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FOREIGN POLICY BRIEF:

The BJP Files

FOREIGN AFFAIRS | JULY 2022

Executive Summary

The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) is the ruling party of India. Since their victory in the 2014 general election, the BJP have engendered an ongoing collapse of civil liberties and human rights in India. This is in large part fueled by their ideology of “Hindutva” or Hindu supremacy—which is dedicated to refashioning India as an exclusively Hindu state, at the expense of other minority groups such as Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Dalits and Adivasis. Indeed, over the last decade, India’s Muslim community has suffered from deadly vigilante violence, public hate speech, and active discrimination under the current Hindu nationalist government.

This report highlights public comments by fourteen high-ranking officials from the BJP. It reveals the racist, violent and often genocidal rhetoric they have espoused in recent years. Much of the hatred directed at India’s Muslim community can be traced to the mobilizing language of these BJP officials, who have incited riots, called for Muslims to be exiled, and threatened them with retribution. These Islamophobic remarks are never made clandestinely, but rather expressed openly at rallies, on social media, and in media interviews. Experts like Gregory Stanton, the director of Genocide Watch, are now warning of an impending genocide of Muslims in India.

This report argues that Canada can send a strong message around genocide by clearly noting that the individuals below will never be eligible to visit or reside in Canada, as per section 35 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

BJP Officials to Ban from Entering Canada

1. Yogi Adityanath

Yogi Adityanath has been the BJP's Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister since 2017. He is a Hindu nationalist, known for his history of anti-Muslim hate speech.

During his rallies in Uttar Pradesh, Adityanath has intentionally [placed bulldozers](#) at the rally site as a show of [force](#) and [intimidation](#)—to send a message to those opposed to his anti-minority policies. Time after time, he has associated Muslims living in India with criminal activity, and emphasized that bulldozers were there to target their assets. Indeed, Adityanath has even been granted the name “Bulldozer Baba”.



Source for [image above](#), and for [image below](#).



Most recently, his government in Uttar Pradesh was responsible for unlawfully bulldozing the homes of three Muslims after they were accused of throwing rocks after Friday prayers and being involved in the protests sparked over the derogatory remarks made by two former BJP leaders about the Prophet Muhammad. Indeed, Adityanath's media advisor, Mritynjay Kumar, even went as far as tweeting a photo of a bulldozer demolishing a building, [remarking that](#) "Unruly elements remember, every Friday is followed by a Saturday," alluding to the bulldozing of homes following Friday prayers.



Mrityunjay Kumar ✓
@MrityunjayUP

...

उपद्रवी याद रखें, हर शुक्रवार के बाद एक शनिवार ज़रूर आता है...

Translated from Hindi by Google

Remember, every Friday is followed by a Saturday...



2:23 AM · Jun 11, 2022 · Twitter for Android

When it came to protests over India's controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill, Adityanath mobilized the public against protestors by accusing them of fomenting violence. Travelling to Delhi to energize voters, he claimed that protestors should be [fed 'bullets'](#). This was followed by [two incidents](#) of shootings at students and protestors by individuals who identified as Modi supporters.

In Uttar Pradesh, the UP police have allegedly carried out at least [146 extra-judicial killings](#) since Yodi Adityanath took up the role of chief minister in 2017. These extra-judicial killings are something that Adityanath has [openly encouraged](#) as a means to combat crime.

Adityanath's nationalist rhetoric and hate speech stretches far back. He has [stated](#) that 'Muslims did no favour to India by staying here'. The Wire, an Indian news website, even

consolidated 34 of his speeches over three months and found over [100 instances](#) of hate speech, religious polarization and Hindutva supremacy. This included implying an equivalence between ordinary Muslims and the Taliban and employing countless other dog-whistles.

2. **Subramanian Swamy**

Subramanian Swamy is one of the key leaders of the BJP ruling party in India, which he joined in 2013. He has served as an MP for six terms and is also a former cabinet minister. Swamy is the current President of Virat Hindustan Sangam. He is known for his outspoken Hindutva rhetoric.

