



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

AFGHANISTAN

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 Afghanistan on the FoRB Victims List

Muslim – Sufi
Muslim – Unspecified/Other



Abdul Alim Khamoosh

Religion or Belief: Muslim – Sufi
Reason for Persecution: Telling students science is more important than religious studies
Charge: “Insulting Shari’a and the Prophet of Islam”
Sentence: Death



Wazir Khan

Religion or Belief: Muslim – Unspecified
Date of Detainment: February 24, 2025
Reason for Persecution: Religious freedom advocacy



Ibrahim Gailani

Religion or Belief: Muslim – Sufi
Date of Detainment: September 5, 2025
Religious Leader: Yes
Reason for Persecution: “Misusing Sufism” and carrying out practices “contrary to Sharia”

SUFIS

De-facto Taliban authorities have targeted religious leaders, including Sufis, as part of their crackdown on enforcing strict religious edicts. The Taliban considers Sufi practices contradictory to its interpretation of Shari’a.

WOMEN RIGHTS ADVOCATES

Under its strict religious edicts, the Taliban continues to target Afghan women and those advocating on their behalf. Under the Taliban’s strict interpretation of Shari’a, Afghan women and girls cannot pursue education, recite the Qur’an, or participate in public religious life.