



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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19 January 2026

Excellency,

I write to you in relation to [letter of 12 May 2025](#) by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (“the Committee”) regarding to the situation of the Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam State, northeastern India.

The Committee thanks the State Party for its response to the letter and for the information provided. The Committee notes the information regarding the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 and the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules 2024 and that the legislative framework does not deprive eligible foreigners from applying for Indian citizenship through registration or naturalization.

Notwithstanding the information provided, the Committee regrets the lack of information on most of the allegations and concerns set out in the Committee’s letter of 12 May 2025, particularly regarding the racial discrimination against members of the Bengali-speaking Muslim community during the update of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and their exclusion from the final NRC list due to procedural irregularities and administrative shortcomings; difficulty in obtaining required documents; disproportionate impact on Bengali-speaking Muslims due to their classification as “non-original inhabitants”, a term lacking clear definition; stricter verification standards applied to “non-original inhabitants” compared to “original inhabitants”; and suspension of Foreigners Tribunal processes, which prevented those labeled as “doubtful voters” from challenging their status, effectively excluding them from the NRC.

Furthermore, it regrets the lack of information regarding the allegations that the Assam government has pursued systematic forced evictions without providing adequate housing or compensation, disproportionately affecting Bengali-speaking Muslim families across several districts. Moreover, the Committee notes with concern the lack of information regarding the allegations of an increase in hate speech and incitement to violence targeting the Bengali-speaking Muslim community, especially during the 2024 national elections in Assam, as well as the concern of excessive use of force by law enforcement, resulting in recurrent killings and injuries. It also regrets the lack of information on the allegations of violent attacks by civilians and organized groups in mid-2024 that endangered the community’s safety and rights.

In this context, the Committee calls upon the State Party to adopt all necessary measures to protect the rights of the Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam State and address the concerns set out in the Committee’s letter of 12 May 2025. In this regard and in accordance with Article 9 (1) of the

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Convention and article 66 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee requests that the State Party provide detailed information on measures to protect their rights and address the allegations in the Committee's letter of 12 May 2025 during the presentation of the State Party's combined twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports. In particular, the Committee requests the State Party to provide information on:

- (a) Measures taken to prevent and address racial discrimination against members of the Bengali-speaking Muslims community based on their decent, ethno-religious and ethnic origin and arbitrary deprivation of nationality in light of the National Register of Citizens update, including those excluded due to discriminatory application and registration processes;
- (b) Measures implemented to halt forced eviction of members of the Bengali-speaking Muslims, to provide alternative housing and compensation for those impacted, and to guarantee that evictions are carried out in accordance with international human rights standards;
- (c) Measures adopted to combat racist hate speech and hate crimes targeting the Bengali-speaking Muslims, including on the Internet and social media;
- (d) Investigations conducted into all allegations of excessive and lethal use of force by law enforcement officials, as well as information on prosecutions and penalties commensurate with the offences, and redress and support provided to victims and their families.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of India with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Balcerzak" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michal Balcerzak
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination