



**A DANGEROUS BEND
VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AGAINST MUSLIM MINORITIES IN
INDIAN SOCIETY**



A Glance at the Situation of Minorities in Indian Society

Minorities in India face several violations. Muslims, Christians, and Dalits are subjected to continuous acts of violence, hatred, and discrimination, especially by Hindu extremists. In this way, the frequency of acts of violence against Muslims has increased significantly in the recent times, including physical attacks on them by Hindu extremists, as well as deliberately vandalism, burning of their property, homes, and shops. This comes in conjunction with preventing them from performing religious rituals, particularly Friday prayers¹, while restricting their activities on various religious occasions, especially in Ramadan². On the other hand, human rights reports indicated the escalation of incidents of violence against Christians in India³, more than 300 cases of violence against Christians occurred in nine months of 2021. In October 2021, more than 200 unidentified men and women vandalized a local church in the northern Indian city Roorkee.⁴ In the same regard, Christian clergymen are often beaten and abused; this coincides with the escalation of widespread hate speech against them⁵.

On the other hand, there is a continuing spread of hate crimes targeting Dalits in the Indian society⁶, human rights estimates indicate that Dalit women are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and attacks more than any group in society⁷, and as such, the perpetuation of hostility, violence, and hatred towards ethnic and religious minorities in India is a phenomenon that leads to the occurrence of gross violations of human rights, foremost among which is the violation of freedom of religion or belief, as well as many other human rights.

Meanwhile, this study issued by **Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights** monitors violations of the rights of Muslims in India as a case study illustrating the violations against minorities in India. The study presents a set of irrefutable evidence from documented human rights testimonies from victims and human rights activists, as well as video clips, photos, published analyzes, and human rights reports revealing human rights violations suffered by Indian Muslims, in addition to analyzing these practices and drawing conclusions and recommendations that contribute to improving the human rights situation of Muslims in India in particular, and other ethnic and religious minorities in general.

¹ صلاة الجمعة هي صلاة تقام كل يوم جمعة بعد دخول وقت صلاة الظهر في منتصف النهار وهي مقدسة عند المسلمين ومن الطقوس الأساسية لهم.

² شهر رمضان هو شهر للعبادة والصيام عند المسلمين ومناسبة دينية هامة لأن الصيام من أركان الدين الأساسية عند المسلمين

³ UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). <https://bit.ly/3LmvXOm>

⁴ Over 300 Instances of Violence Against Christians Were Reported in Nine Months of 2021: Report. Thewire. <https://bit.ly/3LmAgJA>

⁵ Why are attacks on Christians increasing in India?. Dw. <https://bit.ly/3Kkk0Yv>

⁶ قُدر عدد المنتمين إلى طائفة "الداليت" بحوالي 250 مليون نسمة وهم من بين أكثر مواطني الهند تعرضا للاضطهاد لأنه في أسفل البناء الاجتماعي للهندوس

⁷ India: Suspected rape of Dalit girl puts spotlight on caste violence. Dw. <https://bit.ly/3vJPbac>



Ink on Paper: Legal framework for Protecting Minorities in India

The Indian body of national laws, in addition to international treaties signed and bound by the Indian government, indicate the need to protect the rights of minorities from discrimination, violence, and racism, as well as not to be excluded from full participation in economic, social, political, and cultural life, in addition to providing an appropriate environment for minorities that allows them to practice their religious rituals and express their national views without any harassment.

At the national level, the Constitution provides for the protection of the rights of minorities and prohibits any kind of discrimination on the basis of religion. Articles 25-30 of the Indian Constitution largely preserve the rights of religious minorities. Article 25 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to practice a belief for all persons without restriction or condition. However, Article 26 affirms the right of religious minorities to administer their own religious affairs. Articles 28 and 29 guarantee freedom of religious education. Article 30 affirms that minorities may not be prevented from education in religious institutions⁸.

At the international level, India is a party to many conventions that prohibit discrimination against minorities, protect their rights to practice religious rites, and prohibit hate speech against them. India is a party to **the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**, Article 4 of which prohibits the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or racist hatred, and the calls it contains of hatred and violence toward racial and religious groups. Article 5 of the same convention refers to the need to respect non-discrimination between citizens on the grounds of race, color, or national or ethnic origin⁹. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its Recommendation No. 35, stresses the role of hate speech in reinforcing processes leading to mass human rights violations against minorities, especially in situations of conflict, war, and social tension¹⁰.

