

Aynaghar ('House of Mirrors'): Alleged secret detention sites in Bangladesh

S M Yasir Arafat^{1,2*}, Md. Sabbir Sheikh³, Jannatul Bakia Afrida⁴, Farhin Islam^{1,5} and Mohammad Sorowar Hossain^{1,6}

- 1 Biomedical Research Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 2 Department of Public and Community Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Frontier University Garowe, Somalia. Correspondence to: arafatdmc62@gmail.com
- 3 Department of Psychology, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh.
- 4 Department of Development Studies, Independent University, Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 5 Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 6 School of Environment and Life Sciences, Independent University, Bangladesh.

Key points of interest:

- The hidden torture cell in Bangladesh known as the Aynaghor (House of Mirrors) where detainees were kept after being forcibly disappeared.
- Law enforcing agencies and state machineries were involved in enforced disappearance
- Politically motivated "high-value detainees" were usually kept and tortured in Aynaghor for various durations (days to years)

Abstract

Introduction: Reports and testimonies of survivors revealed that law-enforcing agencies of Bangladesh maintained secret torture cells under the recently (5 August 2024) ousted regime by the Monsoon Revolution. Despite the gravity of the matter, no previous systematic attempt to study the practice has been identified. Therefore, we aimed to report on the state-run torture cell named "Aynaghor" (House of Mirrors) in Bangladesh, documenting it as a significant example of human rights violations. *Methods:* We qualitatively synthesised this data from available secondary sources, including reports from human rights organisations, telecasted news, newspaper reports, and other media sources that featured the testimonies of persons detained and held in the torture cells. From these sources, we extracted the socio-demography of survivors, possible reasons for detention and torture, descriptions of the secret torture cells, and the severity of torture inflicted. *Results:* Politically motivated "high-value detainees" were typically held and subjected to torture at Aynaghor for varying durations (days to years). The majority of these detainees were identified as male. Some of the detainees have still not been traced, and perhaps have been killed by law enforcement agencies. Enforced disappearances often occurred before individuals were sent to the secret prison. In some cases, people were misidentified, and allegedly, the 'wrong' persons were tortured. *Discussion:* We present a systematic and qualitative description of the secret prison established in Bangladesh based on available secondary sources. However, given the sensitive nature of the subject and the varying quality and extent of the available data, caution must be exercised when generalising these findings.

Keywords: Aynaghor, House of Mirrors, torture cell, Bangladesh, enforced disappearance.

Introduction

The Monsoon Revolution in Bangladesh culminated in the ousting of Sheikh Hasina, ending her 15-year reign (from 2009 to August 2024) (European Union Agency for Asylum, 2025). During the widespread protests (15 July- 05 August 2024), the government's violent crackdown on protesters resulted in at least 1400 deaths, thousands of injuries, and more than 11,700 arrests (United Nations, 2025). Hasina's administration faced criticism for electoral manipulation, rampant corruption, embezzlement, suppression of political opposition, and systemic human rights violations. These violations include torture, extrajudicial killings (estimated at 2597 over 13 years), and enforced disappearances in "Aynaghor" (House of Mirrors) (Ahasan, 2023; Islam et al., 2025; United Nations, 2025; Human Rights Watch, 2025; Arafat et al., 2025; European Union Agency for Asylum, 2025). One report estimated that over 3,500 enforced disappearances occurred during her government's rule (Human Rights Watch, 2025).

A Sweden-based independent news portal, *Netra News* (which was blocked in Bangladesh at that time), published a whistleblowing report on Aynaghor for the first time on August 14, 2022 (Netra News, 2022; Human Rights Watch, 2022). The report was based on the testimony of two survivors, Sheikh Mohammad Salim and a former army person, Hasinur Rahman. It revealed that Aynaghor was a code name for secret prisons operated by the *Directorate General of Forces Intelligence* (DGFI, the military intelligence agency of Bangladesh) and maintained by the *Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Bureau* (CTIB) unit. The facility was principally utilised to incarcerate "high-value detainees". Suspects or individuals were routinely apprehended by law enforcement authorities, including the DGFI, *Rapid Action Battalion* (RAB), Detective Branch (DB) of Police, and the *Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime* (CTTC). These detainees were then held in the secret prisons for months or even years without official acknowledgement of their status and whereabouts (Netra News, 2022; European Union Agency for Asylum, 2025).

