

USA

Vedant Patel, Deputy Spokesperson for the US State Department, said, “We are consistent with every government in which we have a relationship with. We are clear that there needs to be the respect of fundamental freedoms.” He further added, “Governments need to respect the rule of law, they need to respect basic human rights as part of that. That's something we'll continue to emphasize”.¹³⁶

Former Commissioner of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and ex-spiritual advisor to US President-elect Donald Trump, **Johnnie Moore**, said, “Bangladesh isn't just a Muslim country. It's a Muslim-majority country that has many, many minorities. There isn't a minority in the country that doesn't feel under threat right now. That's been globally evident in recent days as this high-profile arrest has taken place of not just a leader of the Hindu Bangladeshi community, but really a very serious religious figure. I think the perception is if they'll go after him, they'll go after any of us. I want to be crystal

clear, that the global Christian community stands with the Hindu community in Bangladesh. It is the first responsibility of a government to protect those under threat. The religious minorities of Bangladesh are really feeling it now and they deserve our support," he said.

Another quotation by **Johnnie Moore**- "We're not sure who's really doing this, but let me just say, the way I see it, Muhammad Yunus is failing. That's what's happening in Bangladesh now. As, the leader of the country, as the interim leader of the country, there are no aspirations for the Bangladeshi people. If you can't manage a very, very simple component of civil society, which is you have to protect people, people have to be safe. If the rule of law becomes so inefficient that instead of getting due process, a lawyer is killed. This is unbelievable, I was astonished by the response of Mr Yunus in the Bangladeshi government. They are saying this is exaggerated. They're saying that this isn't as big a deal as it seems," he added. ¹³⁷

Quotation by **Donald Trump**- "I strongly condemn the barbaric violence against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities who are getting attacked and looted by mobs in Bangladesh, which remains in a total state of chaos". ¹³⁸

After the democratically elected Sheikh Hasina-led administration fell, US Congressman **Brad Sherman** also denounced the violence, saying that the Yunus government had "an absolute obligation to protect the minority Hindu community." ¹³⁹

UK

Catherine West, the Foreign Office in-charge of the Indo-Pacific, acknowledged India's concerns and said, "We are aware of the statement of concern from the Indian government following the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a well-known Hindu leader, on sedition charges. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) desk is closely monitoring those developments". ¹⁴⁰

Priti Patel, Indian-origin and Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said, "The degree of escalation in violence is deeply concerning. What we are witnessing now is uncontrolled violence in many quarters. We are watching with horror and shock as further violence spreads in Bangladesh. The thoughts of all of us in the House are with the diaspora community here and those affected in Bangladesh. These are deeply disturbing reports." ¹⁴¹

The situation in Bangladesh is "clearly on a knife edge," according to **Barry Gardiner**, the Member of Parliament for Brent West, an area that has a sizable British Hindu minority.

INDIA

MEA, India said, "This incident follows the multiple attacks on Hindus and other minorities by extremist elements in Bangladesh. There are several documented cases of arson and looting of minorities' homes and business establishments, as well as theft and vandalism and desecration of deities and temples".¹⁴²

On incident of Chinmoy Krishna Das being arrested, MEA said, "It is unfortunate that while the perpetrators of these incidents remain at large, charges should be pressed against a religious leader presenting legitimate demands through peaceful gatherings. We also note with concern the attacks on minorities protesting peacefully against the arrest of Shri Das. We urge Bangladesh authorities to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities, including their right of freedom of peaceful assembly and expression."¹⁴³

External affairs minister **S Jaishankar** said, "The primary responsibility for the protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh".¹⁴⁴

"140 crore Indians worried about the safety of the Hindus, the minorities in Bangladesh," **PM Narendra Modi** said. "India will always be a well-wisher of Bangladesh's progress. We hope the situation normalises in Bangladesh soon. Indians want the security of Hindus, and minorities there to be ensured."¹⁴⁵

Conclusion

Bangladesh, once envisioned as a bastion of secularism and cultural pluralism, now teeters on the edge of chaos, with its minorities facing an existential threat. The events following the ouster of the Hasina government have plunged the nation into a spiral of violence, intolerance, and state complicity, marking one of the darkest periods in its modern history. Hindus, who once constituted a thriving community, have been reduced to a marginalized minority, their numbers dwindling from 23 percent in 1951 to less than 8 percent today. This demographic collapse, coupled with rising extremism, underscores the systematic marginalization and cultural erasure of minorities in Bangladesh.

