



# Midnight Massacre in Dhaka by Security Forces of Bangladesh



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# Midnight Massacre in Dhaka by Security Forces of Bangladesh

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## **Executive Summary**

On 6 May 2013 at 2.40 in the morning, the government in Bangladesh has cracked down on protests leaving a huge number of unarmed religious people dead and thousands others injured. More than 10,000 forces drawn from police, the elite Rapid Action Battalion and paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh jointly launched a drive in the darkness of midnight on 6 May to clear demonstrators from a major thoroughfare in Dhaka. Electricity was cut and media access was restricted from the scene during the joint operation. In Narayanganj and Chittagong, 20 demonstrators were shot dead by police on 6 May. 16 demonstrators were killed on the previous day by police in several attacks carried out to disperse the Dhaka Siege program.

Bangladesh is now passing a great crisis in her political arena. Democracy and good governance have been severely questioned over the current regime. Human rights have been infringed to an unprecedented extent. The Bangladesh government headed by Awami League has been exposing its deadly autocratic attitude and unethical stand both in national as well as international arenas since it has acceded to power in 2009. It has always shown ultra-rated hostility towards people's demands and their democratic demos and protests.

Most recently, Hefajat-e-Islam, a non-political religious outfit set out to ensure punishment of the anti-religious bloggers for their blasphemous campaigns, staged its scheduled "Dhaka Siege & Sit-in" program on last 5th May 2013 urging the government to meet its 13-point demand announced earlier. Since the break of dawn on that day, a sum total of about 3 to 4 million Hefajat men, as a whole, blocked the entrances to Dhaka city and they took, as per the governmental consent, to the streets round the "Shapla Square" at Motijheel in Dhaka at around 3:00 pm. But as soon as Hefajat-e-Islam began its gathering and sit-in therein, armed cops and RAB personnel started to shoot at the participants indiscriminately. Soon, the hub of Dhaka city turned into a battlefield and Hefajat men were turning into 'corpses' one after another.



*Hundreds of thousands of Hefazat activists gathered at Shapla Chattar of Motijhil, Dhaka.*

They declared to continue their sit-in indefinitely. However, on 6th May at 3:00 am at midnight, the locale was blacked out by switching streetlights off, two TV channels on stream (namely, Diganta TV and Islamic TV) were cut off and made go off the air as they dare to air true news about governmental injustice, and all the journos were forcibly made leave the locale by the government official dudes and pro-party thugs. Then, all on a sudden, an integrated band of cops, BGB and RAB personnel began to open fire wantonly at the sit-in participants to take over the reins of the locale whereby over 5 hundred people died, thousands of people got injured and shot and about 2 thousand more went traceless.

## Timeline of Incidents - 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2013

### Genocide in Dhaka by Security Forces of Bangladesh

Time	Place of Occurrence	Incident
6:00 am, 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2013	Jatrabari Gabtali Babubazar Abdullahpur	Huge Gathering and Road Blockade started
9:00 am	Jatrabari Gabtali Babubazar Abdullahpur	Peaceful Meetings and Protest goes on
11:00 am	Motijheel	DMP gave permission for Meeting at Motijheel
	Jatrabari	People started March towards Motijheel
11:30 am	Paltan	Sporadic clash began between Police and Hefazat activists
12:00 pm	Gulistan	A Hefazat <b>activist slaughtered by Awami League</b> thugs at Bangabandhu Avenue
12:30 pm	Paltan	Attack of police on Hefazat activists began
1:00 pm	Kakrail	Attack of police on Hefazat activists began
1:30 pm	Jatrabari Gabtali Babubazar Abdullahpur	People started their March towards Motijheel
2:00 pm	Paltan Kakrail	Clashes between Police and Hefazat activists became extremely violent. <b>Police opened fire; One civilian died</b> and many others injured.
2:30 pm	Motijheel	Hefazat started their meeting before scheduled time
4:00 - 8:00 pm	Paltan Kakrail	Severe clashes broke out between Police and Hefazat activists. Police opened fire; about <b>16 Hefazat activists died</b> and many others were severely injured. Hospitals were overloaded.
8:00 pm	Motijheel	Declaration of Overnight Stay came from the Stage. Electricity cut throughout the area by authorities.
8:30 pm	Paltan Baitul Mukaram	Police fired Tear cells inside the Mosque while the I'sha prayer was on. Some miscreants set fire to the Islamic Bookstores and Jewelry Market of Baitul Mukaram Complex.
9:00 - 12:00 am	Paltan	Sporadic clashes continued between Police and Hefazat activists. Police <b>continued indiscriminate fire</b> and charging Sound Grenades.
	Kakrail	
12:00 - 2:00 am,	Motijheel	Police ordered <b>evacuation of all Media personnel</b> from the



