

# APPENDIX 2 FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS LIST

## Introduction

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, requires USCIRF to:

make publicly available, to the extent practicable . . . lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciation of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern [CPC] . . . or by a nonstate actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern [EPC].

USCIRF developed the [Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief \(FoRB\) Victims List](#)—an online public database—to implement this provision for countries USCIRF recommends for Country of Particular Concern (CPC) or Special Watch List (SWL) status. The list also includes such victims located in the de facto territories of nonstate actors that USCIRF recommends for Entity of Particular Concern (EPC) status, according to the same criteria.

Due to limited resources, USCIRF is unable to identify and document all victims that meet the statutory requirement to be included on the FoRB Victims List and generally relies on receiving submissions from outside individuals and organizations. As such, the information contained in the database does not reflect country, regional, or global trends. Furthermore, percentages highlighted in this section should not be used for extrapolation purposes nor interpreted as a particular group experiencing greater violations than another or a particular country committing violations at a greater rate than others.

To support this project, USCIRF invites those with credible information on FoRB victims to submit information using the [Victims List Intake Form](#). Additional information about the FoRB Victims List can be found in USCIRF's [FoRB Victims List Factsheet](#).

## Perpetrators

By the end of 2023, the FoRB Victims List included more than 2,200 individuals targeted by 27 different countries and entities. More than 1,300 victims remain in some form of custody, while more than 600 have been released. The detention status of approximately 300 cases remains unknown, and nine individuals are listed as deceased after dying in state custody.

Perpetrator	Not Released	Released	Died in Custody	Unknown	Total
Algeria	1	4			5
Azerbaijan	4	6	1		11
Burma	2	1	2		5
China	520	44	231		795
Cuba	5	3	3		11
Egypt	4	13	1		18
Eritrea	36	24		1	61
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)			2		2
Houthis	1	2			3
India	26	27	1	1	55
Indonesia	5	1	2		8
Iran	79	251	14	3	347
Iraq			2		2
Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP)			1		1
Kazakhstan	8	8			16
Malaysia			4		4
Nicaragua	12	21			33

Perpetrator	Not Released	Released	Died in Custody	Unknown	Total
Nigeria	5	4			9
North Korea	3		8		11
Pakistan	61	25		1	87
Russia	371	105	6	1	483
Saudi Arabia	43	6			49
Sri Lanka		1			1
Tajikistan	9	4			13
Turkmenistan	10	21			31
Uzbekistan	49	38			87
Vietnam	57	9	12	2	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,228</b>

The most documented violation on the FoRB Victims List was imprisonment, followed by detention, house arrest, enforced disappearance, and forced renunciation of faith. USCIRF also documented a case of forced psychiatric treatment and another involving compulsory labor. The chart below does not reflect whether a victim is in custody or released.

Perpetrator	Imprisonment	Detention	House Arrest	Enforced Disappearance	Forced Renunciation of Faith	Other	Total
Algeria	5						5
Azerbaijan	7	4					11
Burma	3	2					5
China	572	213	4	6			795
Cuba	6	1	4				11
Egypt	3	15					18
Eritrea		60	1				61
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)		2					2
Houthis	2	1					3
India	1	53	1				55
Indonesia	6	2					8
Iran	198	140	9				347
Iraq		2					2
Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP)				1			1
Kazakhstan	15	1					16
Malaysia				4			4
Nicaragua	18	15					33
Nigeria	3	6					9
North Korea	8	3					11
Pakistan	31	50			6		87
Russia	383	57	30	11		2	483
Saudi Arabia	31	16		2			49
Sri Lanka		1					1

