**7.62mm Type 56 SMG and 7.62mm Chinese Rifle [For infograph]**

The Type 56 is a Chinese-manufactured assault rifle based on the design of the Soviet AK-47. It is the standard-issue service rifle of the Border Guard Bangladesh and is widely used in military contexts across the world. The weapon fires 7.62x39mm cartridges, which are high-velocity military rounds. The effective combat range of the Type 56 is between 300 and 400 meters.

This makes it highly dangerous in densely populated areas. The Type 56 is not intended for crowd control. It is a battlefield weapon designed to incapacitate or kill enemy combatants, three weapon experts said. Any use of this firearm in a civilian setting introduces the risk of fatal or life-altering injury and is not consistent with protocols for managing public protests.

**Summary Table: Weapon Distribution by Force**

**In Rampura on July 19, 2024**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Weapon Category** | **BGB** | **Police** |
| **Lethal (Primary)***(Type 56 Assault Rifles)* | **91** | **5** |
| **Lethal (Sidearm)***(Pistols)* | 0 | **3** |
| **Less-Lethal (Impact)***(Shotguns, Tear-shell Guns)* | 0 | **35** |
| **Less-Lethal (Defensive)***(Shields & Sticks)* | **15** | **105** |

Note: Counts are based on documented instances in the provided visual evidence and represent the number of times personnel were visibly identified with specific equipment, not a total census of all officers presentRamzan, 24

Date & Time: July 19,  9:46 pm

Location: DIT Road, Rampura

Injury: Fatal gunshot to the neck

Family Quote: “Ramzan used to live in his uncle’s house at Omor Ali Lane in Rampua. Around 10:00am on July 19, our relatives called us and said Ramzan had been shot. I asked, “Will he survive?" They replied, ‘He is already dead.’ A bullet struck his neck. Later, witnesses told me he was shot by the BGB.”

-Liton Mia, Ramzan’s father.

Ashiqul Islam, 14

Date & Time: July 19, 6:14 PM

[Icon: Map Pin] Location: Banasree, G Block, Road 1

[Icon: Bullet Wound] Injury: Fatal gunshot to the head. The bullet entered from the side, below his left ear

[Icon: Quote Bubble]:  “I raised him with tears, sweat, and blood as a single mother. My world revolved around him. Seeing his body I fainted. Will we ever get justice?”

-Alisha Afroze, mother.

Mostofa Zaman Samudra, 17

[Icon: Calendar] Date & Time: July 19, approximately 3:30 PM

[Icon: Map Pin] Location: Near Rampura TV Centre

[Icon: Bullet Wound] Injury: Fatal gunshot to the torso. The bullet pierced his arm and penetrated his chest, damaging his left lung.

[Icon: Quote Bubble] Family Statement:. “He took money from me to buy Kulfi, just like every Friday. When he did not return home, I called him around 2:30pm and said,  ‘Baba please come home. I have cooked your favourite dish [polao and meat] for you. He replied, ‘Ma, don’t worry, I’ll be back in two minutes.’ That was the last time I heard his voice. ”

-Masuda Zaman, mother.

Ismail, 46 (Rickshaw Puller)

[Icon: Calendar] Date & Time: July 19

[Icon: Map Pin] Location: In front of Delta Hospital, Rampura

[Icon: Bullet Wound] Injury: Fatal gunshot to the head.

[Icon: Quote Bubble] Family Statement: "The ambulance carrying his body was intercepted by BGB personnel twice. Once in Meradia and later after crossing Trimohoni bridge. They asked how he died. They let us go after we told them he died in a rickshaw accident."

 - Lucky Begum, wife.

Kamrul, 21 (Injured)

[Icon: Calendar] Date & Time: July 19, ~3:30-4:00 PM

[Icon: Map Pin] Location: Banasree end of Rampura canal

[Icon: Bullet Wound] Injury: A bullet pierced his left leg, which later required amputation.

[Icon: Quote Bubble] "Police stopped the ambulance that was carrying me... they wanted to arrest me... I had to return home. By the time I reached the hospital, 48 hours had already passed. Following two operations, my leg  had to be amputated."

**A Catalogue of Violations of International Law.,**

Bangladesh is bound by a number of international treaties that set clear limits on the use of force by state authorities.

4 boxes with 4 Laws name, details will pop up after clicking on the boxes with hyperlinks to the main law

**Box 1**

According to the [Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (1979)](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/code-conduct-law-enforcement-officials), lethal force may only be used when strictly necessary to protect human life and to the extent necessary to fulfill their duty. The [United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (1990)](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-use-force-and-firearms-law-enforcement) further states that firearms must not be used to disperse assemblies unless safer options are not available and individuals are posing an imminent threat of death or serious injury. The cases of victims such as Ramzan, as documented in visual records, do not reflect such threats at the time they were shot.

**Box 2**

The [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights), ratified by Bangladesh in 2000, guarantees every individual's right to life (Article 6(1)) and the right to peaceful assembly (Article 21). The actions captured in Rampura raise serious doubts about whether these protections were upheld during the operation.

**Box 3**

Since 1990, Bangladesh is bound by the [Convention on the Rights of the Child (1979)](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child) , which recognises each child’s inherent right to life and mandates actions to ensure their survival and development(Article 6).

The deaths of Ashiqul and 17-year-old Somudra, both students and both unarmed, raise serious questions about compliance with these protections.

**Box 4**

The most serious implications may arise under the [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)](https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf), which [Bangladesh ratified in 2010](https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2010-04-16/bangladesh-rome-statute-for-the-international-criminal-court-ratified/#:~:text=(Apr.,the%20International%20Criminal%20Court%20Ratified). Article 7 of the Rome Statute defines crimes against humanity as acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population. Relevant provisions include murder, persecution on political grounds, and other inhumane acts that cause serious injury or suffering.

The UN report echoes this conclusion, stating that the use of force by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) "systematically failed to adhere to legal principles" and that "a large percentage of killings and injuries... violated international human rights law." It calls for an "independent and fair vetting process" of all BGB officers and recommends that until an effective human rights screening mechanism is established, the government should refrain from nominating for UN peacekeeping missions any personnel from the BGB Battalions deployed to the 2024 protests.

Highlight quotes

“The home minister instructed the BGB, armed with military-grade 7.62mm rifles…. to use more lethal force to suppress the protests[on July 18]."

-UN Report

"We identified one officer, a lieutenant colonel who is also a battalion commander, who opened fire directly at protesters. We immediately removed him from his post the next day. After an inquiry, he was returned to the army, his parent force, and we have recommended the highest possible punishment for him.”

* Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui on October 3, 2024

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