

EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF INDIA

PERSECUTION WATCH

YEARLY REPORT



2012

INTRODUCTION

The attraction of Jesus Christ continues to draw people who witness to the gospel of reconciliation even in the face of hostility. The followers of Jesus Christ work for justice in the midst of injustice, for truthfulness in middle of deception and for peace in the centre of violent society.

- Rev. Dr. Richard Howell, General Secretary, EFI

The Evangelical Fellowship of India is deeply concerned at the uninterrupted and increasing hostility against the Christian minority community in the country. EFI recorded 131 instances of violence against the Christians in 2012 which were marked by intimidation, harassment, false accusation, arrests and jailed, church being locked up and physical attacks.

The southern state of Karnataka once again recorded the most number of attacks against the community with 37 instances of violence and hostility. The central Indian state of Chhattisgarh saw an increase number of 21 instances of violence and with 18 incidents the state of Madhya Pradesh has the third highest rates of attacks.

Though there has been a marginal decrease in the number of incidents, down from 140 in the year 2011, the trends in the violence look similar to last year. The state of Karnataka also saw a slight decrease in the number of incidents going down from 49 to 37. However, as many incidents go unreported and therefore undocumented, this dip may not necessarily mean that the number of incidents has reduced.

The incidents like previous years ranged from accusations of “forcible conversion” to desecration of churches to violent attacks against individual Christians. In most of the instances, Hindutva activists led mobs to disrupt Christian worship services and manhandled, physically and verbally abused the congregation, including women and children. Yet, in spite of leading the attacks, mostly complaints were registered by the mobs against the Christians for engaging in “forcible conversion.” The police often detained the Christians at the behest of the mobs.

Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act

In a significant move towards religious freedom, the Himachal Pradesh High Court held that section 4 of the Freedom of Religion Act, 2006 and Rules 3 and 5 of the corresponding Rules as unconstitutional in a petition filed by the Evangelical Fellowship of India and ANHAD.

The concerned section and rules pertained to a converttee being obligated under the Act to give prior notice of a religious conversion and being subjected to a mandatory state inquiry.

Though the court however, upheld all other provisions of the Act and Rules as legal and valid, relying on an earlier judgement of the Supreme Court, the court recognised that those who would like to voluntarily convert their religious belief, should be able to do so without any state or government interference.

Recognising that such state intrusion is violative of the fundamental right of privacy safeguarded under the right to life in the constitution, the court held that “A person's belief or religion is something very personal to him. The State has no right to ask a person to disclose what is his personal belief. The only justification given is that public order requires that notice be given. We are of the considered view that in case of a person changing his religion and notice being issued to the so called prejudicially affected parties, chances of the converttee being subjected to physical and psychological torture cannot be ruled out. The remedy proposed by the State may prove to be more harmful than the problem.”

The full judgement is available at <http://hphighcourt.nic.in/inetjudord/judgements/CWP4382011.pdf>

Constitutional challenge to 1950 Presidential Order

Other issues of concern remained that despite a petition filed in 2004 before the Supreme Court of India seeking the inclusion of Muslim and Christian Dalits in the SC / ST reservation list, the central government is yet to file its reply to the Supreme Court. The petition challenged the constitutionality of The Presidential Order of 1950, “Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950” whereby only certain castes belonging to the Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh communities are recognized as the Scheduled Castes, there were no hearings in the matter. ¹

Universal Period Review of India

India was reviewed for the second time by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the Human Rights Council on 24 May 2012. Commenting on the situation of religious minorities in India, seven countries (USA, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Iran and the Holy See) recommended that India take appropriate action to ensure the protection of religious minorities in the country including the specific recommendations for the repeal of the anti conversion laws. (Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Austria and the Holy See) and the enactment of a law to prevent communal violence. (Germany)

However, India’s response to the recommendations was far from adequate with the delegation making merely cursory remarks on the violence against religious minorities. The full report of the UPR is available at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session21/A-HRC-21-10_en.pdf

It is also a blot on the country’s secular credentials that the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom 2012 Annual Report again places India on its Watch List.

¹ The third paragraph of the order however qualifies that “notwithstanding anything contained in para 2, no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of the Scheduled Castes.” Subsequent amendments to the 1950 Presidential Order in 1956 and 1990 provided for the inclusion of Sikhs and Buddhists respectively within the Scheduled Caste category to avail the benefits of reservation. Though this order was amended in later years to include the Dalits of Sikh and Neo-Buddhist religions, the Christian and Muslim Dalits are not included as Scheduled Castes

Recommendations:

1. EFI calls upon the Government of India
 - a. To honour Justice Rangnath Misra Commission Report and implement the recommendation to grant constitutional benefits to Dalit Christians and Muslims.
 - b. Enact the Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011, after due consideration to the concerns raised by civil society.
2. EFI calls upon the state governments
 - a. To repeal the Freedom of Religion Act enacted in the states of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa and Arunachal Pradesh and to ensure the protection of religious minority communities in the respective states.
 - b. Withdraw false and malicious cases registered against Christians in the state and direct the police to investigate the motive and locus of the complainant before registering any complaint against Sections 153, 295 and 295A of the Indian Penal Code.