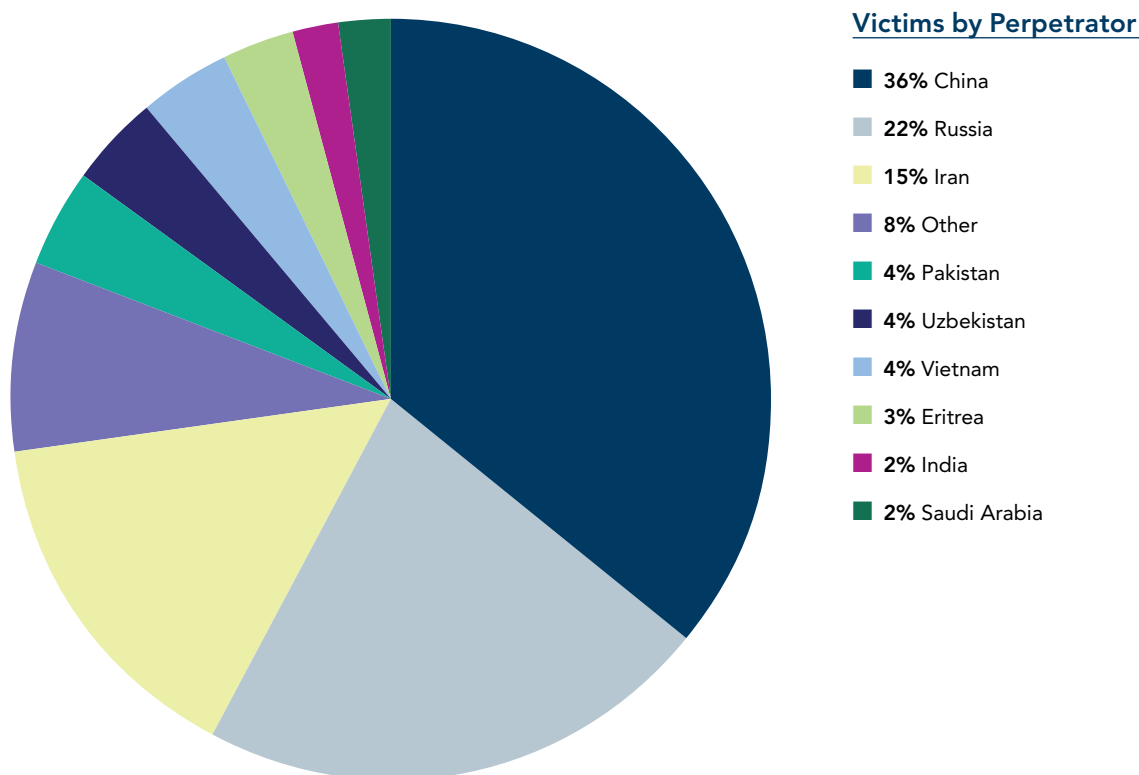
Perpetrator	Imprisonment	Detention	House Arrest	Enforced Disappearance	Forced Renunciation of Faith	Other	Total
Tajikistan	12	1					13
Turkmenistan	31						31
Uzbekistan	85	1	1				87
Vietnam	71	8	1				80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,228</b>

In addition to these abuses, USCIRF has documented 190 cases in which torture was reported. Countries and entities accused of torture included China (77), Uzbekistan (28), Iran (20), Saudi Arabia (18), Russia (16), Vietnam (6), Pakistan (5), Eritrea (3), Azerbaijan (2), Cuba (2), Egypt (2), Houthis (2), Kazakhstan (2), India (2), Tajikistan (2), Turkmenistan (2), and Algeria (1). USCIRF has also documented 144 cases in which medical neglect was reported. Countries and entities accused of medical neglect included Iran (62), China (17), Russia (17), India (14), Saudi Arabia (7), Vietnam (6), Pakistan (5),

Egypt (4), Eritrea (4), Houthis (3), Uzbekistan (2), Cuba (1), Nigeria (1), and Tajikistan (1).

Based on the information maintained in the database, the following chart reflects the percentage of individuals imprisoned by country. Among the violators included in the database, China imprisoned the most FoRB victims, followed by Russia, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Eritrea, India, and Saudi Arabia. Victims from all other countries and entities each individually constituted one percent or less than one percent of the victims in the database.

