

Human Rights Monitor
January- June, 2009



Collection and Compilation of data
On incidents of Violence
against Civil and Human Rights
in Hazara Region

Human Rights Program
Sungi Development Foundation

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Foreword:

Sungi's experiences reveal that there exists a general lack of awareness in people about their fundamental rights and the role of state for its citizens. Human rights which are fundamental and no state or governments can deny them at all but the people are not aware of their basic rights which in result make them reluctant and deprived to these rights. Their vulnerability becomes lurking threats to their lives at any time due to absence of legal support mechanism to common citizen. The people living in rural areas of Pakistan are destitute and marginalized, does not enjoy the rights of citizenship because of this prevailing unawareness.

Human Rights Program of Sungi has been working on awareness rising through capacity buildings of the rural community partners, local government elected representatives, political parties activist at district level and Government Line Agencies (GLAs). Voter education, enhancing constituency relations of the elected MNA and MPA with their constituents, linkages development with other Civil Society Organization (CSO), GLA's, media and moderate religious scholars also came under the canopy of HR.

Sungi after working with ultra-poor at the grassroots, had gone through an experience that prevailing ratio of crimes and delayed justice at the local level is due to number of factors like bad governance, culture of favouritism, gender discrimination, status quo in socio-political system, political pressure on judiciaries and law enforcement agencies, bribe and corruption in nation building departments.

Sungi is pleased to present its first 6-monthly Human Rights Monitor but we are certainly not happy at the ratio of serious crime reported in the monitor. Theft, robbery, murder kidnapping, suicide, car-lifting are heinous top most social crime. Other crimes reported are domestic violence against women, Wani, honor killing and sexual harassment at home.

We believe that the primary responsibility to address the issue of growing violation of Human Rights rests with the government however; civil society organizations and social activists, academia, media, and religious scholars bear equal responsibility to contribute in whichever manner they can, to eliminate violation of human rights especially gender-based violence from the region, particularly domestic violence, and sexual harassment at home and workplace in all its horrific forms.

Sungi will continue its efforts to support people and the people service department bring about peace and harmony at the local level.

Mukhtar Javed
Manager
Human Rights Program
Sungi Development Foundation

Introduction:

Sungi Development Foundation was established in the year 1989 as a non-profit, non-governmental organization. It was registered under the Societies Act of 1860.

Being one of the largest organizations, **Sungi** works towards bringing about policy & institutional changes by mobilizing deprived & marginalized communities with a view of creating an environment in which communities at the local level may be able to transform their lives through equitable and sustainable use of resources.

Sungi has evolved a unique approach where by it has combined advocacy work with grass root development to bring about an environmentally sustainable socio-economic development order.

Human Rights Program:

The Human Rights program is a major pillar of Sungi's Good Governance and Democratization (GGD) theme and is arguably the most well recognized and often highly appreciated characteristic of Sungi's Rights Based Approach (RBD). This is the component that sows the seeds for awareness of individual and community rights that are expected to gradually change mindsets and bring about social and political change in the country. The program focuses on educating communities with respect to their civic, political, social and cultural rights including dealing with sensitive issues such as violence against women. Human Rights Program of **Sungi** takes all its obligations and commitments very seriously, including the ones that address the violation of Human Rights, and to empower the marginalized segment of society socially, economically and legally.

Human Rights Monitor:

The monitor on Violation of Human Rights in Hazara Region for January – June 2009 is an endeavor of Human Rights Program to give a brief overview of the crimes in the area. It would be used to influence inhuman policies, procedural flaws and poor implementation of concerned department's policies. The sole intention was and is to reaffirm our commitment to end crimes in our region and to hold the criminals accountable before the community. Apart from that knowing the causes of the crimes committees would be another key objective of the monitor.

To divert the attention of the respective District Administrations especially law enforcement agencies towards the crime ratio is another objective of this endeavor, which is increasing day by day. To devise plans to curb the crime ratio by manifolds and to punish the criminals, so as to provide public safety to the masses.

