

**HUMAN SECURITY INTEGRATION INTO BANGLADESHI
NATIONAL POLICY: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LINKS
BETWEEN HUMAN SECURITY, MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT
AND DEMOCRATISATION**



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ABSTRACT

This thesis analyses three links: first, between democratisation and human security integration; second, between military disengagement and democratisation and third, between Bangladesh Armed Forces (BAF)'s human security involvement and military disengagement. This research argues that the national policy of the democratic governments in Bangladesh results in human security outcomes that are essentially associated to human security principles and objectives. This thesis argues the integration of human security into Bangladeshi national policy is distinctly linked to the BAF's involvement in non-combative activities.

The thesis also shows the strengthening of democracy in Bangladesh is due to the BAF's disengagement from politics. It is argued that the continuation of democracy and military disengagement is mutually re-enforceable. This research also explains the BAF's involvement in disaster management and UN peacekeeping is positively influencing the democratic institutions, leading to political disengagement. Besides the secondary literature, the researcher used a number of semi-structured interviews and case studies to complement the findings. Through three case studies of the BAF's involvement in disaster management, protection of internal security in CHT and UN peacekeeping, this thesis identifies that the BAF's involvement modality with the civil-political authority is the crucial factor that determines the outcome of human security objectives. This thesis explains that in one case study, the protection of internal security in CHT, the extended and independent involvement of the BAF in nontraditional security activity weakens the civil-political authority. However, in the other case studies, the thesis shows that involving the BAF in non-combative activities enhances the capacity of the civil-political authority to implement the national policies associated with human security principles and objectives.

The key finding of the thesis is that the BAF's human security involvement leads to military disengagement which is a critical factor in democratisation.

**KEY WORDS: HUMAN SECURITY/ BANGLADESH ARMED FORCES/
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