

[Amnesty International Human Rights Report 2018](#) (Caste-related extracts)

Foreword

In India, rising Islamophobia and a wave of lynchings of Muslims and Dalits provoked outrage and protest as people said: "Not in my name".

INDIA

Adivasi communities continued to be displaced by industrial projects, and hate crimes against Dalits remained widespread.

CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

Official statistics released in November stated that more than 40,000 crimes against Scheduled Castes were reported in 2016. Several incidents were reported of members of dominant castes attacking Dalits for accessing public and social spaces or for perceived caste transgressions. In May, two Dalit men were killed, several injured, and dozens of Dalit homes burned by dominant caste men in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, following a clash between members of the communities. In September, S. Anitha, a 17-year-old Dalit girl who had campaigned against the introduction of a uniform, national exam for admission to medical colleges, committed suicide, sparking protests in Tamil Nadu. Protesters said the exam would disadvantage students from marginalized backgrounds. Activists said that at least 90 Dalits employed as manual scavengers died during the year while cleaning sewers, despite the practice being prohibited. Many of those killed were illegally employed by government agencies. In August, the Delhi state government said that people who employed manual scavengers would be prosecuted for manslaughter. In November, the UN Special Rapporteur on safe drinking water and sanitation expressed concern that the government's emphasis on building new toilets as part of its Clean India Mission could prolong manual scavenging.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Journalists and press freedom came under increasing attack. In September, journalist Gauri Lankesh, an outspoken critic of Hindu nationalism and the caste system, was shot dead outside her home in Bengaluru by unidentified gunmen.

In July, 31 Dalit activists were arrested and detained for a day in Lucknow for organizing a press conference about caste-based violence.

INDEGINOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

In September, activists protested against the inauguration of the Sardar Sarovar dam in Gujarat, saying that some 40,000 displaced families, including many Adivasi families, had not received adequate reparation. In June, 98 Adivasis in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, tried to file criminal cases under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, alleging that they had been forced into selling their land to agents of private companies, following intimidation and coercion. The police accepted the complaints but refused to register criminal cases.

NEPAL

RIGHT TO HOUSING

Hundreds of thousands of survivors from the 2015 earthquake (nearly 70% of those affected) were still living in temporary shelters. The government stipulated proof of land ownership as a condition for receiving a rebuilding grant. However, since up to 25% of the population were considered not to have met this criterion, tens of thousands of the earthquake survivors were ineligible for these grants. The situation primarily affected marginalized and disadvantaged groups, including women, Dalits and other caste-based and ethnic minorities.

DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination persisted on the bases of gender, caste, class, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion. Constitutional amendments did not fully guarantee equal rights to citizenship for women, nor provide protection from discrimination to marginalized communities including Dalits and other caste-based and ethnic minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.