On one hand, HR Monitor provides useful information to the citizens, and on the other, it may become an important means of obtaining information for the law enforcement agencies to control crimes. May this endeavor bring success in the gigantic task of protecting the life, liberty, and property of citizens through community support and cooperation.

Overview:

The HR Monitor consists of concise data collected from the local newspapers from 1st January to 30th June, 09 from five Districts of Hazara, i.e. Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Battagram & Kohistan. The data has been collected from local newspapers i.e. Aaj, Shamal, Mahasib, Chaita, & pine. The present report has categorized incidents of violence on the nature of violence. These have been categorized as murder, kidnap / missing, rape, gang rape, attempt to rape, theft / robbery, drugs, fraud, suicide, car lifting, injured, injured in accident, killed in accident, possession of illegal weapons, sexual harassment, honor killing, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, illegal cds business and public nuisance.

"The seeds of every crime are in each of us". Crime is not an out-side phenomena. It lives with each individual's inner self, and depending on the opportunities available, it can come out "power corrupts" and "the needy are not respectable". There are some of the notions used by both the weaker and the stronger to legitimate their actions. It changes its form from place to place and individual to individual. Shame, honor, customary practices, ego, what others will think or say, are the basic elements that lead to crime in a society. Such elements generate crime, in each individual, with different excuses.

The increasing economic insecurity, consumerist culture, the dog-eat-dog kind of cut throat competition, crass individualism and materialism, increasing poverty all-around, seems to be factors responsible for violence. The nature of violence is both psychological and physical.

Laws are a major tool in promoting and protecting human rights and play a vital role in the well-being of any society. The objective of laws is to achieve justice and equity, equally and without discrimination for all human beings irrespective of class, sex, colour, creed etc. Just as fair laws can dispense justice equally, unfair laws can lead to grave violation, turning the justice delivery system into travesty of itself. At present there are three parallel formal and informal legal systems prevalent in our society. All these systems collude to subjugate and oppress women. Who are physiologically weaker than men. Women comprise 50 percent of the world population. They do two thirds of the world's work, earn one-tenth of the world's property. These figures are even more dismal if Pakistani data is examined. Women's labour is never recognized. They remain concentrated at lower levels in employment, usually in informal sector. There is no wage difference between women and men but women work longer hours than men, and have to perform the more arduous tasks. Notably, women have legal equal rights, but discriminatory provisions exist in law and policies. Women are often denied equal rights to land. Workers are often outside the ambit of labour laws. The crimes related to violence against women are widely under reported. The reasons are both social norms and obtain unsatisfactory response of the police when such crimes are reported.

The police officials are guardians of the lives, liberties and the honors of the citizens. They owe their place in society to the taxes which are paid by citizens. If there guards become lawbreakers then no society and no state can have a semblance of human rights and rule of law. First investigation reports (FIR's) are usually fabricated and meant to achieve personal objectives. In most cases, evidence is doctored and constructed, in collaboration with investigation agencies. In some cases, the victimization of the offender is dominated by his commitment of crime to others, while weak law provides ample opportunities, to the strong, to take the matter in his own

hands & quench thirst. Strong law prevents the criminal from committing a crime on the one hand, while social bondage prevents the individuals from committing the crime.

Poverty and rural breakdown along with other factors like poor industrialization and infrastructural neglect has meant that Hazara's economy is particularly vulnerable. There is confrontational politics i.e. political atmosphere of intolerance. No common understanding of democratic norms or human rights. The law and order situation getting worse. Violence against marginal groups, minority groups, and women has shot up alarmingly. There is selective violence against women. Economic injustice exploitation, economic marginalization and deprivation and cultural misrecognition, which are rooted in social patterns of representation, interpretation and communication, are increasing with the passage of time. Which ultimately results in violence.