After the ousting of Sheikh Hasina, the scale of human rights abuses became clearer as numerous descriptions of torture, enforced disappearance, and extrajudicial killing emerged. Survivors were released, and attempts were made to modify and destroy the evidence of the cells (The Business Standard, 2024). After initial resistance from the Army, the secret facility was opened for a visit by the Chief Advisor of the Interim Government, along with other officials, including some victims, on February 12, 2025 (The Business Standard, 2025). Aynaghor was shut down, and the practice of enforced disappearances was officially ended on September 11, 2024, following the signing of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Dhaka Tribune, 2024;

European Union Agency for Asylum, 2025). After their release, many survivors provided detailed accounts of the secret prison's layout and the torture they endured during their detention. The rooms of Aynaghor had two doors: one was a heavy iron door resembling those in traditional prisons, while the other was a wooden door with a small viewing hole through which the inmates were watched. The rooms contained an approximately "3ft by 7 ft bed, leaving just 3ft to 4ft space" (Hasan, 2024, Prothom Alo). Only a faint light would filter through the ventilators, leaving the inner rooms completely pitch dark—so much so that one couldn't even see themselves, as if there were a power outage. Each cell was equipped with large exhaust fans, and their noise was so deafening that nothing from the outside could be heard. It was impossible to sleep properly due to the constant hum of the fans. However, when the fans were turned off, some detainees could hear the distant screams and cries of others. Most rooms were damp and filthy, and there was only one toilet for every four or five rooms. Detainees were allowed a limited number of trips to the toilet each day—usually four or five—and were escorted out while handcuffed and blindfolded (Hasan, 2024, Prothom Alo). One report has revealed that rooms were "just 10 feet by 14 feet, with no ventilation" (Hussain, 2025, BBC News; Dieterich, 2024, Le Monde).

Initially, it was believed that there was a building in Dhaka Cantonment with two sections: an old one and a new one. The old section had 16 rooms, accommodating up to 30 detainees at a time, while the new section had 10 rooms (Human Rights Watch, 2022; Netra News, 2022; Hasan, 2024; Prothom Alo). However, after the fall of Hasina's regime, it was revealed that there were 40-200 secret detention sites across Bangladesh (European Union Agency for Asylum, 2025). Other estimates indicated a varying number of Aynaghors (ranging from 700 to 800, or 500 to 700 though these figures have yet to be substantiated by objective evidence (European Union Agency for Asylum, 2025; The Business Standard, 2025; Hussain, 2025, BBC News). The "Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances" has identified sixteen secret detention facilities (European Union Agency for Asylum, 2025). At the same time, it is important to note that the evidence of Aynaghors was destroyed after the fall of Hasina's regime (Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, 2025).

While details are available on various platforms, no previous attempts have been made to study the details of Aynaghors systematically. Therefore, in this paper, we aimed to report on the secret torture cells known as "Aynaghor" in Bangladesh during Hasina's regime, with a focus on the sociodemography of the survivors, the reasons for detention, and the extent of torture endured.

Methods

Obtaining primary data from survivors’ testimonies was challenging due to a lack of a sampling frame and limited access to both survivors and Aynaghor itself. Secondly, after the ousting of the Hasina regime, the law-and-order system was unstable, and there was reluctance to allow people to visit the Aynaghor. We collected data for this study from various secondary sources, including reports from human rights organisations, televised news, newspaper reports, other media sources mentioning the testimonies of persons captured and kept in the torture cells, and survivors’ testimonies published in the media. We extracted the sociodemographics of victims, reasons for torture, descriptions of the torture cells, and severity of torture. Information from all the sources was cross-checked, validated by multiple investigators, and accuracy was ensured. Given that Bangla is the national language, we considered the Bangla description as the preferred option when there was ambiguity between the descriptions of the same case.

