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Blog Article

PERSECUTION OF MINORITIES IN INDIA: DISCRIMINATION, VIOLENCE, AND SYSTEMIC SUPPRESSION

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Running title: Minority persecution in India, State-backed religious oppression

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How Muslims and other minorities (Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, etc.) are facing discrimination, violence, and suppression in India, particularly from Hindu nationalist groups and systemic institutions:

Since 2014, cases of mob lynching against Muslims have surged in India, especially over allegations of cow slaughter. Data from IndiaSpend shows that over 90% of cow-related lynchings between 2010 and 2017 occurred after 2014, with most victims being Muslim men.

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, passed by the Modi-led government, explicitly excludes Muslims from its provisions by offering citizenship only to non-Muslim refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. This violates India's secular constitutional values and has been criticized by Amnesty International and the UN.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam excluded nearly 1.9 million residents—many of them Muslims—due to their inability to produce decades-old documentation. Critics argue this move disproportionately targeted poor Muslim

communities and risks rendering many stateless.

During the February 2020 Delhi riots, 53 people were killed, most of them Muslims. Independent investigations by The Wire, BBC, and Amnesty International showed video evidence of police inaction, bias, and even participation in violence against Muslims.

Prominent BJP leaders have made public hate speeches against Muslims without facing consequences. For example, Kapil Mishra's incendiary speech just before the Delhi riots and Yogi Adityanath's repeated targeting of Muslims under the guise of "love jihad" have been widely criticized.

In several BJP-ruled states, Hindu extremist groups and local authorities have enforced informal bans on Muslim vendors during Hindu festivals, promoting economic exclusion through targeted boycotts.

In 2022, Karnataka imposed hijab bans in schools and colleges, targeting Muslim girls' religious rights. Despite India's secular constitution, courts upheld the ban, raising concerns about discrimination and gender inequality.

"Love Jihad" laws have been passed in states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. These laws criminalize interfaith marriages under the unproven theory that Muslim men are converting Hindu women deceitfully. This has led to harassment and wrongful arrests of Muslim men.

Muslim homes and mosques have been bulldozed in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as retaliatory actions following protests or minor unrest, often without legal proceedings—raising alarms about due process violations.

In December 2021, at a "Dharam Sansad" in Haridwar, Hindu religious leaders openly called for the genocide of Muslims. Despite clear video evidence, arrests were delayed and charges were minor, reflecting police and judicial bias.

During the 2020–21 Farmers' Protest, Sikh farmers were labeled as "Khalistanis" and "anti-nationals" by government leaders and state-backed media, attempting to delegitimize peaceful dissent and suppress minority voices.

Attacks on Christians have sharply increased in recent years. The United Christian Forum recorded over 600 incidents of violence against Christians in 2022, with churches vandalized and pastors assaulted—often under baseless accusations of forced conversion.

Dalits who convert to Islam or Christianity are denied Scheduled Caste status and social benefits under Indian law, unlike those who convert to Buddhism or remain Hindu. This legal discrimination restricts their social mobility and access to affirmative action.

Mainstream Indian media, especially television news, often vilifies Muslims by labeling them "terrorists," "infiltrators," or "anti-nationals." This consistent dehumanization fuels public hostility and justifies state action against them.

The demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 by Hindu mobs and the subsequent 2019 Supreme Court verdict awarding the land to Hindu claimants were widely viewed by legal scholars and minority communities as failures of justice.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has repeatedly recommended listing India as a "Country of Particular Concern" due to rising state-sponsored violations of religious freedom and minority rights.

Reports from UN Special Rapporteurs, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International document widespread erosion of legal protections for minorities, suppression of dissent, and impunity for perpetrators of religious violence.

Muslims are severely underrepresented in Indian politics. Despite comprising over 14% of the population, Muslims make up less than 4% of the Lok Sabha. The ruling BJP has no Muslim Member of Parliament in the current term.

Muslims across India face systemic social discrimination, including difficulty renting housing, increased police surveillance, employment bias, and being disproportionately targeted in counter-terrorism operations.

What you think how Muslims and other minorities are facing discrimination, violence, and suppression in India? tell us by reply in comment section

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