Records of the cases of crimes reported in the local newspapers are properly maintained. Total of 730 cases are collected in the reporting period. The HR Monitor also reflects the law and order situation in our region. It describes the uncertainty/insecurity for the masses, especially for the women. As it is evident from the facts that shocking crimes are committed against them. Among 730 reported cases the leading ratio is of theft/robbery, followed by murder whose figures are 176 and 163 respectively. This collection of data aims at providing the actual position of crimes to the civil society, furthermore, to provide a baseline to the police department to take cognizance of those dreadful events. To take concrete measures to pull down the crime ratio. It may also trigger the role of judiciary, so as to take serious note of the data collected and call upon the law enforcement agencies to submit their report on the sensitive issues, to provide justice without any discrimination.

Some of the other issues which were highlighted in the newspapers. Are as under,

- Land Mafia issues
- 25,000 non functional Health Centre in Hazara
- Circulation of Fake Currency Notes & Postal Tickets in the markets
- Mansehra Development Authority corruption of more then 2 Billion.
- More then 5 lac workers compelled to work on less wages in.
- Illicit Cutting of Forests
- Non Availability of clean drinking water.
- Female Police constables takes salaries while sitting in homes.
- Acute shortage of Electricity
- X-Ray machine, dialysis machine, angiography machine and other medical equipment not properly working in Ayub Medical Complex
- Illegal Allotment of land by Galiyat Development Authority
- Lack of basic facilities at Police station Ghazi
- Sub-standard, expired and fake Medicines
- Ghost Schools in Battagram
- Health staff of DHQ Battagram not attending office
- Irregularities in Benazir Income Support Program
- Growing incidents of Drug Addiction among young generation
- Tractors purchased by TMA Mansehra at cost of Rs. 4,50,000/- instead of market prize of Rs.1,50,000/-
- Water Shed Department employs not paid for more then 3 months

All these issues generate problems for an ordinary person deprived of his/her fundamental human rights. The Government Line Agencies (GLAs), whose main function is to facilitate/help the people, but eventually they had become the basic cause of unrest/instability for them. As reported in daily Shamal dated 25/3/09 in which an employ of rescue 15 hits the vegetable stall of a poor man, after taking vegetables from him, by saying "I am a policeman, how can you ask for money". In another reported case on dated 31/3/09 the staff of ghazi police station let the criminal go after taking bribe from the accused party.

Inequality, injustice and violence by the rich and powerful breed terrorism. In reality, the state policy is still not firm; there is no clear-cut strategy and destination towards capitalism. Therefore, often attention of the government shifts from education to defense, agriculture to industry. Due to this fluctuation, the supportive measures that should have come to increase the capitalist production are also absent. The need, therefore, is to develop more holistic perspective and more integrated strategies to fight violence. We need to look at both culture and economics. Looking at one while ignoring the other has neither helped nor will it help us in the future. There is lack of justice and accountability of institutions. There is a need to evolve a more balanced and integrated approach. A lot, therefore, remains to be done. The basic condition of life and survival, such as access to food and nutrition, water, shelter and basic consumption needs (including amenities such as electricity and sanitation along with basic commodities such as clothing), Access to education and health services, The nature of economic participation, such as the pattern of employment, division of time between paid and unpaid work, control over assets and control over own labour power are main changes which can overturn the ratio of crimes in Hazara Region. So, the time has come to make our policies in the best interest of our masses.

It is an eminent/well-known fact that whenever the official machinery is used strictly and efficiently for the service for masses, the crimes will decrease with the passage of time. The only way towards crime free scenario is independent judiciary, committed GLAs, professional and honest politician having close linkages to their constituents. As whenever the wrong doers will be penalized. It will discourage the criminals. So, we all the civil society members must demand free, transparent and speedy justice.

