



# 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.



## FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS: **INDIA**

### **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

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

### **UNKOWN**

Javeed Khan

### **DIED IN CUSTODY**

Stan Swamy

### **RELEASED**

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