



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

India - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 10 August 2017

Treatment of Muslims/Kashmiris

A report issued by the *Los Angeles Times* in July 2017 points out that:

“India’s nearly 200 million Muslims are finding their status in this country of 1.3 billion ever more precarious. Modi has appointed a Hindu extremist to lead India’s most populous state, Uttar Pradesh. As attacks have grown against Indian forces in the disputed Muslim-majority border territory of Kashmir, Indian Muslims are commonly branded with epithets like “Pakistani” and “anti-national.” “ (Los Angeles Times (11 July 2017) *After a Hindu mob lynches a Muslim teenager in India, his family asks, ‘Why are they allergic to us?’*).

A report issued in July 2017 by *Fides News Agency* notes:

“Throughout India, many Muslims have been attacked by crowds, often instigated by messages on WhatsApp, that accuse Muslims of killing cattle...” (Fides News Agency (4 July 2017) *Asia/India - Targeted attacks on Muslim minorities: the climate of intolerance in society is worrying*).

A report issued in June 2017 by *Minority Rights Group International* states:

“Religious minorities are especially vulnerable to the threat of communal violence. Muslims, in particular, while making up less than 15 per cent of the population, have typically made up the large majority of victims” (Minority Rights Group International (29 June 2017) *A Narrowing Space: Violence and discrimination against India’s religious minorities*).

This document also states:

“Muslims and other minorities in India also face institutional discrimination, including in relation to law enforcement” (ibid).

It is also pointed out in this report that:

“Muslims have also been the target of state violence, in particular in Jammu and Kashmir, where civil society groups have documented systematic and widespread human rights abuses by police, including arbitrary arrests, torture and extrajudicial killings” (ibid).

A report issued in June 2017 by *Amnesty International* states:

“Indian authorities must ensure that there is no impunity for those responsible for public lynchings and other hate crimes against Muslims in several states, Amnesty International India said today. Since April 2017, at least ten Muslim men have been lynched or killed in public in suspected hate crimes, amid a rising tide of Islamophobia in the country. The attacks have contributed to a growing sense of insecurity for many Muslims, and intensified religious tensions” (Amnesty

International (28 June 2017) *India: Hate crimes against Muslims and rising Islamophobia must be condemned*).

In April 2017 the *United States Commission on International Religious Freedom* notes that:

“During the past year, there were numerous reports of harassment and violent attacks against Muslims by Hindu nationalists, including local and state BJP members” (United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (26 April 2017) *United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Annual Report 2017: India*).

In April 2017 a publication issued by the *Civil Society Coalition for Freedom of Religion & Strengthening Pluralism in India* points out that:

“In last three decades Muslims have been subjected to increased symbolic violence...They have been chronically stigmatized on the basis of their way of life, the way they dress, their appearances, their eating habits, their worship patterns...” (Civil Society Coalition for Freedom of Religion & Strengthening Pluralism in India (4 April 2017) *A Joint Submission by CSCFRSPI on Freedom of Religion or Belief in India*).

References

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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

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European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
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Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
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Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
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