Crime wise detail of 730 crimes is as under,

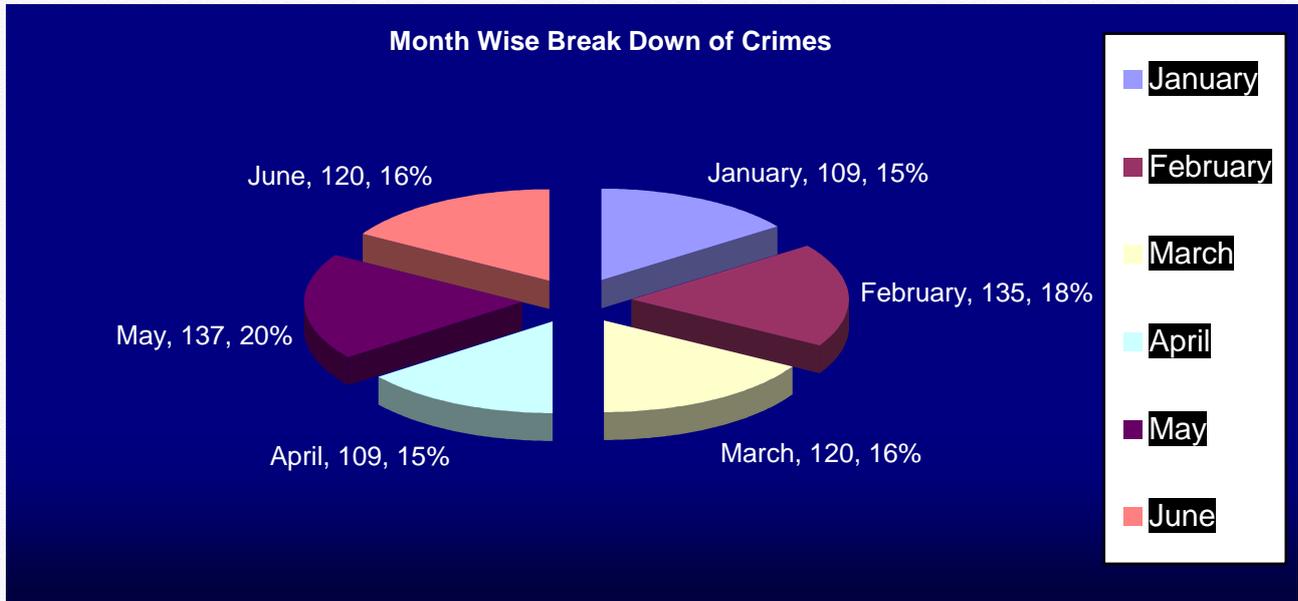
S. No	Crime Type	No of Crimes
1	Theft / Robbery	176
2	Murder	163
3	Injured	128
4	Kidnap / Missing	59
5	Killed in Accident	41
6	Drugs	30
7	Fraud	28
8	Suicide	16
9	Car Lifting	16
10	Injured in Accident	10
11	Attempt to Suicide	9
12	Timber Smuggling	9
13	Sexual Harassment	6
14	Weapons	6
15	Attempt to Kidnap	5
16	Attempt to Murder	4
17	Honor Killing	4
18	Domestic Violence	3
19	Public Nuisance	3
20	Attempt to Rape	2
21	Gang Rape	2
22	Wani	2
23	Bribery	2
24	Rape	1
25	Police Harassment	1
26	Child Sexual Abuse	1
27	Unlawful Imprisonment	1
28	Illegal CDs Business	1
29	Illegal Medicines	1
	Total	730

