

# India



## Muslims & Christians

Muslims and Christians are the two largest groups detained for their religious beliefs. Indian authorities have arrested both Muslims and Christians under false claims of facilitating forced conversions. Religious clerics have been accused of arranging marriages. Muslim student activists have also been detained for their religious freedom advocacy, often under anti-terrorism laws.



### Rona Wilson

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Christian

ARRESTED: June 6, 2018

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Human rights and civil rights work for religious and marginalized communities

## Journalists & Human Rights Activists

With the introduction of discriminatory legislation such as the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2020, journalists and human rights activists have been targeted for their religious freedom advocacy efforts. This includes the detainment of journalists reporting on Kashmir.



### Irfan Mehraj

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Muslim

ARRESTED: March 20, 2023

NATURE OF CHARGES: Terrorism

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Human rights work and journalism for vulnerable religious communities



### Rupesh Singh

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Unspecified

ARRESTED: July 17, 2022

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Journalism for vulnerable religious and marginalized communities



### Meeran Haider

RELIGION OR BELIEF: Muslim

ARRESTED: April 1, 2020

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Leading peaceful protests opposing the religiously discriminatory Citizen Amendment Act (CAA)



### Umar Khalid

RELIGION OR BELIEF: Unspecified

ARRESTED: September 13, 2020

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Leading peaceful protests opposing the religiously discriminatory Citizen Amendment Act (CAA)

## Dalit Rights Activists

Activists have been detained for advocating on behalf of Dalits (members of India's lowest caste), as illustrated by the 2020 arrest of 16 advocates in Bhima Koregaon. While many Dalits are Hindu, they face discrimination and violence and lack recognition in Hindu society. Dalit Christians also face severe religious intolerance.



### Surendra Gadling

RELIGION OR BELIEF: Unspecified

ARRESTED: June 6, 2018

REPORTS OF MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE: Yes

REASON FOR PERSECUTION: Human rights and civil rights work for religious and marginalized communities

## FoRB Victims List Stats 55 out of 2,282

Religion or Belief	# of Victims
Muslim	22
Christian	15
Unspecified	12
Hindu	4
Adivasi	1
Sikh	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

Type of Abuse	# of Victims
Detained	53
Imprisoned	1
House Arrest	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

Reports of	# of Victims
Torture	2
Medical Neglect	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>



## Frank R. Wolf FoRB Victims List Background

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, requires USCIRF to:

*make publicly available, to the extent practicable...lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciation of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern [CPC]...or by a nonstate actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern [EPC].*

USCIRF developed the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Victims List—an online public database—to implement this provision for countries USCIRF recommends for Country of Particular Concern (CPC) or Special Watch List (SWL) status. The list also includes such victims located in the de facto territories of nonstate actors that USCIRF recommends for Entity of Particular Concern (EPC) status, according to the same criteria.

Due to limited resources, USCIRF is unable to identify and document all victims that meet the statutory requirement to be included on the FoRB Victims List and generally relies on receiving submissions from outside individuals and organizations. As such, the information contained in the database does not reflect country, regional, or global trends. Furthermore, percentages highlighted in this section should not be used for extrapolation purposes nor interpreted as a particular group experiencing greater violations than another or a particular country committing violations at a greater rate than others. To support this project, USCIRF invites those with credible information on victims to submit information using the Victims List Intake Form at [www.uscirtf.gov/form/uscirtf-victims-list-intake-form](http://www.uscirtf.gov/form/uscirtf-victims-list-intake-form).

## FoRB Victims List Stats Overall

Perpetrator	Victims Documented
Algeria	5
Azerbaijan	11
Burma	5
China	798
Cuba	11
Egypt	18
Eritrea	61
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)	2
Houthis	3
India	55
Indonesia	9
Iran	351
Iraq	2
Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP)	1
Kazakhstan	16
Malaysia	4
Nicaragua	68
Nigeria	9
North Korea	11
Pakistan	87
Russia	488
Saudi Arabia	50
Sri Lanka	1
Tajikistan	16
Turkmenistan	31
Uzbekistan	88
Vietnam	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,282</b>

Religion or Belief	Victims Documented
Adivasi	1
Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light	3
Baha'i	169
Bon	1
Buddhist – Hoa Hao	6
Buddhist – Theravada	3
Buddhist – Tibetan	93
Buddhist – Unspecified/Other	32
Christian – Catholic	79
Christian – Church of Almighty God	240
Christian – Jehovah's Witness	283
Christian – Orthodox	21
Christian – Protestant	150
Christian – Unspecified/Other	65
Duong Van Minh	4
ECKist (Eckankar)	1
Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	3
Falun Gong	217
Hindu	10
Humanist	1
Jewish	1
Muslim – Ahmadiyya	20
Muslim – Qur'anist	1
Muslim – Shi'a	40
Muslim – Sufi	64
Muslim – Sunni	412
Muslim – Unspecified/Other	233
Santeria	5
Scientologist	1
Shaman	1
Sikh	1
Yarsani	38
Unknown/Unspecified	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,282</b>

# India



## Not Released

Irfan Mehraj  
Abdul Rashid Dawoodi  
Javed Mohammed  
Jagtar Singh Johal  
Rupesh Singh  
Jyoti Jagtap  
Ramesh Murlidhar Gaichor  
Sagar Tatyrao Gorakhe  
Hany Babu  
Rona Wilson  
Sudhir Dhawale  
Mahesh Raut  
Surendra Gadling  
Shoma Sen  
Abdullah Gautam  
Qazi Jahangir Qasmi  
Umar Gautam  
Shifa ur-Rehman  
Gulfisha Fatima  
Sharjeel Imam  
Meeran Haider  
Khalid Saifi  
Umar Khalid  
Khurram Parvez  
Gautam Navlakha

## Released

Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba  
Atikur Rahman  
Teesta Setalvad  
Mohammed Zubair  
Anand Teltumbde  
Arun Ferreira  
Vernon Gonsalves  
Hidme Markam  
Fahad Shah  
Kishor Ram  
Adya  
Ranga Ben  
Sama Ben  
Saju Ben  
Kumtu Vasuniya  
Ramesh Vasuniya  
Savita Singh  
Nandha Nathaniel  
Mangu Mehtab Bhuriya  
Ansingh Ninama  
Jam Singh  
Safoora Zargar  
Kaleem Siddiqui  
Ishrat Jehan  
Asif Iqbal Tanha  
Devangana Kalita  
Natasha Narwal  
Siddique Kappan

## Died in Custody

Stan Swamy

## Unknown

Javeed Khan