

OpenVoiceNews India

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Mamata Banerjee Cites HRW Report, Calls for End to Language-Based Targeting

July 27, 2025

– Categories: Human Rights



Download IPFS

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has raised concerns over alleged language-based discrimination, citing a recent report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) that details incidents of deportation and harassment of Bengali-speaking individuals in India. The claims have added to ongoing national conversations around civil rights and administrative practices.

In a statement issued on July 27, Banerjee referred to the HRW report and accused some state authorities of acting without due process in cases involving Bengali-speaking citizens.

The New York-based rights group outlined alleged instances of detention and deportation affecting both Bengali-speaking Hindus and Muslims.

Banerjee described the situation as a matter of national concern and called for safeguards to prevent targeting based on language or region. Writing on the platform X (formerly Twitter), she referred to the situation as “linguistic terrorism” and argued that such practices, if confirmed, threaten the country’s federal principles.

According to the HRW report, some administrative bodies are accused of bypassing legal procedures, which the group argues could result in the denial of rights to lawful citizens. HRW reports are not official government documents but often influence international views on internal policy matters.

Banerjee said many of those affected are long-term residents with valid claims to Indian citizenship. She warned that administrative overreach could have social consequences and urged authorities to act with transparency and accountability.

While her remarks have drawn political reactions, the issues raised have also prompted discussion about the role of language in citizenship checks and legal enforcement. Legal experts and civil society groups have called for all actions to follow proper documentation and due legal process.

Critics of the HRW report urge caution, noting that NGO findings may not always reflect the full legal context. Supporters of Banerjee’s call stress the need for oversight and adherence to constitutional protections.

As discussions continue, attention remains on how state and central authorities respond to the concerns raised. The issue touches on core democratic values, including equal treatment and the rule of law, especially in a country as linguistically and culturally diverse as India.