



July Monsoon Revolution: The Gen Z's Vision for the Reform,

Transitional Justice, and Hope for Bangladesh 2.0

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ABSTRACT

The July Monsoon Revolution of 2024 marks a historic Gen Z-led movement in Bangladesh demanding justice, dignity, and democratic reform. This study explores the potential of transitional justice in reshaping "Bangladesh 2.0," grounded in truth, accountability, and healing. Drawing on international models, human rights reports, and youth narratives, it proposes a Victim-Centered Truth and Healing Commission. Article demonstrates that over 1,400 deaths and mass violations were identified, underscoring the urgency for institutional reform. The revolution reflects a generational shift from protest to policy engagement. Gen Z envisions a decolonized justice model resisting elite dominance. Overall, the movement advocates for a new social contract founded on equity and participatory peace. Bangladesh stands at a critical juncture for reimagining its democratic future.

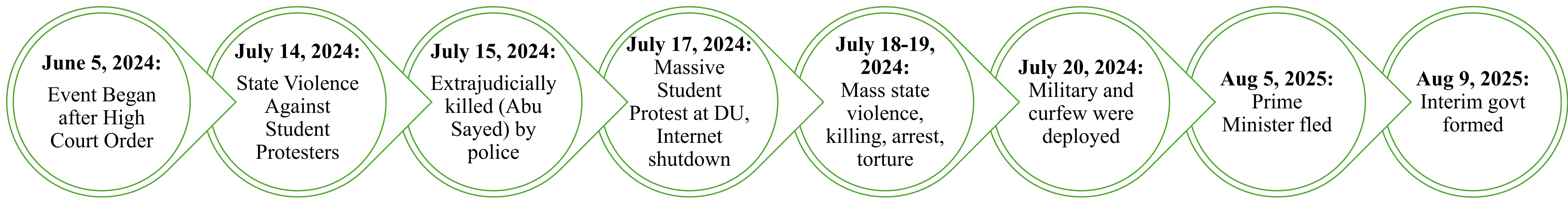
Introduction

This article explores the role of transitional justice in shaping Bangladesh 2.0 following the 2024 Gen Z-led July Monsoon Revolution. It analyzes the movement’s demands for justice, accountability, and healing in response to decades of repression and post-liberation trauma. The study investigates global best practices for addressing crimes against humanity and proposes a decolonized, victim-centered Truth and Healing Commission. Key objectives include assessing post-revolution civic discourse, identifying barriers to a just welfare state, aligning reforms with Gen Z's vision, and promoting inclusive, community-based reconciliation that centers marginalized voices. While Google Scholar retrieves over a thousand entries on the July Monsoon Revolution, there remains a critical research gap in studies specifically focused on transitional justice, institutional reform, and the mental health challenges faced by survivors.

Methodology

The methodology integrates analysis of primary statistics from the UN OHCHR Fact-Finding Mission (2025) report, Human Rights Watch’s (HRW) statements, Amnesty International portal report, and Odhikar’s human rights monitoring report, along with Case studies from post-revolutionary nations (Argentina, Germany, Rwanda, South Africa). In addition to analyzing international human rights defender reports, a study was conducted to examine social media narratives, scholarly literature, youth declarations, national news media articles, and digital campaigns, capturing the discourse of Gen Z protest.

