



UNITED CHRISTIAN FORUM

UCF toll-free helpline number: 1-800-208-4545 was launched on 19th January 2015 with the aim of upholding fundamental freedom and promotion of values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity of India. The helpline helps people in distress, especially those who are not aware of the law of the land and the system by guiding them how to reach out to the public authorities and by providing the way to legal remedies.

To: The Editor

New Delhi – 26 November 2022

For Immediate Release

VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIAN CHRISTIANS AT ALL-TIME HIGH 2022 SEES HIGHEST SPIKE IN NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

As the year approaches Christmas, Christians in India continue to bear the onslaught of targeted violence for their faith. As per the records of UCF toll-free helpline number 1800-208-4545, there is a higher growth in terms of year-on-year increase in violence as against 505 incidents of violence against Christians in 2021 to 511 in 2022 till 21st November.

	No. of Incidents				
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Jan	42	37	26	31	24
Feb	36	21	25	24	20
Mar	35	27	27	25	22
Apr	40	27	9	35	17
May	61	15	17	20	24
Jun	38	27	17	23	12
Jul	55	33	19	29	22
Aug	54	50	32	31	14
Sep	64	70	26	29	35
Oct	59	77	29	29	27
Nov	27	57	24	30	37
Dec		64	28	22	38
Total	511	505	279	328	292

It's not just year-on-year growth, but even month-on-month the violence perpetrators have bettered their own targeted objectives of harassing ordinary peace loving citizens:

From 24 in January 2018 to 42 in January 2022;

From 20 in February 2018 to 36 in February 2022;

From 22 in March 2018 to 35 in 2022;

From 17 in April 2018 to 40 in April 2022;

From 24 in May 2018 to 61 in May 2022;

From 12 in June 2018 to 38 in June 2022;

From 22 in July 2018 to 55 in July 2022;

From 14 in August 2018 to 54 in July 2022;

From 35 in September 2018 to 64 in September in 2022;

From 27 in October 2018 to 59 in October 2022;

From 37 in full month of November 2018 to 27 incidents in 21 days of November 2022 ... and December 2022 is yet begin.

We continue to pray for peace and the safety of all citizens of India.

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Two North Indian states seem to be competing for this dubious honour of targeted violence against the Christian community. Uttar Pradesh has kept its year-on-year record intact with over 100 incidents per year from 105 incidents in 2018 to 149 incidents in 2022. Surprisingly, under the rule of a so-called secular party, Chhattisgarh has seen a sharp rise from 25 incidents in 2018 to 115 incidents till 21st of November 2022. Clearly, these states are becoming more dangerous to practice one's faith, especially for Christians. This also means that the state authorities are failing to protect the fundamental rights of all its citizens equally.

Looking at the southern states, Karnataka: from 8 incidents in 2018 to 30 incidents till 21st of November 2022 and Tamil Nadu: 48 incidents in 2018 to 30 incidents till 21st November 2022 also witness a rise in violent hate crimes against the peace-loving Christian community

In almost all incidents reported across India, vigilante mobs comprising religious extremists have been seen to either barge into a prayer gathering or round up individuals that they believe are involved in forcible religious conversions. With impunity, such mobs criminally threaten and/or physically assault people in prayer, before handing them over to the police on allegations of forcible conversions. Often communal sloganeering is witnessed outside police stations, where the police stand as mute spectators.

		No. of incidents				
S. No.	State	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
1	Andhra Pradesh	6	9	8	19	5
2	Assam	2	1	0	0	2
3	Bihar	24	30	11	7	10
4	Chhattisgarh	115	91	66	37	25
5	Delhi	2	7	2	7	1
6	Goa	1	1	1	1	1
7	Gujarat	9	8	0	6	2
8	Haryana	14	18	8	8	4
9	Himachal Pradesh	4	3	2	3	3
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1	2	0	3	2
11	Jharkhand	48	46	28	23	23
12	Karnataka	30	62	16	27	8
13	Madhya Pradesh	22	39	19	6	7
14	Maharashtra	6	17	9	15	5
15	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	0
16	Odisha	10	20	8	6	5
17	Punjab	15	10	4	2	4
18	Rajasthan	5	2	0	3	3
19	Tamil Nadu	30	21	17	56	48
20	Telangana	4	3	6	18	19
21	Tripura	1	0	0	1	0
22	Uttar Pradesh	149	105	71	73	105
23	Uttarakhand	8	8	1	0	5
24	West Bengal	4	2	1	2	2
25	Pondicherry	0	0	1	2	2
26	Chandigarh	0	0	0	1	0
27	Kerala	0	0	0	2	1
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Year	No. of Incidents
2014	148
2015	183
2016	216
2017	248
2018	292
2019	328
2020	279
2021	505
2022	511 (till 21 st Nov.)

As per the reports recorded on UCF helpline the incidents of violence against Christians have been increasing sharply and steadily since 2014: 148 incidents in 2014, 183 in 2015, 216 in 2016, 248 in 2017, 292 in 2018, 328 in 2019, 279 in 2020 (*perhaps the COVID pandemic gave some relief to Indian Christians*), 505 in 2021 and 511 incidents as on 21st November 2022.

Sadly, this violence against the Christian community is compounded by the failure of the police to investigate and prosecute mobs and perpetrators. This is despite a slew of directions to the government from the Supreme Court of India led by then CJI Dipak Misra to stop such horrendous acts of mobocracy.

“The growing incidence of violence against religious minorities is an unhappy situation which defies our Prime Minister Modi’s electoral assurance in 2013-14 and subsequently of “*Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*”. Our Prime Minister gave this country a vision which gets eroded every time such an incident takes place. We earnestly pray for the peace and understanding that India is so proud of even as we celebrate our unity in our diversity”, said Dr Michael Williams, President of United Christian Forum.

There are 79 FIRs lodged against Pastors on false allegations of conversions under the Freedom of Religion Act in six states of India wherein such laws exist. Several members of the community are in jail, where bail has been repeatedly denied. Those getting bail find themselves still incarcerated due to bureaucratic delays in processing their release.

The fact of the matter is census after census has shown that the Christian population remains at 2.3 percent of India’s population of 136.64Crore (2019). UCF requests the Central and State governments to investigate these incidents and provide protection to all citizens. We hope and pray for a peaceful and harmonious Christmas 2022.

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