

The story of Rahim, an innocent bystander caught in the crossfire of political violence, mirrors a grim statistic. According to the **Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)**, in 2023 alone, at least 120 people were killed and over 7,000 injured in political clashes. The **UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)** has repeatedly raised concerns about extrajudicial killings and the lack of accountability for politically motivated violence in Bangladesh. When justice is selective, the victims' families are left with nothing but silence.

Mitu's ordeal is part of a wider epidemic of violence against women. **According to Bangladesh Mahila Parishad**, more than

1,300 cases of rape and sexual assault were reported in 2023, with many more going unreported due to fear and stigma. A UN Women report states that 80% of women in Bangladesh experience harassment in public spaces. Despite legal frameworks like the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, conviction rates remain abysmally low, reinforcing a culture where perpetrators roam free while survivors live in fear.

Jamal's murder over extortion is not an isolated crime—it reflects a broader network of organized crime that thrives under weak law enforcement. The **Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) 2023 report revealed that 63% of small business owners face regular threats from extortionists, many of whom operate with political protection.**

Furthermore, the **Global Organized Crime Index 2021** ranked Bangladesh high in terms of criminal networks, citing corruption and lack of legal enforcement as key contributors.

So, where does this leave us?

It leaves us with a country where violence is normalized, justice is denied, and impunity is the rule.

