



Genocide Watch
Alliance Against Genocide
India Country Report

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Prime Minister Modi's Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) threatens India's secularist constitution and its future as a democratic nation. Modi's Hindu nationalist "Hindutva" agenda promotes intolerance counter to India's pluralistic traditions. The discriminatory [Citizenship Amendment Act \(CAA\)](#) and [Anti-Conversion laws](#) have attacked the rights of Muslims and Christians. [Hate speech](#) against Muslims and immigrants flourishes.

Anti-minority acts of terrorism have grown at an alarming rate across India, especially against Muslims. With open calls for the genocide of Muslims by [Hindutva monks](#), [hate speech](#) and hate crimes against Muslims have become endemic. In February 2023, two Muslim men were accused of "[cow smuggling](#)," abducted and set ablaze by members of the pro-Hindutva Bajrang Dal. The murderers were publicly hailed as heroes. Since November 2022, a coalition of right-wing Hindu nationalist groups has been touring [Maharashtra](#), delivering communally charged hate speeches against Muslims. No action has been taken against the agitators. In March 2023, a [Muslim cattle trader](#) was murdered by a gang of Hindutva extremists.

The Hindu majoritarian Hindutva ideology of the government has even resulted in bias in the justice system. In August 2022, the BJP government approved the [early release](#) of eleven men sentenced to life in prison for gang rape and murder during the 2002 Gujarat anti-Muslim massacres.

Dalits, formerly known as "untouchables," are at the bottom of a rigid caste-based social hierarchy in India. Violence against Dalits has increased since Modi came to power in 2014, according to India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). In July 2022, a [Dalit boy](#) was beaten to death by his upper-caste teacher for drinking water from a pot that was exclusively meant for the upper-castes.

Under so-called "anti-terrorism laws," journalists have been detained for reporting anti-Muslim incidents. According to the Press Freedom Index of Reporters Without Borders (RSF), India ranked 150th out of 180 nations, a major decline. Police routinely arrest journalists and human rights activists in [Kashmir](#).

The Modi government has banned the [BBC documentary](#), "India: The Modi Question," which implicates Modi in the 2002 anti-Muslim genocidal massacres in Gujarat. The Congress party leader, [Rahul Gandhi](#), has been convicted of trumped-up charges of "defamation" of Modi, expelled from parliament, and prevented from running in the upcoming 2024 elections. The Modi government is turning India into an "electoral autocracy" rather than a constitutional democracy.

Genocide Watch considers the BJP government's attacks on Muslims and Dalits to be **Stage 6: Polarization**, **Stage 7: Preparation**, and **Stage 8: Persecution**. Modi's statements at Aligarh Muslim University perversely claimed that his new anti-Muslim laws are intended to "uplift the Muslim community" demonstrate **Stage 10: Denial**.

Genocide Watch recommends:

- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues should investigate India's discrimination against Muslims and report to the U.N. Human Rights Council.
- The Indian Supreme Court should appoint an Independent Commission to investigate the Anti-Muslim pogroms of 2020 as well as continuing anti-Muslim lynchings.
- Indian Army and police who committed crimes in Kashmir should be prosecuted.
- Prime Minister Modi should order BJP leaders to stop inciting anti-Muslim violence.
- International universities should stand in solidarity with Indian academic institutions.
- Journalists around the world should report with alarm on Modi's attacks on India's free press.