



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

INDIA

Introduction

These victim profiles are illustrative of those in the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief Victims List database. Mandated by the amended International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Victims List documents individuals who are detained, imprisoned, tortured, disappeared, forced to renounce their faith, or subjected to house arrest due to their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy.

Religions of Individuals in India on the ForB Victims List

- Christian – Unspecified/Other
- Hindu
- Muslim – Sufi
- Muslim – Unspecified/Other
- Sikh
- Unspecified



Sharjeel Imam

Religion: Muslim - Unspecified
 Arrested: January 28, 2020
 Reason for Persecution: Protesting Religious Freedom Conditions Religious, Identity

MUSLIMS & CHRISTIANS

Muslims and Christians are the two largest groups detained for their religious beliefs. Indian authorities have arrested both under false claims of facilitating forced conversions. Muslim student activists have also been detained for their religious freedom advocacy, often under anti-terrorism laws. Authorities frequently detain Christians for short periods of time.



Surendra Gadling

Religion: Unspecified
 Arrested: June 6, 2018
 Nature of Charges: Terrorism
 Reports of Medical Neglect: Yes
 Reason for Persecution: Religious freedom advocacy

DALIT RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Activists have been detained for advocating for religious freedom and other rights on behalf of Dalits who are members of India’s lowest caste. While many Dalits are Hindu, they face discrimination and violence and lack recognition in Hindu society. Dalit Christians also face severe religious intolerance.



Irfan Mehraj

Religion: Muslim - Unspecified
 Arrested: March 20, 2023
 Nature of Charges: Terrorism
 Reason for Persecution: Religious freedom advocacy

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.



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NOT RELEASED

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

James Watson
Kaleem Siddiqui
Kishor Ram
Kumtu Vasuniya
Mangu Mehtab Bhuriya
Manoj Govind Kolha
Mohammed Zubair
Nandha Nathaniel
Natasha Narwal
Ramesh Vasuniya
Ranga Ben
Safoora Zargar
Saju Ben
Sama Ben
Savita Singh
Siddique Kappan
Teesta Setalvad
Vernon Gonsalves

UNKNOWN

Javeed Khan

DIED IN CUSTODY

Stan Swamy

RELEASED

Adya
Anand Teltumbde
Ansingh Ninama
Arun Ferreira
Asif Iqbal Tanha
Atikur Rahman
Devangana Kalita
Fahad Shah
Ganpati Sarpe
Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba
Hidme Markam
Ishrat Jehan
Jam Singh