

C.A.P.I.
Coalition of Americans for Pluralism in India
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PRESS RELEASE

POST 12/28 NOVI CITY CENTER PROTEST

**IN OPPOSITION TO THE NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW PASSED BY THE INDIAN
GOVERNMENT**

12/28/2019 Novi, Michigan

Over 200 people gathered amidst the holiday frenzy to express their solidarity and unified support for India's minority groups facing the consequences of the recently passed Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). This act uses religion as a basis for citizenship. Along with this, the Indian government has passed the National Population Register (NPR) in effect and is planning to pass the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) through which it can revoke the citizenship of targeted minorities across India.

The Indian legislature, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, has passed the CAA. The CAA, NPR, and NRC are the tools which can target minorities across India, especially Muslims. These actions put an unfair burden on Muslims to prove their citizenship with unrealistic documentation requirements and is a ploy by the ruling BJP party to increase their vote bank. Government of India is also planning to create detention camps in each state of India. As of right now, there are many people already in detention camps and about 28 people are reported dead, families are separated. It can escalate considering the Fascist Modi Government track record of the past regarding minorities of India. Modi was denied visa and entry into USA and many European countries for the genocide of Muslims in 2002. This ban was lifted in 2014 when he became prime minister of India.

A recent United Nations Geneva tweet stated— "We are concerned that the India's new Citizenship Amendment Act is fundamentally discriminatory in nature and hope the supreme court of #India will consider carefully the compatibility of the law with India's int'l human rights obligations"

We, as Americans, should be concerned about the politically deteriorating conditions in India as we are a critical partner with India and have an obligation to address any human rights issues through condemnation and sanctions.

The rally on Saturday in Novi was to engage in a constructive peaceful protest against the unconstitutional and discriminatory law (CAA, NRC and NPR) implemented by the ultra right hindutva BJP party of Modi which formed the Indian Government. People from many walks of life, from different religions, genders, and age groups came to show their solidarity to support the non-violent protesters in India which are being brutally attacked by the government police force.

Students from University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Lawrence Tech University also came to show their solidarity with the students in Indian Universities that were unjustly attacked by Indian Security Forces. It was very encouraging to see participation from local elected members. Farmington Hills city councilman Michael Bridges was present in support of the community against the Indian Modi Government.

There was a wide range of speakers who shared their stories and voiced their solidarity in unison.

The goal of the gathering was to relay the concerns of the American Indian community to the local government representatives who may bring the matter forward to national and international platforms. Another goal of the rally was to exert pressure on Indian Government to bring about the inclusion of minorities and preservation of their unalienable human and citizenship rights and protection of their lives and properties.

Learn more about the issue and event through

Website (with pictures) <https://1indian.wixsite.com/caaprotest>

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