Timeline of Significant Events of July Revolution-2024



Result

Fig. 1: Human Rights Violation based on UN and Odhikar Report

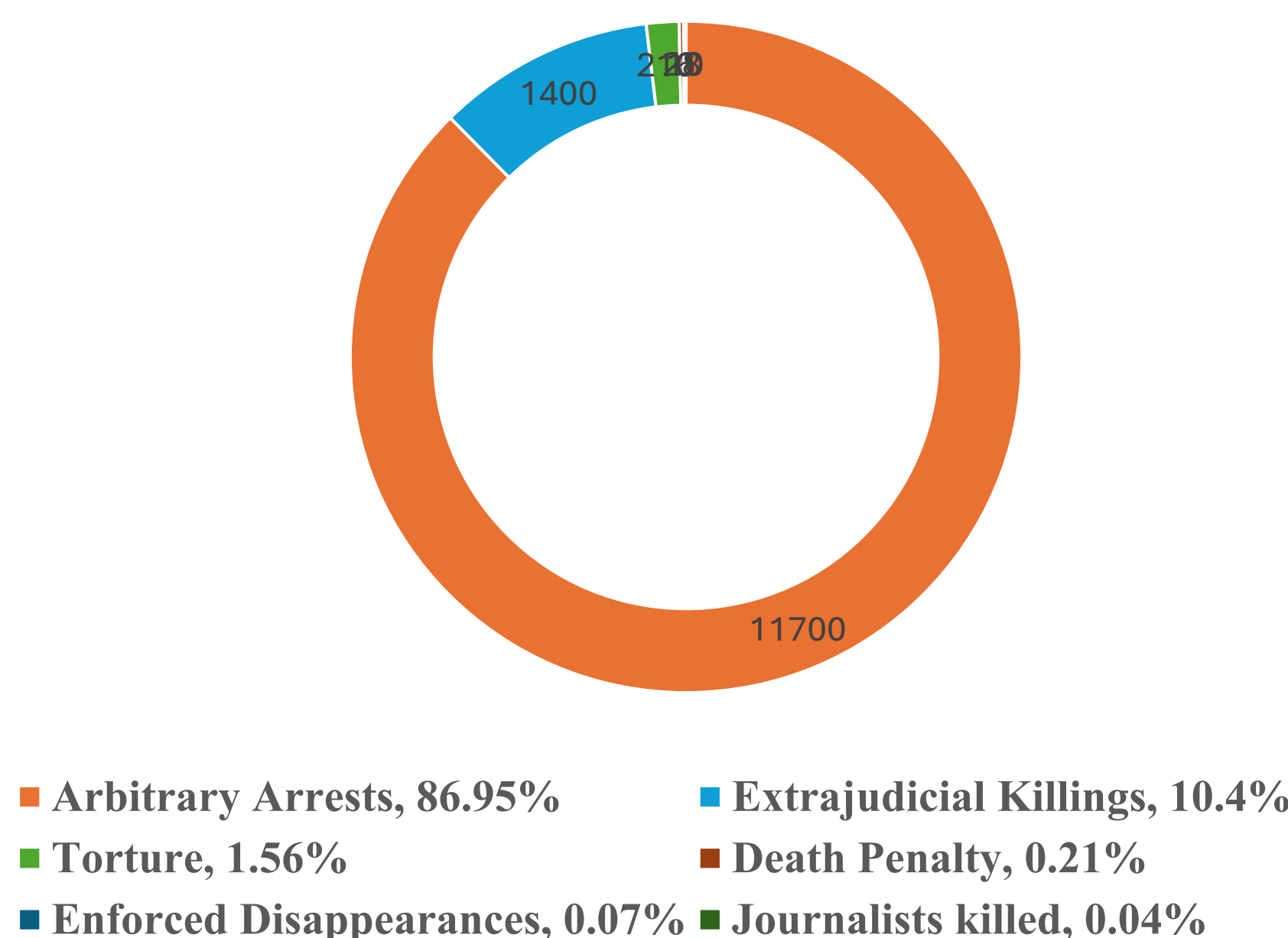