A Total of 730 crimes are reported. The detail of which is as under,



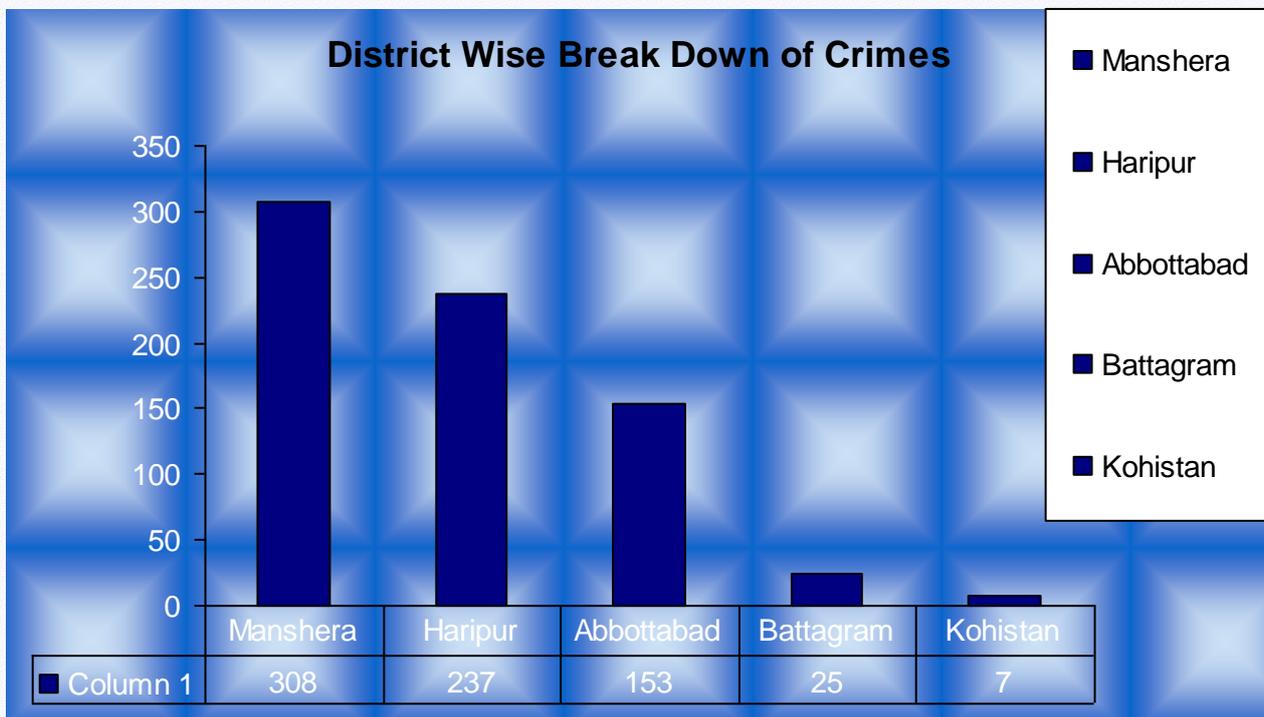
The Month Wise break down is,

S.N	January	February	March	April	May	June