6 <sup>th</sup> May 2013		spot. Heavy armored RAB and Police force and about 30 Platoons of BGB were deployed near the Program spot;
2:30 am	Motijheel	Police started a <b>huge crackdown with continuous Brush fire</b> upon the sleeping protesters. About thousands of Sound Grenades were charged upon them as well.
3:00 am	Motijheel	Police started to take control of the spot as hundreds and <b>thousands of protesters were gunned down</b> and chased away. Witness confirmed death of more than 400 protesters, while about ten thousands were severely injured.
3:30 am	Arambagh	Police intercepted into the head office of Digata Television and seized broadcasting instruments and sealed the Office. BTRC then forcefully <b>shut down the DTV channel along with Islamic Television.</b>
4:00 am	Motijheel	Teams of Police and BGB started to <b>move away the dead bodies</b> and Dhaka City Corporation cleaners started cleaning the whole area to remove all blood marks.
5:00 am	Motijheel	Many wounded Hefazat activists were surrounded by Police and Ruling Party thugs in several mosques including Baitul Mukaram. The Fazr prayer was even disrupted.
6:00 am	Motijheel	Police started to search and arrest anyone suspected as Hefazat activist from the spot.
7:00 am	Malibagh	Fresh clash started between Police and scattered Hefazat activists
8:00 am	Narayanganj	Police started searching and arresting into local Madrasas
9:00 am	Narayanganj	<b>Police started indiscriminate firing</b> upon Madrasa students at Madani Nagar and a new clash began. Another phase of violence began in Kachpur.
10:00 am	Narayanganj	Reports coming in of few more causality of Hefazat activists. At least <b>15 confirmed dead</b> with many other severely wounded.
11:00 am	Jatrabari Chittagong	<b>Clash broke out all over Bangladesh;</b> At least 6 reported killed in Chittagong Road, Jatrabari and 5 others at Kachpur. 3 Members of Security Forces are also killed.

## Dhaka Siege Program

Hefajat-e-Islam, an organization of Islamic clerics and students, called the Dhaka siege programme from its April 6 grand rally at the city's Shapla Chattar demanding that its 13-point demand be met by April 30. Hefajat's 13-point demand includes passing a law in parliament with a provision for the punishment for blasphemy and smear campaigns against Muslims, putting an end to the infiltration of all alien culture including adultery, amending anti-religious portions of the National Women Development Policy and restoring the religious provisions in the Constitution.

The Dhaka siege programme of Hefajat-e-Islam Bangladesh began after Fajar prayers early on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Activists of the organisation blocked roads at six points of Dhaka- from Abdullahpur to Tongi bridge, Gabtali Mazar Road to Aminbazar bridge, Babu Bazar bridge, Demra bridge, Kanchpur bridge and Postagola bridge shortly before dawn. They also took position on the Chittagong Road at Jatrabari and in Signboard area-



entry points of the capital. Police also kept some points blocked since morning to prevent entry of the Hefajat activists into Dhaka city.

