

## Annex 1: Examples Concerning Political Criticism on Social Media<sup>252</sup>

Name	Date of Arrest	Case Details
AKM Fahim Mashroor, CEO, bdjobs.com	April 25, 2018	Arrested after a student activist of the governing party filed a case alleging he was sharing “propaganda and misleading information” and posting Facebook status updates “belittling the prime minister.” <sup>253</sup>
Imran Sarkar, Rezaul Haque, Rumana Chowdhury, Romij Uddin, Md. Hasan, and others	April 8, 2018 (case filed)	Case filed by a police officer alleging that in relation to the students protests over civil service job quotas, 40 Facebook posts were “used to propagate false and fabricated information” resulting in “deteriorating the law and order situation in Bangladesh.” <sup>254</sup>
Harun ar Rashid, BNP voluntary wing leader	Feb. 4, 2018	Arrested in Lalmonirhat for allegedly posting on Facebook a ‘caricature’ of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and making an ‘offensive’ comment. <sup>255</sup>
Md Helal	Jan. 26, 2018	Arrested in Lakshmipur for allegedly distorting the image of the prime minister on Facebook. <sup>256</sup>
Noor Mohammed	Jan. 7, 2018	Arrested in Narayangaj for Facebook comments against the prime minister, her son Sajib Wazed, the general secretary of the Awami League, Obaidul Kader,

<sup>252</sup> This data was collected in collaboration with Odhikar. We include citations only in cases not independently investigated and discussed in the report.

<sup>253</sup> “Case Under ICT Act: Bdjobs CEO held, freed upon bond,” *The Daily Star*, April 26, 2018,

<https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/case-under-ict-act-bdjobs-ceo-held-freed-upon-bond-1567879> (accessed April 26, 2018).

<sup>254</sup> Copy of FIR lodged by Cyber Security and Crime Unit, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, with Human Rights Watch

<sup>255</sup> Article published in Bengali, *Purboposhchimbd.news*, February 5, 2018 (accessed on February 6, 2018).

<sup>256</sup> “Young man detained concerning picture of prime minister,” *Manobjomin*, January 27, 2018, <http://www.mzamin.com/details-archive2016.php?mzamin=102316> (accessed April 11, 2018).

		the finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhit and the shipping minister, Shajahan Khan. <sup>257</sup>
Abu Salek	Dec. 20, 2017	Arrested in Brahmanbaria for allegedly posting on Facebook objectionable images of the prime minister, and Ahmed Shafi, leader of Hefazet-e-Islami. <sup>258</sup>
Mainul Islam, Jamaat-e-Islami activist	Dec. 19, 2017	Arrested in Jhalokhati for alleged objectionable Facebook comment about the prime minister. <sup>259</sup>
Anisur Rahman, local reporter, Daily Sangbad	Oct. 31, 2017	Arrested in Kurigram for allegedly publishing on Facebook a distorted picture of the prime minister. <sup>260</sup>
Professor Huda, Vice President, Satkhira BNP	Oct. 29, 2017	Arrested in Satkhira for allegedly sharing a post containing objectionable remarks about the prime minister. <sup>261</sup>
Rashikul Islam	Oct. 14, 2017	Arrested in Rajshai for allegedly posting derogatory comments about the prime minister on Facebook. <sup>262</sup>
Shila Khalrun	Oct. 1, 2017	Arrested in Natore after allegedly using abusive words about the prime minister. <sup>263</sup>
Imon Biswas, Joint Secretary of Meherpur town youth wing of BNP	Sep. 17, 2017	Arrested after allegedly publishing a derogatory statement about the prime minister on Twitter. <sup>264</sup>

<sup>257</sup> "Insult to prime minister on Facebook: Narayanganj Jamaat worker arrested," *Jugantor*, January 8, 2018 (access April 11, 2018)

<sup>258</sup> Article published in Bengali, *Manobjoin*, December 22, 2017.

<sup>259</sup> "Shibir activist arrested in Jhalakathi over objectionable comments about PM," *Jugantor*, December 20, 2017, <https://www.jugantor.com/news-archive/bangla-face/2017/12/20/181010/> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>260</sup> "Journalist in Jail under Section 57," *Bangladesh Protidin*, November 2, 2017, <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/country-village/2017/11/02/277304> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>261</sup> "Bangladesh leader arrested under section 57," *Bangladesh Protidin*, October 30, 2017, <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/country-village/2017/10/30/276415> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>262</sup> "Youth arrested for negative comment on prime minister," *Manobjoin*, October 16, 2017, <http://www.mzamin.com/details-archive2016.php?mzamin=87640> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>263</sup> "Woman arrested in Natore for negative comment on prime minister,"

*Naya Diganta*, October 3, 2017, <http://www.enayadiganta.com/news.php?nid=357321> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>264</sup> "Meherpur Jubo Dal Leader beaten after commenting on prime minister's Facebook page," *Manobjoin*, September 19, 2017 <http://www.mzamin.com/details-archive2016.php?mzamin=83618> (accessed April 11, 2018).

