

SOUTH ASIA JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Updated information on lynchings and other fatal hate crimes targeting Muslims in India, for the UN Special Procedures mandate holders on freedom of religion or belief, cultural rights, extrajudicial executions, and minority rights

(follow-up to [AL IND 6/2025](#))

In July 2025, the mandate-holders had raised concerns over lynchings and other forms of physical violence by vigilante groups in India, noting that such attacks appeared to disproportionately target Muslims and reflected a persistent and escalating pattern of violence against religious minorities, coupled with failures by authorities to prevent, investigate, or ensure accountability for these killings.

South Asia Justice Campaign ([SAJC](#)) wishes to bring to the mandate-holders' notice updated and consolidated information concerning incidents of lynching and other fatal hate crimes targeting Muslims in India during the year 2025, which sheds further light on the scale, distribution, and other characteristics of the violence highlighted in the 2025 letter. This information (provided below) is drawn from the 2025 annual round-up edition of SAJC's **India Persecution Tracker** ([IPT](#)), published on 8 January 2025. We would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification the mandate-holders may wish to seek.

27 Muslims and 1 Dalit killed by Hindu extremists in religiously-motivated hate crimes

27

Muslims killed by Hindu extremists in suspected hate crimes

(15 in 2024; 25 in 2023)

Highest Muslim fatalities in UP (6), Bihar (4), Tripura (4)
5 victims (4 Muslim, 1 Dalit) killed after being branded illegal
'Bangladeshi' immigrants

9 fatalities (all Muslim) in the context of cow protection
3 suicides (2 Muslims, 1 Hindu) following violence and/or
harassment by Hindu extremists

In 2025, violence by Hindu extremist groups continued to claim lives across India, directed at Muslims in religiously-motivated hate crimes. We documented 27 killings of Muslims in incidents marked by mob violence, vigilantism, and targeted assaults, alongside one killing of a Dalit migrant worker who was falsely accused of being a Bangladeshi immigrant. In 2024 and 2023, we had documented 15 and 25 such killings of Muslims, respectively.

The highest number of Muslim fatalities in 2025 were reported from Uttar Pradesh (6), Bihar (4), and Tripura (4). Two deaths each were reported from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Haryana, while one death each was reported in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, and Odisha.

At least 5 of the victims (4 Muslims and a Dalit) were murdered shortly after being accused by their assailants of being ‘Bangladeshis’ and ‘illegal immigrants’.

At least 5 of the killings of Muslims involved violence by members of organised cow vigilante groups, while a further four deaths occurred following mob accusations related to cattle theft.

In addition to these cases, we also documented the deaths by suicide of two Muslim men who had allegedly faced sustained violence or harassment by Hindu extremists.

A recurring pattern across cases was the failure of law enforcement to prevent violence, provide timely protection, or ensure accountability, including instances of delayed FIRs, counter-cases being filed against victims or their families, and post-hoc narratives minimising the religious motives behind violent incidents.

The Muslim fatalities of religiously-motivated hate crimes included:

- 13–18 January, 2025 (Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh): [Mohd Salman](#), a 27-year-old Muslim man who died after villagers allegedly tied him upside down and beat him with sticks on suspicion of attempted robbery; graphic video footage of the assault circulated online.
- 10 February, 2025 (Belonia, Tripura): [Babul Mia](#), a 35-year-old Muslim man who died after being allegedly beaten by a group of men at a construction site, tied to a tree and left overnight; six individuals were reportedly arrested.
- 11–15 February, 2025 (Zaheerabad, Telangana): [A 15-year-old Muslim schoolgirl](#) who died after being struck with stones while trying to protect her father during an assault by a group of men following a dispute; the two main accused were reportedly arrested.
- 15 March, 2025 (Unnao, Uttar Pradesh): [Mohammad Sharif](#), a 48-year-old Muslim man who died shortly after allegedly being assaulted by a group of Holi revellers after he objected to having colours thrown on him while walking to a mosque during Ramadan; police claimed cardiac arrest, while the family and local residents disputed this and alleged a beating; an FIR named five individuals, and police later filed a second FIR naming 117 people, including several of Sharif’s relatives, for alleged ‘rioting’ during his funeral procession.
- 25 January, 2025 (Palwal, Haryana): [Yusuf](#), a 45-year-old Muslim man and cattle rearer who was allegedly beaten to death by members of a gau rakshak group while transporting a cow and calf; police upgraded the case to murder after his death, but no arrests were reported at the time of writing; Yusuf was also posthumously booked, along with his driver, under sections of Haryana’s cow protection law.
- 20 April, 2025 (Gandhinagar, Gujarat): [Mohammed Bhura Habibullah](#), a 32-year-old Muslim man whose charred remains were found inside a burned vehicle; the family alleged a cow vigilante attack and accused members of the Bajrang Dal, while police claimed the incident appeared to be a road accident and said no signs of vigilante pursuit were found.
- 23 April, 2025 (Agra, Uttar Pradesh): [Mohammad Ghulfam](#), a 25-year-old Muslim restaurant owner who was shot dead less than 24 hours after the Pahalgam attack; a video circulated claiming the shooting was ‘revenge’ for Pahalgam, but police later said the video-maker was not involved and attributed the attack to a dispute over payment; two of the accused were later arrested following an alleged ‘half encounter’.