Limitations

There are several limitations to this study. Firstly, data were collected from secondary sources, which may limit the credibility of the information. Secondly, the issue is highly sensitive, involving threats to life and torture carried out by state machinery, which raises concerns about bias from various perspectives. The survivors may fear disclosing the details of alleged perpetrators, enforced disappearances, and tortures due to concerns of retaliation even years after. Since the former ruling party was linked to these events, its supporters may still seek revenge, which remains an enduring concern (Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, 2025). Thirdly, there may be reporting biases in the survivors’ testimonies. Media outlets in Bangladesh have at times been known to frame information in a way that favours the ruling party, potentially leading to over- or under-estimation of facts. Fourthly, the structure of Aynaghors has varied across Bangladesh, as these establishments were spread across the country, and new evidence continues to emerge. Fifthly, there may be under-reporting and under-recognition of survivors, meaning

Table 1: *Patterns of Enforced Disappearances from 2009-2024 (Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, 2025; BSS, 2025)*

Characteristics	Description
Scale	1,772 documented cases by 2025, 19% missing; could be up to 3500
Primary Targets	Opposition party members, activists, critics of the Government, journalists
Alleged Perpetrators	DGFI, RAB, DB, CTTC
Command Structure	Centralised, with Sheikh Hasina and top officials directly involved
Duration	Days to years, with some held for 8+ years without trial
Outcome Types	Continued detention, false “arrests,” release, death
Cover-up Methods	Denial of detention, attributing actions to other agencies, and refusing to register complaints
Post-capture Process	Blindfolding, detention, torture, eventual formal arrest or continued secret detention
Demographics	Predominantly male adults
Geographical Distribution	Concentrated in Dhaka, but facilities existed nationwide

DGFI- Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, RAB- Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), DB- Detective Branch (DB) of Police, CTTC- Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime

Figure 1a. Cells of Aynaghor (Netra News, 2022)



Figure 1b. Exhaust fan of Aynaghor (The Daily Star, 2025)



Figure 1c. Revolving chair for torture found in Aynaghor (The Daily Star, 2025)



Figure 1d. Prayer (Islamic Doa) of survivors (The Daily Star, 2025)