Fig. 3: Impact on Protestors

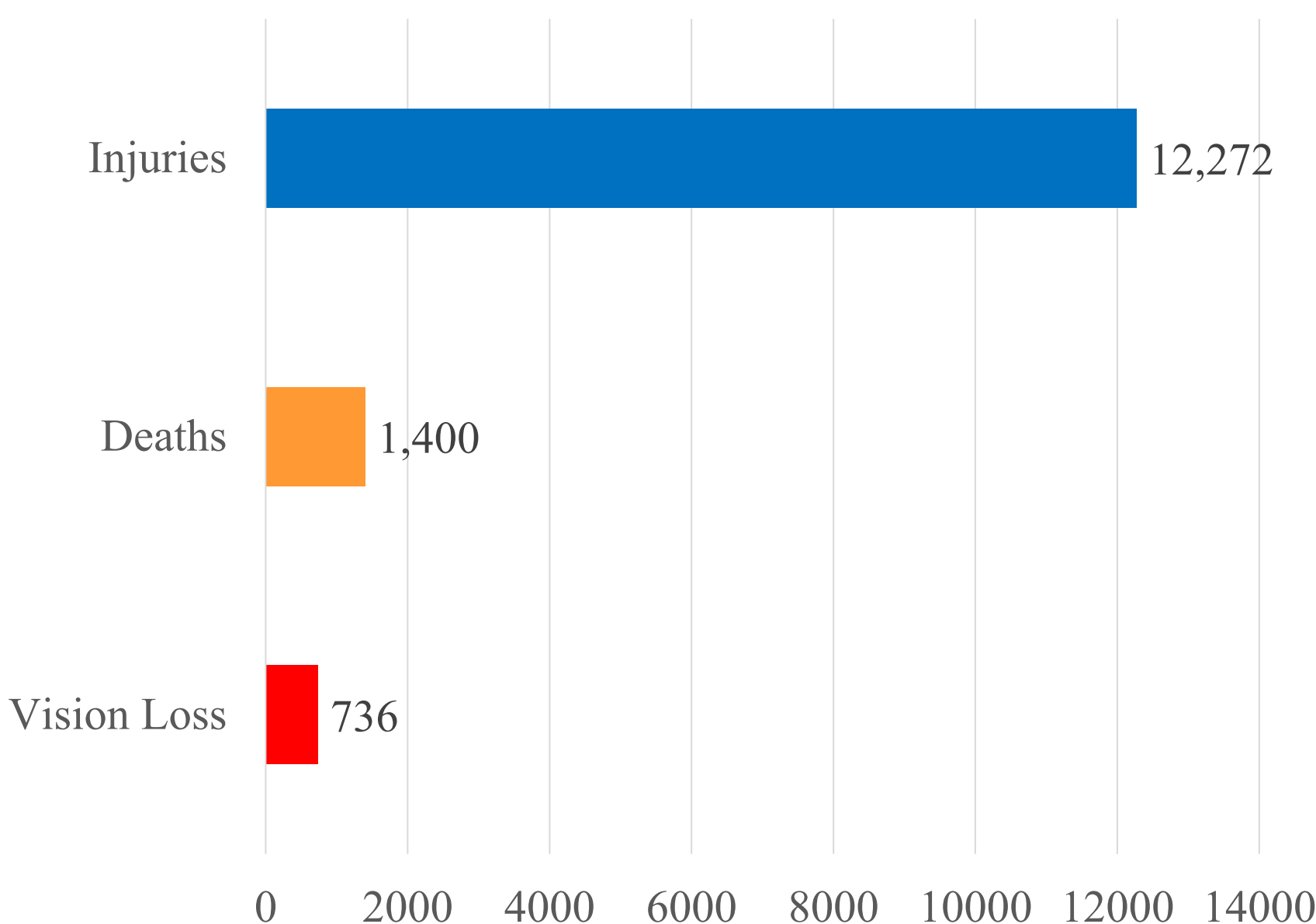


Fig. 2: Mental Health Outcomes Among Survivors (Ashan et al.,2025)