However, India is a party to **the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, Article 18 of which protects the right of people to practice their own religious rites without any harassment. Furthermore, Article 20 of the same covenant refers to the prohibition of incitement to hatred, violence, and hostility, including incitement campaigns that lead to violence against certain groups in society. Article 27 of the same covenant reinforces the cultural, linguistic, and social rights of different minorities¹¹.

⁸ The Constitution Of India 1949. Indiankanoon. <https://bit.ly/3khVA76>

⁹ الاتفاقية الدولية للقضاء على جميع أشكال التمييز العنصري، المفوضية السامية لحقوق الإنسان، <https://bit.ly/2ElxhE1>، التوصية العامة رقم ٣٥ مكافحة خطاب التحريض على الكراهية العنصرية، الاتفاقية الدولية للقضاء على التمييز العنصري ، سبتمبر 2013 ، <https://bit.ly/3gPcyyp> ،

¹¹ العهد الدولي الخاص بالحقوق المدنية والسياسية، جامعة منيوستا، 1996 ، <https://bit.ly/31BW3p0> ،



On the other hand, **the Universal Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief** lays down a set of legal articles that protect and enhance the rights of religious minorities worldwide from violence, discrimination, and hatred¹². **Article 18** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights protects the right of a person to manifest his religion or his belief in worship, ritual observance, practice, and education¹³, while **the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities** stipulates a set of principles that states must follow to respect the rights of minorities¹⁴.

However, despite the legal articles that protect minorities in India, whether at the national level or through adherence to international conventions and treaties, violence against minorities continues to escalate in many parts of India, and hate speech is rampant, particularly against Muslim minorities. From here, the Indian government needs to re-enact the various legal articles that protect minorities within its territory.

Terrorizing the Safe: Incidents of Assault on Muslims in India

There is no way to deny the facts from videos, photos, and human rights testimonies that indicate the escalation of violence against Muslims in all parts of India in an alarming and widespread manner, this violence appears in the form of the destruction of Muslim properties and their shops, as well as attacks on their mosques and preventing them from performing religious rituals, specifically on important occasions such as Friday prayers and Ramadan.

In February 2020, a wave of violence against Muslims erupted in three areas in the north-east of the Indian city Delhi, which resulted in the **killing of 37 people**, as well as the destruction of homes and shops belonging to the Muslim minority, with some mosques being attacked by some Hindu extremists¹⁵. In the same regard, after the spread of a group of misleading information confirming that Muslims are the main cause of the spread of the Covid 19 epidemic, India witnessed a series of hostile attacks against Muslims, as human rights estimates recorded attacks on worshipers in mosques, as well as the expulsion of many citizens from their homes. In addition to that, many Muslims were beaten with sticks, cricket bats, and other instruments, most of the attacks were carried out by Hindu nationalist extremists¹⁶.

¹² إعلان بشأن القضاء على جميع أشكال التعصب والتمييز القائم على أساس الدين أو المعتقد، الأمم المتحدة، <https://bit.ly/3MyLGdQ>

¹³ الإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان، الأمم المتحدة، <https://bit.ly/2WYsa23>

¹⁴ إعلان بشأن حقوق الأشخاص المنتمين إلى أقليات قومية أو إثنية وإلى أقليات دينية ولغوية، الأمم المتحدة، <https://bit.ly/3kfsGEI>

¹⁵ While Muslims are being murdered in India, the rest of the world is too slow to condemn. Independent. February 2020.

<https://bit.ly/3ELkjKp>

¹⁶ بعد اتهام الحكومة لهم بنشر كورونا هجمات معادية على المسلمين في الهند، الحرة، أبريل 2020، <https://arbne.ws/3vIVScH>

In the midst of this, during June 2021, a series of deadly incidents against Muslims occurred in the north-eastern Indian state of Assam, Barpeta. A Hindu extremist group forced a group of young Muslims to shout Hindu religious slogans and attack them severely, in addition to brutally assaulting them, and in the same context and in the Indian city of Mumbai, a group attacked a Hindu beat a Muslim taxi driver. In the eastern Indian city of Calcutta, 26-year-old Hafeez Mohammad Shahrokh Haldar, a teacher at a religious school, was verbally and physically attacked by some Hindus.¹⁷ In August of that same year, a group of Hindus forced a person in front of his daughter to chant phrases such as **Zindabad Hindustan Which means "long live India" and "Jai Shri Ram", which means " Victory for God Ram "**, after they had aggressively assaulted him.¹⁸