Raihan Hossain, BNP student activist	Sep. 27, 2017	Arrested in Laxmipur for allegedly publishing derogatory statements on Facebook about the prime minister and her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Case was filed by an Awami League activist. <sup>265</sup>
Lelin Khan, vice-president of BNP students-wing in Narail	Aug. 10, 2017	Arrested in Narail for allegedly posting a distorted photograph of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and of ex-home minister Sahara Khatun on Facebook. <sup>266</sup>
Rafiq Molla	Aug. 6, 2017	Arrested in Rajbari for allegedly posting on Facebook caricatures of the prime minister. <sup>267</sup>
Abdul Latif Moral	Jul. 28, 2017	Arrested in Kulna for allegedly sharing an article on Facebook titled “Goat given by minister of state in the morning, dies at night” with an “intention to defame the minister of state.” <sup>268</sup>
Amir Hamza, 35, BNP youth wing member	Jul. 27, 2017	Arrested in Kishoreganj for allegedly uploading on Facebook cartoons of the former president Zia-ur-Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. <sup>269</sup>
Ramjan Ali, 23	Jul. 24, 2017	Arrested in Habiganj for allegedly posting on his Facebook page a distorted image of the prime minister. <sup>270</sup>
Dr Selim Kaji	Jul. 21, 2017	Arrested in Shariatpur for allegedly posting derogatory photos of the prime minister, former foreign minister, Dipu Moni, Food Minister Kamrul Islam and others. <sup>271</sup>

<sup>265</sup> “Chhatra Dal activist arrested for giving objectionable status on Facebook,” *Manobjomin*, September 28, 2017, <http://www.mzamin.com/details-archive2016.php?mzamin=85027> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>266</sup> “JCD leader held under ICT act in Narail,” *The Observer*, August 11, 2017, <http://www.observerb.com/details.php?id=89045> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>267</sup> “This time case under section 57 in Rajbari,” *Prothom Alo*, August 7, 2017, at <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1279966/> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>268</sup> “Khulna journalist arrested over Facebook post on state minister for livestock, dead goat,” *bdnews24.com*, August 1, 2017, <https://bdnews24.com/media-en/2017/08/01/khulna-journalist-arrested-over-facebook-post-on-state-minister-for-livestock-dead-goat> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>269</sup> “One arrested in Bhairab for distorting prime minister’s picture on Facebook,” *Jugantor*, July 29, 2017, <https://www.jugantor.com/bangla-face/2017/07/29/143783> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>270</sup> “Offensive Facebook post, youth arrested in Madhabpur,” *Manobjomin*, July 26, 2017, <http://www.mzamin.com/details-archive2016.php?mzamin=75715> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>271</sup> “One Arrested in Shariatpur for insult to prime minister” *Jugantor*, July 22, 2017.

Imtiaz Mahmood, lawyer	Jul. 21, 2017	Case filed against him for alleged Facebook posts which sought to “instigate communal violence” in Chittagong Hill Tracts area. <sup>272</sup>
Nazmul Hossain and three others	Jul. 3, 2017	Arrested for allegedly publishing on Facebook a post that “ridiculed the department of justice.” Three others who also shared the post secured interim bail.
Hasan Ali, 45, BNP activist	Jun. 12, 2017	Arrested in Ashulia for allegedly posting caricatures on Facebook of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Awami League joint general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif, and the son of the prime minister, Sajeed Wazed. <sup>273</sup>
Maksuda Akhter Sumi, 22	May. 22, 2017	Arrested for allegedly posting on Facebook derogatory comments about the prime minister. <sup>274</sup>
Sheikh Noman	Apr. 21, 2017	Arrested in Moulvi Bazaar for allegedly criticizing on Facebook the Chief Justice for “attending different political programs.” <sup>275</sup>
Monirul Islam and Kabir Islam	Apr. 13, 2017	Arrested in Srimongal for allegedly liking and sharing a Facebook post containing “objectionable” photographs and comments about the Indian and Bangladesh prime ministers. <sup>276</sup>
Shahed Alam	Apr. 10, 2017	Arrested in in Lakshmipur for uploading on Facebook derogatory comments about the prime minister. <sup>277</sup>

<sup>272</sup> “SC lawyer sued under section 57,” *Daily Star*, July 23, 2017, <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/sc-lawyer-sued-under-section-57-1437289> (accessed April 19, 2018).

<sup>273</sup> “Satirical picture of prime minister: man detained in Ashulia,” *Jugantor*, June 14, 2017, <https://www.jugantor.com/news-archive/second-edition/2017/06/14/132647/> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>274</sup> “A facebook user is arrested for posting derogatory comments regarding Prime Minister in Dinajpur,” *Naya Diganta*, May 23, 2017, <http://m.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/222271> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>275</sup> Saiful Islam, “Youth who criticized Chief Justice on Facebook arrested,” *Dhaka Tribune*, April 21, 2017, <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/politics/2017/04/21/youth-criticised-chief-justice-facebook-arrested/> (accessed October 27, 2017). Also see case in Section III for details,

<sup>276</sup> Please see case in section III for details.

<sup>277</sup> “Derogative comments on Facebook, young man arrested,” *Banglarjamin*, April 10, 2017 (accessed April 11, 2018).