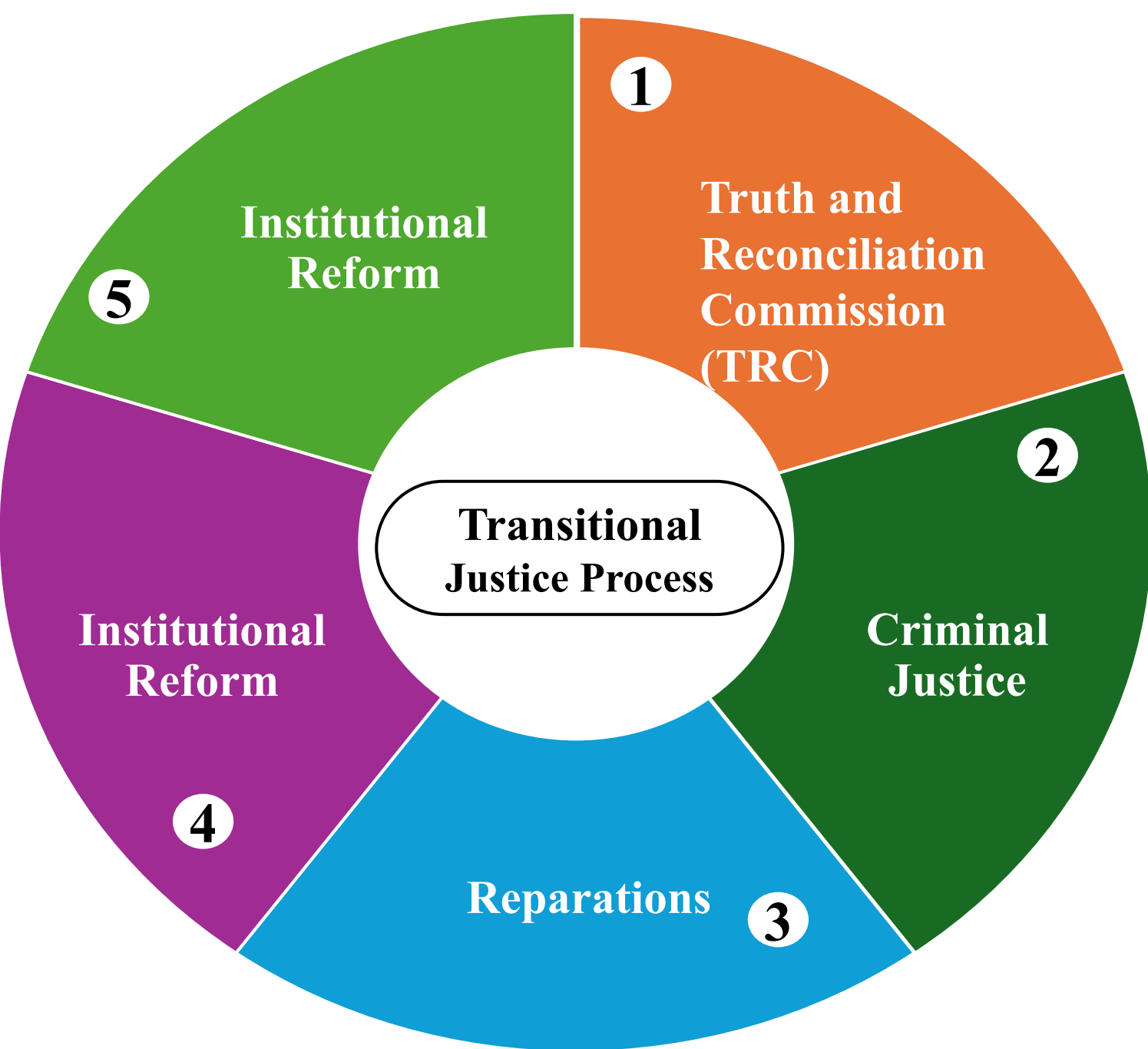
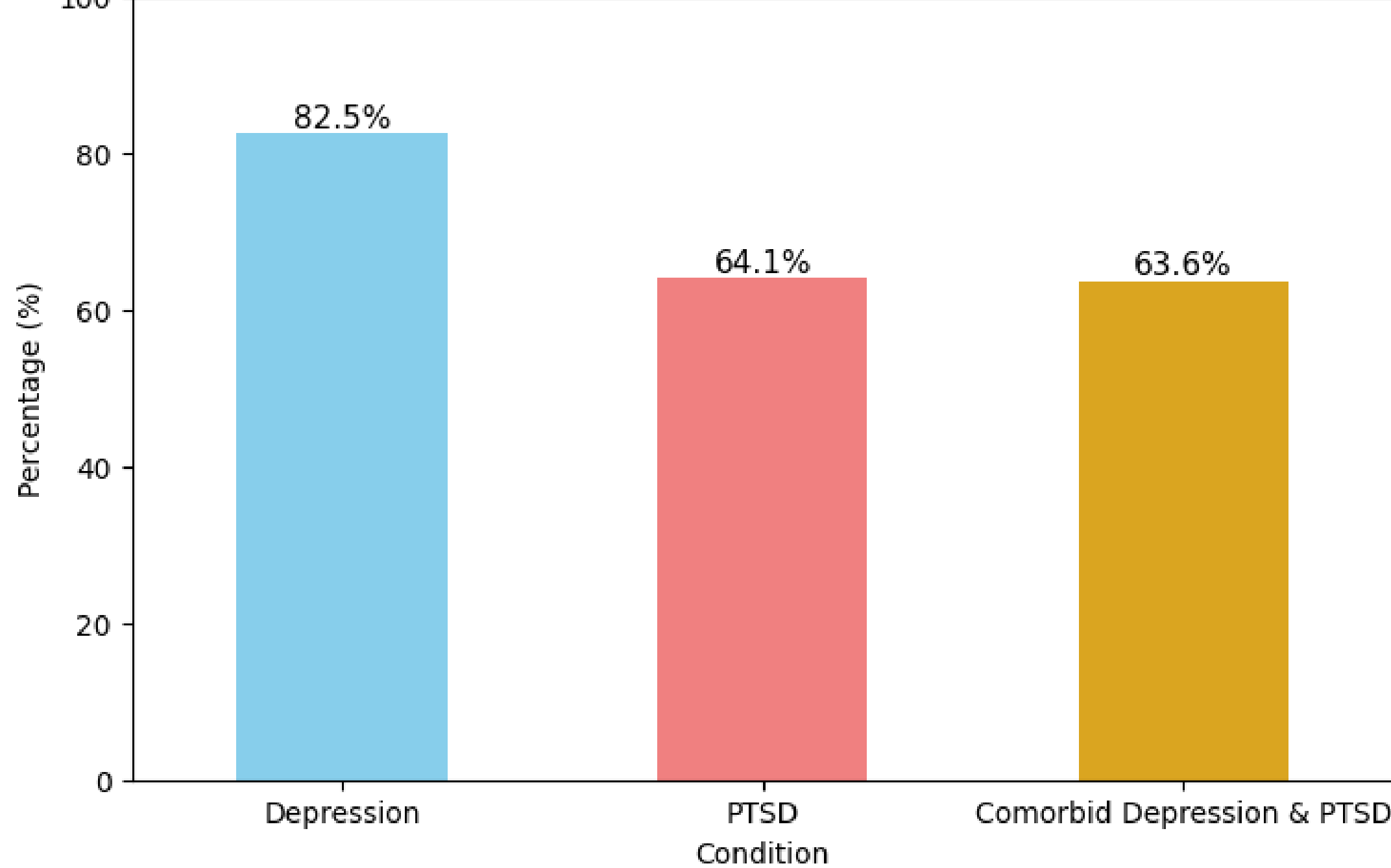