*An unarmed Hefajat demonstrator being shot by police on 6 May midnight.*

The demonstrators were seen standing with banners, different types of flags including the national flag, while some were reciting verses from the Holy Quran.

Huge police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel remained deployed in every entry point of the city. No motorised vehicles from outside could enter the city. Dhaka was virtually detached from other parts of the country due to the siege programme.<sup>1</sup>

### **Minister Ashraf's Declaration of Suppression**

Awami League General Secretary and Minister of the Local Government and Rural Development Syed Ashraful Islam declared total suppression of the program called by Hefajat on 5<sup>th</sup> May in a briefing at Dhaka. "This time we allowed you to come to Dhaka, next time you will not be able to come (Dhaka) or even come out of your homes. Your anarchy will not be

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.english.rttn.net/newsdetail/detail/12/62/55028#.UYcUT\\_I2f4s](http://www.english.rttn.net/newsdetail/detail/12/62/55028#.UYcUT_I2f4s)

tolerated,” spokesperson Syed Ashraf Islam warned at a press briefing amid Hifazat’s rally in the Motijheel business district.

He also hinted at going hardline, which later came true. He said the government would do



হেফাজতকর্মীর লাশ নিয়ে যাচ্ছেন সহকর্মীরা।

*Image: Dead body of a Protester taken away by Hefazat activists. (Daily Amardesh)*



*Dead body of a Hefazat activist killed by police was brought near the stage.*

‘everything necessary’ to maintain law and order. Ashraf asked the Hifazat activists to wrap up their rally by evening and leave Dhaka and threatened actions if they did not. At the briefing, Ashraf advised against considering the ruling party ‘weak’. “The Awami League alone is enough to teach you a lesson,” he said.

Ashraf termed the Hifazat the successor of infamous ‘al-Badr’ and ‘Razakars’, the forces that had sided with the Pakistani troops. He said the people of Bangladesh will not tolerate mayhem in the name of religion and reiterated the government was ready to take any measures necessary.<sup>2</sup>

## Indiscriminate Police Fire

In Paltan area of the capital, police started indiscriminate shooting at the peaceful gathering of thousands of Hefazat activists. At least thirteen Hefazat activists were killed and 200 others injured in assaults on Hefajat men by Awami League activists and police in the city’s Bangabandhu Avenue and other areas on Sunday. At least eight hefazat activists have died at



*Police firing brutally at peaceful demonstrators.*

<sup>2</sup> <http://bdnews24.com/politics/2013/05/05/leave-dhaka-after-rally-ashraf-to-hifazat>



the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. At least five other dead bodies were seen near at the Shapla Square.



Panic gripped the city dwellers as violence escalated amid the Hefajat grand rally being staged at the city's Shapla Chattar following its April 6 massive showdown at the same venue. After the police rampage, vehicles almost disappeared from the city's bustling streets. Many were seen walking back home on foot.

*Thousands of rounds of bullets were fired from police vehicle at unarmed people.*

One of the deceased was identified as Siddiquir Rahman Siddique, 28, helper of a bus of 'Hanif Paribahan'. The others, including a Hefajat man, could not be identified yet. Helper Siddique, injured in the firing, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead. The two others also succumbed to their injuries at the DMCH. The injured were admitted to different hospitals and private clinics.



দীর্ঘকাল রাস্তায় পড়ে থাকে নিহত এই হেফাজতকর্মী

*Image: A death activist left in the street*





*An injured demonstrator being taken for treatment.*

Awami League members also took part in the assault on Hefazat demonstrators. Witnesses said the clash between the Awami League and Hefajat men broke out in Baitul Mukarram area around 1:30pm when they brought separate processions in the area. A chase and counter-chase broke out between the workers of the two organisations as they brought out their processions. Police fired several hundred gunshots and teargas shells to suppress the demonstrators.



