

# Global civil society condemns Indian PM Modi, BJP leaders for anti-Muslim hate speech during elections

May 30, 2024

The undersigned civil society organizations and concerned individuals across the world strongly condemn the [hate speeches](#)<sup>1</sup> made repeatedly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top leaders of his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party against India's Muslim community since India's parliamentary elections began in April.

Despite repeated [complaints](#)<sup>2</sup> by India's opposition parties and tens of thousands of [concerned citizens](#)<sup>3</sup>, Prime Minister Modi has continuously targeted Indian Muslims and his political opponents alike in his hate speeches, fanning the flames of an already dangerous climate of anti-minority hate and violence in the nation.

- In his many election speeches, the prime minister has labeled India's 250 million Muslim as "[infiltrators](#)"<sup>4</sup>, deployed Islamophobic tropes [accusing Muslims of having more children](#)<sup>5</sup> than India's Hindus, and claimed that Muslims will rob other marginalized communities of their reservations. This is a blatant attempt to further normalize and amplify anti-Muslim fears and hatred within Indian society.

Shockingly, Modi has also [called](#)<sup>6</sup> the right of India's Muslim citizens to vote as "vote jihad", in a blatant attempt to disenfranchise them. Almost on cue, police in Sambhal district of BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh state [beat up](#)<sup>7</sup> hundreds of [Muslim voters](#)<sup>8</sup> and chased them away to not allow them to vote.

Modi has stoked hatred for and fear of Muslims by [saying](#)<sup>9</sup> that should the Opposition parties win power, "terrorists in jail would be invited to the prime minister's office and served biryani" and "land will be taken away to give to Muslims as part of land jihad." He

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<sup>1</sup> "PM unleashing hate speech against Muslims from every available forum: Opposition." *Business Standard*. Accessed May 29, 2024. [Business Standard](#).

<sup>2</sup> "Opposition accuses India's Modi of 'brazen' violations." *Yahoo News Australia*. May 20, 2024. [Yahoo News](#).

<sup>3</sup> ""Over 17,400 citizens write to EC seeking action against PM Narendra Modi for hate speech." *Scroll.in*. April 22, 2024. [Scroll.in](#).

<sup>4</sup> "Modi's Speech Against Muslims Sparks Outrage." *The New York Times*. April 22, 2024. [The New York Times](#).

<sup>5</sup> "Asaduddin Owaisi slams PM Modi's remarks at Rajasthan rally." *India Today*. April 22, 2024. [India Today](#).

<sup>6</sup> "Modi's anti-Muslim 'Vote Jihad' rhetoric faces severe criticism." *VOA News*. May 22, 2024. [VOA News](#).

<sup>7</sup> "Muslims in UP's Sambhal 'not allowed' to cast vote, thrashed by cops." *Siasat Daily*. May 7, 2024. [Siasat](#).

<sup>8</sup> "'Merciless' assault, 'abused', men detained for shooting videos: 24 hours in UP's Sambhal." *NewsLaundry*. May 11, 2024. [NewsLaundry](#).

<sup>9</sup> "If Congress wins, terrorists will be fed biryani in PM house: PM Modi." *Times of India*. May 29, 2024. [Times of India](#).

has further sought to stoke hatred for Muslims by [saying](#)<sup>10</sup> if the Opposition parties win the election they will withdraw affirmative quotas (reservations) from the tribal and Dalit communities and give them to “those who practice vote jihad,” a reference to Muslims.

Modi’s hate-filled rhetoric has also been copied by several other leaders, including by Home Minister Amit Shah who accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of promoting Islamic seminaries (madrasas), preachers (mullahs) and mafia, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who [said](#)<sup>11</sup> the Opposition parties wanted to bring the “Taliban” rule to India to implement the Sharia and redistribute “your” (Hindus’) properties to Muslims.

Assam Chief Minister Hemant Sarma, also a BJP leader, has been spewing [hatred towards Muslims](#)<sup>12</sup> at public rallies, by targeting the setting up of Muslim religious schools, which is a Constitutional right of the Muslim community, and even the right of the Muslims to wear the religious caps.

