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Bangladesh's Darkest Chapter: The Yunus Regime vs. The Press

After the controversial ouster of the elected government in August 2024, an interim regime was installed in Bangladesh under the leadership of Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus. His rise to power, devoid of electoral legitimacy, has been viewed by many as unconstitutional and undemocratic. In this context, Yunus's increasingly authoritarian behavior toward the press was not unexpected. Rather than demonstrating respect for democratic values, his government has acted to suppress dissent and muzzle journalistic freedom. The Yunus-led administration has implemented new legal tools, enforced intimidation tactics, and created a climate of fear that is suffocating independent journalism.

Rising Crackdown on Journalists

Soon after coming to power, the interim government introduced two controversial ordinances: the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025 and the Personal Data Protection Ordinance 2025. While these laws were presented as safeguards for digital rights, they have instead enabled greater control over journalists and media institutions. By January 2025, at least 21 journalists were arrested, and only three received bail. More than 100 journalists were injured, and nearly 900 were either fired or forced to resign.

Wave of Lawsuits and Arbitrary Arrests

From August 2024 to April 2025, at least 200 journalists were accused in