*Two activists injured by joint attack of Police and Awami League.*





*A policeman in civil dress is beating a Hefazat activist.*

Another triangular clash involving police, the Hefazat workers and the ruling party men broke out at the same place at 3pm and later it spilled over into Purana Paltan, Gulistan, Bijoyagar, Kakrail and Press Club areas.

Blood was pouring over the asphalt paved street. It could not be learnt immediately how many were injured or dead. But at live telecast many bodies were seen lying on the road motionless. Fountains of blood was gushed at many places. Initially Hefazot claimed 30 to 40 were killed.

Witnesses said miscreants set fire to a police box at Shantinagar around 6:20 pm while another at Mouchak at about 6:25 pm. At least 30 vehicles parked in front of the



*Bodies of Hefazat activists at the morgue of Dhaka Medical College.*

Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation were set alight by the miscreants around 5pm. A police Pajero jeep was set afire at Mouchak around 6:25 pm while a bus and a bulldozer at Malibagh crossing around 6:20 pm. A gas pipeline near the Bangabandhu National stadium was set afire around 4:45pm.



At about 5:30pm, 15 people, including 10 cops, were injured in a clash between police and the Hefajat workers near Nayabazar

*A Hefazal worker left dead in the street.*

in the city. Meanwhile, seven people, including a Rab member, were hurt in separate clashes between law enforcers and workers of Hefajat-e-Islam in the city earlier on Sunday.

In another incident, two police bikes were torched near the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque as the Hefajat men in a procession were marching towards the Shapla Chattar in the capital at about 12:30pm. Witnesses said hundreds of activists of the organization were marching towards the Shapla Chattar to attend a rally there. When they were passing by the National Mosque, police obstructed them. Being obstructed, the Hefajat activists threw brick chips targeting police, resulting in a clash between them. The law enforces fired several teargas shells and fired several rubber bullets to disperse them. A chase and counter-chase took place that left some people injured.<sup>3</sup>

### **Deadly Awami Attack**

Awami League members also took part in the assault on Hefazat demonstrators. Witnesses said the clash between the Awami League and Hefajat men broke out in Baitul Mukarram area around 1:30pm when they brought separate processions in the area. Awami League members mercilessly beat several demonstrator with sticks and shot bullets at them.



*Awami League members beating a protester.*

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.english.rtnn.net/newsdetail/detail/12/62/55035#.UYd8bFcipH0>



## Midnight Massacre

On Sunday evening, Hefajat-e-Islam Bangladesh ameer Allama Shah Ahmed Shafi said their 'peaceful' Shapla Chattar sit-in will continue until their 13-point demand is met.<sup>4</sup> After the declaration of overnight stay came from the Hefazat stage at 8 pm, electricity cut throughout the area by authorities. Police ordered evacuation of all Media personnel from the spot. Heavy armored RAB and Police force and about 30 Platoons of BGB were deployed near the Program spot. Police fired Tear cells inside the Mosque while the I'sha prayer was on. Some miscreants set fire to the Islamic Bookstores and Jewelry Market of Baitul Mukaram Complex. Sporadic clashes continued between Police and Hefazat activists. Police continued indiscriminate fire and charging Sound Grenades.



*Peaceful sit-in of Hefazat going on while electricity is cut by the govt.*



*Police taking away the dead body of an activist killed in the massacre.*



*A Hefazat activist critically injured by police bullet.*

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.english.rtnn.net/newsdetail/detail/12/62/55034#.UYdeqFcipH0>



*Joint operation of Police, RAB and BGB.*



*Bullet wound body of a demonstrator left in the scene after the crack down.*

From 9 pm, the security forces started surrounding the gathering of unarmed assembly of hundreds of thousands people in Motijhil. No one could enter or exit from the assembly anymore. Ten platoons of Border Guard members were deployed in the area.<sup>5</sup> Hefazat activists' attempt to resistance by placing blocks road divider and tree branches proved futile in the face of heavily armed security forces.