In March 2024, experts from the Special Procedures of the United Nation Human Rights Council [expressed their concerns](#)<sup>13</sup> about the level of anti-minority violence and rhetoric within India as it prepared for the coming elections, as well as the lack of response from the government about these reports and the United Nation’s own communiques. They warned of the danger to minority groups and called for change, citing the need for an election free from discrimination.

We, the global civil society, maintain that the leader of the world’s largest democracy - whose parliamentary elections have a significance and bearing for the rest of the world - should not stoop to spreading hate speech and must be held accountable for doing so. We call upon the leaders of the international community to impress this upon Mr. Modi, urge him to immediately retract and apologize for his statements, and urge him to commit to holding his fellow party members accountable for spreading violent hate speech as well.

Signed–

Indian American Muslim Council  
Hindus for Human Rights  
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)  
Genocide Watch  
Dalit Solidarity  
FIACONA  
New York State Council of Churches

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<sup>10</sup> "Modi keeps up reservation rhetoric, says Congress wants to give SC/ST quotas to people who practice 'vote jihad'." *The Hindu*. April 22, 2024. [The Hindu](#).

<sup>11</sup> "Now, Yogi raises property redistribution, Sharia spectre." *Times of India*. May 22, 2024. [Times of India](#).

<sup>12</sup> "Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind condemns Himanta Biswa Sarma's offensive remarks against madrasas." *The Wire*. May 22, 2024. [The Wire](#).

<sup>13</sup> "India: UN experts urge corrective action to protect human rights and end attacks." *OHCHR*. March 2024. [OHCHR](#).

North America Manipur Tribal Association (NAMTA)  
Asian Children's Educational Fellowship  
American Sikh Council  
Justice for All  
International Christian Concern  
India Civil Watch  
Coalition Against Fascism  
Boston South Asian Coalition  
Black African Cemetery Coalition  
Justice4Palestine Actions Enablement Network  
Virginia Political Action Committee  
Tunisian Action Network  
Libyan American Alliance  
Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition  
Islamic Leadership Institute of America  
Coalition of Seattle Indian Americans  
ICNA Council for Social Justice  
The London Story (TLS)  
South Asian Diaspora Action Collective (SADAC)  
South Asian SOAR  
The Citizens Foundation  
World Without Genocide  
Sikh Information Centre  
Sikh Assembly of America  
Incarnation Anglican Church  
Assembly for Human Rights  
World Without Genocide  
Global Buhjan Group  
Georgia Muslim Action Committee (GAMAC)  
American Muslims for Palestine- New Jersey  
Coalition of Americans for Pluralism in India (CAPI)  
Islamic Community Center of Laurel  
Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit  
ImpactHub  
Incarnation Anglican Church  
Jubilee Campaign  
Muslim Community Support Services  
NRI Ambedkarite

Jawed Khan  
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Flavia Agnes  
Rebecca Kurian  
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Huwaida Arraf  
Moinuddin Ali Khan  
Moizuddin Mohammed  
Mirza Baig  
Aziz Mohammad  
Mohammed Khalid  
Furkhan Syed  
Ali Buig  
Syed Quadri  
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Sandeep C  
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Syed Hussaini  
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Zehra Khan  
Nazim Syed  
Insaf Masood  
Syed Ahmed  
Nikhath Ghani  
Parveen Naaz-Ikramuddin  
Syed Haq  
Akhter Sadiq  
Faisal Syed  
Yazdalni Syed  
Ayan Farooqui  
Yusuf Azaz  
Nadeem Iftikhar  
W Nema  
Mohammad Hussain  
Emad Siam  
Atul Shinde  
Sabiha Shariff  
Ammar Ahmed  
Mohammed Zafaruddin

Feroz Ahmed  
Mohammed Haq  
Shafi Refai  
Shahnawaz Sabuwala  
Sageer Nakhawa  
Yusuf P  
Azam Siddiqui  
Moina Shaiq  
Saihba Ali  
Adnan Yousuf  
Muhammad Salih  
Mohammee Imam  
Shahabuddin Mohammed  
Shafaat Khan  
Azam Shaikh  
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Mohammed Ahmed  
Mohammed Siddiqui  
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Hasmath Katpadi  
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Ahmed Tarique  
Baseem Syed  
Nasreen Godil  
Shahid Mateen  
Syed Anwar  
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