- 27 April, 2025 (Mangaluru, Karnataka): [Mohammed Ashraf](#), a 36-year-old Muslim ragpicker with a history of mental illness who was lynched by a mob while watching a local cricket match; police were accused of mishandling the case initially, and at least 20 individuals were reportedly arrested.
- 9 May, 2025 (Bokaro, Jharkhand): [Abdul Kalam](#), a 22-year-old Muslim man reportedly undergoing treatment for mental illness who was lynched by a mob after being accused of harassing a woman; two suspects were reportedly arrested.
- 12 May, 2025 (Saran, Bihar): [Zakir Qureshi](#), a Muslim man who was killed and whose brother was critically injured after a mob attacked them following allegations of cattle theft; an FIR was registered and two main accused were reportedly arrested.
- 21 May, 2025 (Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka): [Imtiyaz](#), a 42-year-old Muslim man who was killed and another man critically injured in a sword attack by unidentified assailants, in an incident that occurred amid heightened communal tensions in the district.
- 24 May, 2025 (Panipat, Haryana): [Firdaus Alam](#), a 24-year-old Muslim tailor who was fatally attacked following a dispute over his skullcap; police registered an FIR but denied a communal motive, and the accused was arrested.
- 5–17 June, 2025 (Raisen, Madhya Pradesh): [Junaid Khan](#), a 24-year-old Muslim man who died after being assaulted by alleged cow vigilantes while transporting cattle; police reportedly arrested three suspects while others were absconding.
- 5 June, 2025 (East Champaran, Bihar): [Sheikh Wajul Haq](#), a 65-year-old Muslim man who died after being assaulted by a mob at his home reportedly over a months-old Facebook comment; police stated that five men were arrested, while local residents alleged that the perpetrators were being shielded by police.
- 20 June, 2025 (Narsingharh, Madhya Pradesh): [Haji Maksood](#), a 50-year-old Muslim businessman who was found dead with multiple sharp weapon injuries; police claimed arrests but did not disclose details, while locals alleged Hindu nationalist involvement and shielding of perpetrators by police.
- 7 July 2025 (Churu, Rajasthan): [Shahrukh](#), a 17-year-old Muslim boy who was beaten to death by a mob shortly after returning from a Muharram procession; his family alleged religious motives behind the crime.
- 23–26 July 2025 (Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh): [Arish Khan](#), a 17-year-old Muslim student who died after being beaten with rods and sticks outside his school; family and local residents alleged he was targeted for his Muslim identity.
- 23–26 July 2025 (Ramgarh, Jharkhand): [Aftab Ansari](#), a 28-year-old Muslim man who was found dead three days after allegedly being assaulted by members of the Hindu Tiger Force and handed over to police; police suspended multiple officials after the recovery of his body, while the family alleged collusion.
- 8 August 2025 (Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh): [A Muslim truck driver](#) who was beaten to death by a mob of kanwariya pilgrims on suspicion of carrying cattle remains; videos circulated showing police officers nearby as the crowd assaulted him and set the vehicle on fire.
- 11 August 2025 (Jamner, Maharashtra): [Suleman Rahim Khan](#), a 21-year-old Muslim student who was abducted and beaten to death by a mob, including several of his friends, after he was seen with a minor Hindu girl; at least eight men were reportedly arrested.
- 17 August 2025 (Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh): [Mushtaq Ahmed](#), a 48-year-old Muslim man who was found dead with visible injuries after an assault recorded in videos circulating online; police arrested three adult men and detained two minors.

