GCDG
Global Center for
Democratic Governance

Stop Muhammad Yunus from Human Rights Violations in Bangladesh

The Interim Government, headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Dr Muhammad Yunus, took oath after the ouster of the Elected Shaikh Hasina Government on 8 August 2024. Contrary to the heightened expectation, people of Bangladesh are painfully observing rampant human rights violations in every category of rights enshrined in the Universal Human Rights Declaration (UDHR) of the United Nations (UN). People have never experienced human rights violations on such a massive scale in 54 years of the country's history.

Since taking over the governance by Dr Yunus, thousands of people had been killed, maimed and imprisoned by filing false court cages against innocent people, particularly his perceived enemy, the Bangladesh Awami League (BAL) leaders, their supporters, ethnic minorities and members of student wing of BAL, the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) (1, 2, 3, 4). Yunus's supporters burnt thousands of houses, including the historic house of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh, at 32 Dhanmondi (5, 6). Atrocities are beyond imagination and are done in an organized and systematic way by creating mob violence under the direct and indirect support of the Yunus government and under impunity. None of the tens of thousands of surviving victims were able to file a case against the perpetrators. The perpetrators mostly belong to Yunus's student supporters (the Antidiscrimination student movement, which has now formed a political party called the National Citizens Party, NCP), the country's anti-liberation forces, including Bangladesh Jamat-e-Islami and its militant factions, other Islamic fundamentalist groups, and the country's second-largest political party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Thousands of students belonging to BCL had been expelled from educational institutes and their certificates had been cancelled by the direction of the interim government. Thousands of teachers had been tagged as supporters of BAL and forcefully removed from their jobs through mob violence (7). Throughout the country, there is an extreme anarchy including in educational institutions (8). These are only the tips of the icebergs since the interim government actively suppressing the press freedom by creating mob violence as well as harassing the journalists in multiple ways, including sacking from their jobs, cancelling accreditations, imprisonment (9. 10). Yunus government also Banned BCL and all activities of BAL (11). Dr Yunus is doing these to achieve 3 objectives (i) to take revenge and terrorize his

perceived enemy, BAL, and pro-liberation forces and the public (ii) to consolidate his power, and (iii) to expand his business empire in the country.

The foregoing paragraph with references clearly shows the violations of key human rights, namely, rights to life, rights to culture and religion, rights to education, rights to assembly and organization, rights to own property, and rights to freedom of speech.

Dr Yunus' past and present activities squarely show his long-standing ambition to seize state power in Bangladesh, despite lacking a political background. Earlier, he attempted to form a political party, Nagorik Shakti, during the military-backed caretaker government (2007–2009), implying ulterior motives supported by the military. During the whole period of the Shaikh Hasina government, Yunus perceived Shekh Hasina and BAL as the main roadblock to his ambition of expanding his business empire. This created a deep-rooted enmity between Yunus and the Sheikh Hasina government, due to legal actions against him—such as tax evasion, overstaying as Grameen Bank MD, labor law violations, and food safety issues, though the cases were not initiated by the government. Considering the situation, it was easily understandable that Yunus's hostility to Sheikh Hasina and BAL stemmed from frustration over his inability to bypass these legal hurdles.

Yunus is a manipulative, power-hungry, and greedy individual. The proof for these negative objectives to describe a Nobel laureate comes from the rapid business expansion after taking power. Examples include tax exemptions, approvals for digital payment services, a private university, reduced government stake in Grameen Bank, lucrative manpower export business license, and partnerships with foreign companies like Starlink (12, 13,14, 15,16).

All patriotic citizens of Bangladesh are extremely anxious that Yunus is compromising national sovereignty. He has appointed foreign nationals to sensitive government advisory roles and made secret deals to create a "humanitarian corridor" near the Myanmar border, and handed over the new Mooring terminal of Chittagong port to foreign control. All these will potentially pave the way for foreign military bases and destabilize the country.