In 2018, Swamy [tweeted](#) that ‘If any Muslim citizen of India identifies with or glorifies Islamic rule in India he should be declared a defeated alien since Hindus braving gross brutality uprooted Islamic rule from India’, adding that ‘Muslims of India should instead accept based on DNA, that they are descendants of Hindus’.



Subramanian Swamy ✓
@Swamy39

...

If any Muslim citizen of India identifies with or glorifies Islamic rule in India he should be declared a defeated alien since Hindus braving gross brutality uprooted Islamic rule from India. Muslims of India should instead accept based on DNA, that they are descendants of Hindus

12:18 AM · May 3, 2018 · TweetCaster for iOS

2,676 Retweets **199** Quote Tweets **7,743** Likes

In a video interview from 2020, Swamy said that any country where [Muslims become more than 30 percent](#) of the population is in danger. More explicitly, when asked by an interviewer

if Muslims were not equal in India, [Swamy responded](#): “No, not all people are equal, Muslims do not fall into the equal category.”

Swamy has also directed his hateful rhetoric at politicians. For instance, [he called the president](#) of the Indian National Congress, Sonia Gandhi, a “true Nazi” for saying that the Citizenship Amendment Act discriminates against Muslims in India.

3. Haribhushan Thakur Bachaul

Haribhushan Thakur Bachaul is a BJP MLA from Bihar.

In May 2022, Haribhushan Thakur Bachaul was involved in an incident where he openly compared Muslims to demons and [called for them to be set ablaze](#), just as Hindus burn Ravana effigies during the festival of Dussehra. This open call for violence was captured on video.

The incident was not the first by Haribhushan. Earlier, in February 2022, he had also said that Muslims living in India should be stripped of voting rights and treated as second-class citizens. His [precise quote](#) being: “In 1947, the country [India] was divided in the name of religion and they got another country [Pakistan]. They should go to another country. If they are living here, then I demand from the government that their voting rights be withdrawn. They [Muslims] can live in India as second-class citizens.” He added that Muslim M.L.A.s [should face action](#) from the Bihar Assembly Speaker if they refuse to sing ‘Vande Mataram’, a nationalist song with Hindu religious references.

Bachaul was involved in [another incident](#) where he commented on the Muslim fertility rate, stating “Muslims want to convert India into an Islamic state. Law should be brought to control the population in the country. The resources in the country are very limited but some people want to increase the population and capture and turn India into an Islamic

country”. Most recently, Bachaul remarked that those who are protesting the ‘Agnipath’ scheme – an Indian military recruitment strategy that, among other things, made military employment more precarious – introduced by the BJP government are unpatriotic and [Jihadis](#).

4. Ashwini Upadhyay

Ashwini Upadhyay is a practicing lawyer at the Supreme Court of India and a leader of the BJP Delhi unit.

Upadhyay was [previously arrested](#) by Delhi police for his role in raising anti-Muslim slogans at an event in Jantar Mantar last year. These slogans included [calls for violence](#) against Muslims, with crowds chanting: "Jab mulle kaate jayenge, Ram-Ram chillayenge" (Muslims will scream *Ram-Ram* when they will be slaughtered) and "Hindustan me rehna hoga, Jai Shree Ram kehna hoga" (You will have to chant *Glory to Lord Ram*, if you want to live in India). Ram is a Hindu deity. Upadhyay was the organizer behind the protest, which was held without police permission.

Upadhyay also attended the ‘[Dharma Sansad](#)’ event in Haridwar, which featured an explosion of hate speech, a mobilization to commit violence and strong anti-Muslim sentiments. Indeed, many speakers belonging to various right-wing Hindutva organizations explicitly called Hindus to arms and called for ethnic cleansing.

5. Anurag Thakur

Anurag Thakur is a BJP politician and Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from Himachal Pradesh. He serves as the Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and the Minister of

Information and Broadcasting in the Modi administration. He has previously served as Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs and was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 2008.