In October 2021, several human rights testimonies indicated that extremists violently attacked Muslims in the small northeastern Indian state of Tripura during these attacks, Muslim properties were burned, deliberately vandalized, looted and robbed. Some mosques were tampered with and contained, with parts destroyed.¹⁹ Estimates indicate that more than 12 mosques were vandalized during these attacks and in five different areas of the state.²⁰ On the other side and in the city of Gurgaon near the Indian capital of Delhi, right-wing Hindu groups have been gathering every Friday for 3 months from September to December 2021 with the aim of disrupting Muslim prayers in public places. This constitutes a serious violation of freedom of religion and belief and a restriction on citizens' right to practice worship.²¹

Meanwhile, during Ramadan 2022, India witnessed violence against Muslims and incitement of Hindus to harassment and provoke them. In the predominantly Muslim state of Gujarat, Hindu extremist groups attacked and vandalized Muslim mosques, as well as chanting anti-Muslim slogans with swords as a symbol of intimidation of Muslim citizens in scattered areas of the state.²²

Rejection the Other: Muslims are victims of hate speech and misinformation in India

Many Indian nationalist groups, as well as Hindus, continue to spread incitement, misinformation, and hate speech against Muslims without accountability or control. These opinions are based on claims that Islam threatens to overrun the country and that this matter must be resisted in various possible ways. For example, Hindu nationalists exaggerated in the novel

¹⁷ الفاشية الهندية تطارد المسلمين، عربي بوست ، <https://bit.ly/3Mw2tth>

¹⁸ <https://bbc.in/3xMH8vR> الأذى والإذلال مصير المسلمين على يد المتطرفين الهندوس في الهند، بي بي سي العربية ، سبتمبر 2021 ،

¹⁹ Mosque vandalised, shops torched during VHP rally in Tripura Police. **Tribuneindia** . October 2021 . <https://bit.ly/3vEySeM>

²⁰ <https://bit.ly/3xUiPMC> منازل المسلمين ومساجدهم تُحرق لأيام متواصلة دون تدخل السلطات.. ماذا يحدث بولاية تريبورا الهندية، عربي بوست ، أكتوبر 2021 ،

²¹ <https://bbc.in/3LbGcoP> الإسلام في الهند مدينة هندية تشهد توتراً حول صلاة المسلمين في الأماكن العامة، بي بي سي العربية ، ديسمبر 2021 ،

²² Organised Violence How Mosques, Dargahs, Muslim Houses Were Vandalised in Gujarat on Ram Navami. Thewire.

<https://bit.ly/3xPFmu1>

“**Love of Jihad**” claims that Muslims conspire to marry Hindu women and seduce or tempt them to convert to Islam, which has resulted in direct violence against Muslims on many occasions.²³

In this regard, during the spread of the Covid-19, many extremist religious groups accused Muslims of being the cause of the spread of the epidemic across the country by spreading the so-called “**roti bread jihad**” in which it was stated that Muslim chefs who bake Indian roti spit on bread to spread the virus Among Hindus.²⁴ In this context, according to human rights assessments, Sikh temples in the state of Punjab broadcast messages through loudspeakers, calling on people not to buy milk from Muslim dairy farmers because it transmits the Corona virus.²⁵

In December 2021, extremist Hindu nationalists in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand organized a three-day event, during which they explicitly called for the extermination of Muslims. For example, Prabudhanand Giri, one of the organizers of the event, said that the Indian army, politicians and Hindus should do what was done in Myanmar Towards Muslims, in a clear reference to the deadly violence against the Rohingya Muslims, and others demanded the necessity of taking up arms against Muslims and killing them.²⁶

In April 2022, several Indian human rights activists circulated a video announcing that Hindu local leaders from the far-right organization Raksha Vahini in Uttarakhand State would initiate attacks on Muslims if they were not expelled and their homes demolished, thus the majority of the Muslim population began to flee for fear of such threats.²⁷

Innocent Victims: Discrimination and Harassment of Muslim Women in India

Harassment against Muslim women has escalated in India because of their role in rejecting the human rights violations against Muslims in all parts of India. This is why many extremists began to humiliate Muslim women and try to defame them, as well as pressure on the Indian government to prevent women from wearing the veil in various public places Especially in educational institutions, and in this regard, one of the extremist Hindus organized a fake auction on the Internet to sell women in an attempt to humiliate and degrade women on a large scale.²⁸

On the other hand, the discriminatory decision to prevent girls from wearing the hijab in educational institutions is still prevalent in many Indian states, a decision that is largely supported