Suman Hossain	Apr. 5, 2017	Arrested in Laxmipur for allegedly posting a caricature of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Facebook. <sup>278</sup>
Md Bellal Hossain, 35, Imam of a mosque	Mar. 19, 2017	Arrested in Bhola for allegedly posting on Facebook “anti-government” commentary including derogatory comments about two Bhola lawmakers. <sup>279</sup>
Chowdhury Irad Ahmed Siddiky	Feb. 23, 2017	Arrested in Dhaka after allegedly posting on Facebook offensive messages against the prime minister and her father. <sup>280</sup>
Ehsan Habib, Aminul Islam, Ehsan Habib and Aminul Islam	Feb. 13, 2017 (received anticipatory bail)	Allegedly published posts that were said to be “indecent, defamatory, false, and provocative statements undermining the honorable Prime Minister and Awami League leaders.” <sup>281</sup>
Habul Khalifa, 35, a businessman and activist of the opposition BNP student wing	Feb. 5, 2017	Arrested in Barisal for allegedly mocking the recently deceased Awami League leader. <sup>282</sup>
Arman Sidkar,	Feb. 4, 2017	Arrested in Narail for allegedly publishing comments on Facebook that denigrated the prime minister and the Awami League student wing by stating, “Now the crooks are giving advice” in relation to a speech she gave to the students. <sup>283</sup>

<sup>278</sup> “Derogative comments on the Prime Minister and Bangabondhu in Lakshmipur, one arrested,” *Banglarjamin*, April 9, 2017.

<sup>279</sup> MA Ahad Chowdhury Tuhin, “Bhola Iman held for Facebook Post,” *Dhaka Tribune*, March 19, 2017, <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2017/03/19/bhola-imam-held-facebook-post/> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>280</sup> Arifur Rahman Rabbi, “Irad Siddiky arrested upon arrival at Shahjalal,” *Dhaka Tribune*, February 23, 2017, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2017/02/23/irad-siddiky-arrested-shahjalal/> (accessed April 19, 2018).

<sup>281</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>282</sup> “Jubo Dal worker arrested in Gouronodi,” *Manobjomin*, February 7, 2017, <http://www.m.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=52388> (accessed April 11, 2018). The police have submitted a charge sheeted to the Cyber Tribunal on 21 May 21, 2017.

<sup>283</sup> “Chaatra Moitri leader arrested on complaint of distorting Prime minister’s statement” February 6, 2017, <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/193544> (accessed April 11, 2018).

Abdul Wadud, 34 a lecturer at Belkuchi Degree College	Nov. 7, 2016	Arrested in Sirajganj for allegedly posting on Facebook critical remarks about the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. <sup>284</sup>
Mohammad Shafi	Oct. 25, 2016	Arrested for allegedly publishing, while on holiday Saudi Arabia, Facebook posts, that included derogatory images and commentary about the prime minister, her son, and lawmakers. <sup>285</sup>
Nurul Huda, 30, Imam of a mosque	Oct. 14, 2016	Arrested in Chandpur for allegedly posting on Facebook comments that called for the removal of Sheikh Hasina as prime minister because she was an “atheist dictator.” <sup>286</sup>
Ahmed Ullah, 45	Oct. 14, 2016	Arrested from Naogaon for alleged posting on Facebook remarks and mocking photos of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as well as the local Awami League member of parliament, Ishrafil Alam. <sup>287</sup>
Milon Khondaker, 30	Oct. 6, 2016	Arrested in Naogaon for allegedly posting derogatory remarks and mocking photos of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and local Awami League member of parliament, Ishrafil Alam. <sup>288</sup>
Ruhul Amin	Sep. 22, 2016	Arrested in Natore for allegedly “defaming the honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her son Joy, and her family,” by “publishing an indecent,

<sup>284</sup> “Lecturer arrested for insulting prime minister” *Bangladesh Protidin*, November 8, 2016, <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/news/2016/11/08/183158> (accessed April 11, 2018). The police submitted a charge sheet to the cyber-crimes Tribunal on March 7, 2017.

<sup>285</sup> “Young man arrested for distorting PM’s picture on Facebook” *Prothom Alo*, October 27, 2016, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/1008523> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>286</sup> “Imam arrested for insulting Facebook status,” *Daily Manab Zamin*, October 16, 2016, <http://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=35918> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>287</sup> “Facebook Post: Government employee, imam arrested for demeaning prime minister” *The Daily Star*, October 16, 2016, <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/facebook-post-govt-employee-imam-arrested-demeaning-pm-1299430> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>288</sup> “Remarks against PM: youth arrested in Naogaon,” *The Daily Star*, October 7, 2016, <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/youth-arrested-naogaon-1295416> (accessed April 11, 2018).

		defamatory, provocative statement” in claiming that prime minister and her family are thieves. <sup>289</sup>
Mohammad Sabuj Ahmed	Sep. 10, 2016,	Arrested in Magura for allegedly publishing “false, obscene and defamatory information” relating to Sheikh Mujib, stating that if the prime minister died, “the godlike image of Bangabandhu will fall as well.” <sup>290</sup>
Shahadat Hossen Khondoker	Sep. 5, 2016	Arrested in Chittagong after alleged Facebook posts critical of the International Crimes Tribunal and questioning the role of the judges. <sup>291</sup>
Dilip Roy, leftist student leader at Rajshahi Univerity	Aug. 28, 2016	Arrested in Rajshahi for allegedly publishing three satirical Facebook posts about Sheikh Hasina, her father, the Awami League, and also the government’s energy policy. <sup>292</sup>
Saddam Hossain Gazi, 20, opposition BNP supporter	Aug. 16, 2016	Arrested in Khulna for allegedly publishing anti-government comments on two Facebook pages about murders, enforced disappearances, the national budget, and calling for the downfall of the prime minister. <sup>293</sup>
Masud Rana, elected local government politician	Aug. 10, 2016	Arrested in Natore for allegedly publishing on Facebook a picture mocking the prime minister and making derogatory comments. <sup>294</sup>
Abdul Alim, Mustakim and Shamim	Aug. 8, 2016	Arrested in Satkhira for allegedly publishing on Facebook a photograph mocking the prime minister. <sup>295</sup>