The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus from August to December 2024 presided over one of the most blatant episodes of systemic exclusion and marginalization of minorities in recent Bangladeshi history. The deliberate dismantling of institutional protections, coupled with state apathy, fueled a reign of targeted persecution against Hindus and other minorities. It represents a systemic weakening of minority rights, political representation, and socio-economic security.

The Yunus government's handling of minority rights was an unequivocal failure, exposing the fragility of Bangladesh's commitment to pluralism. By enabling, if not actively endorsing, systematic persecution, it has set a dangerous precedent, eroding trust in democratic and judicial institutions. Urgent reforms are essential, but so is accountability for the state's role in perpetuating these injustices. On September 5, Interim Government Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, without conducting investigations into the acts of violence and religious intolerance, controversially claimed that “attacks on Hindus occurred because there is no clear distinction between Awami League supporters and Hindus”. This statement was widely criticised for deflecting responsibility and perpetuating harmful stereotypes, further exacerbating communal tensions instead of addressing the violence. On 12 October, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India denounced the attacks on Hindu temples in Bangladesh, calling them "deplorable", and urged Bangladesh to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities and their places of worship.

Md. Yunus, once hailed as a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, has turned enabler for radical Islamists. Not only has he legitimized extremist factions by including them in his interim government, but the police and military, instead of acting as protectors, have become complicit in atrocities. The release of hardened criminals and militants, the erasure of secular values, and the targeting of minority communities, including through attacks

on temples and cultural sites, highlight a deliberate agenda to consolidate a theocratic state.

Bangladesh fought a bloody liberation war in 1971 to free itself from the atrocious hegemony of West Pakistan and proclaim its roots in rich and diverse Bengali culture and language. India was its biggest ally then, and it continues to hold that promise to this day. Bengali culture has been the nurturer of a syncretic society of shared values in Bangladesh, which people of diverse faiths and ethnicities have called home for centuries. The dogma of religion and the near-sighted opportunism of the current political leadership should not be allowed to mar that culture. The minorities of Bangladesh have suffered, no matter the ruler. This, despite their vast contributions throughout Bangladesh's history to its global achievements. Yunus assumed his responsibilities with much hope and promise. He should realize that friendship with the fundamentalist radical Islamist outfits is a ticking time bomb, which when bursts, spares none. Bangladesh should not be allowed to meet the fate of Pakistan, full of potential yet doomed on account overzealous religious fanaticism. The rational forces in Bangladesh, across communities, and it is firmly believed they are not less in strength either, should see to it that Yunus is taken upon his promise of ensuring safety and dignity to all suffering, especially the religious and ethnic minorities, and of a smooth but prompt restoration of democratic processes. International governments and organisations must redirect their focus on the plight of democracy in Bangladesh and the unabated persecution of religious and ethnic minorities at the hands of the Jihadis and a compliant government head who has been whitewashing and rationalizing the human rights violations unabashedly.

Institutions meant to uphold democracy and the rule of law, including the judiciary and the press, have been weaponized against dissent, further silencing the voices of those who dare to speak out. With about 8 percent of minorities left, this government appears to be orchestrating a complete erasure of these communities. The silence of global majority is deafening. While the world reacts strongly to issues affecting Christians or Muslims, the plight of Hindus being wiped out from their ancestral lands barely stirs international outrage.

This period is a damning indictment of Bangladesh's democratic and secular commitments, where systemic exclusion replaced inclusion, and justice was sacrificed at the altar of political expediency. Immediate accountability and reforms are imperative to reverse the devastating legacy of these months.

The international community cannot afford to remain silent in the face of such atrocities. The United Nations and global human rights organizations must move beyond symbolic gestures to tangible actions, including investigations, sanctions, and consistent monitoring of human rights violations. For nations like India, this crisis is not merely a regional issue but a civilizational call to action. India must leverage its diplomatic influence to safeguard the rights of Bangladeshi minorities and ensure their survival against rising intolerance.

Ultimately, the survival of Bangladesh as a pluralistic society depends on urgent and coordinated efforts to address this escalating crisis. The global community, regional powers, and Bangladesh itself must come together to dismantle the forces of extremism and uphold the principles of justice, equality, and secularism that were once the foundation of the nation's independence. Without immediate intervention, the world risks bearing witness to the systematic erasure of an entire community and the descent of Bangladesh into an irreparable state of radicalism and violence.

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