

MEERAN HAIDER

India

Though diverse and rich in history and culture, India - home to the world's largest Hindu population - faces widespread persecution as communal violence targeting minority faith groups increases. Christians and Muslims alike are persecuted by the government and extremist Hindu groups, as mob violence, church burnings, and even lynchings take place. With a slew of anti-conversion laws violently enforced, both Christians and their neighbors suffer under a polarizing government that espouses hate and even force conversions or marriages on non-Hindus, especially among young Christian and Muslim girls.

India's anti-conversion laws often target Christian pastors, church planters, and evangelists which is in addition to forced "reconversions" forcing Indians to "return" to Hinduism. Christian converts in India are commonly viewed as "traitors" to the Hindu homeland under current prime minister Narendra Modi. Reports of looting and destructions of Christian homes and churches is also increasing. But again, not only Christians suffer this way. Muslims are also targeted through misinformation campaigns, mob attacks and even labeled "infiltrators." Other ethnic minorities, particularly in the northeast state of Manipur, have endured violence and systemic attacks because of their ethnoreligious identities.

Meeran Haider is just one example of many Indian Muslims currently imprisoned their identity and belief. A former PhD student, Meeran was arrested in 2020 for peacefully protesting religious freedom violations in India, including openly opposing religiously discriminatory legislation from the government.

Alarming levels of harassment and persecution continue across the country, with both Christians and their neighbors - like Meeran - suffering for their faith. Pray with us today for his freedom and for all those in India unable to freely profess and practice what they believe.



Religion: Muslim

Sentence: Imprisoned since 2020.

Motive for arrest: Leading peaceful protests against religious persecution in India.

Read an update on persecution in India [here](#).

Read and share our CAAP Prayer Guide on India [here](#).

See the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's Victims List [here](#) and pray with us for all who suffer for their beliefs.