Total	109	135	120	109	137	120



The District Wise break down is,

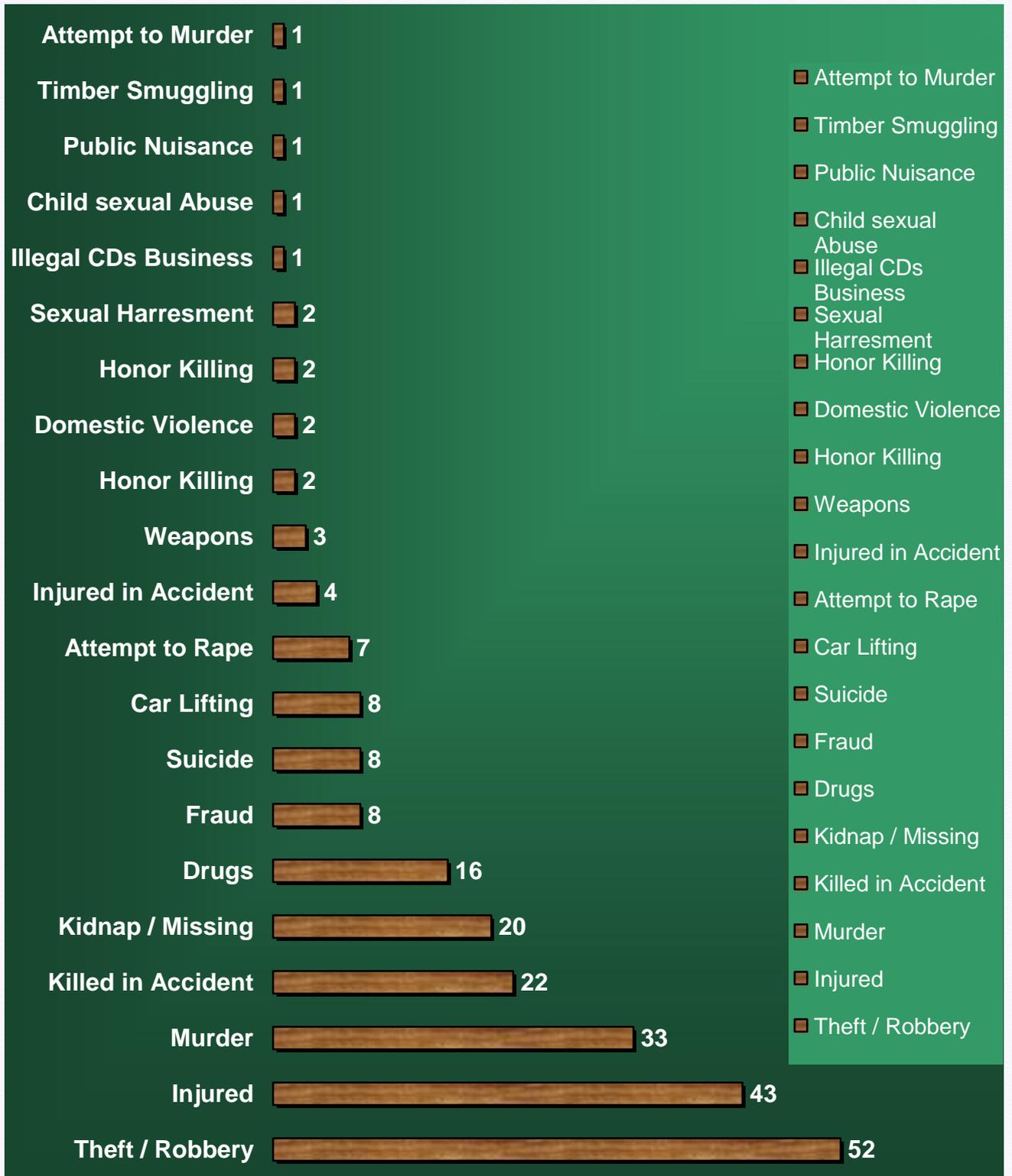
S.N	Mansehra	Haripur	Abbottabad	Battagram	Kohistan
1	308	237	153	25	7