- 16–20 September 2025 (Bhilwara, Rajasthan): [Sheru Susadiya](#) (aka Aasif Babu Multani), a 32-year-old Muslim farmer who died after being assaulted by self-styled cow vigilantes while transporting a legally purchased bull from a cattle fair; police reportedly arrested five men, while a counter-FIR alleging cattle smuggling was also registered against the victims.
- 18 September 2025 (Jehanabad, Bihar): [Mohammed Mohsin](#), a 70-year-old Muslim vendor who was beaten to death following a dispute over ₹5; a murder case was registered, though the accused remained absconding at the time of reporting.
- 25 September 2025 (Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh): [Shahzeb Alam](#), a 7-year-old Muslim boy whose mutilated body was found near his home after he went missing; police arrested two men, while relatives alleged a ritual ‘sacrifice’ motive that police had not confirmed.
- 15 October 2025 (Khowai, Tripura): [Three Bangladeshi Muslim men](#) who were beaten to death by villagers after being accused of entering India to steal cattle; Bangladesh demanded an impartial investigation, while India rejected the lynching characterisation and described the men as cattle smugglers.
- 5 December 2025 (Nawada, Bihar): [Mohammad Athar Hussain](#), a 50-year-old Muslim vendor who died after a mob lynching in which he alleged he was stripped to check his religious identity and tortured with rods, bricks, pliers, and a heated iron rod; police reported multiple arrests, but later said they were examining a viral video portraying him as a thief.
- 24 December 2025 (Sambalpur, Odisha): [Juyel Rana](#), a 19-year-old Bengali Muslim migrant construction worker who was beaten to death after assailants allegedly entered his rented room, demanded identity documents, and accused him of being ‘Bangladeshi’; police later offered an alternate account citing a dispute “over a bidi” and denied targeting on the basis of identity.

Also lynched to death was [Ramnarayan Baghel](#), a 31-year-old Dalit migrant worker from Chhattisgarh, on 17 December in Palakkad, Kerala, after a mob—including alleged RSS workers—publicly branded him as a ‘Bangladeshi’ and accused him of theft. Police registered a murder case, invoked provisions of the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), and recorded multiple arrests. The Kerala government, led by the Left Democratic Front (LDF), announced ex gratia compensation for the victim’s family.

Separately, at least two Muslim men died by suicide after facing violence or harassment by Hindu extremists. The victims included:

- 3 May 2025 (Latur, Maharashtra): [Amir Pathan](#), a 30-year-old Muslim telecom executive who died by suicide after being assaulted and subjected to religious slurs by a local journalist during a road rage incident. According to a complaint filed by his wife, the accused repeatedly asked Amir if he was ‘from Pakistan or Kashmir,’ beat him during a phone call he was on with her, and threatened to circulate a video of the assault online. Amir was reportedly distraught and kept checking the internet the next day for the video. He was found hanging at his residence on 4 May. While a case of abetment to suicide was registered, no arrests were reported at the time of writing.
- 28 October 2025 (Sindhurg, Maharashtra): [Aftab Shaikh](#), a 38-year-old Muslim flower-seller, died by suicide following months of alleged religious harassment, economic boycott, and threats by members of a local Hindu extremist group. The

harassment reportedly began after false allegations that prayer water had been used to 'contaminate' flowers sold to temple-goers, leading to the forced closure of the family's flower stall and loss of livelihood. Despite repeated complaints, police and local authorities allegedly failed to intervene or provide protection. An FIR for abetment to suicide was registered only after sustained pressure from the family.

In another incident, a 17-year-old Hindu minor from [Ahilyanagar](#), Maharashtra, died by suicide on 28 October, a day after he was allegedly assaulted by cow vigilantes while transporting a cow for his uncle and subjected to online abuse after videos of the assault were circulated on social media, branding him a Hindu 'Dalal' (slur meaning 'agent' or 'stooge'). An FIR for abetment to suicide was registered only after the family refused to perform his last rites.