



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Bangladesh - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 14 July 2014**

### **Treatment of Ahmadis including available state protection**

A report issued in May 2013 by the *United States Department of State* notes that:

“Members of Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, and Ahmadiyya Muslim minority groups experienced harassment and sometimes violence from the Sunni Muslim majority population” (United States Department of State (20 May 2013) *International Religious Freedom Report for 2012, Bangladesh*).

This report also points out that:

“In addition to destruction of Ahmadi homes and mosques, the community faced obstacles in conducting burials and building mosques” (ibid).

In September 2013 a publication issued by *Minority Rights Group International* notes that:

“Bangladesh's Ahmadiyya community also continues to face harsh treatment and threats” (Minority Rights Group International (24 September 2013) *State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2013 – Bangladesh*).

This document also states:

“There is a history in Bangladesh of Ahmadis being attacked and persecuted” (Ibid).

In January 2014 a report issued by the *Bertelsmann Foundation* states:

“In the past, Islamist groups and parties have demanded that Muslim sects such as the Ahmadiyyas be banned. Their mosques were occasionally attacked between 2001 and 2006, but the number of such incidents has decreased remarkably; indeed, save for isolated instances of harassment, there were no reported demonstrations or attempts to attack Ahmadiyya community institutions after 2009. The government has generally acted in an effective manner to protect Ahmadiyyas and their property” (Bertelsmann Foundation (1 January 2014) *Bangladesh Country Report*, p.6).

### **References**

Bertelsmann Foundation (1 January 2014) *Bangladesh Country Report*

<http://www.bti-project.org/reports/country-reports/aso/bgd/index.nc>

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Minority Rights Group International (24 September 2013) *State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2013 – Bangladesh*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=526fb75a4e>

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United States Department of State (20 May 2013) *International Religious Freedom Report for 2012, Bangladesh*

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

#### Sources Consulted

Amnesty International  
BBC News  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  
International Crisis Group  
IRIN News  
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