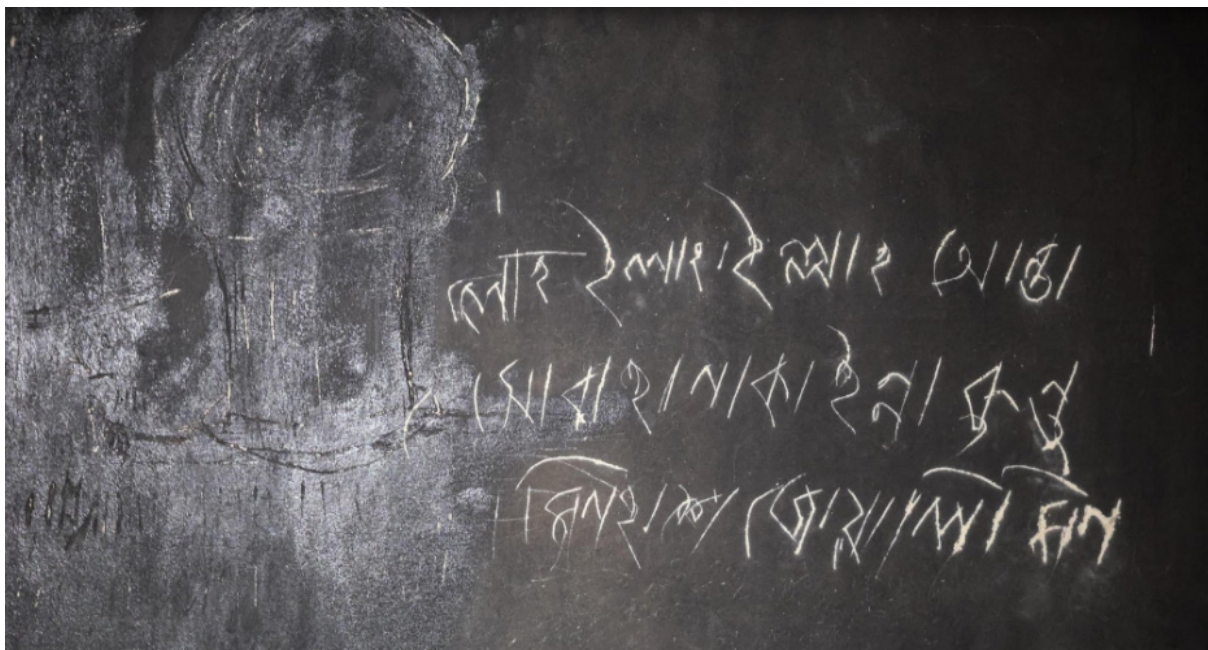
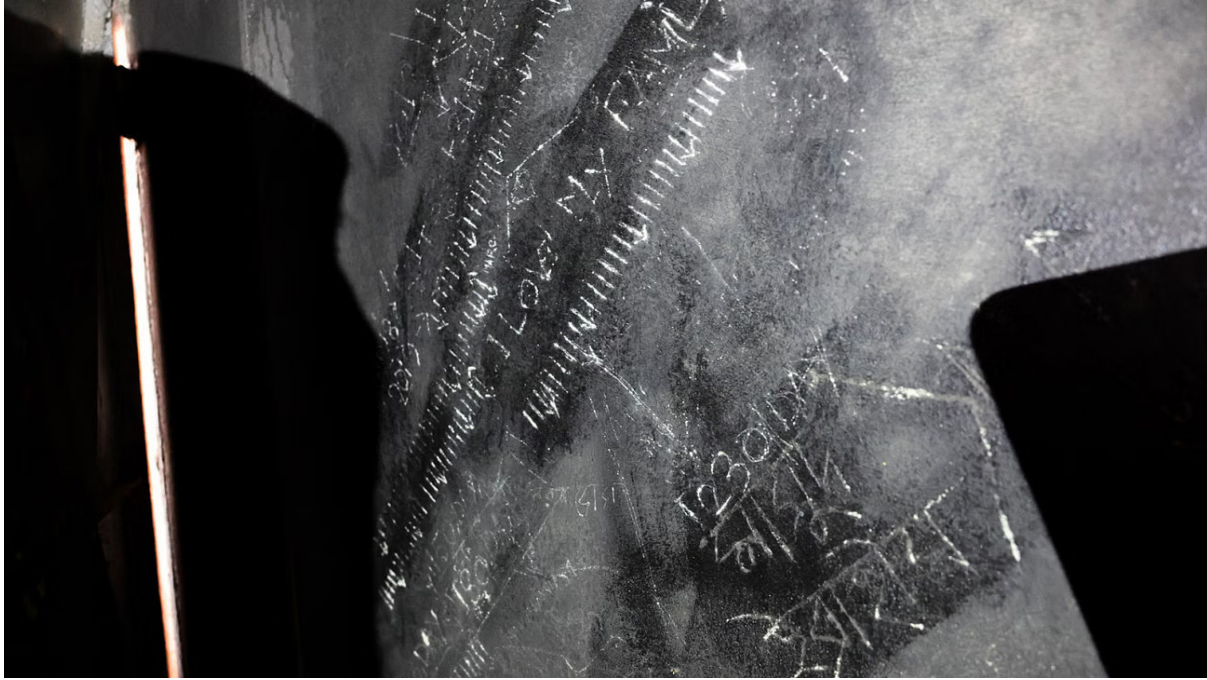


Figure 1e. Personal details of survivors (*The Daily Star*, 2025)



the actual extent of torture and the number of survivors could be much greater. Therefore, the available information may represent only a small part of a much larger story.

Results

Enforced disappearances

Enforced disappearances of individuals who spoke out against the government were an open secret during Hasina's regime (European Union Agency for Asylum, 2025; Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, 2025). Several reports cited varying figures for the number of enforced disappearances, though these figures appear to be underreported (Table 1). The latest United Nations report estimated the number could reach 3500 (United Nations, 2025). Many individuals subjected to enforced disappearance remain unaccounted for; some were allegedly killed by the law-enforcing agencies under the guise of cross-fire, while others were handed over to the regular judicial system with false charges. A Bangladeshi non-government organisation (NGO), Odhikar, compiled a detailed list of 155 individuals who disappeared between January 2009 and June 2024; none of whom have been returned (Odhikar, 2024a).