Back when he was Minister of Finance in January of 2020, Anurag Thakur [stirred controversy](#) at a pre-election rally in Delhi when he repeatedly chanted “Desh ke gaddaron ko” and had the audience respond with “Goli maaro saalon ko”. This approximately translates to “What should be done with traitors of the country? Shoot them”. This genocidal chant eventually became a war cry for supporters of the BJP government who used it to attack protestors against the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Following the incident, the Election Commission sent a show cause notice to Thakur, in which it stated that Thakur had made statements that had the " potential of disturbing communal harmony and aggravating the existing differences between social and religious communities" and were in violation of the Model Code of Conduct and Representation of the People Act, 1951. Thakur responded by claiming that he had only said the first part of the slogan (Desh ke gaddaro ko), insinuating that it was the crowd that chanted 'goli maaro saalo' in response. However, [video footage of Thakur](#) at the rally indeed shows him chanting the slogan and leading the crowd on to chant the slogan as well.

6. M. Panchaksarya Renukacharya

M.P. Renukacharya is an Indian politician who serves as the Political Secretary to Karnataka's Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Previously, he served as Political Secretary to the Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. He is a current Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly and member of the BJP.

During a pro-Citizenship Amendment Act protest in Karnataka, Renukacharya targeted the Muslim community explicitly when he [accused them of collecting weapons in Mosques](#) instead of praying. In particular, he claimed: "There are few traitors who sit in a masjid and

write fatwas. They collect weapons inside the mosque instead of praying. Is this why you want a Masjid.” At the same rally, he [threatened the Muslim community](#) himself, saying he would not hesitate to use money allotted to Muslims for Hindus, and that “I will put you [Muslims] in your place and show you what politics is”. Finally, Renukacharya warned the Muslim community that [no development work](#) would be taken up in their areas if they did not vote for the BJP, as they are not patriots.

After garnering controversy for his comments, Renukacharya [doubled down](#). When speaking with reporters, he stated that “At madrasas, youth are manipulated by teaching terrorism. Why do we need such schools? The majority of those accused of terrorism are Muslims”. This year, the BJP legislator [proposed a survey](#) on mosques and maulvis (clerics) to “know who they are and where they are from.” In March, Renukacharya called on Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to [ban madrasas](#) in the state of Karnataka, on the grounds that they propagate “anti-national lessons”.

7. Giriraj Singh

Giriraj Singh is the Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department in India, and a member of the BJP. He serves as a Member of Parliament from the Begusari Loksabha constituency. In the past, he has served as Minister of Cooperative, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Resources department in the Government of Bihar.

In 2019, he stirred controversy at a rally when [he stated](#) that: “Those who cannot say Vande Mataram or cannot respect the motherland, the nation will never forgive them,” adding that “My ancestors died at the Simaria ghat and no grave was built for them but you [Muslims] need three hand spans of space.” Here, Giriraj Singh is lambasting those who refuse to utter nationalistic expressions, as well as Muslim burial practices.

Giriraj Singh has a long history of hateful, communal remarks aimed at the Muslim

community. In 2020, he claimed that sites like Deoband in Uttar Pradesh and Shaheen Bagh in Delhi, where protests were occurring against the Citizenship Amendment Act, are breeding grounds for [suicide bombers](#). He also [targeted Muslims](#) over their ‘population explosion’, citing it as a roadblock to development in India.

That same year, he was on record [declaring](#) that “our ancestors” were guilty of a “major lapse” by not sending all Muslims to Pakistan during the 1947 partition, adding that the country is now paying the price for this failure.

Most recently, in 2022, Singh [slammed those](#) supporting the right for Muslim girls to wear hijab in school. Speaking to reporters, he asked: “Are they working for an Islamic state?” and alleged that people believing in the concept of ‘ghazwa-e-Hind’ (Islamic conquest of India) were fueling protests for the right to wear hijab.

8. Kapil Mishra

Kapil Mishra is an Indian politician from Delhi and former member of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, representing Karawal Nagar. He joined the BJP in 2019.

A detailed 134-page report investigating the circumstances leading to the violent New Delhi riots of February, 2020 found that the violence erupted soon after Kapil Mishra delivered a speech calling for forcefully removing anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protestors at Jafraabad. Mishra had [warned the police](#) to clear the roads on which sit-in protests were taking place, or see matters taken into the people’s hands. The subsequent mobs [chanted slogans](#) like “Modi, cut these Muslims into pieces” and “Today, we will give you freedom”.