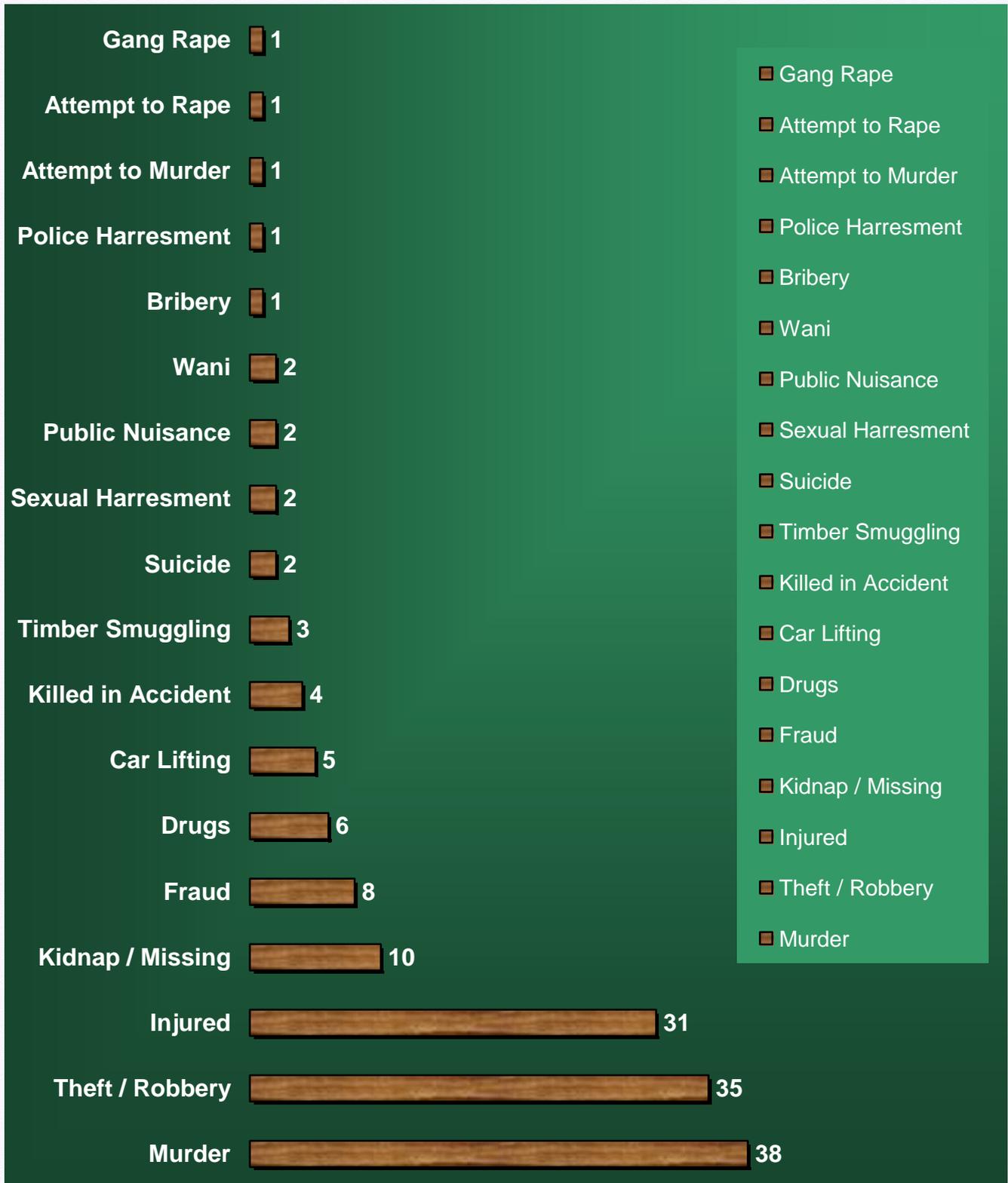
Crime Wise Breakdown in District Mansehra



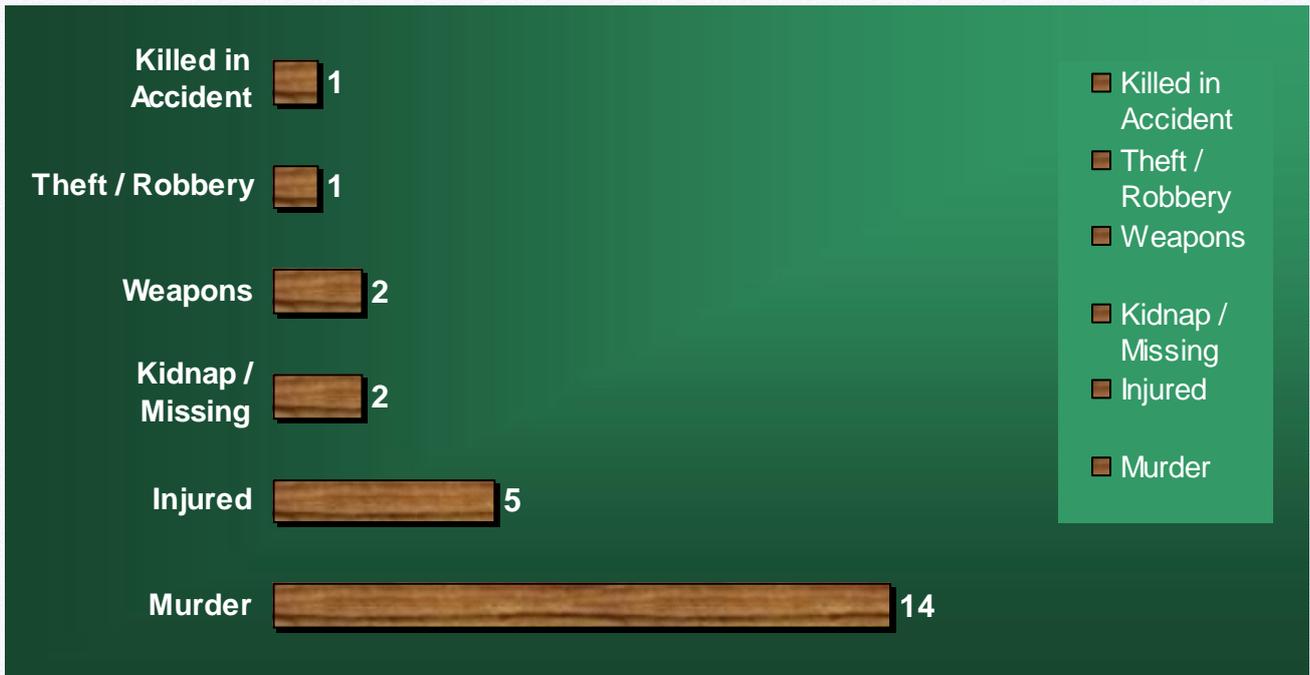
Crime Wise Breakdown in District Haripur