Extrajudicial killing

Enforced disappearances were often linked to extrajudicial killings, but due to the challenges in documenting these cases, the true extent has been underreported. One report compiled data from various sources from 2009 to 2023, identified 2597 instances of extrajudicial killings (Ahasan, 2023). Over 90% of these extrajudicial killings were allegedly carried out by the Police. Notably, there were spikes in killings around the national elections of 2014 and 2018, periods marked by widespread election manipulations; primarily by one party (Bangladesh Awami League).

Torture

Aynaghor, a room with no sunlight, windows, equipped with exhaust fans, a hardwood bed and a CCTV camera, was the primary place of torture associated with enforced disappearance (Figure 1a-e). Various forms of torture were used in this secret prison, such as physical, psychological, and environmental torture (Table 2). Almost all the survivors were male, with a few female exceptions; some were affiliated with the opposition political parties, and some were misidentified and taken for posting anti-Indian content on social media (Table 3). Law enforcement officials were allegedly associated with forced disappearances. Most of the survivors were held captive for years without formal charges, trials, or acknowledgement of their detention. Lat-

Table 2: *Types of torture (The Daily Star, 2024a; Daily Ittefaq, 2025; The Business Standard, 2024; The Protidiner Bangladesh, 2024; The Business Standard, 2025; Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, 2025)*

Torture Pattern	Means of torture	Impacts on victims
Physical torture	Beatings with rods, sticks, wires, electric shocks, water-boarding, and punching the face. Blindfolding and having their hands handcuffed behind their back for hours	Broken bones, internal injuries, chronic pain, permanent disability, and loss of teeth and eyesight. Muscle strain, torn muscles, and dislocation of arms.
Sexual torture	Genital shock, Genital shock during urination	Threatened impotence, sexual dysfunctions
Use a sound tool of torture	A large exhaust fan with a high volume of noise eventually cancels out all the noise from both inside and outside.	Headaches, fainting, fear, and loss of hearing.
Sleep deprivation	Forced standing for days, loud noises, disrupted sleep patterns, and the use of medicine.	Hallucinations, memory loss, severe mental fatigue, and long-term sleep disorders
No privacy	The washroom was usable for only a very limited time; if the time exceeded that, survivors were beaten there.	Loss of dignity and anxiety.
Confinement	Rooms were 3 ft × 4 ft and had no lights. Hence, it was difficult to lie or even to sit. Unable to distinguish between days and nights.	Disorientation, hallucinations from darkness, psychiatric morbidities, and muscle atrophy from inability to move.
Electric chair	Survivors were seated in an electric chair and tied. The chair roams at high speed until the victim becomes unconscious.	Trauma, bruises, vomiting, loss of consciousness, cardiac arrest
Denial of Medical Treatment	Ignoring injuries or withholding medication	Worsening of chronic conditions, untreated infections, and long-term health damage

er, some survivors provided the identities of militants or terrorists who were then sent to court with fabricated charges. In some cases, they were transferred to an Indian jail.

Discussion

Major findings of the study

After the fall of the Hasina regime, horrific images of human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture, have gradually emerged. Among these, Aynaghor represented a particularly brutal approach to violation. The secretive nature of Aynaghor, coupled with the harsh conditions, lack of legal oversight, and physical and mental tor-

ture, has led to significant mental health issues for former detainees. The trauma experienced by these individuals is multifaceted, manifesting as symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and other severe psychological distress (Arafat & Hossain, 2026). One survivor recounted seeing daylight for the first time in five years after his release from captivity (Mashal & Walid, 2024).

