

IAMC Report

April 2022



State of Religious Minorities in India

IMPENDING GENOCIDE OF MUSLIMS IN INDIA

Introduction

As foreign governments and international human rights bodies, including the United Nations, are raising concerns over India's treatment of its minorities, hate crimes and organised attacks against the Muslim community have only become more frequent. Professor Gregory Stanton, founding president of the research and advocacy organization Genocide Watch, has already placed India at the alarmingly high 8th stage of genocide. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government have not only turned a deaf ear to the escalating violence but are also accused of providing impunity to the Hindu extremist groups responsible, many of which have links to BJP's parent organisation, the paramilitary Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The increasing hate speeches and violence against Muslims, Christians, Dalits, and Adivasis in April reveals a more radical shift in the supremacist vocabulary of India's Hindu nationalists, particularly against the Muslim minority. This escalation of hate speech can be best described by analysing the shift from slogans such as "Desh ke ghaddaro ko, Goli maaro saalo ko" (shoot the bastard traitors of the country) to a more direct and pointed slogan such as "Jab Mulley Kaate Jayenge, Tab Ram Ram Chillayenge" (When Muslims are be slaughtered, they will shout 'Ram Ram').

The role of the police over the years, especially in April 2022, also indicates a more institutionalized form of violence mechanism being put into place in the Indian polity. This report shall elaborate more on the police's role in not just downplaying the violent attacks against minorities but more often being an active participant in the violence. Discriminatory legislation against Muslims has increasingly been deployed in states where the BJP is in power. Laws that openly challenge the fundamental rights enshrined in the Indian constitution are aggressively used to push minorities further to the margins.

Discrimination and Violence against Muslims

In April, as Muslims in India and across the world were preparing for the month of Ramadan and were expecting to celebrate their faith, – India’s Hindu nationalists turned the holy month into a series of hateful attacks on Muslim lives and livelihoods. As the award winning journalist Rana Ayyub said, “The past two weeks for Muslims in India have been claustrophobic.” Ramadan this year coincided with the 9-day long Hindu festival Ram Navami.

In a step that has been termed discriminatory by civil rights defenders and unconstitutional by legal experts, the municipal authorities in New Delhi and Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh banned total sale of raw meat throughout the entirety of Ram Navami.^{1 2} The discriminatory order triggered fear among meat vendors, who are primarily Muslims, and gave an opportunity for extremist groups to target and attack shops selling meat. Even though the order directly challenged the right to equality enshrined in the Indian constitution and received sharp criticism and protests, the local bodies refused to lift the bans. In an interview with Article 14, Justice Govind Mathur, former chief justice of the Allahabad High court said,

“Instructions issued by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for the closure of meat shops reflect mischief rather than administrative exigency.”³

The order doesn’t reflect any reasonable or rational cause but, on the contrary, is



highly unjust and arbitrary, he further added. The ban had an adverse affect on Muslim livelihoods. Alam, a daily wage vendor in the INA market of

1 <https://maktoobmedia.com/2022/04/02/ghaziabad-meat-shops-ordered-to-remain-closed-during-navratri/>

2 <https://thehindustangazette.com/national/new-delhi/meat-ban-several-meat-shops-in-delhi-shut-after-mayors-order-ban-during-navratri-9217>

3 <https://article-14.com/post/why-delhi-s-ban-on-selling-meat-during-hindu-festival-is-illegal-violates-india-s-constitution-624f58d311c54>

Delhi, reportedly said, *“Every Muslim understands what this ban means, but we can’t even express our anger. They are now using our religion to attack the bread we eat... It is a big punishment for a Muslim to be poor today.”*⁴

In the state of Karnataka, Hindu extremists have begun calling for a blanket ban on the sale of all halal meat throughout the year. Members of Bajrang Dal, a Hindu extremist group affiliated to Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) thrashed a Muslim chicken shop owner for selling halal chicken in the Shimoga district of the state. The organization had launched a state-wide campaign against halal-certified products. Hindu extremist groups claim that a boycott of halal products is a matter of faith, not discrimination. Still, the larger onslaught on Muslim-run businesses has been a matter of deep concern for Muslim traders and business owners.

