

“I Feel Like a Stranger  
in My Own Country”

Religious Discrimination in the Central African Republic

# Right to Legal Recognition

- Many Muslims are unable to obtain essential national identity documents due to discriminatory barriers, corruption, and harassment.
- CAR's new constitution—which passed without adequate public debate—further limits human rights protections for Muslims.

*“[T]he identification brigade asks us for our fathers’ birth certificates who [have been] killed and had all their belongings burnt, which is **impossible**.”*

# Right to Education

- All students in CAR lack access to adequate education.
- Muslim students additionally face discrimination, including being forced to pay bribes, difficulty in registering for school, and religious-based harassment and insults.

*“[S]ome of my teachers tell me that **my place is not on the school bench**, ... [but] in the bush behind the sheep and the oxen.”*

# Right to Health

- All Central Africans suffer from the failure of the country's healthcare system.
- Muslims are further subjected to discrimination by being charged inflated prices and forced to pay bribes to access health services.
- The health of Muslim women and girls is especially impacted by discrimination in healthcare.

*“Doctors always make us pay for tests that everyone knows are free, including HIV tests. They made me pay even though it's free. **Because I am part of the Muslim community.**”*

# Freedom of Movement

- Muslims face discrimination at checkpoints, where they are forced to pay bribes, and are frequently harassed, abused, and detained.
- As a result, Muslim Central Africans are fearful of travelling around the country.

*“Most often you are worried until you reach your destination, **the fear of being stopped at any moment** by the military and its allies on the road.”*

# Rights to Life, Liberty, and Security

- Muslims face discrimination in the security sector.
- They are arrested without a warrant or reasonable ground on the basis of their religious identity, are denied fair trials, and are subjected to extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearance.

*“My brother was arrested last year . . . without an arrest warrant. . . . they even said ‘you the Muslims, we’ll be done with you in this country.’”*

# Recommendations

1. Ensure equal access to national identity cards (CNIs).
2. Improve the quality of public services such as health and education through adequate budgetary allocations.
3. Investigate and prosecute all instances of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and torture of Muslims in line with international human rights standards.

*We dream of a more inclusive Central  
African Republic.*

*Nous Zêvons d'une Centrafrique plus  
inclusive.*