After 2 pm in the morning, Police started a huge crackdown with continuous brush fire upon the sleeping protesters. Thousands of sound grenades were charged upon them as well. Some 600 members of RAB and BGB were deployed at Paltan at around 11:30pm. On and on the number of armed force members increased to initiate the joint operation on the sleeping activists of Hefazat. It was 2:30 in the morning. Dhaka was rattled by the sound of indiscriminate gunshot and grenade explosions. One-way war started with whistles as Joint Law enforcers BGB, RAB and Police attacked and cornered the unarmed Hefazot activists. Mothijeel, Dainik Bangla, Fakirapool and Ittefaq intersection turned into a killing ground within minutes.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.timenewsbd.com/politics/2013/05/06/1486>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.english.rtnn.net/newsdetail/detail/12/62/55034#.UYdeqFcipH0>





-বাংলার চোখ

*Dead bodies of demonstrators left in the scene after the midnight crack down.*

BGB and Rab personnel removed Hefajat-e-Islam activists from the city's Shapla Chattar area. Police and Rab sources said they started the drive at about 2.20 am and drove out the Hefajat men from Shapla Chattar area by 3 am, firing rubber bullets and sound grenades. They said some 10,000 law-enforcers took part in the drive that first started from Notredame Collage point then Ittefaq Intersection. The entire area was rocked by gunshots and sound grenades.

The defenseless innocent Islamist's were forced to move away at the face of continuous gunshot and canisters. Many wounded laid at the road.<sup>7</sup> Some took shelters at nearby alleys. Law enforcers then attacked the alleys. They were beaten till dispersed.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=127457774117069>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2013/05/06/198937#.UYg08aJwqdw>



*Police action on the unarmed people. A dead body lying on the street.*

Amid the massive drive, unarmed Hefajat men retreated fast and ran into various lanes and alleys in the area although they had first tried to resist the law-enforcers showering them with brick chips. It was not still certain how many Hefajat men were injured in the predawn drive.

Television footages showed armoured vans driving about and non-stop teargas shells being lobbed and rubber bullets fired in Motijheel which during weekdays is one of the busiest places in Dhaka.<sup>9</sup>

Many dead bodies and injured were seen all over the street and adjacent buildings after the joint operation of armed forces. Motijheel was littered with stained blood, papers, sandals and some bags after the operation drove the sleeping band of Hifazat supporters away. Fire was burning in a few places. Five vehicles were also burning at the scene.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JrVILUL6Pg&feature=youtu.be>





*Bullet wound bodies of demonstrators left all over the scene after the bloody crackdown.*