Widening the scope of the boycott, Hindu groups further called for the end of a

so-called ‘Muslim monopoly’ in the fruit business. Chandru Moger, coordinator of Hindu Janajagruti Samiti in Karnataka, took to Twitter and urged Hindus to buy fruits from Hindu vendors, claiming that most fruit-sellers are Muslims: “There is a monopoly on the fruit business by Muslims. We are also seeing that they are spitting on fruits and breads before selling them.” He further declared that Muslims were waging “spitting Jihad” against Hindus.⁵ Another Hindu right-

wing leader, Prashanth Sambargi, also called for the boycott of Muslim fruit vendors: “The hard work is done by Hindu farmers and benefit is taken

by intermediate Muslim vendors. We’ve done research on this business cycle and understood that the Hindu farmer is at the mercy of the unorganised particular group. To remove this intermediate in the business, we have created this campaign.”⁶ In Dharwad, journalist Harish Upadhy reported Muslim push cart vendors being attacked outside a Hanuman temple. Members of extremist group Shri Ram Sena destroyed and



⁴ <https://article-14.com/post/muslim-vendors-scarred-by-delhi-s-so-called-meat-ban-terrified-confused-about-the-future--6250e3f04ceeb>

⁵ <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/after-halal-loudspeakers-ban-hindu-outfits-call-for-end-muslim-monopoly-in-fruit-business-spitting-jihad-1934076-2022-04-06>

⁶ <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/after-halal-loudspeakers-ban-hindu-outfits-call-for-end-muslim-monopoly-in-fruit-business-spitting-jihad-1934076-2022-04-06>

vandalized watermelon and other fruits sold by Muslim vendors. However, according to the victims, the police personnel present at the location did nothing to stop the vandalism.⁷

The calls for an economic boycott of Muslims did not stop at halal products or fruits but extended to the harassment

of individual vendors. On 5th April, a 44-year-old seller of miniature kitchen utensils, BabuHabibullah, was forced to shut his shop outside a temple in Karnataka's Udupi by Hindu groups after they realized Habibullah was Muslim. The extremists also warned customers to not buy

anything from him. In Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, Hindu extremist groups held public gatherings amidst curfew to call for an economic boycott of Muslims. In local WhatsApp groups,

Hindu extremists circulated a list of 40 Muslim run shops in Khargone with a direction to Hindu women to stop buying from these establishments and to avoid certain neighborhoods. Upon being asked by a journalist, a local leader of the extremist group Sakar Hindu Samaj said, "They (Muslims) will go hungry. We

have told Hindu vendors to put a tilak or a god's photo on their shop. And now we are putting out messages for people to know which Hindu businessmen to contact to buy flowers for party decorations, electricians and even scrap dealers."⁸

Muslims also faced economic losses due to Ram Navami festival rallies in at least 5 different states,

which sparked large-scale incidents of anti-Muslim violence. Starting from Rajasthan's Karauli, the violence spread in Sendhwa and Khargone of Madhya Pradesh, Himmat Nagar, Khambhat

Cities affected by violence during Ramanavami rallies in April, 2022

In the April of 2022, as the Muslims in India and worldwide were preparing to welcome their holy month of Ramadan, extremist Hindu groups launched a series of violent and hateful attack against the Muslim community.



Map: Indian American Muslim Council • Source: IAMC • Created with Datawrapper

⁷ <https://thewire.in/communalism/hindutva-activists-destroy-carts-of-fruits-sold-by-muslim-sellers-at-dharwad-temple>

⁸ Ibid

and Dwarka district of Gujarat, Raichur district of Karnataka and Jahangirpuri area of the national capital New Delhi.