Likewise, Mishra was responsible for inciting violence during the Ram Navami protests of 2022. Communal tensions flared after Mishra gave a [provocative speech](#) where he said “we

shouldn't have any other identity than Hindu”

Indeed, Kapil is notorious for his history of hateful speech. In a statement from 2019, [he had tweeted](#), “If you want pollution to come down, then you should reduce these firecrackers and not the ones burst on Diwali,” along with a photo of a man with a skull cap, women in burqa and several children standing next to them. Likewise, when Khargone was witnessing Hindutva groups preventing Muslims from praying on grounds given to them by the government for namaz, Mishra attended a Puja organized on one of those sites.

← Tweet

 **Kapil Mishra** ✓
@KapilMishra_IND

पॉल्युशन कम करना हैं तो ...
ये वाले पटाखे कम करो
दीवाली के पटाखे नहीं

[Translate Tweet](#)



12:36 PM · 28 Oct 19 · [Twitter for Android](#)

4,593 Retweets **14.1K** Likes

9. T. Raja Singh

T. Raja Singh is a member of the Telangana Legislative Assembly representing the Goshamahal assembly constituency in Hyderabad. He is a former member of the Telugu Desam Party and currently is a member of the BJP.

Singh has a long history of anti-Muslim statements. This year, [he threatened](#) those who voted against Yogi Adityanath with bulldozers, referring to them as ‘traitors’, an often-used dog-whistle for Muslims. He remarked that “Thousands of bulldozers and JCBs have been bought by UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath and they are on their way. After the elections, those who voted against Yogiji – their areas will be identified. and I am sure you know what JCBs and bulldozers are used for”, and added, “I want to inform those traitors of UP who don’t want Yogi Adityanath to be elected as CM again that if you want to stay in UP, you will have to chant Yogi-Yogi. If not, you will have to run away from the state,” he said.

In August 2018, Singh once again [employed violent rhetoric](#) when he called Rohingya Muslims ‘terrorists’ and stated they should be shot dead: "If these Rohingyas and Bangladeshi illegal immigrants do not leave India respectfully, then they should be shot & eliminated. Then only our country will be safe". Two years later, he claimed that he stood by his comments, and that “Rohingya Muslims should be sent away if they are indulging in anti-national activities.”

Likewise, Singh has called all Kashmiri Muslims ‘traitors’ and asked people to [burn down theatres](#) during the *Padmavaat* controversy (where false rumors emerged that the 2018 film featured a Hindu queen becoming intimate with a Muslim ruler, leading to mass outrage and protests). He has also [lashed out at politicians](#) hosting Iftar parties and asked Bengali Hindus to riot by [remarking](#) that “Hindus are not safe in the West Bengal state. Hindus in Bengal should respond to people involved in communal violence as Hindus in Gujarat did. Otherwise, soon Bengal will turn into Bangladesh.”

In 2017, Singh [called the Old City](#) of Hyderabad a ‘mini-Pakistan’, alluding to the presence of Muslims in the city, adding that: "I have requested the Chief Minister to conduct a search operation in Hyderabad old city; they would be able to find bomb and other explosives from number of houses." The same year, Singh [released a video](#) where he said that traitors who oppose construction of the Ram Mandir temple at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh will be ‘beheaded’.

10. Suraj Pal Amu

Suraj Pal Amu is the [spokesperson for the BJP’s Haryana unit](#) and serves as the Shri Rajput Karani Sena President. He has held several posts in the BJP over the years, including as the State Secretary of the BJP youth wing and Chief Medisa Coordinator for BJP Haryana. As a law graduate, he was a member of the RSS’s student wing.

In 2021, at a Hindu Mahapanchayat (public meeting) organized in Haryana to discuss ‘the love of jihad’ and population control, Amu praised the villagers of Bohra Kalan who did not allow a mosque to be built in their village. He then [urged the crowd](#) to “uproot the foundation of buildings like these and throw them away”. Likewise, he [chastised inter-religious marriage](#), asking the BJP to take note of the issue. Amu [also referred](#) to the Muslim community as ‘Pakistani’ and threatened to remove them from India: “If India is our mother, then we are the father of Pakistan, and we will not give houses here on rent to the Pakistanis... Remove them from this country, pass this proposal”.