<sup>289</sup> “Sharing of objectionable report on Prime Minister, youth arrested,” *Prothom Alo*, September 24, 2016, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/984244> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>290</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>291</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>292</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>293</sup> “Anti-government campaign on Facebook, Chaatra Dol leader arrested in Paikgacha,” *Daily Naya Diganta*, August 19, 2016, <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/146173> (accessed April 11, 2018). The case remains under investigation. On December 8, 2017, the police submitted a final report but not yet a charge sheet. Information about the current status of the case obtained from local police station, June 7, 2017.

<sup>294</sup> “UP member arrested in Natore for insult to prime minister,” *Daily Naya Diganta*, August 12, 2016, <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/144103> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>295</sup> *ibid.*

Titu Khan, 32	Aug. 8, 2016	Arrested in Faridpur for allegedly posting on Facebook over a period of time derogatory comments about the prime minister. <sup>296</sup>
Md. Shafiullah, 17, student	Aug. 1, 2016	Arrested in Khagrachari for allegedly posting a photo on Facebook that ridiculed a story concerning militancy, and mocked the prime minister and other public figures on Facebook. <sup>297</sup>
Rafiqul Islam Miraji, 26, alleged member of Hizbu-Tahrir	Jul. 16, 2016	Arrested in Comilla for alleged anti-state comments on Facebook. <sup>298</sup>
Mithun Chakma, indigenous rights campaigner	Jul. 12, 2016	Arrested in Khagrachari for allegedly publishing an article accusing an army officer of involvement in the 1996 disappearance of an activist and Twitter posts mocking police as “musclemen” who were “equipped with battle-dress.” <sup>299</sup>
Foyisal Arif Junayed, Awami League member	Jul. 3, 2016	Arrested in Rangpur for allegedly posting on Facebook derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. <sup>300</sup>
Humayun Kabir, an employee of a furniture shop	Jun. 9, 2016	Arrested in Jessore for allegedly posting caricatures of the prime minister and the former railways minister, Surenjit Sengupta, on Facebook. <sup>301</sup>

<sup>296</sup> “3 youths arrested in Satkhira for Facebook insult to prime minister” *Daily Naya Diganta* August 10, 2016 <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/143562> (accessed April 11, 2018). On November 21, 2016, the police submitted a charge sheet to the Cyber Tribunal. Information about the case obtained from police station on June 7, 2017.

<sup>297</sup> “College student arrested in Ramgorh for posting satirical picture of prime minister,” *Daily Nayadiganta*, August 3, 2016, <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/141314> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>298</sup> “Hizbut tahir members arrested in Nangolkot,” *Manobjomin*, July 18, 2016 at <http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=23074&cat=9> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>299</sup> “UPFD leader arrested,” *The Daily Star*, July 13, 2016, <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/upfd-leader-arrested-1252936> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>300</sup> “Chhatra Dal leader arrested in Rangpur for insulting prime minister and Banghubandhu on Facebook,” *Naya Diganta*, July 5, 2016, <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/133841> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>301</sup> “Objectionable picture of prime minister on Facebook, Youth arrested in Keshabpur,” *Daily Nayadignata*, June 11, 2016, <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/126586> (accessed April 11, 2018). The arrest followed a complaint filed by Mustafizur Rahman, an Awami League leader from the same area.

Mehedi Hasan, a second-year university student	Jan. 24, 2016	Arrested in Khustia for allegedly posting an abusive statement against the prime minister on IMO, a text and video messaging service. <sup>302</sup>
Mahfuzur Rahman, 18, AL student activist	Dec. 6, 2015	Arrested in Barguna for allegedly posting on Facebook anti-government comments. <sup>303</sup>
Tanvir Ahmed, 38, Tawhidul Hasan, 21, and Md Omar Faruq, 22	Dec. 3, 2015,	Arrested in Dhaka for allegedly posting on Facebook statements against the government and important personalities to “create chaos in the country.” <sup>304</sup>
Abdur Rahman, Imran, Golam Mostafa, Firoze, and Hanif	Nov..12, 2015	Arrested from Dhaka university for allegedly publishing on Facebook comments critical of the government and the prime minister. <sup>305</sup>
Md Shahjahan, a madrasa teacher and local Jamaat-e-Islami president	Nov. 5, 2015	Arrested in Laxmipur for allegedly posting photographs on Facebook mocking the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu. <sup>306</sup>
Mizanur Rahman Biplob, former Bandarban Mayor, and Habibur Rahman Khokon, ward councilor	Sep. 2, 2015	Arrested in Bandarban for allegedly using a fake Facebook identity called “Tungipara” to make derogatory comments against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country’s independence leader and father of the prime minister. <sup>307</sup>