In Karauli, the violence started when Muslim shopkeepers opposed Hindu groups for playing provocative anti-Muslim songs during their Shibha Yatra in the Muslim localities. Later the same evening, Hindu mobs started looting and setting Muslim shops on fire. Reportedly 26 Muslims were injured and 43 Muslim-owned shops were burnt to the ground.⁹ Sayeed (43), a tailor by profession, said the extremists first looted his shop of Rs. 6 lakhs (\$8,000) and then set it ablaze. He had been running his shop for the last 15 years. However, a shop next door belonging to Giriraj, a Hindu, did not suffer any damage. While none of the two shops had any name plate, they were marked by the mob who targeted Sayeed's shop during the violence and spared Giriraj's. Another victim, Farkhruddin Anjum (72) said, "The mob was selectively targeting Muslim shops. Rioters broke open the locks of the shop in police presence. They first looted the goods and then burnt the shop."¹⁰

In Madhya Pradesh's Sendhwa and Khargone, merely three days after violence in Karauli, another extremist rally similar to that in Rajasthan

marched into Muslim neighbourhoods while playing derogatory songs. The rally soon turned violent, leaving more than 50 properties and 25 vehicles belonging to Muslims damaged and burnt to the ground. Three mosques, five shrines and two graveyards were also vandalised and then burnt. The violence left 50 injured and one dead – all Muslims. Several videos surfaced on social media platforms where Hindu rioters were themselves filming and livestreaming while throwing stones on Muslim properties.¹¹

Concentrated attacks against the Muslim community followed similar rallies in Gujarat. Dozens of Muslim houses were looted and burnt to the ground. An elderly couple who fled their locality in Himmat Nagar reported that a mob of 500 people surrounded their area and started hurling stones and petrol bombs at their house.¹² "We survived because the roof of our house was strong. We are scared to go back there and [are] moving to a safer place," the couple said. Similarly, in Delhi's Jahangirpuri, the Ram Navami rally stopped in front of a local mosque and raised communally charged slogans. A few from the mob tried planting a saffron flag on the mosque, followed by resistance from Muslims. This was followed by large-scale violence, leaving dozens injured.¹³ Several other

⁹ <https://www.newsclick.in/Rajasthan-All-You-Need-Know-About-Karauli-Violence>

¹⁰ <https://indiatomorrow.net/2022/04/16/was-anti-muslim-violence-in-karauli-in-rajasthan-pre-planned/>

¹¹ <https://www.thequint.com/news/india/stone-pelting-arson-vandalism-mp-khargone-ram-navami-procession#read-more>

¹² <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/apr/13/gujarat-tension-prevails-as-rioters-attack-houses-with-petrol-bombs-2441405.html>

¹³ <https://news.yahoo.com/jahangirpuri-religious-violence-raised-homes-085549953.html>

Islamophobic rallies were organised in other parts of India; however, no major violence was reported.

Despite Muslims being the prime targets and victims in all these incidents, the police further criminalized Muslims as aggressors. Out of 71 FIRs that were registered in Khargone, 65 were against Muslims. A total of 599 Muslims were booked under various serious charges in Khargone alone.¹⁴ In Karauli, out

of 46 people arrested, 41 were Muslims. Amidst curfew, Muslim properties were demolished

illegally by the Madhya Pradesh police after the state's home minister Narottam

Mishra [declared](#) that the “houses of the rioters would be reduced to rubble,” referring to the Muslim community. At least 50 houses and shops, all owned by Muslims, were demolished in Khargone. In New Delhi's Jahangirpuri, police were accused of discriminating against Muslims by demolishing only Muslim-owned properties as a part of their “anti-encroachment” drive in days following the violence.¹⁵



Hate Speech

On April 3rd, the head of the Save India Foundation, Preet Singh, organized a Hindu Mahapanchayat at Delhi's Burari area, where speakers stoked anti-Muslim sentiments and delivered hate speeches. Muslim journalists were denied entry to the event and physically assaulted.¹⁶ Notable attendees included Pinky Chaudhary (chief of Hindu Raksha