²³ <https://bit.ly/37HKmpZ> اما جهاد الحب وكيف فرضت نظرية مؤامرة معادية للمسلمين نفسها على الهند؟، الانديبنذنت العربية، نوفمبر 2020 ،

²⁴ الأذى والإذلال مصير المسلمين على يد المتطرفين الهندوس في الهند، بي بي سي العربية ، سبتمبر 2021 ، <https://bbc.in/3xMH8vR>

²⁵ بعد اتهام الحكومة لهم بنشر كورونا هجمات معادية على المسلمين في الهند، مرجع سابق ذكره

²⁶ Offering namaz at public places will not be tolerated: Haryana CM Khattar. Hindustantimes. <https://bit.ly/3rKG9bF>

²⁷ Hindu groups give the government two days to bulldoze Muslim homes in the Indian state of Haridwar. Tellerreport. <https://bit.ly/3rNNFmr>

²⁸ <https://bbc.in/3v7FL9n> الإسلاموفوبيا كنت معروضة للبيع مع عشرات المسلمات، بي بي سي العربية ، يوليو 2021 ،

by Hindus and many nationalists in India, and as such it prevented many government educational institutions in the Indian state of Karnataka during the month of January 2022 Muslim students from wearing the veil, despite the Muslim human rights demonstrations rejecting the decision²⁹. On the other hand, Hindu harassment of Muslim students who wear the veil has escalated in other regions of India.³⁰ All of these incidents shed light on the suffering faced by Muslim women in India from discrimination and violence based on their religious identity.

Forced displacement and demolition of Muslim homes in India

The Indian government has recently begun to displace Muslims from their lands or demolish them under the pretext that they are lands belonging to the government, and these operations are increased by what extremist groups of Hindus as well as political parties call for racist discourses against Muslims. In this regard, the Indian security forces launched a campaign to displace hundreds of Muslim families from Dolpur in Sibagar, Northeastern India's Assam Province in September 2021³¹. They dealt with excessive violence with those who rejected this campaign, to the extent that a citizen was shot dead by the police with a photojournalist accompanying the forces jumping over his body.³²

Meanwhile, many videos spread on social networking sites indicated that the Indian government demolished the homes of Muslim citizens in Madhya Pradesh, because they are unlicensed homes, as the government justified the demolitions by removing illegal encroachments on public property of the state. Many human rights assessments confirm that the government's justifications are flimsy and have no basis in truth, and it is an attempt by it to please the extremist Hindu majority at the expense of the human rights of Muslims, especially the right to housing.³³

Recommendations

Overall, racist attacks against Muslims in India and other violations are arguably an example of the threat to India's minorities, which requires all stakeholders and stakeholders to cooperate to preserve their rights in particular the rights of Muslim minorities. Hence, **Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents a set of recommendations** to all parties:

To the Indian Government

²⁹ 'Saffron Controversy Not Hijab Controversy Muslim Women Protest Across Karnataka. Thewire. <https://bit.ly/3MrovSj>

³⁰ Hijab-clad student heckled by boys wearing saffron scarves in Mandya college. Thehindu. <https://bit.ly/39iXMcB>

³¹ مقاطعة المنتجات الهندية دعوة للضغط على السلطات في الهند لوقف العنف ضد مسلمي أسام، بي بي سي العربية، سبتمبر 2021، <https://bbc.in/3K61vXy>

³² مشهد اقتحام الأراضي الهندية وقتل أحد المواطنين، مقطع فيديو مصور على موقع تويتر تناولنه العديد من النشطاء الحقوقيين، <https://bit.ly/3EJOdPd>

³³ His house was demolished because he is Muslim, he says. **The Cable News Network**. April 2022 <https://cnn.it/3rNxxOW>



- The need to operationalize various legal materials protecting minority rights throughout India.
- The need to protect religious minorities from attacks and attacks by Hindu extremists while protecting and protecting all places of worship of Muslims and Christians while performing their religious rites.
- Anyone involved in acts of violence against Muslims must be held accountable to prevent impunity for such violations, as well as to ensure that such violations do not recur.
- The need to end India's widespread hate speech against minorities, together with the punishment of its dissemination.

To the Human Rights Council

- Need to invite the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to submit a request to the Indian Government to visit the country in order to ascertain the rights situation of religious minorities and thereby provide recommendations and advice to the Indian Government to significantly improve their situation

To the civil society organizations

- The need to continue documenting violations of India's minorities while providing solutions and recommendations to the Indian Government that contribute to reducing the crisis.