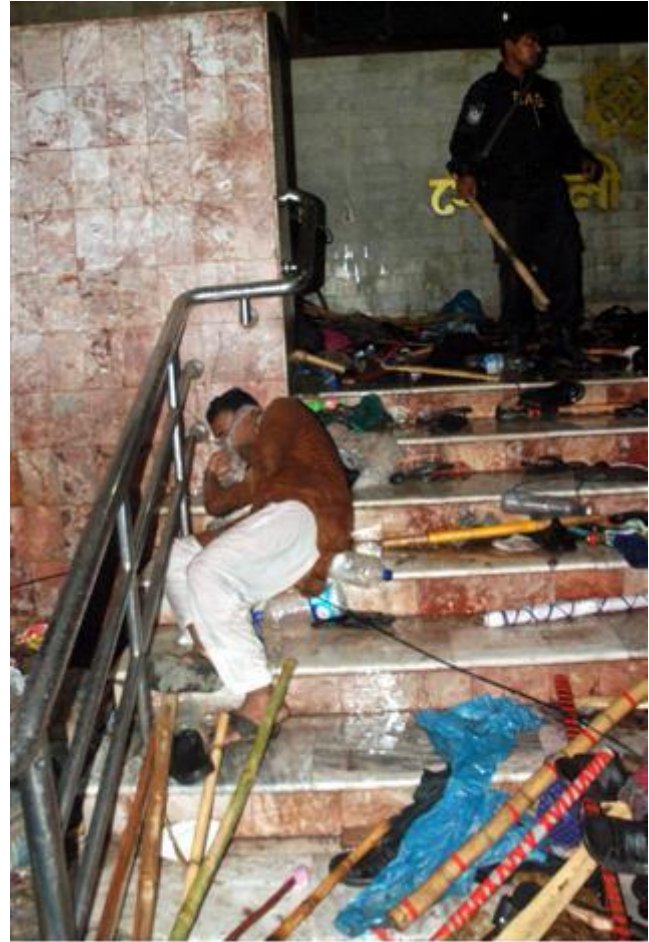


*Bodies of two Hefazat activists killed by armed forces in the crackdown.*





*The scene at Motijhil after the shooting spree of govt. forces is over.*



*Dead bodies of Hefazat activists left after the joint operation.*

Law enforcers took less than 15 minutes to take control of Shapla Chattar after conducting a simultaneous drive from the Notre Dame College and Dainik Bangla intersection at around 3am. No leader of Hefazat was seen on the rally stage after then. Police began positioning themselves on the street stretching from Paltan to Dainik Bangla intersection since 8:30pm on Sunday.<sup>10</sup>

Most of the corpses were reportedly hidden and transported to some remoter places by trucks by the law enforcement agencies to escape public wrath and international condemnation. Initially the number of dead was claimed to be as many as 431 by various sources.<sup>11</sup> Several internet reports have mentioned that the number of deaths could be as high as 2,500 or more.<sup>12</sup>

## **Govt. Shuts Two Television Channels**

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<sup>10</sup> <http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/05/05/hifazat-activists-flee-motijheel>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.bdbreaking24.com/view.php?id=1689>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-088-2013>



Media access to the scene of the midnight joint operation was restricted. To prevent telecasting footage of mass murder by the joint armed forces, two TV channel were shut down by the govt. within one hour of the operation. The joint force consisting of BGB, Police and RAB have shut down Diganta Television (DTV) and Islamic Television. Earlier in the day (May 5), DTV had telecast live demonstration of Hefajot e Islami from Matijhil Dhaka.

The law enforcement agency of the government has taken away valuable machine parts of transmission. It is not possible to restart transmission of DTV. Bangladesh government force has also shut down Islamic TV at 4:45 local time.<sup>13</sup> A senior Jamaat leader Mir Quasem Ali is the Chairman of the Diganta Media Corporation which owns and operates The Daily Naya Diganta newspaper and Diganta TV.



*A Hefazat activist killed by the armed forces.*

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.kaagoj.com/details?id=207>



*Bullet wound bodies of demonstrators left in the scene after the crackdown.*

The government made the move without citing any reason, an official of the private Diganta station said. Its Chief News Editor Ziaul Kabir Sumon told bdnews24.com that a Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Authority team led by Director Colonel Sazzad Hossain came at around 4:20am on Monday. They said they were temporarily suspending the broadcast saying it was a government order, according to him.



*Dead activists left under the police vehicle.*

No-one from BTRC could be reached immediately for comment. "We asked them for papers. They told us you will get paper. Now cooperate with us. Then they stopped transmission at 4:24am," Sumon added. "We were running news when they stopped transmission."

Islamic TV also went off air 'temporarily', its Director Shams Eskander told bdnews24.com. "We have stopped all transmission from 2.30am on Monday," Eskander said. He said the law enforcers had come to their office at around 2am and asked them to close down before locking up the telecast centre. The official accused the law keepers of vandalism in the office and said they had not been served any formal notice to close down transmission. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's younger brother, late Sayeed Eskander, was the founding Chairman of the station.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> <http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2013/05/06/diganta-islamic-tv-taken-off-air>



## Narayanganj Clash

At least 15 people were killed and 100 others injured in a clash between the activists of Hefajat-e-Islam Bangladesh and police at Shimrail intersection on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in the city early on 6<sup>th</sup> May.<sup>15</sup> All the deceased could not be identified immediately.