Dal), Sushil Tiwari (head of the Hindu Army), Suresh Chavhanke (editor-in-chief of Islamophobic Sudarshan TV), and Yati Narsinghanand, a Hindu militant

priest who called upon Hindus to wage war against Muslims in Haridwar city in December 2021.¹⁷ During his speech, Narsinghanand claimed that if India were to have a Muslim Prime Minister, “Fifty percent of you [Hindus] will change your faith in the next twenty years and forty percent would be killed.”¹⁸ He continued to assert:

¹⁴ IAMC accessed the FIRs uploaded on the official website of Madhya Pradesh Police department

¹⁵ <https://www.firstpost.com/india/demolition-in-delhis-jahangirpuri-finally-comes-to-a-halt-after-sc-steps-in-for-the-second-time-in-less-than-an-hour-10576951.html>

¹⁶ <https://theprint.in/india/communal-slurs-people-beaten-at-delhi-hindu-mahapanchayat-police-say-they-gave-no-permission/900791/>

¹⁷ <https://theprint.in/india/communal-slurs-people-beaten-at-delhi-hindu-mahapanchayat-police-say-they-gave-no-permission/900791/>

¹⁸ <https://theprint.in/india/communal-slurs-people-beaten-at-delhi-hindu-mahapanchayat-police-say-they-gave-no-permission/900791/>

This is the future of Hindus. If you want to change this, be a man (mard bano). What is it to be a man? Someone who is armed... Just make kids. Go now, and those who can make kids, just do it now! And then make them capable of fighting. Hindus with pot bellies are of no use. If you [Hindu] do not want a fight between Hindus and Muslims, there's just one way...¹⁹



Narsinghanand's words echo the genocidal sentiments he expressed back in December 2021 at Haridwar's dharma sansad, where he urged Hindus to take up arms against Muslims and promised monetary rewards for doing so. Both Singh and Narsinghanand were arrested previously for their anti-Muslim hate speeches at Delhi's Jantar Mantar and the Haridwar's dharma sansad, respectively, and are currently out on bail.

According to Scroll, seven journalists covering the event were targeted by a

mob and five journalists ended up being escorted away by Delhi police for their protection.²⁰ Four of these five journalists were Muslim and were denied entry and harassed after

being asked their religious identity.²¹ According to Scroll, "Meer Faisal of The Hindustan Gazette, photojournalist Md Meharban, and Newslandry journalists, Shivangi Saxena and Ronak Bhat, were assaulted at the event" and "Arbab Ali, who was covering the event for Article 14, Meghnad Bose, a reporter at The Quint and another journalist who did not wish to be identified, were verbally abused."²² Ali reported, "Suddenly, a group of right-wingers came to us and snatched our cameras and phones... They asked us our names. When Meer and I told them our name, they called us jihadi."²³ Despite the three FIRs that have been filed for the assault of journalists and for the incendiary speeches given at the event, police have not taken any effective action.²⁴

¹⁹ <https://theprint.in/india/communal-slurs-people-beaten-at-delhi-hindu-mahapanchayat-police-say-they-gave-no-permission/900791/> See also <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/at-delhi-mahapanchayat-yati-narsinghanand-exhorts-hindus-to-pick-up-arms-101648993580383.html> and <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/hindu-mahapanchayat-speakers-made-hate-speeches-against-one-religion-fir-7853022/>

²⁰ <https://scroll.in/latest/1020989/seven-journalists-attacked-at-hindutva-event-in-delhi-as-mob-calls-muslim-journalists-jihadi>

²¹ <https://scroll.in/latest/1020989/seven-journalists-attacked-at-hindutva-event-in-delhi-as-mob-calls-muslim-journalists-jihadi>

²² <https://scroll.in/latest/1020989/seven-journalists-attacked-at-hindutva-event-in-delhi-as-mob-calls-muslim-journalists-jihadi>

²³ <https://scroll.in/latest/1020989/seven-journalists-attacked-at-hindutva-event-in-delhi-as-mob-calls-muslim-journalists-jihadi>

