

# APPENDIX 2 FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS LIST

## Introduction

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 [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](#). Additional information about the FoRB Victims List can be found in USCIRF's [FoRB Victims List Factsheet](#).

## Perpetrators

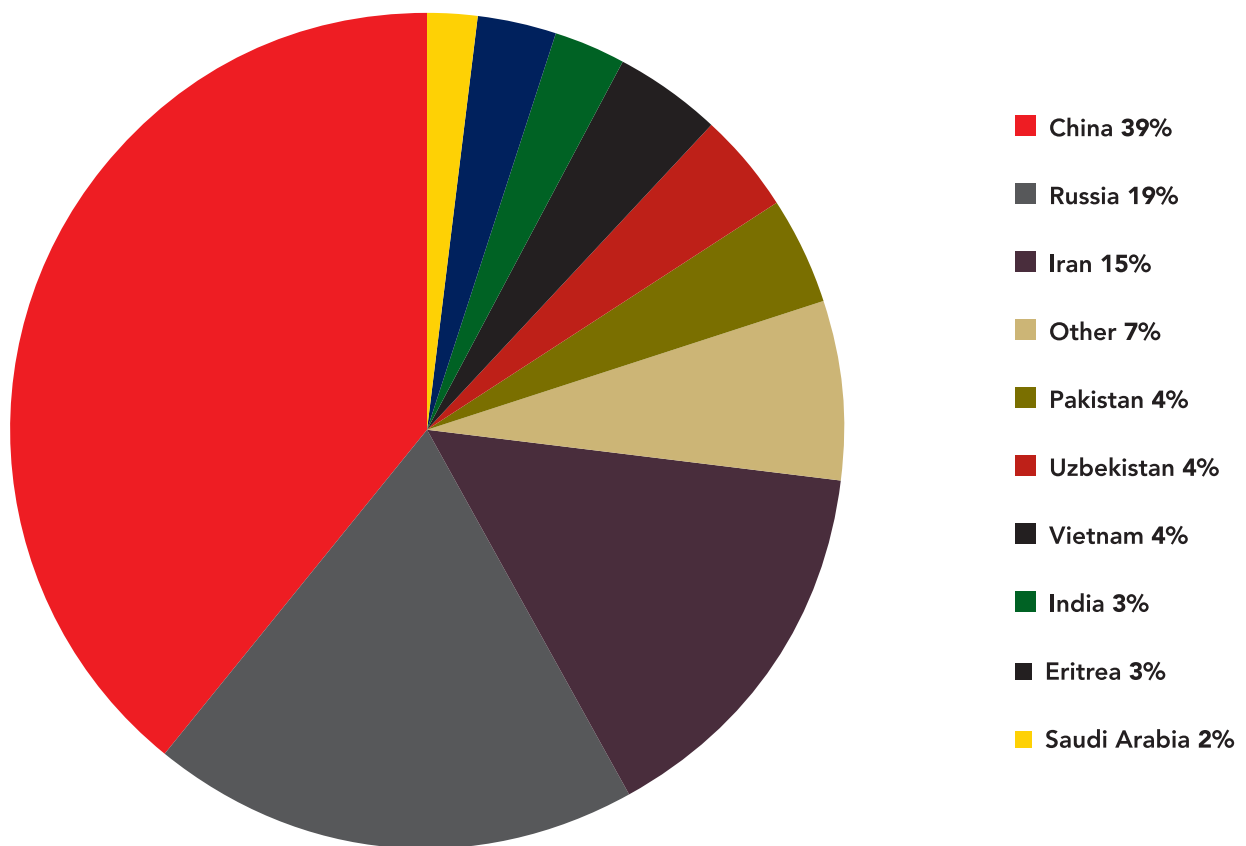
By the end of 2022, the FoRB Victims List included nearly 2,000 individuals targeted by 26 different countries and entities. More than 1,400 victims remain in some form of custody, while more than 300 have been released. The detention status of approximately 200 cases remains unknown, and six individuals are listed as deceased after dying in state custody. The following table provides a breakdown of the data by country.