The fall of the regime revealed that the torture in Aynaghor was conducted allegedly by the state machinery, where politically motivated “high-value male detainees” were held and tortured for varying durations (Netra News, 2022). Some of the detainees remain unaccounted for possibly, having been killed by the law enforcement agencies. Following enforced disap-

Table 3: Excerpts of some cases

SN	Name, age, and sex	Reason for detention	Duration of detention	Description of torture	Linked to enforced disappearances
1	Hasinur Rahman, Male, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) (Netra News, 2022)	Writing on social media about BDR killings (a massacre happened on 25-26 February 2009 that caused death of 74 people, including 57 army officers) and alleging that Sheikh Hasina herself was involved in the BDR killings	Once in 2011 and again in 2018 1 year, six months, and forty days		Allegedly enforced disappearance by DGFI
2	Abdullahil Amaan Azmi, Male, Former Brigadier General of the Bangladesh Army (Prothom Alo, 2024)	Political	22 August 2016 to 6 August 2024	Blindfolded and hands tied behind his back with handcuffs for days. Poor food, did not see sunlight for 8 years.	Allegedly enforced disappearance by the DGFI
3	Mir Ahmed Bin Quasem, Male, Barrister (Prothom Alo, 2024)	Political	9 August 2016 to 6 August 2024	Blindfolded, remain seated in a fixed position with hands tied with handcuffs either in front or behind their back, routine-wise, day and night, 24/7.	Allegedly enforced disappearance by the DGFI
4	Michael Chakma, 42 years, male, activist (Anbarasan, 2024, BBC News; Lynch, 2025, Sky News)	Criticisms of Hasina's ruling party and the indigenous rights activist	9 April 2019 to 6 August 2024	Detained in a small cell, tortured with an electric rotating chair, physical torture like beating, and threats to kill.	Allegedly enforced disappearance by the DGFI
5	Elias Ali, Male, opponent political leader and former member of parliament (The Protidiner Bangladesh, 2024; Netra News 2024)	Political	17 April 2012, and still missing		Allegedly enforced disappearance by RAB

Continued on next page

Arafat et al.

6	Maruf Zaman, 62 years, male, Former Bangladesh ambassador (Hossain, 2024; Zaman, 2024, The Daily Star)	Writing about Indian aggression and treaties between India and Bangladesh.	4 December 2017 to 16 March 2019	Beaten, confinement, no proper food, and medical treatment have not been provided. He lost his teeth and experienced severe anxiety.	Allegedly enforced disappearance by the DGFI
7	HM Rana, male, Musician (Islam, 2024, The Daily Star)	Criticisms of Hasina's ruling party	14 February 2024, and the interrogation lasted 48 hours	Physical torture and threats.	Allegedly enforced disappearance by the DGFI
8	Bulbul Hasan Mahmud, Male, Engineer (Daily Ittefaq, 2024)	Allegedly involved in anti-state activities	18 September 2018 and jailed from 27 September 2018 to 20 January 2019	Tortured, beaten.	Allegedly enforced disappearance by the RAB
9	Sohel Rana, Male, Supreme Court lawyer and opposition leader (Somoy, 2024; The Daily Star, 2024b)	Political	10 February 2015 to 13 August 2015	For 24/7, he was blindfolded, and his hands were tied with handcuffs; only while eating, one hand was free, but they remained blindfolded	Allegedly enforced disappearance by law enforcement officials
10	Atiqur Rahman Rasel, Male, opposition politician (Odhikar, 2025)	Political	01 July, 2024 -07 August	Physical torture with various torture devices, sleep deprivation	Allegedly enforced disappearance by law enforcement officials
11	Rahmatullah (Odhikar, 2024b; New Age, 2024)	Anti-Indian posts on social media	August 29, 2023 - 30 December 2024. He was found in an Indian Jail.	Blindfolded for nine months and sent to an Indian Jail	Allegedly enforced disappearance by RAB
12	Shekh Mohammad Salim, Male (Netra News, 2022)	Salim was not a "high value" captive, but rather a case of mistaken identity.	May 29 - August 2016	Physically beaten	Allegedly enforced disappearance by law enforcement officials

DGFI- Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, RAB- Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)

pearances, individuals were sent to this secret prison (Odhikar, 2024b). In some cases, due to misidentification, it is alleged that the 'wrong' persons were tortured (Netra News, 2022).