²⁴ <https://muslimmirror.com/eng/police-inaction-against-organizers-of-hindu-mahapanchayat-is-outrageous/> See also <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/hindu-mahapanchayat-speakers-made-hate-speeches-against-one-religion-fir-7853022/> and <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/mahapanchayat-delhi-yati-narsinghanand-exhorts-hindus-pick-up-arms-event-no-permission-7850680/>

This month also saw further incidences of anti-Muslim and genocidal attitudes. A video of Hindu monk Yati Krishnanand calling for the genocide of Muslims went viral on social media. In the video, Krishnanand said, “We have declared the Dharam Yudh [all-out war]” and that “It’s timenowtowakeupandtakeontheenemy” while chants of “Har-Har Mahadev” can be heard in the background.²⁵ Another video circulated in which a saffron-clad seer identified as Bajrang Muni Das Udasin expressed anti-Muslim sentiments while addressing his supporters gathered outside a mosque in the Khairabad area of Uttar Pradesh’s Sitapur district.²⁶



He asserted, “If any Muslim guy pursues Hindu women, I will abduct and brazenly rape Muslim women in public.”²⁷ His speech was met with chants of “Jai Shri Ram” from the crowd.²⁸

In another undated video, Udasin issued similar threats of sexual violence against Muslim women while addressing a

large crowd of his supporters.²⁹ While threatening to kill Muslims, he said, “Even if I die, I will leave so much heat in the Hindus of this place that they will turn Khairabad into Sri Ramnagar. And I say this openly if you kill one Hindu, I will kill 10 Muslims.” He further threatened to abduct Muslim women, saying, “If you commit atrocities on one Hindu girl by trapping her into love jihad, I will trap 10 Muslim girls into love and persecute them. You will dupe them but I want to say this openly that I will abduct them in broad daylight.”

In Kerala, several offensive hate speeches were made in a 4-day long

Hindu conclave inaugurated by the Kerala governor, who is also a senior BJP leader. Speakers unanimously called for boycotting Muslim businesses. The Hindu Dharma Parishad organised the event and this was the first time that a Christian outfit participated in the Hindu Maha Sammelan. Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri, who directed the anti-Muslim

²⁵ <https://clarionindia.net/one-more-genocide-call-a-stunt-or-an-assertion/>

²⁶ <https://www.siasat.com/up-amidst-cheers-hindutva-seer-threatens-to-rape-muslim-women-2304664/>

²⁷ <https://www.siasat.com/up-amidst-cheers-hindutva-seer-threatens-to-rape-muslim-women-2304664/> See also <https://clarionindia.net/hindu-monk-publicly-threatens-to-rape-muslim-women-to-cheering-of-crowd-in-up/>

²⁸ <https://clarionindia.net/hindu-monk-publicly-threatens-to-rape-muslim-women-to-cheering-of-crowd-in-up>

²⁹ https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1512373203422822404?t=Ud61zb_kR-pGWyIL_EJr3Q&s=08

propaganda film ‘The Kashmir Files.’ PC George, former MLA from Kerala, said, “Muslim traders are deliberately mixing infertility drugs in the drink and Muslims are trying to increase their population and turn India into a Muslim country.”³⁰

Discriminatory legislation

Right-wing Hindu-nationalist organisations in Karnataka continue their campaign against halal meat and the exclusion of Muslim traders from temple festivals, which began last month.

This month, right-wing groups launched a campaign against mosque loudspeakers that broadcast the call to prayer. Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Kamal Kant

stated, “Loudspeakers are prohibited during restricted hours, and loudspeakers will be confiscated and legal action will be taken if this order is broken.” Earlier this month, South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Mukkesh Suryan issued an order prohibiting meat stores from being open during the month of Navratri.

Additionally, the passage of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill of 2022

has been a source of worry due to its potential for misuse and abuse, especially with regard to the targeting of religious minorities. This bill “seeks to expand the authority of investigating officers to collect biometric information on prisoners” and would authorise police to collect a variety of biometric information from prisoners, including fingerprint impressions, palm print impressions, footprint impressions, photographs, iris and retinal scans, and other physical and biological samples. In the absence of effective safeguards specifying clear

restrictions of these new police powers, there is a risk that these capabilities may be exploited, thereby violating the privacy rights of individuals.