| Perpetrator                                   | Not Released | Released | Died in Custody | Unknown | Total |
|---|--------------|----------|-----------------|---------|-------|
| Algeria                                       | 5            |          |                 |         | 5     |
| Azerbaijan                                    | 6            | 3        |                 | 2       | 11    |
| Burma   | 4            |          |                 |         | 4     |
| China   | 578          | 29       |                 | 146     | 753   |
| Cuba  | 8            | 1        |                 | 2       | 11    |
| Egypt   | 2            | 12       |                 | 1       | 15    |
| Eritrea                                       | 25           | 24       | 1               |         | 50    |
| Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)                   |              |          |                 | 2       | 2     |
| Houthis                                       | 1            | 1        |                 |         | 2     |
| India   | 44           | 10       | 1               |         | 55    |
| Indonesia                                     | 6            |          |                 | 1       | 7     |
| Iran  | 167          | 119      | 1               | 7       | 294   |
| Iraq  | 2            |          |                 |         | 2     |
| Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) |              |          |                 | 1       | 1     |
| Kazakhstan                                    | 11           | 3        |                 | 1       | 15    |
| Malaysia                                      |              |          |                 | 4       | 4     |
| Nicaragua                                     | 9            |          |                 |         | 9     |
| Nigeria                                       | 6            |          |                 | 3       | 9     |

| Perpetrator  | Not Released | Released   | Died in Custody | Unknown    | Total        |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| North Korea  | 1            |            |                 | 8          | 9            |
| Pakistan     | 61           | 21         | 1               |            | 83           |
| Russia       | 318          | 50         |                 | 1          | 369          |
| Saudi Arabia | 38           | 6          |                 |            | 44           |
| Tajikistan   | 9            | 3          |                 |            | 12           |
| Turkmenistan | 6            | 21         |                 |            | 27           |
| Uzbekistan   | 52           | 30         |                 |            | 82           |
| Vietnam      | 59           | 6          | 2               | 10         | 77           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1,418</b> | <b>339</b> | <b>6</b>        | <b>189</b> | <b>1,952</b> |

Based on the information maintained in the database, the following chart reflects the percentage of individuals imprisoned by country. Among the violators, China imprisoned the most FoRB victims, followed by Russia, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, India, Eritrea, and Saudi Arabia. Victims from all other countries and entities individually constituted one percent or less than one percent of the victims in the database.