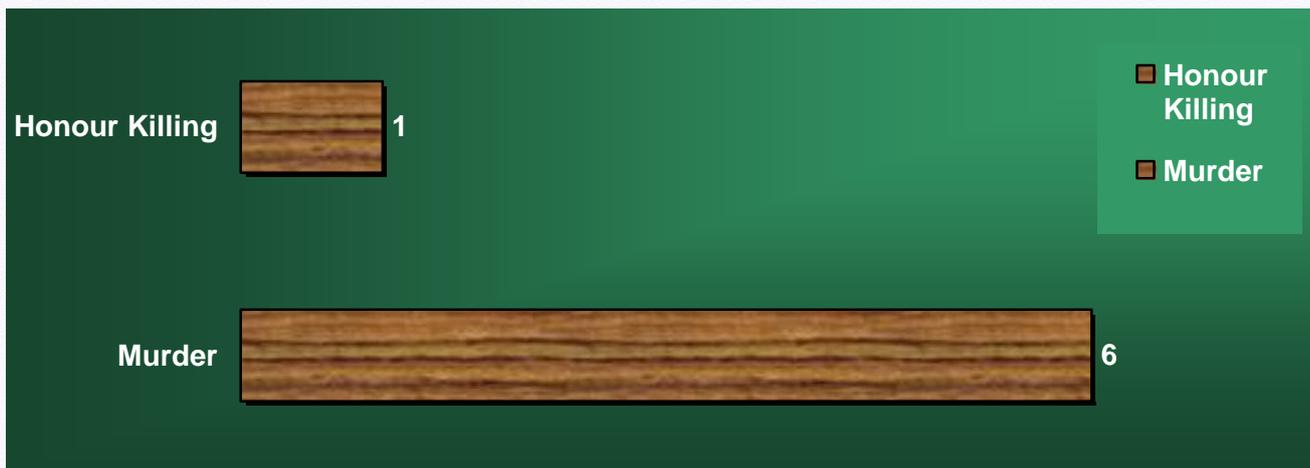
Crime Wise Breakdown in District Abbottabad



Crime Wise Breakdown in District Battagram



Crime Wise Breakdown in District Kohistan



**Sungi is Grateful
To**

Local Newspaper

Who Reported the Human Rights Violations in Their Daily Papers

- **In time**
- **with responsibility**
- **and courage**

**Contribution in Preparing
Human Rights Monitor**

1. **Daily Aaj**
2. **Daily Chaita**
3. **Daily Muhaib**
4. **Daily Pine**
5. **Daily Shimla**
6. **Daily Shimal**