<sup>302</sup> “Complaint about insult concerning Prime Minister picture, student jailed,” *Prothom Alo*, January 24, 2016, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/749128> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>303</sup> “Young league leader arrested for anti-government propaganda on Facebook,” *Naya Diganta*, December 8, 2015 (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>304</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>305</sup> “Anti-government Facebook status: Five students of Dhaka university arrested,” *Jugantor*, November 14, 2015, <https://www.jugantor.com/old/second-edition/2015/11/14/7445> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>306</sup> “Posting a distorted picture of the prime minister, one arrested,” *Prothom Alo*, November 7, 2015, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/676471> Charge sheet submitted on February 22, 2016 (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>307</sup> “Ex-Mayor of Bandarban arrested for remarks about Bangabandhu,” *The New Age*, September 2, 2015, <http://archive.newagebd.net/153960/ex-Mayor-of-bandarban-arrested-for-remarks-about-bangabandhu/> (accessed April 11, 2018).

Sohag Bhuiyan	Aug. 15, 2015	Arrested in Barisal after allegedly posting a caricature of the prime minister on Facebook. <sup>308</sup>
Selim Mujumdar, BNP voluntary wing member	Aug. 3, 2015	Arrested in Siddhirganj after allegedly posting on Facebook caricatures of the prime minister and Narayanganj member of parliament, Shamim Osman. <sup>309</sup>
Shah Alam	Jul. 7, 2015	Arrested in Dhaka after allegedly posting on a Facebook account, 'Afrin Anima,' objectionable comments against various ministers. <sup>310</sup>
Roman Palwan, 28	May. 18, 2015	Arrested in Bhola for allegedly posting on Facebook a cartoon of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. <sup>311</sup>
Arfan Ali, assistant professor of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University	Apr. 24, 2015	Arrested in Dhaka for allegedly posting on Facebook derogatory statements about the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. <sup>312</sup>
Osman Gony, 20, student leader of Islami Chatra Shibir	Apr. 14, 2015	Arrested in Comilla for allegedly posting on Facebook "insulting cartoons and posts" about the prime minister and others which created "sympathy for the Islami Chatra Shibir and Jamat e Islam and creating political unrest to sabotage the trial of the War-criminals." <sup>313</sup>
Rifat Abdullah Khan, 17, Ziauddin Farhad and 50 others	Feb. 21, 2015	Arrested in Dhaka for Facebook posts which allegedly "tried to create sympathy for Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and adding fuel to the movement of the 20-party others

<sup>308</sup> "Prime Minister's distorted picture is posted on Facebook in Barisal," *Jugantor*, August 15, 2015.

<sup>309</sup> "Prime Minister and Shamim Osman's Caricature on Facebook," *Jugantor*, August 4, 2015.

<sup>310</sup> "Offensive comments about ministers: Chaatra League activist arrested," *Prothom Alo*, July 12, 2015, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/576169> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>311</sup> "Giving cartoons ..." *Prothom Alo*, May 19, 2015 <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/531757> (accessed October 27, 2017).

<sup>312</sup> "Complaint of insult to prime minister: case being filed against teacher Arfan Ali of Sherebangla agricultural university" *Naya Diganta*, April 26 2015, <http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/detail/news/18199> (accessed April 11, 2017).

<sup>313</sup> See case in Section III for details.

		alliance and seeking to cancel the ongoing trial of war criminals.” Another 50 were named in the case. <sup>314</sup>
Rubel Hossain, 22	Feb. 8, 2015	Arrested in Naogaon for allegedly uploading on Facebook a satirical picture of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from his mobile phone. <sup>315</sup>
Fidratul Muntaha Sanjid, student	Jan. 23, 2015	Arrested in Dhaka for allegedly posting on Facebook derogatory comments about the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her son. <sup>316</sup>
Nurul Islam, 27	Oct. 28, 2014	Arrested in Naogaon for allegedly mocking Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country’s independence leader. <sup>317</sup>
Haider Ali and Md Mainul Islam	Oct. 23, 2014	Arrested in Dhaka for publishing comments on Facebook critical of Sheikh Hasina. <sup>318</sup>
Kalu Miah, 50, activist of Jamaat-e-Islami, and four others.	Oct. 21, 2014	Arrested in Sirajganj for allegedly publishing on Facebook abusive comments about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The case filed against him also accused four other men. <sup>319</sup>
Shukur Ali, 35, farmer, and son Sizan, 13, student)	Oct. 17, 2014	Arrested in Bogra for allegedly playing parodies mocking Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on their cell phones. <sup>320</sup>
Imran Hossain Arif, 30	Sep. 3, 2014	Arrested in Kushtia for allegedly posting a Facebook comment: “If Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the father of the nation, then Sheikh Hasina is my sister and Sajib Wajed Joy is my nephew.” <sup>321</sup>

<sup>314</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>315</sup> “Youth arrested for distortion of picture of prime minister,” *Naya Diganta*, February 11, 2015.

<sup>316</sup> “Insult to prime minister using false ID to entrap another, young women arrested,” *Prothom Alo*, February 23, 2015, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/432277>.

<sup>317</sup> “For insulting Bangabandhu on Facebook, young man is arrested in Raninagar” *Prothom Alo*, October 30, 2014.

<sup>318</sup> “Two in remand for Facebook insult to prime minister, *Bangladesh Protidin*, October 23, 2014.

<sup>319</sup> “For ridiculing Prime Minister the Jamaat activist is arrested,” *Amader Shomoy*, September 21, 2014.

<sup>320</sup> “Father and son arrested on the mobile phone,” *Prothom Alo*, October 15, 2014, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/347389/> (accessed April 11, 2018). The police submitted a charge sheet to the Cyber Tribunal on June 3, 2015.

<sup>321</sup> “Anti-government Facebook status: Five students of Dhaka university arrested,” *Jugantor*, November 14, 2015, <http://www.jugantor.com/old/second-edition/2015/11/14/7445> (accessed April 11, 2018). Also see case in Section III for details.

Major Samuzzoha, a retired army officer	Aug. 19, 2014	Arrested in Dhaka for allegedly commenting on Facebook about a picture of the prime minister and for supporting Hefazet-e-Islami. <sup>322</sup>
Hadisur Rahman	Jan. 28, 2014	Arrested for allegedly posting a picture of the prime minister looking “like a blood-thirsty Eagle,” another where she was in the form of a Hindu goddess, and for criticizing the International Crimes Tribunal and describing the prime minister as a “judicial killer.” <sup>323</sup>
Md Nurun Nobi Sujon (and Md Abul Yusuf and Md Jassim)	Nov. 11, 2013	Arrested in Dhaka for allegedly “disseminating false and derogatory information and photos of the present government head ... [which sought to] create an unstable situation by provoking the common people.” The two other men are in hiding to avoid arrest. <sup>324</sup>
Benazir, student	Nov. 9, 2013	Arrested in Dhaka for allegedly posting on Facebook derogatory pictures and comments about the prime minister and other government ministers, saying: “I am a hawker of democracy. Do you want to buy democracy?” he captioned below a picture of the prime minister. <sup>325</sup>
AKM Wahiduzzaman, academic	Nov. 7, 2013	Arrested in Dhaka for allegedly posting on Facebook comments that included “obscene language to defame” Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her son, daughter, and other members of her family.” <sup>326</sup>

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<sup>322</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>323</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>324</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>325</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>326</sup> See case in Section III for details.

## Annex 2: Cases Against Journalists for Published Reports<sup>327</sup>

Name	Date of Arrest	Media Outlet	Case Details
Layes Mondal and Sabid, journalist	Nov 21, 2017	Administrator and news editor of Trishal News.com	Both men arrested after police alleged that the journalists published a false report about Chief Justice Sinha under headline, “Death threats after detaining relatives, Sinha resigns.” Police also claimed that article contained false and fabricated information about the president, parliament members, detective branch of the police and family members of former chief justice SK Sinha. <sup>328</sup>
Golam Mostafa Rafiq	Jun. 12, 2017	Editor, <i>Habiganj Samachar</i>	Nephew of ruling party MP Abdul Majid Khan said that an article stating that the MP would not get the party nomination for the next election was false. <sup>329</sup>
Golam Mujtoba Dhrubo	Jun. 2017 (case filed)	Reporter, bdnews24.com	An assistant judge in Manikganj claimed that an article had falsely accused him of pushing a child “to the ground.” He was not arrested. <sup>330</sup>

<sup>327</sup> This data was collected in collaboration with Odhikar. We include citations only in cases not independently investigated and discussed in the report.

<sup>328</sup> “2 Journos held under the ICT Act,” *Daily Star*, Nov 22, 2017, <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/2-journos-held-under-ict-act-1494592> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>329</sup> “Habiganj editor arrested under ICT Act,” *New Age*, June 13, 2017, <http://www.newagebd.net/article/17653/habiganj-editor-arrested-under-ict-act> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>330</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

Ahmed Razu	Apr. 30, 2017	Executive editor, Natun Somoy	The Walton Group, a large business conglomerate, alleged that Razu had tarnished the company's image by running false stories. <sup>331</sup> The case was dismissed on Aug 23, 2017.
Abu Al Moursalin Babla	Mar. 25, 2017 (case filed)	Editor, <i>Juger Chinta</i>	The chairman of the Awami League youth front in Fatullah claimed that published corruption allegations were false. <sup>332</sup>
Nazmul Huda	Dec. 23, 2016	Reporter, <i>Bangladesh Pratidin</i>	Police alleged that articles written by Huda on a worker protest were false and instigated others. <sup>333</sup>
Saiful Islam Chowdhury	Oct. 5, 2016	Editor and publisher, www.ebakkhali.com,	A doctor claimed that an article about him was defamatory. <sup>334</sup>
Shahadat Ullah Khan, Maksudul Alam, and Pantho Polash	Aug. 8, 2016	Acting editor, executive editor and staff reporter, Banglamail24.com	Police alleged that the journalists had reproduced on their site a false story published in another newspaper suggesting that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed had died in a plane crash. <sup>335</sup>

<sup>331</sup> Arifur Rahman Rabbi and Asif Showkat Kallol "Journalist arrested in Dhaka," *Dhaka Tribune*, May 2, 2017, <http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2017/05/01/journalist-arrested-dhaka/> and "Journalist Ahmed Razu Granted Bail," *Dhaka Tribune*, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/2017/05/03/ahmed-razu-granted-bail/> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>332</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>333</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>334</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>335</sup> "RAB charges chairman, acting editor of banglamail24.com for spreading rumours," *bdnews24.com*, August 9, 2016, <http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2016/08/09/rab-charges-chairman-acting-editor-of-banglamail24.com-for-spreading-rumours> (accessed April 11, 2018).

