

## **Brief:**

**The arduous struggle for inclusion in the NRC”** by Latif was published in October 2019. About a month after the NRC list was released, Latif, a photographer, made his way through four districts in Assam, documenting the struggle for inclusion in the NRC. Most of the people he met were poor Muslims who did not understand the NRC process and had been excluded from the first two drafts of the list, published in December 2017 and July 2018. In some cases, despite possessing legacy data which proved their Indian ancestry through the accepted pre-1971 documents, they faced the prospect of being sent to detention centres.



Based Ali, an 11-year-old resident of Barpeta district's Jania village, and his nine-year-old sister, Hafiza Begum, were excluded from the first two drafts of the NRC, according to their mother. The family had lost their house in July this year, during floods that swept Assam. Since then, the mother said, they have lived on an embankment near the Daukmari village in Barpeta.



Basiran Begum, a 23-year-old woman, resides in Bhagpuri, a Muslim-majority village in Darrang district. She was excluded from the first two drafts of the NRC, but included in the final list. At least ten of her relatives were denied Indian citizenship.





Mohammad Nawob Ali, Basiran Begum's brother-in-law, was included in the final NRC, but his father was not. "We are always fearful, we can't get any sleep," he said. "What will happen, where will we have to go?"



Mohammad Abdul Ali, Nawob Ali's 85-year-old father, is a weak and ailing man. Abdul Ali attended a couple of hearings at a Foreigners Tribunal, before he was granted leave from appearing in consideration of his deteriorating health.





Jakir Akhtar Parvez, an advocate, and his client Chand Miya at the Mangaldoi district court. A Foreigners Tribunal declared Miya an Indian in 2014. But in March 2019, a different tribunal sent Miya a notice stating that he was a suspected illegal immigrant. Referring to the NRC process, Parvez said, “It’s a land mine, and you never know where’s the mine.”



Rabiquul Islam and Shakidul Islam, aged 12 and 13 years respectively, on their way to a Madrasa in Darrang district's Rowmari village.





Isiran Nessa, a 23-year-old resident of Dhansiri Kash, in Darrang district, attended eight hearings since she submitted her application for inclusion in the NRC, in 2015.





Mohammad Kamal Mulla is a barber who resides in Darrang district's Bhagpuri village. The NRC process has taken a toll on his health. At 39 years old, Mulla suffers from acute health problems, including a heart condition, psychological stress and difficulty in speaking.



A group of young boys walking towards a Madrasa located near the Jania village in Assam's Barpeta district.