In another video from this year, [Amu urges a crowd](#) of ‘cow protectors’ to unleash violence against those who slaughter cows. He adds that “those who say Salam [instead of Pranam]...I will appeal to beat, thrash and break them.”

Perhaps [most blatantly of all](#), Amu was filmed giving a speech where he openly justified the killing of Asif Khan (a 25-year-old Muslim resident of Haryana who was violently murdered by a group of vigilantes). Amu adds that if people like Asif make an obscene video of our sisters and daughters, shall we not even murder them? He concludes that those accused in the case should be released.

11. Raghvendra Pratap Singh

Raghvendra Pratap Singh is a member of the 17th Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh. He represents the Domariyaganj (Assembly of constituency) in the Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh and is a member of the BJP.

Singh organized a rally on March 19, 2022 where he can be seen [leading a rally](#) of hundreds in Dumariyaganj. In the video, anti-Muslim slogans and calls to murder Muslims can be heard, with some shouting that “When they [Muslims] will be killed, they will shout Ram’s name”.

A month prior, [another video](#) uploaded to Facebook has Singh saying that “Since I became an MLA, they [Muslims] have stopped wearing skull caps. If you vote for me again, they will start wearing tilaks [a Hindu religious symbol]”. Singh has threatened Muslims on numerous occasions. This year, a video [circulated across social media](#) revealed Sing giving a speech where he says that: “Any Hindu who doesn’t vote for me has Miyan (a pejorative for Muslims) blood in his veins. He is a traitor. He is a bastard son of Jaichand. I am warning you this time...traitors of the Hindu religion will be destroyed”. He continues by adding: “Even after so many atrocities, if a Hindu goes over to the other side, he should not be able to show his face on the streets. Even after being warned once if you do not understand, then I will tell you who Raghavendra Singh is.”

In [another video](#), the sound of the azan (Muslim call to prayer) can be heard in the background. In response, Singh remarks: “Listen, you bastards, I will have your microphone checked and see if you have permission [for it] or not. And if you don’t have the permission then I will get the mic removed from your mosque.” He defended his words later, claiming that the azan on loudspeakers was an assault on Hindu self-esteem and a way to terrorize them.

In a discussion on India TV, Singh flew into a rage and [hurled racist slurs](#) at a Muslim panelist, threatening to feed him pig’s milk and describing him as an “illegitimate child of Hindus.”

12. Raghuraj Singh

Raghuraj Singh is the Chairman/Minister of Labour and Employment in the Uttar Pradesh government.

In 2020, he [gave a speech](#) where he threatened to ‘bury alive’ those who raised slogans against Modi and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath. He stated that “These one percent people opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act. They stay in India, eat up our taxes and then raise ‘*murdabad*’ slogans against the leaders. Slogan shouting against the prime minister or chief minister is unacceptable. If you raise slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, I will bury you alive.”

Just a fortnight after his comments, a video surfaced where [he claimed that](#) ‘anti-nationals will die a dog’s death’ and that Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) would be renamed Hindustan University. He also said that the police have been directed to shoot anti-nationals in encounters. Finally, in the same speech, he added that: “If they [Muslims] want to live in Hindustan then they have to live as Hindustanis and cannot live here as Pakistanis. One cannot live in India and continue opposing it”.

13. Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh

Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh is a Member of the Legislative Assembly. He represents the Tiloj constituency of Uttar Pradesh. As a former member of the Samajwadi Party, he has been a member of the 14th and 17th Legislative Assemblies. Currently, he is a member of the BJP.

During a campaign speech in Uttar Pradesh, Singh was [filmed saying](#): “If you [Muslims] want to live in India, you’ll have to say 'Radhe Radhe' (a Hindu religious chant). Or else, like those who went to Pakistan during the partition, you can go too. You have no use here”. During the [same speech](#), he also threatened to pull the beard off Muslims and convert them to Hinduism, saying: “If Hindus are awakened, we will pull out the beards and make a *chotia* (Hindu symbol).” After being questioned on his comments, Singh [doubled down](#) by adding that his speech was intended to counter ‘Islamic terrorism’, adding that ‘If Muslims are trying everything they can to defeat me, I will not stay silent’.