The psychological impact of detention in Aynaghor is exacerbated by the socio-political context of Bangladesh, where political repression and human rights abuses are widespread (United Nations, 2025). The lack of transparency and account-

ability in the operations of such detention facilities further aggravates the mental health crisis among former detainees. Many individuals report enduring feelings of helplessness, fear, and paranoia, which persist long after their release. These factors create a vicious cycle of severe psychological trauma, and legal and financial challenges, making it difficult for individuals to reintegrate into society (Arafat & Hossain, 2025).

Implications of the findings

The findings from this study underscore the urgent need for comprehensive mental health support and rehabilitation programs for former detainees. Early intervention and continuous psychological support are crucial in mitigating the long-term effects of trauma (Arafat & Hossain, 2026). Additionally, there is a pressing need for legal reforms and greater transparency in the operations of detention facilities to prevent further human rights abuses by the state machinery.

Conclusions

We present a systematic and qualitative description of the secret prison established by the Hasina regime in Bangladesh based on data from available secondary sources. However, caution is necessary when generalising the findings due to the sensitive nature of the issue. The traumatic state experienced by individuals after release from Aynaghor underscores the severe psychological impact of secret detention practices. Addressing the mental health needs of former detainees, along with implementing systemic reforms are crucial steps towards ensuring justice and upholding human rights in Bangladesh.

References

- Ahasan N. (2023, November 13). Body Count. *Netra News*. <https://interactive.netra.news/extrajudicial-killings-bangladesh>.
- Anbarasan, E. (2024, September 01). The howls were terrifying: Imprisoned in the notorious 'House of Mirrors'. *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cdd7nqzj20qo>.
- Arafat, S. Y., Kar, S. K., Kabir, R., & Hossain, M. S. (2025). Mental Health Challenges during Mass Trauma: Insights from the July Mass Uprising (2024) in Bangladesh. *Geopsychiatry*, 100025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geopsy.2025.100025>
- Arafat, S. M. Y., & Hossain, M. S. (2026). Mental health care needs for the enforced disappearance and Aynaghor (House of Mirrors) survivors in Bangladesh: A recent daunting challenge. *Medicine, science, and the law*, 66(2), 182–183. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00258024251363119>
- BSS (2025). *Police, RAB, DB, CTTC main perpetrators in enforced disappearances: Report*. <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/280458>
- Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (2025). *Unfolding the truth: A structural diagnosis of enforced disappearances in Bangladesh*. <https://share.google/zM4nllMdZ7d3fxFgG>
- Daily Ittefaq (2025, February 12). Barrister Arman cried, recounting his horrific experience in the mirror house Barrister Arman. *Daily Ittefaq* [Video]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07Fj8SCxcjM>
- Daly Ittefaq (2024, August 29). Engineer Bulbul shares his experience living in a mirrored room. *Daily Ittefaq* [Video]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doSNwHhs7Xg>
- Dhaka Tribune (2024, September 11). *Chief Adviser: Govt shut down 'Aynaghor'*. <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/358131/chief-adviser-govt-shut-down-%E2%80%98aynaghor%E2%80%99>
- Dieterich, C. (2024, December 30). Inside the secret prisons of former Bangladesh leader Sheikh Hasina. *Le Monde*. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2024/12/30/inside-the-secret-prisons-of-former-bangladesh-leader-sheikh-hasina_6736567_4.html
- European Union Agency for Asylum (2025). Country of Origin Information Report: Bangladesh: Country Focus. https://coi.euaa.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2025_08_EUAA_COI_Report_Bangladesh_Country_Focus.pdf
- Hasan, M. (2024, August 30). Secret prison: Where just staying alive was intolerably painful. *The Prothomalo*. <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/bjmdh9ibzk>.
- Hossain, S. (2024, August 21). Inside the Aynaghar 'Captors kept watch on my family'. *The Daily Star*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/captors-kept-watch-my-family-3682476>.
- Human Rights Watch (2025, January 27). *After the Monsoon Revolution A Roadmap to Lasting Security Sector Reform in Bangladesh*. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/01/27/after-monsoon-revolution/roadmap-lasting-security-sector-reform-bangladesh>
- Human Rights Watch (2022, August 29). *Bangladesh: Allow UN to Assist 'Disappearance' Inquiries*. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/29/bangladesh-allow-un-assist-disappearance-inquiries>
- Hussain, S. (2025, April 16). His memories uncovered a secret jail - right next to an international airport. *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly6lp567r8o>
- Islam, F., Arafat, SMY., Hossain MS. (2025). Eye injuries in Bangladesh's 2024 student-led mass uprising: A public health crisis unfolds. *Torture*, 35(1), 50-58. <https://doi.org/10.7146/torture.v35i1.152344>
- Islam, Z. (2024). Int'l day of the victims of enforced disappearances: Victim pinpoints DGFI detention centre. *The Daily Star*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/intl-day-the-victims-enforced-disappearances-victim-pinpoints-dgfi-detention-centre-3690076>
- Lynch, C. (2025). Inside Bangladesh's House of Horrors. *Sky News*. <https://news.sky.com/story/electrocuted-beaten-and-left-to-die-the-horrors-of-bangladesh-s-death-squad-jails-13318685>
- Mashal, M. & Walid, S. (2024, October 17). He Didn't See Daylight for Five Years. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/17/world/asia/bangladesh-prison-takeaways.html>
- Odhikar (2024a, Dec 30). Rahmotullah Interview 301224. *Odhikar*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPr7_Lxmc7k.
- Odhikar (2024b). A detailed list of 155 victims who are still