The attack was conducted by a joint force of police, Rapid Action Battalion and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) when Hefazat activists tried to block the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Shimrail intersection around 5:30am, after being driven away by law enforcers from Shapla Chattar in Motijheel area of Dhaka city. A chase and counter-chase followed.



*Dead people in Narayanganj clash.*

Police lobbed several rounds of teargas shells and fired shots to quell the violence, leaving 15 of the Hefazat activists dead and 100 others injured. Police and Rab members also entered Madaninagar Madrasa in Kanchpur area and fired gunshots on its premises. The bodies of the deceased were taken to Narayanganj General Hospital.<sup>16</sup>

## Violation of Human Rights

The scale and indiscriminate manner of the killing of unarmed demonstrators by armed forces is comparable only to genocide, the ultimate denial of right to life. According to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide include acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: killing members of the group.<sup>17</sup> Hundreds of people were killed by police in just one day which amounts to the crime of genocide.

Article 32 of our Constitution guaranteed the right of life. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 incorporated a provision that says: *Everyone has the right to life, liberty and*

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.english.rtnn.net/newsdetail/detail/12/62/55046#.UYfy0VcipH0>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.english.rtnn.net/newsdetail/detail/12/62/55041#.UYddl1cipH0>

<sup>17</sup> Article 2 CPPCG

*security of person.*<sup>18</sup> It's pertinent to point out here that, the constitution of Bangladesh pledges<sup>19</sup> to respect the International Laws and moreover Bangladesh has signed that Universal Declaration of Human Rights. So, our Govt. cannot ignore its liability to protect the citizens from the police and ruling party thugs.

This incidents mass murder by police indicate the serious scenario of falling 'rule of law' in Bangladesh. The Republic is bound to ensure the democratic rights and safety of life and property of every citizen. Furthermore, it has responsibility to ensure citizens' fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. But, by killing, torturing and injuring the participants of demonstrations, Govt. has grossly violated human right of life.

Article 35 of the Constitution of People's Republic of Bangladesh says that, "No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment."<sup>20</sup> But Police have violated this right by reckless shooting at unarmed Hefazat activists.

The unprovoked attack of peaceful sit-in and restraining from lawful demonstration violated some very basic human rights which Bangladesh is committed to protect. The practice of oppression amounts to defiance of freedom of association and assembly recognized by Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>21</sup> Bangladesh is a signatory of *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966* which incorporated certain fundamental human rights. Bangladeshi security forces cannot impose unreasonable restrictions on the right of peaceful assembly held in accordance with law as provided article 21 of the Covenant.<sup>22</sup>

## Recommendations

- The govt. must stop mass killing. The trigger happy approach of indiscriminate shooting must be stopped. The demonstrators should not be target of violent attacks due to exercise democratic right to express demands.
- Police must arrest the members of the ruling party who are involved with violent attacks on the hefazat activists.
- The administration should stop using the police force as a weapon for killing and oppressing the general people. The government must ensure that the police perform its duty within the limits set by law.

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<sup>18</sup> Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

<sup>19</sup> Article 25, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

<sup>20</sup> Article 35, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

<sup>21</sup> Article 20 of UDHR: (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

<sup>22</sup> Article 21 of ICCPR: The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

- The civil society and media must raise the issue of continued mass killings, illegal attacks and torture by police to various forums. Human rights organisation must address the incidents of denial of right to life and right to justice of Jamaat and Shibir.
- International community must consider while making any decision about their relation with Bangladesh the issues of human rights violation and mass killing. The issue of unjustified violence by police must be addressed seriously. Donor agencies should ensure that no person is killed tortured due to his participation in demonstrations.