Fig. 4: Key Mechanism of Transitional Justice

The UN Fact-Finding Report (2025) confirms over 1,400 civilian deaths, mass arrests, and severe injuries during the July Monsoon Revolution (Fig. 1 & 3), with credible evidence of crimes against humanity. Youth activism has evolved into proactive civic engagement, demanding accountability, judicial reform, and democratic integrity. Despite interim reforms, mental health studies reveal high rates of depression (82.5%) and PTSD (64.1%) among survivors (Fig. 2), exhibiting the need for building Victims Mental Health & Rehabilitation care in post-revolution Bangladesh.

Table 1: Transitional Justice Process: Bangladesh (post-apartheid)

Pillar	Status /Execution?	Recommendation
TRC	✗ Not Yet	July Shonod
Criminal Justice	⚠ Partial	Crime against humanity trail accomplishment
Reparations	✓ Yes	Monetary compensation
Institutional Reform	✗ Not Yet	New Constitution, police reform
Memorialization	⚠ Partial	Apartheid Museum, national remembrance days

Table 2: Global Comparative Transitional Justice Model After Revolution

Country	Region	Year	Mechanism(s)	Key Focus Areas	Legacy / Outcome	References
Argentina	Latin America	1983	CONADEP, criminal trials	Disappearances, torture	Extensive prosecutions after delay	<a href="#">Nunca Más Report</a>
Germany (East)	Europe	1990	Lustration, Stasi archive opening, trials	Institutional vetting, memory	High transparency, robust reforms	<a href="#">BSTU</a>
South Africa	Africa	1994	Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)	Truth-telling, amnesty, reconciliation	High moral impact, limited prosecutions	<a href="#">TRC Report, 1998</a>
Rwanda	Africa	1994	ICTR & Gacaca Courts	Genocide trials, community justice	Broad prosecutions, reconciliation uneven	<a href="#">UN ICTR</a>
Bosnia & Herz.	Europe	1995	ICTY, national courts	Ethnic cleansing, genocide	Justice partial, reconciliation still fragile	<a href="#">ICTY</a>
Sierra Leone	Africa	2002	Special Court & TRC	Hybrid justice, war crimes	International precedent, limited national impact	<a href="#">UN SCSL</a>
Colombia	Latin America	2016	JEP, Truth Commission	FARC conflict, reparations, reintegration	Model for balancing justice and peace	<a href="#">JEP Colombia</a>

The key Institutional Reform recommendations by Human Rights Watch (HRW) report:

- End Political Interference in Security Forces
- Ensure Civilian Oversight and Accountability
- Enforce International Standards on Use of Force
- End Arbitrary Arrests, Enforced Disappearances, Torture, and Extrajudicial Killings
- Disband the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and Reform Justice System

Overall, Institutional reform must ensure accountability, transparency, and independence across all branches—executive, legislative, judiciary—and constitutional bodies, including the EC, ACC, PSC, HRC, and intelligence and law enforcement agencies (DGFI, NSI Armed Forces, Detective Branch, Special Branch, and Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit (CTTC)

Discussion and Conclusion

The absence of transitional justice mechanisms, such as truth commissions, legal accountability, reparations, and institutional reform, has historically proved to be the failure of revolutions and the resurgence of authoritarianism.

In this context, the July Monsoon Revolution represents a profound generational shift, with Gen Z at the forefront. Their movement calls for the urgent implementation of a hybrid, UN-recommended transitional justice framework that combines institutional reform with a victim-centered healing process. It further demands a new social contract rooted in dignity, equity, accountability, and inclusive peacebuilding—mobilizing all sectors of society to co-create a just and transformative future for Bangladesh 2.0.

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