### VICTIMS BY PERPETRATOR

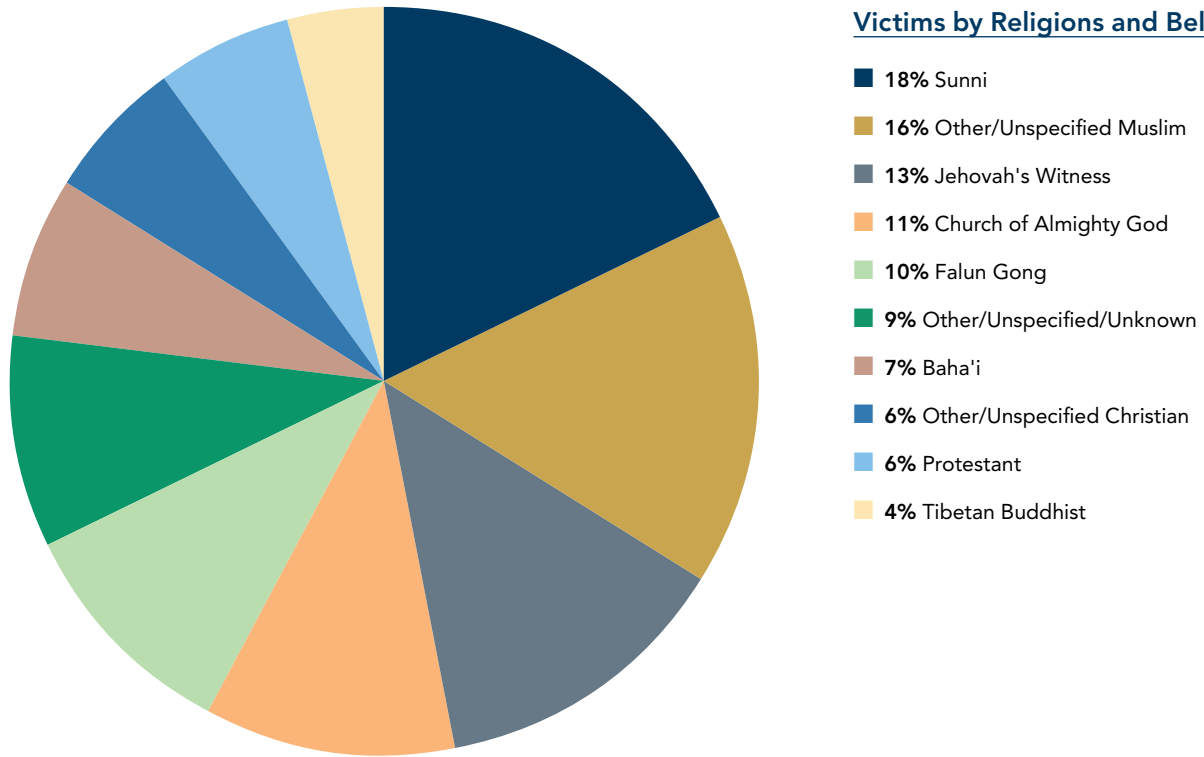


## Religions and Beliefs

The FoRB Victims List includes individuals with a wide variety of beliefs and religions, as reflected in the following table.

Religion or Belief	Number of Victims Documented
Adivasi	1
Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light	3
Baha'i	166
Bon	1
Buddhist - Hoa Hao	6
Buddhist - Theravada	3
Buddhist - Tibetan	93
Buddhist - Unspecified/Other	32
Christian - Catholic	57
Christian - Church of Almighty God	236
Christian - Jehovah's Witness	282
Christian - Orthodox	20
Christian - Protestant	139
Christian - Unspecified/Other	64
Duong Van Minh	4
ECKist (Eckankar)	1
Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	3
Falun Gong	217
Hindu	10
Humanist	1
Jewish	1
Muslim - Ahmadiyya	20
Muslim - Qur'anist	1
Muslim - Shi'a	39
Muslim - Sufi	63
Muslim - Sunni	406
Muslim - Unspecified/Other	232
Santería	5
Scientologist	1
Shaman	1
Sikh	1
Yarsani	38
Unknown/Unspecified	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,228</b>

## VICTIMS BY RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS



## Nature of Charges

Individuals included on the FoRB Victims List face a range of charges in several different legal contexts. USCIRF created groupings for similar charges to identify how foreign governments and entities justify the incarceration of the individuals included on the FoRB Victims List. USCIRF's categories are not mutually exclusive, and individuals are often included in more than one category based on varying charges brought against them. While USCIRF excludes from the FoRB Victims List individuals known to have committed or promoted violence, many individuals on the list face unsubstantiated accusations of violent crimes by the foreign government.

USCIRF is in the process of identifying charges for more than a quarter of the victims. Dozens of victims are not facing any charges, yet they remain imprisoned or have been subjected to other violations included on the FoRB Victims List that may not involve legal charges, such as enforced disappearance or forced renunciation of faith.

Nature of Charges Categories	Number of Individuals Charged	Percentage of Individuals Charged
Abuse (Physical, Sexual, Psychological)	1	<1%
Aid & Abetment	14	1%
Apostasy	4	<1%
Arms Trafficking & Illicit Use of Weapons	19	1%
Assault & Battery	10	<1%
Banned Organization	616	28%
Blasphemy	112	5%
Breach of Privacy & Disclosure	2	<1%
Conversion	29	1%
Crimes Involving Minors	5	<1%
Criminal Premeditation & Conspiracy	25	1%
Cult	312	14%
Defamation	2	<1%
Drug Trafficking & Illicit Drug Use	12	1%
Embezzlement & Fraud	20	1%
Environmental Crimes	1	<1%
Espionage	7	<1%
Extremism	306	14%
Fabricating & Destroying Evidence	3	<1%
Filing a False Police Report	1	<1%
Forgery	5	<1%
Harboring a Fugitive	5	<1%
Hate Speech	110	5%
Illegal Assembly	152	7%
Illegal Business Activity	5	<1%
Illegal Migration & Entry/Exit of Country	7	<1%
Illicit Financing	65	3%
Immorality	12	1%
Incitement to Commit Crime & Violence	54	2%

Nature of Charges Categories	Number of Individuals Charged	Percentage of Individuals Charged
Insulting Public Officials & Institutions	33	1%
Leaking State Secrets	5	<1%
Mercenarism	2	<1%
Miscellaneous Religious Crimes	15	1%
Murder & Attempted Murder	28	1%
Negligence	1	<1%
Not Applicable	76	3%
Public Disorder	118	5%
Refusing & Absconding Military Service	25	1%
Separatism	31	1%
Spreading Propaganda & False or Misleading Ideas, Information, or Materials	218	10%
Subversion	85	4%
Terrorism	328	15%
Theft & Robbery	4	<1%
Threat	3	<1%
Treason & Sedition	248	11%
Unknown	603	27%
Unlawful Disobedience	51	2%

The following chart highlights the top 10 most common types of charges for individuals on the FoRB Victims List.

### TOP TEN MOST COMMON CHARGES