Sarwar Alam	Jul. 15 2016	Editor, CTN24.com	Police claimed that an article concerning the death of a person was false. <sup>336</sup>
Kabir Hossain, Badrul Islam Masud, and Champak Chakraborty	Sep. 21, 2015	Editor, news editor and chief reporter, <i>Dainik Sangu</i>	Manager of the KDS company claimed that articles about the company's managing director were defamatory. <sup>337</sup>
Shakhawat Hossain	Jun. 17, 2015	Editor, Islamicnews24.com	Police alleged that the website had falsely attributed pictures of violence against Rohingyas to incite religious hatred. Site apologized for the mistake. <sup>338</sup>
Joton Chandra Ghosh and Omar Farouq Sumon	Jun. 2015	Journalists, <i>Operad Sangbad</i>	A local government officer alleged that articles critical of him were defamatory. <sup>339</sup>
Shahnewaz Khan Sumon, Sajjad Hossain, Sheikh Ruhul Amin and five other reporters	Apr. 30, 2015	Correspondents of <i>Somoy TV, Amader Orthoniti, Bangladesh Protidin and other media</i>	Awami League mayor in Jhenaidah said that article concerning alleging corruption had defamed him. <sup>340</sup>
Robiullah Robi	Aug. 19, 2014	Journalist, <i>Daily Inquilab</i>	A former protocol officer of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina alleged that he had been defamed in an article which argued that he had misused his power. <sup>341</sup>

<sup>336</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>337</sup> See case in Section III for details.

<sup>338</sup> "Man held for fake posts on social media," *The Daily Star*, June 8, 2015, <http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/man-held-fake-posts-social-media-98845> (accessed October 29, 2017)

<sup>339</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>340</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>341</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

Robiullah Robi, Atiqur Rahman, and Rafique Mohammad	Jan. 16, 2014	Diplomatic correspondent and reporters, <i>Daily Inqilab</i>	Police alleged that a report accusing Indian security forces of joining security operations in Satkhira ahead of the January 5, 2014, parliamentary polls was false. <sup>342</sup>
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<sup>342</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

## Annex 3: Allegations of Personal Defamation on Social Media<sup>343</sup>

Name	Date of Arrest	Defamatory Comments Against Whom	Case Details
Albab Khan, Awami League student wing member (six other activists also accused)	Jul 12, 2017	Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury, Awami League MP for Sylhet-3	Arrested after politician alleged that Khan and others had published defamatory remarks and objectionable images. <sup>344</sup>
Nurul Islam, former Awami League student wing leader	July 11, 2017	Enamul Haq, Awami League MP for Rajshahi-4 constituency	Arrested for allegedly publishing defamatory remarks against politician involving the MP's picture with a woman. <sup>345</sup>
Afsan Chowdhury, university professor	Jun. 5, 2017 (got interim bail)	Lieut. Gen. Masud Uddin, retired officer	Allegedly made a false allegation that the retired office was involved in a rape case in Dhaka. <sup>346</sup>
Sheikh Mohammad Ratan, and 7 journalists	Apr. 12, 2017	Mir Nasiruddin, trainee lawyer	Allegedly 'liked' an article on Facebook about a forged law degree. Case also brought against seven journalists. <sup>347</sup>

<sup>343</sup> This data was collected in collaboration with Odhikar. We include citations only in cases not independently investigated and discussed in the report.

<sup>344</sup> "Facebook insult about two Awami League MPs," *Jugantor*, July 14, 2017.

<sup>345</sup> Ibid.

<sup>346</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>347</sup> Police has filed a charge sheet. An investigating officer has been ordered to appear before the court on March 14, 2018. Human Rights Watch phone interview with Ratan, January 24, 2018.

Tasnuva Rahman, teacher at Natore government Girls High School	Feb. 13, 2016	Shamima Sultana Sume, wife of the Natore member of parliament	Allegedly uploaded a photograph on Facebook with defamatory remarks. <sup>348</sup>
Junayed Ahmed Sumon, Awami league student activist	Aug. 27, 2016	Jebunnessa Afroj	Allegedly doctored a photo of the Awami League lawmaker Jebunnessa Afroj with a caption that read, "Female lawmaker now turned into a female model." <sup>349</sup>
Probir Shikder, editor of the online news portal Uttoradhikar 71News	Aug. 15, 2015,	Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, government minister	Allegedly "tarnished the image" of the minister on Facebook. <sup>350</sup>
Belayet Hossain Millat, Awami League student leader	Jun. 12, 2015	Ziaul Haque Mridha, member of parliament	Allegedly made derogatory remarks on Facebook page called "True news of Surail." Millat admitted to one comment that he later removed and said the rest were fake. <sup>351</sup>
Arifur Rahman, student	Jan. 21, 2015	Shariful Islam, Awami League student leader	Allegedly opened a Facebook page in the name of "Ashik Hossain" and wrote defamatory comments about him. <sup>352</sup>

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<sup>348</sup> See report for details.

<sup>349</sup> "BCL activist sent to jail over FB comment against MP," *The New Age*, August 30, 2016, <http://archive.newagebd.net/249236/bcl-activist-sent-jail-fb-comment-mp/> (accessed October 29, 2017)

<sup>350</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>351</sup> "Case filed against Chaatra League leader under ICT Act," *Naya Diganta*, June 19, 2015.