To achieve his goals Dr Yunus used his vast wealth, fame of Nobel and his inherent manipulative PR skills to form mutually beneficial, symbiotic alliance with a faction of student population of the country, particularly those involved with the antidiscrimination student movement, country's antiliberation forces,

Bangladesh Jamat-e-Islami, its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, other Islamic fundamentalist forces, and BNP. He was successful because all these groups had enmity with BAL. Yunus provided them with impunity and indemnity to create mob violence and commit atrocities, like killing, maiming, beating, burning houses, taking over businesses, extortion, to suppress and terrorize his enemies and opponents.

At this critical and bleak historic moment of Bangladesh, when the country is under the grip of an extremely brutal regime, we lament the silence and complicity of the international community. One reason could be Dr Yunus' fame as a Nobel laureate and his association with powerful countries and organizations. However, this complicity is creating a situation where democracy, human rights, and justice are at serious risk. We urge the international community, particularly, countries like the United Kingdom, who are traditional friends of Bangladesh and act as vanguards of democracy, justice and human rights to raise the voice loud and clear to oppose Yunus's misrule and force him to arrange a free fair and inclusive election, that should include BAL, the largest and oldest political party to pave the way for democracy and justice. We also call on the peace-loving citizens to oppose Yunus, portrayed as a threat to Bangladesh's sovereignty and future.

References

1. 'New Bangladesh.' Tracking the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime. TIB report. 18 November 2024. https://www.ti-bangladesh.org/images/2024/report/100-days-IG/Executive-Summary-100-Days-Interim-Government-en.pdf?v=1.5
2. "Ain of Shalish Kendra (ASK). Annual Report 2024. https://www.askbd.org/ask/
3. The Business Standard, 25 Oct 2025. 44 policemen killed during student movement, highest in Sirajganj: CA Press Wing". https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/some-news-outlets-individuals-spreading-lies-number-policemen-killed-uprising-ca-press
4. Internal document of GCDG. Names, identities of the victims, occurrence for each death has been recorded and saved in the organizations' repository and obtainable on request. Please send your request to: contact@globalcdg.org

5. AP. 5 February 2025. https://apnews.com/article/bangladesh-sheikh-hasina-muhammad-yunus-politics-175344c54e6cb93eedc16d52a9aa6956
6. The Economic times. 6 February 2025. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/bangladesh-protesters-target-homes-of-awami-league-leaders-in-fresh-wave-of-vandalism/articleshow/117979229.cms?from=mdr
7. The Daily Star. 01 September 2024. https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/vacuum-looms-teachers-being-coerced-quit-3691301
8. TBS Graduates. 17 November 2024. https://tbsgraduates.net/writeup/a-chronicle-of-100-days-education-under-the-interim-government/
9. The Voice. 3 January 2025. https://thevoice.news/tortures-of-journalists-in-bangladesh-during-yunus-regime-a-portrait-of-the-death-of-media-and-the-freedom-of-speech/
10. Press accreditation cards of 20 journalists canceled, Dhaka Tribune, 29 October 2024, https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/363584/press-accreditation-cards-of-20-journalists
11. Aljazeera. 11 May 2025. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/11/bangladesh-bans-activities-of-awami-league-the-party-of-ousted-pm-hasina
12. The Business Standard. 12 October, 2024. https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-grants-tax-exemption-grameen-bank-till-2029-964846
13. Dhaka Tribune. 18 March 2025. https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/376641/govt-approves-new-private-university-grameen
14. Morenewsbd. 3 October 2024. https://www.morenewsbd.com/en/law-&-court/1790/dr-the-judgment-to-pay-tax-of-666-crores-to-yunus-is-withdrawn
15. Dhaka Tribune. 17 April 2025. https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/378933/government-reduces-ownership-in-grameen-bank
16. Brand Practitioner Bangladesh. 30 January 2025. https://brandpractitioners.com/grameen-telecoms-samadhan-services-secures-digital-wallet-approval/