

**HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION**

910 Seventeenth St., Suite 316A

Washington, D.C. 20006

www.hafsite.org | 202.223.8222



November 5, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I'm writing to draw your attention to the significant increase in religious freedom violations currently taking place in the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Hindu Americans are very concerned that Bangladeshi Hindus are being targeted for violence because of their faith.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year, persecution of Bangladesh's Hindu religious minority has been on the rise. The use of state and non-state actors to carry out physical violence or threaten physical violence has been credibly reported to the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) from our contacts on the ground (please see attached photographs).

Specifically, a few days ago, a Muslim mob of approximately 3,000 people attacked a Hindu village in Cumilla district. Twenty Hindu owned homes and four temples were looted, vandalized, and set on fire, sometimes with people still inside. Several people were injured in the attack.

We urge you to publicly condemn this anti-Hindu violence and to call on the Bangladesh government to stop the targeting, and prevent the future targeting, of the Hindu minority community of Bangladesh.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to working with you to prevent future violations of religious freedom in Bangladesh.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Samir Kalra', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Samir Kalra, Esq.  
Managing Director  
Hindu American Foundation

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CC:

Ambassador Sam Brownback

Ambassador Earl Miller

Senator Jim Risch (R-ID)

Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)

Ambassador of Bangladesh to the U.S., Mohammad Ziauddin

Encls.

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