## VICTIMS BY PERPETRATOR



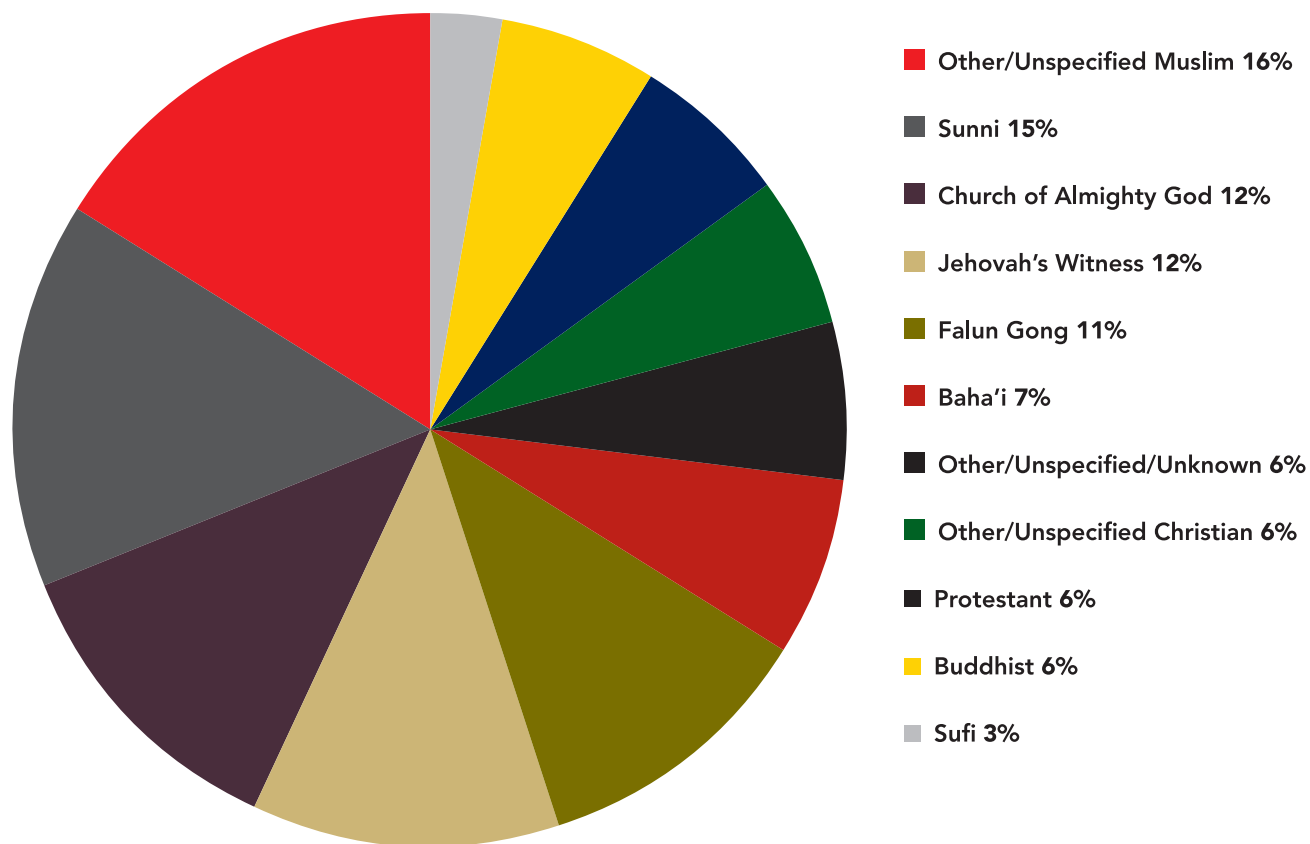
## Religions and Beliefs

The FoRB Victims List contains individuals with a wide variety of beliefs and religions, as reflected in the following table.

| Religion or Belief                 | Number of Victims Documented |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Adivasi                            | 1                            |
| Baha'i                             | 129                          |
| Bon                                | 1                            |
| Buddhist - Hoa Hao                 | 6                            |
| Buddhist - Theravada               | 3                            |
| Buddhist - Tibetan                 | 73                           |
| Buddhist - Unspecified/Other       | 28                           |
| Christian - Catholic               | 40                           |
| Christian - Church of Almighty God | 236                          |
| Christian - Jehovah's Witness      | 227                          |
| Christian - Orthodox               | 14                           |
| Christian - Protestant             | 113                          |
| Christian - Unspecified/Other      | 62                           |
| Duong Van Minh                     | 4                            |
| ECKist (Eckankar)                  | 1                            |
| Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner       | 2                            |
| Falun Gong                         | 208                          |
| Hindu                              | 11                           |
| Humanist                           | 1                            |
| Jewish                             | 1                            |
| Muslim - Ahmadiyya                 | 22                           |
| Muslim – Qur'anist                 | 1                            |
| Muslim - Shi'a                     | 37                           |
| Muslim - Sufi                      | 61                           |
| Muslim - Sunni                     | 300                          |
| Muslim - Unspecified/Other         | 264                          |
| Santería                           | 5                            |
| Scientologist                      | 1                            |
| Shaman                             | 1                            |
| Sikh                               | 1                            |
| Yarsani                            | 37                           |
| Unknown/Unspecified                | 61                           |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>1,952</b>                 |

The following chart provides a percentage for the individuals, based on their religion or belief, maintained in the database.