- disappeared: January 2009-June 2024. *Odhikar*. <https://odhikar.org/a-detailed-list-of-155-victims-who-are-still-disappeared/> .
- Odhikar (2025, March 03). Atiqur Rahman Rasel said that he was allegedly picked up by members of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI). *Odhikar*. <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16FxoAZbUw/> .
- Prothom Alo (2024, August 06). *Amaan Azmi, Arman released after 8-yr captivity*. <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/axj3uuswcp>
- Netra News (2022, August 14). *Secret prisoners of Dhaka*. <https://netra.news/2022/secret-prisoners-of-dhaka/>
- Netra News (2024, April 21). Leaked documents: RAB abducted Ilias Ali. *Netra News*. <https://netra.news/2022/leaked-documents-rab-abducted-ili-as-ali/>
- New Age (2024, December 23). *Another victim of enforced disappearance returns home from India*. <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/253523/another-victim-of-enforced-disappearance-returns-home-from-india>
- Somoy (2024, September 01). Sohel Rana recounts horrors of detention at 'Aynaghar'. *Somoy News*. <https://en.somoynews.tv/news/2024-09-01/MD530sBW>
- The Business Standard (2025, February 12). What we saw was far from humanity: CA Yunus visits Aynaghar at DGFI. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/what-we-saw-was-far-humanity-ca-yunus-visits-aynaghar-1066966>
- The Business Standard (2024, October 04). *Aynaghar inside DGFI headquarters, has 22 cells: Inquiry commission*. <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/aynaghar-inside-dgfi-headquarters-has-22-cells-inquiry-commission-957886> .
- The Daily Star (2025, February 12). *In pictures: Inside the cells of Aynaghar*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/pictures-inside-the-cells-aynaghar-3822606> .
- The Daily Star (2024a, August 20). *How the former ambassador found out who was behind the mirror house* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmnV8fN_Pvk
- The Daily Star (2024b, August 14). Victim of enforced disappearance sues Hasina. *The Daily Star*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/crime-justice/news/hasina-sued-2015-sc-lawyer-abduction-case-3677021>
- The Protidiner Bangladesh (2024, August 08). *Ilias Ali is no more*. <https://protidinerbangladesh.com/videos/108123/> .
- United Nations (2025). *Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh*. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/bangladesh/ohchr-fftb-hr-violations-bd.pdf> .
- Zaman, M. M. (2024, August 30). 'We want you to die. We won't have to kill you then'. *The Daily Star*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/we-want-you-die-we-wont-have-kill-you-then-3689766> .

Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the July Smriti Songrokkhon Parishad for its support.

Submitted 14th of April 2025
Accepted 9th of December 2025