

# CIVIL LIBERTIES

## FREEDOM ON THE NET IN 2015

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FEBRUARY 25TH

**MURDER** OF SECULAR BLOGGER AVIJIT ROY

MARCH 30TH

**MURDER** OF SECULAR BLOGGER WASHIQR RAHMAN

MAY 12TH

**MURDER** OF SECULAR BLOGGER ANANTA BIJOY DAS

JUNE

GOVERNMENT FINALISED DRAFT OF THE **CYBER SECURITY ACT**, WHICH HAS THE PROVISION FOR 20 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR COMMITTING "CYBER TERRORISM", AND ARREST OF SUSPECTS WITHOUT WARRANTS.

AUGUST 7TH

**MURDER** OF SECULAR BLOGGER NILADRI CHATTOPADHYAY NILOY

AUGUST 12TH

A COURT IN DHAKA SENTENCED A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY TEACHER IN ABSENTIA TO 3 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT IN A SEDITION CASE FILED FOR MAKING A DEROGATORY COMMENT ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER ON FACEBOOK IN 2011.

AUGUST 16TH

PROBIR SIKDAR, EDITOR OF ONLINE NEWS PORTAL UTTORADHIKAR 71 NEWS, SUED AND ARRESTED UNDER SECTION 57 OF THE ICT ACT.

AUGUST 25TH

A WRIT PETITION FILED WITH THE HIGH COURT **CHALLENGING THE LEGALITY** OF **SECTION 57 OF THE INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (AMENDMENT) ACT** 2013. THIS SECTION SAYS IF ANY PERSON DELIBERATELY PUBLISHES ANY MATERIAL IN ELECTRONIC FORM THAT CAUSES TO DETERIORATE LAW AND ORDER, PREJUDICE THE IMAGE OF THE STATE OR PERSON OR CAUSES TO HURT RELIGIOUS BELIEF, THE OFFENDER WILL BE PUNISHED FOR MAXIMUM 14 YEARS AND MINIMUM 7 YEARS IMPRISONMENT. IT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE CRIME IS NON-BAILABLE.

SEPTEMBER 30TH

BANGLADESH POLICE **ARRESTED** A **SCHOOLBOY** FOR POSTING "OFFENSIVE REMARKS ABOUT ISLAM" ON FACEBOOK

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

**ANTI-VAT MOVEMENT** AND PROTEST AGAINST **KILLING OF RAJON** STARTED IN SOCIAL MEDIA AND SPREAD AMONG THE NETIZENS.

### INTERNET ACCESS:

# 53.90 MILLION

# PEOPLE

 NOVEMBER 2015

### STATUS: **PARTLY FREE**

(FREEDOM HOUSE 2015)

OCTOBER 2015: 54.60 MILLION USERS  
**717,000 DROP** IN INTERNET USERS  
AS A RESULT OF **NOVEMBER 18TH BAN**  
ON FACEBOOK, WHATSAPP, VIBER

DECEMBER 10TH

ADMIN OF POPULAR FACEBOOK PAGE **MOJA LOSS?** **ARRESTED** ALLEGEDLY FOR HIS POSTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

DECISION BY GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE MODERN DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT WORTH

# TAKA 200 CRORE