The bill does not specify who

is subject to having their biometrics collected by law enforcement and muddles the distinction between a “under-trial, a detainee, a suspect, and a convicted offender” by using the phrase “any person involved in any crime” to describe those subject to having their biometric data collected. In this manner, the police can take the biometric “measurements” of anyone “arrested, detained, convicted, or instructed by a judicial or executive



³⁰ <https://maktoobmedia.com/2022/04/30/kerala-boycott-muslims-speeches-made-at-4-day-hindu-conclave-inaugurated-by-governor/>

judge.” The bill also fails to limit the definition of “measurements,” allowing police to gather biometric information that exceeds the intended aim of the bill. In addition, there is no procedure for appealing these increased police powers. Taking into account the disproportionate targeting of religious minorities and critics by the police, these additional police powers may become a tool for the state to acquire extensive information on people deemed to be its foes.

In Assam, BJP Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has announced measures to control the Muslim population growth rate in the state. Last summer, CM Sarma tasked seven sub-committees to address the issue of the growing population by deliberating strategic areas such as “health, education, skill development, preservation of cultural identity, financial inclusion, and empowerment of women” where the state can implement policy with the aim to impede Muslim population growth.³¹ Sarma claimed that the “high population growth among Muslims has

caused poverty and illiteracy in the community” and that Muslim community leaders should “adhere to the population policy with a two-child norm and take family planning measures to check the population growth among Muslims.”³²

Jammu and Kashmir

United States Congressman Andy Levin, a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Non-proliferation, recently stated that “the US cares about what happens in Kashmir and that we expect better of democracies like India.”³³ India’s forceful control over



Kashmir was far from democratic. Representatives of the Indian government in Kashmir disallowed prayers at Srinagar’s historic Jama Masjid on Shab-e-Qadr and Juma-tul-Wida, two days considered to be holy by Muslims. However, no reason or rationale was given for disallowing the prayers.

Muttahida Majlis e Ulema (MMU), an umbrella group of clerics and Islamic

³¹ <https://muslimmirror.com/eng/assam-cm-commits-to-check-muslim-growth-rate-in-the-state/>

³² <https://muslimmirror.com/eng/assam-cm-commits-to-check-muslim-growth-rate-in-the-state/>

³³ <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/kashmir-human-rights-us-congressman-7881514/>

organisations, strongly condemned the decision, saying, “The religious sentiments of millions of people of Jammu and Kashmir are connected with the Jama Masjid Srinagar, which is the centre of guidance and spirituality. The administration’s decision has deeply hurt the sentiments of the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir.”³⁴

In the continuation of suppression of free speech and dissent, another Kashmiri student was arrested for writing what officials termed a “highly provocative and seditious”

article.³⁵ Abdul Aala Fazili was arrested from his home as the State Investigation Agency (SIA) conducted searches at several locations in the city as a part of its crackdown on “terror and anti-national networks” as per the official sources.³⁶

Media groups were shocked by the rearrest of Kashmiri journalist Aasif Sultan, who has been in prison for almost 4 years on charges of allegedly “aiding” militants. He was granted bail in the

second week of April, but was rearrested on similar charges under a different law.³⁷ Rights activists say Aasif Sultan’s case is the latest instance in which the Indian authorities have weaponized the legal system to limit free speech and harass journalists, particularly those in Kashmir. Activists argue that the stringent

The Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), which has been used to rearrest Sultan, violates international human rights standards.

However, PSA is not the only law used in Kashmir to curb dissent and free speech.

