

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 14 MARCH 2025

---

## DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses re compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

---

## COI QUERY RESPONSE

### BANGLDESH – STATE PROTECTION

In October 2024 *Amnesty International* comments on the need to: “...reform laws and rebuild criminal justice institutions.”<sup>1</sup>

In November 2024 the *International Crisis Group* states that: “Bangladesh’s judicial system has never been entirely safe from political interference, but under Hasina the meddling assumed alarming proportions as her administration used the courts to cudgel her political opponents...The interim government has already taken several steps to restore the judiciary’s independence.”<sup>2</sup>

This document also states that: “Perhaps the biggest challenge when it comes to reforming institutions will be dealing with the security agencies, particularly the police force.”<sup>3</sup>

It is also pointed out in this report that: “Police have gradually returned to duty, and the government has replaced senior officers implicated in abuses under Hasina’s regime...measures alone are unlikely to be sufficient, however. Trust in the police remains low and morale is poor, with officers worried about being attacked or charged for their role in the crackdown on protesters under Hasina’s regime...”<sup>4</sup>

*Agence France Presse* in November 2024 states that: “Bangladesh's interim government has extended the judicial powers of the armed forces granted after the August revolution that toppled ex-leader Sheikh Hasina. The government order, issued November 15, extends for two more months the powers of the armed forces to engage in day-to-day enforcement activities like the police, including making arrests...Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, 77, had ordered police to crush student-led protests -- a deadly crackdown that left at least 700 people dead -- before she fled by helicopter to India on August 5. Her 15-year regime was marred by incidents of preventing the

---

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International (25 October 2024) Bangladesh: Open Letter: Follow-up on International Human Rights CSO Meeting during UNGA 2024, p.3

<sup>2</sup> International Crisis Group (14 November 2024) A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform, p.10

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*, p.11

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*, p.12

opposition from exercising their democratic rights. Since then, a caretaker government, led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, has been tasked with implementing democratic reforms and holding elections. The army was brought in to restore security with many people having lost confidence in the police.”<sup>5</sup>

In 2025 *Freedom House* released a report reviewing events of 2024 which included stating that: “During the first five months of the interim government's tenure, it reopened political and civic space and began to reform state institutions, but violence and political retribution remained problems.”<sup>6</sup>

A report released in January 2025 by *Human Rights Watch* reviewing events of the preceding year points out that: “In September, the interim government established six commissions to reform the judiciary, the electoral system, public administration, the police, the AntiCorruption Commission, and the constitution before promised free and fair elections.”<sup>7</sup>

In February 2025 *Odhikar* released a report commenting on events of the preceding year which included stating that: “Since the interim government's taking over of office, there were still plain clothes” operations launched against members of law enforcement, and there have been reports of the latter being involved in different criminal activities...including extrajudicial killings.”<sup>8</sup>

In January 2025 *Human Rights Watch* states in a report that: “...police have returned to the abusive practices that characterized the previous government, this time targeting supporters—or perceived supporters—of the Awami League government.”<sup>9</sup>

A report issued in January 2025 by the *International Crisis Group* points out that: “As part of an ambitious reform agenda, Yunus has formed more than a dozen commissions, including one tasked with overhauling the constitution...”<sup>10</sup>

In February 2025 *Human Rights Watch* notes that: “An interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has pledged security sector reform. However, it has deployed security forces, including the military, for “Operation Devil Hunt,” arresting nearly 2,000 people, mostly supporters of Hasina’s deposed Awami League government.”<sup>11</sup>

In February 2025 the *Associated Press* states that: “The interim government launched a crackdown called “Operation Devil Hunt” on Feb. 8 and arrested more than 8,000 people across the country.”<sup>12</sup>

The *Agence France Presse* in February 2025 points out that: “Bangladesh has been riven by a surge of crime...”<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Agence France Presse (17 November 2024) Bangladesh extends armed forces judicial powers

<sup>6</sup> Freedom House (2025) Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh, p.1

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Watch (16 January 2025) World Report 2025: Bangladesh, p.2

<sup>8</sup> Odhikar (10 February 2025) Annual Human Rights Report 2024, p.5

<sup>9</sup> Human Rights Watch (27 January 2025) After the Monsoon Revolution, A Roadmap to Lasting Security Sector Reform in Bangladesh, p.5

<sup>10</sup> International Crisis Group (30 January 2025) Bangladesh: The Dilemmas of a Democratic Transition, p.3