<sup>352</sup> "Student leader in Jail because of Facebook," *Prothom Alo*, January 23, 2015, <http://www.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/432031> (accessed October 27, 2017)

## Annex 4: Offending Religious Sentiment under ICT Act<sup>353</sup>

Name	Date of Arrest	Case Details
Anis Alamgir, Journalist	Jan, 30, 2017	Case filed for allegedly hurting religious sentiment by writing on Facebook that a Hindu goddess “was a symbol of sex.” <sup>354</sup>
Rakash Roy, 42, Hindu religious leader	Jun. 6, 2017	Arrested for allegedly posting on Facebook a derogatory comment about Prophet Muhammad. <sup>355</sup>
Abdul Aziz, 35	Jun. 1, 2017	Arrested in Sylhet for allegedly posting on Facebook provocative, communal comments and threatening to kill secular people. <sup>356</sup>
Rajat Roy, grocery store owner	Feb. 19, 2017	Arrested in Habiganj, Sylhet, for allegedly posting a photo on Facebook that hurt religious sentiment resulting in a mob attack on four Hindus. <sup>357</sup>
Sujan Mohanta, 27	Feb. 1, 2017	Arrested in Dinajpur for allegedly posting a picture on Facebook that insulted Islam. <sup>358</sup>
M.A. Motaleb Miji, Abdul Matin, Kamal Hossain,	Aug. 6, 2016	Arrested in Chittagong for allegedly posting on Facebook a distorted photograph of the prime minister and comments that hurt religious sentiment. <sup>359</sup>

<sup>353</sup> This data was collected in collaboration with Odhikar. We include citations only in cases not independently investigated and discussed in the report.

<sup>354</sup> “Journo Anis Alamgir sued under section 57,” *UNB*, January 30, 2018, <http://www.unb.com.bd/bangladesh-news/Journo-Anis-Alamgir-sued-under-Section-57/61820> (accessed April 19, 2017).

<sup>355</sup> “Hindu Mohajote leader held under ICT Act,” *The Independent*, June 7, 2017, <http://www.theindependentbd.com/post/98263> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>356</sup> “Man sent to jail for ‘communal’ Facebook posts,” *The Daily Star*, June 2, 2017, <http://www.thedailystar.net/city/man-sent-jail-communal-facebook-posts-1414291> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>357</sup> “Arrested in Habiganj for hurting religious feelings,” *Prothom Alo*, February 21, 2017, <http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1085635> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>358</sup> See case in Section IV for details.

<sup>359</sup> “Facebook comments on prime minister, 5 arrested,” *Manobjomin*, August 6, 2016, <http://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=25852> (accessed April 11, 2018).

Nur-e-Jalal, and another		
Khondaker Mohin and Abdul Mannan	Apr. 29, 2016	Mohin was arrested in Natore for allegedly criticizing a person who had donated money to build a mosque in Shekhherat village. Mannan was not arrested. <sup>360</sup>
Fakir Taslim Uddin Kajal, printer, Shamsuzzoha Manik, publisher, and Shamsul Alam	Feb. 15, 2016	Arrested in Dhaka for publishing a book titled “Islam Bitarko” (Arguments in Islam) during the annual Ekushey Book Festival. The police also seized the books and shut down the book stall. <sup>361</sup>
Mohan Kumar Mondal and Shawkat Hossain	Sep. 26, 2015	Arrested in Satkhira for allegedly mocking haj. <sup>362</sup>
Asif Mohiuddin	Apr. 3, 2013	Arrested in Dhaka for posting “anti-religious” comments on his blog. <sup>363</sup>
Mashiur Rahman Biplob, Rasel Parvez, and Subrata Adhikary Shuvo Rahman	Apr. 1, 2013	Arrested in Dhaka for allegedly posting on Facebook and in various blogs comments that hurt the religious sentiment of people and insulting Islam with “derogatory comments about the Prophet Mohammad”. <sup>364</sup>
Chappel Poddar, 25, and Manjurul Hasan Shikder Polash, 30	Nov. 7, 2015	Arrested in Bagerhat for allegedly making offensive comments on Facebook against the Quran. <sup>365</sup>

<sup>360</sup> “Arrest of college student for ‘objectionable’ comments,” *Prothom Alo*, April 30, 2016, <http://m.prothom-alo.com/bangladesh/article/844819> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>361</sup> Nure Alam Durjoy, Arifur Rahman Rabbi, “Book fair stall shut down by police,” *Dhaka Tribune*, February 16, 2016, <http://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2016/feb/16/book-fair-stall-shut-down-police> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>362</sup> See case in Section V for details.

<sup>363</sup> “Blogger Asif Mohiuddin arrested over “blasphemous” blog posts,” *Reporters without borders*, April 3, 2013, <https://rsf.org/en/news/blogger-asif-mohiuddin-arrested-over-blasphemous-blog-posts> (accessed April 11, 2018).

<sup>364</sup> See case in Section V for details.

<sup>365</sup> “Offensive comments on Koran, 2 youths arrested,” *Manobjomin*, November 2015, <http://mzamin.com/details-archive2014.php?mzamin=100284> (accessed April 11, 2018). Charge sheet submitted on May 10, 2016.