### VICTIMS BY RELIGION OR BELIEF



## Nature of Charges

Individuals included on the FoRB Victims List face a range of charges in several different legal contexts. USCIRF created groupings for similar charges to identify how foreign governments and entities justify the incarceration of the individuals included on the FoRB Victims List. USCIRF's categories are not mutually exclusive, and individuals are often included in more than one category based on varying charges brought against them. While USCIRF excludes from the FoRB Victims List individuals known to have committed or promoted violence, many individuals on the list face unsubstantiated accusations of violent crimes by the foreign government.

USCIRF is in the process of identifying charges for more than a quarter of the victims. Dozens of victims are not facing any charges, yet they remain imprisoned or have been subjected to other violations included on the FoRB Victims List that do not involve legal charges, such as enforced disappearance or forced renunciation of faith.

| Nature of Charges Categories              | Number of Individuals Charged | Percentage of Individuals Charged |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aid & Abetment                            | 14                            | 1%                                |
| Apostasy                                  | 4                             | < 1%                              |
| Arms Trafficking & Illicit Use of Weapons | 32                            | 2%                                |
| Assault & Battery                         | 9                             | < 1%                              |
| Banned Organization                       | 473                           | 24%                               |
| Blasphemy                                 | 100                           | 5%                                |
| Breach of Privacy & Disclosure            | 2                             | < 1%                              |
| Conversion                                | 29                            | 1%                                |
| Crimes Involving Minors                   | 4                             | < 1%                              |
| Criminal Premeditation & Conspiracy       | 26                            | 1%                                |
| Cult                                      | 309                           | 16%                               |
| Defamation                                | 2                             | < 1%                              |
| Drug Trafficking & Illicit Drug Use       | 9                             | < 1%                              |
| Embezzlement & Fraud                      | 9                             | < 1%                              |
| Environmental Crimes                      | 1                             | < 1%                              |
| Extremism                                 | 257                           | 13%                               |
| Fabricating & Destroying Evidence         | 5                             | < 1%                              |
| Filing a False Police Report              | 3                             | < 1%                              |
| Forgery                                   | 7                             | < 1%                              |
| Harboring a Fugitive                      | 5                             | < 1%                              |
| Hate Speech                               | 108                           | 6%                                |
| Illegal Assembly                          | 118                           | 6%                                |
| Illegal Business Activity                 | 5                             | < 1%                              |
| Illegal Migration & Entry/Exit of Country | 6                             | < 1%                              |

| Nature of Charges Categories  | Number of Individuals Charged | Percentage of Individuals Charged |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Illicit Financing   | 52                            | 3%                                |
| Immorality  | 9                             | < 1%                              |
| Incitement to Commit Crime & Violence                                       | 43                            | 2%                                |
| Insulting Public Officials & Institutions                                   | 9                             | < 1%                              |
| Leaking State Secrets   | 4                             | < 1%                              |
| Mercenarism   | 2                             | < 1%                              |
| Miscellaneous Religious Crimes  | 14                            | 1%                                |
| Murder & Attempted Murder   | 27                            | 1%                                |
| Negligence  | 1                             | < 1%                              |
| No Charges/Not Applicable   | 65                            | 3%                                |
| Public Disorder   | 91                            | 5%                                |
| Refusing & Absconding Military Service                                      | 23                            | 1%                                |
| Separatism  | 28                            | 1%                                |
| Spreading Propaganda & False or Misleading Ideas, Information, or Materials | 165                           | 8%                                |
| Subversion  | 76                            | 4%                                |
| Terrorism   | 270                           | 14%                               |
| Theft & Robbery   | 3                             | < 1%                              |
| Threat  | 2                             | < 1%                              |
| Treason & Sedition  | 197                           | 10%                               |
| Unlawful Disobedience   | 49                            | 3%                                |
| Violating Prison Rules  | 11                            | 1%                                |
| Unknown   | 559                           | 29%                               |

The following chart highlights the top 10 most common types of charges for individuals on the FoRB Victims List.

### TOP TEN MOST COMMON CHARGES