In April 2022, at least 13 more Kashmiris were arrested under draconian sedition laws for alleged anti-India sloganeering at the Jama Masjid in Srinagar.³⁸

Violence against Christians

Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FOACONA) released an annual hate



³⁴ <https://indiatomorrow.net/2022/04/29/where-is-normalcy-jk-disallows-shab-e-qadr-juma-tul-vida-prayers-at-srinagars-jamia-masjid/>

³⁵ <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/kashmir-university-phd-scholar-arrested-for-highly-provocative-and-seditious-magazine-article-2895990>

³⁶ <https://hindutvawatch.org/kashmir-university-phd-scholar-arrested-for-highly-provocative-and-seditious-article/>

³⁷ <https://hindutvawatch.org/kashmir-journalists-face-forbidding-pattern-arrest-bail-rearrest/>

³⁸ <https://thekashmirwalla.com/jama-masjid-slogans-at-least-13-arrested-under-sedition-psa-being-prepared/>

crime report documenting hate crimes against Christians in India, revealing over 761 incidents of violence against the Christian community by Hindu extremists. Continuing the trend over the past month, incidents of harassment and assault against Christians remained ongoing throughout India. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal (BD) in Karnataka urged the suspension of Christian prison chaplains following the distribution of Bibles to detainees in the Gadag district jail.³⁹ These Hindu supremacist organisations filed a complaint with the local police, alleging that the chaplains were attempting to convert prisoners.⁴⁰ A few days before Easter, local police in Hariharganj, Uttar Pradesh, detained 26 individuals on the suspicion of unlawfully converting 90 individuals.

A local member of the VHP made similar claims against the Hariharganj Evangelical Church of India by filing an FIR against 55 individuals,⁴¹ alleging the group of violating Uttar Pradesh's

Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, leading to arrests of at least 26 individuals. On Holy Thursday, a Hindu right-wing mob in the Fatehpur District of Uttar Pradesh confined 100 Christians inside a church while they were celebrating the holiday. Hikshu Dikshit, the leader of the crowd, leveled claims of forced conversion against 36 members of the congregation in an FIR, who were later arrested by the Police.⁴²

BJP ruled Karnataka state in particular is becoming increasingly hostile to Christians. Hindu extremist groups expressed outrage after it was reported that the registration form of the 11th-grade students in Clarence High School of Bengaluru included a paragraph asking non-Christian families for their consent to allow their children to take Bible classes. Local spokesman for the extremist group, Hindu Janajagruti Samithi said that this "proves" that Christian schools are engaged in "forced indoctrination" of Hindu children in order to convert them.⁴³

39 <https://cruxnow.com/church-in-asia/2022/04/hindu-nationalist-want-christian-chaplains-banned-from-indian-jails>

40 <https://cruxnow.com/church-in-asia/2022/04/hindu-nationalist-want-christian-chaplains-banned-from-indian-jails>

41 <https://hindutvawatch.org/55-christians-booked-over-allegations-of-unlawful-religious-conversion-in-uttar-pradesh-26-arrested/>

42 <https://hindutvawatch.org/55-christians-booked-over-allegations-of-unlawful-religious-conversion-in-uttar-pradesh-26-arrested/>

43 <https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-nationalists-in-Karnataka-against-Bible-in-Christian-school-55685.html>

Recommendations

■ The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (also called, the Genocide Convention) is an instrument of the international law that codified the crime of genocide and signifies the international community's commitment to 'never again' after the atrocities committed during the second world war. India is a signatory to the Genocide Convention. Thus, is ethically bound to take the calls of ethnic cleansing of Muslim Indians seriously and take measures to prevent and punish the Hindu extremists involved.

■ Regarding the frequent calls for genocide of India's 200 million Muslims given by Hindu extremist leaders, the President of the United States can place sanctions on those individuals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. These sanctions include barring entry to the US or blocking any transactions relating to property or interests held in the United States.

■ The Indian courts along with quasi-judicial bodies like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) must consider initiating independent inquiries into the terror unleashed by police against Muslims across various BJP ruled states.

■ The powerful international media watchdogs must take up the issue of increasing hostility against journalists, and more, particularly against journalists belonging to minority and marginalized communities, and amplify the rampant use of draconian laws by the Indian state against reporters for doing their jobs.

■ The draconian Public Safety Act (PSA) used in Jammu and Kashmir to unlawfully target civilians, journalists, and human rights defenders should be repealed.