<sup>11</sup> Human Rights Watch (12 February 2025) Bangladesh: Uphold Impartiality in Law Enforcement

<sup>12</sup> Associated Press (24 February 2025) Residents attack Bangladesh air force base and clash with soldiers, leaving 1 dead

<sup>13</sup> Agence France Presse (25 February 2025) Bangladesh army chief warns country 'at risk' from infighting

*Benarnews* in March 2025 states that: “Human rights activists in Bangladesh are raising alarms about extrajudicial killings and other incustody deaths of suspects recurring since the interim government came to power.”<sup>14</sup>

A publication issued in March 2025 by *Human Rights Watch* points out that: “The interim government wants to initiate reforms, but we are already witnessing failures in law enforcement, rising crime, and a tendency towards mob violence, this time targeting Awami League supporters.”<sup>15</sup>

## References

Agence France Presse (25 February 2025) *Bangladesh army chief warns country 'at risk' from infighting*

<https://advance.lexis.com/r/delivery/content/1774261107/download/247764266/FullDoc/false>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Agence France Presse (17 November 2024) *Bangladesh extends armed forces judicial powers*

<https://advance.lexis.com/r/delivery/content/1712549334/download/240235343/FullDoc/false>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Amnesty International (25 October 2024) *Bangladesh: Open Letter: Follow-up on International Human Rights CSO Meeting during UNGA 2024*

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa13/8683/2024/en/>

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Associated Press (24 February 2025) *Residents attack Bangladesh air force base and clash with soldiers, leaving 1 dead*

<https://advance.lexis.com/r/delivery/content/1774237988/download/247761075/FullDoc/false>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

*Benarnews* (3 March 2025) *Extrajudicial killings, custody deaths resurface under Yunus govt, activists allege*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/print/pdf/members/country-report/extrajudicial-killings-custody-deaths-resurface-under-yunus-govt-activists>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Freedom House (2025) *Freedom in the World 2025: Bangladesh*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/print/pdf/members/country-report/freedom-world-2025-bangladesh>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Human Rights Watch (4 March 2025) *HRW Oral Statement at the 58th Session of the UN Human Rights Council*

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/03/04/hrw-oral-statement-58th-session-un-human-rights-council>

<sup>14</sup> *Benarnews* (3 March 2025) *Extrajudicial killings, custody deaths resurface under Yunus govt, activists allege*, p.1

<sup>15</sup> Human Rights Watch (4 March 2025) *HRW Oral Statement at the 58th Session of the UN Human Rights Council*

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Human Rights Watch (12 February 2025) *Bangladesh: Uphold Impartiality in Law Enforcement*  
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/02/12/bangladesh-uphold-impartiality-law-enforcement>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Human Rights Watch (27 January 2025) *After the Monsoon Revolution, A Roadmap to Lasting Security Sector Reform in Bangladesh*

[https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media\\_2025/01/bangladesh0125web.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2025/01/bangladesh0125web.pdf)

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Human Rights Watch (16 January 2025) *World Report 2025: Bangladesh*

<https://www.ein.org.uk/print/pdf/members/country-report/world-report-2025-bangladesh>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

International Crisis Group (30 January 2025) *Bangladesh: The Dilemmas of a Democratic Transition*

[https://www.crisisgroup.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/wl-2025-bangladesh\\_0.pdf](https://www.crisisgroup.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/wl-2025-bangladesh_0.pdf)

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

International Crisis Group (14 November 2024) *A New Era in Bangladesh? The First Hundred Days of Reform*

[https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2117796/344-bangladesh-hundred-days\\_0.pdf](https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2117796/344-bangladesh-hundred-days_0.pdf)

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

Odhikar (10 February 2025) *Annual Human Rights Report 2024*

[https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AHRR-2024\\_Odhikar\\_English.pdf](https://odhikar.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AHRR-2024_Odhikar_English.pdf)

Accessed Friday 14 March 2025

## Sources Consulted

Amnesty International

BBC News

Electronic Immigration Network

EUAA

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Google

Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

International Crisis Group

Lexis Nexis

Minority Rights Group International

New Humanitarian

Online Newspapers

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

Reliefweb

United Kingdom Home Office

UNDP

UNHCR Refworld  
UN Treaty Body Database  
United States Department of State  
World Bank

### **Contact Information**

Refugee Documentation Centre  
Legal Aid Board  
48/49 North Brunswick Street  
Dublin 7  
Ireland

Email: [research@legalaidboard.ie](mailto:research@legalaidboard.ie)