Report prepared by:

Evangelical Fellowship of India

The Evangelical Fellowship of India is a national alliance of churches and Christian non-profit organisations. It represents the interests of over 35,000 churches across India and is a voice to the governments and media. Established in 1951, EFI is a charter member of the World Evangelical Alliance, a non-profit organisation with special consultative status with the United Nation.

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INDIA

Persecution Statistics 2012



Karnataka- 37
Chhattisgarh-21
Madhya Pradesh- 18
Andhra Pradesh-13
Tamil Nadu-11
Assam- 5
Maharashtra-5
Jammu & Kashmir -3
Orissa-3
West Bengal-3
Uttar Pradesh-3
Himachal Pradesh-2

Delhi-2
Jharkhand-1
Chandigarh-1
Haryana-1
Pondicherry-1
Rajasthan-1

LIST OF INCIDENTS RECORDED IN:

KARNATAKA

1 January– In Humnoor, Bagalkot, alleged Hindu extremists attacked a New Year’s prayer service and accused Pastor Siddu Seemanth from Blessing Youth Mission Church of forceful conversion.

1 January – In North Kanara, about a dozen alleged Hindu extremists forced their way into a New Year’s Eve prayer service, ordered Christians to stop the prayer and beat them.

9 January – In Anekal, Bangalore, alleged armed Hindu extremists beat Christians at a prayer service seriously injuring Pastor Shanthakumar and others and accused them of forceful conversion. The Christians received hospital treatment. No arrests have been made.

23 January – In Bijjahalli, Haliyal, Karwar, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Kalappa Chandrakanth Chavan along with 20 other believers of New Life Fellowship Church as he was conducting a prayer meeting.

2 February – In Uttara Kannada, police along with alleged Hindu extremists searched the home of Pastor Kiran Thippana Das, took tracts and Bibles and filed a complaint against him of forceful conversion.

3 March -In Vijayanagar, Bangalore, alleged Hindu extremists accused Christians of forceful conversion and ordered them to halt a prayer meeting led by two women identified only as Parimala and Padmavathi of Mahima Prarthana Mandira. Police officers forced the two to give in writing that they wouldn’t visit houses and distribute tracts, and that they would not lead prayer vigils.

4 March – In Ankola, Uttar Kannada police arrested Pastor K. Monohar of New Life Church after alleged Hindu extremists disrupted a worship service, beat him and other church members and accused them of forceful conversion.

28 March - In Gadag, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Mallikarjun and four church members as they were distributing gospel tracts and filed a complaint against them alleging that they were forcibly trying to convert Hindus into Christianity.

8 April – In Mangalore, a police inspector beat a pastor on Easter morning, alleging forceful conversion, beat him and warned him to vacate his rented house or face harm. After the intervention of area Christian leaders, the inspector apologized to the pastor, who remained in his home.

26 April - In Yekahanka New town, Bangalore, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Prakash from the living Hope Church as he was leading a prayer meeting ,accused him of forceful conversion and dragged him to the Yelahanka New Town police station. After the intervention of the area leaders, the pastor was released without any charges.

28 May- In Vyasmallapura Thanda, Bellary District, alleged Hindu extremists led by Umesh Naik broke the house of Davendra Naik, beat him, his mother, sister and father and forcefully brought them to Sevalal temple.

22 June- In Belthadi Thanda, Gadag, police arrested 14 Christians after Hindu extremists entered into

the prayer meeting, beat up Pastor Pandu Naik and believers from the Gypsy Church. On 24, the Christians were arrested under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code but they were released on bail the same day.

18 June – In Muddebehal, a policeman identified only as Pawar levelled charges of forceful conversion against Pastor Manjappa Byadai of Salvation Gospel Church. The pastor and his wife were forced to go to the police station and later ordered to close down the church service and to immediately leave the place.

21 June — In Hubli, Durgadabali police arrested three Christians from the Indian Church of Christ on charges of “abetment of a thing” in Hubli, after Hindu extremists verbally abused them and seized tracts from them.

1 July - In Vijayapura, Chitradurga, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the church and forced Pastor Kantharaj Hanumanthappa and the believers to stop the service, alleging that they are involved in forceful conversion.

6 July - In Ramagundahally, Channagiri, Davanagere, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the prayer meeting, verbally abused the Christians, beat them up claiming that 'the Church was involved in fraudulent and forceful conversion.' They also tore all the Bibles and gospel tracts lying in the Church and then phoned the Basappakatte police station. The police immediately came to the spot and took Pastor Mounesh to the Police station.

15 July - In Sainagar, Hubli, police arrested Pastor Nathaniel Shubas after Hindu extremists attacked a prayer meeting, dragged the pastor to the Vidyanagara police station alleging that he was involved in forceful conversion.

22 July - In Muddebehal, Bijapur, alleged Hindu extremists disturb Sunday worship, tear up Bibles and beat up Pastor Manjappa Byadgi, also setting up one person to bear a false witness as one whom the Christians had bribed and forced to become a Christian, allegedly paying him a huge amount of money. The police warned the Christians not to conduct their worship services in that church henceforward.

22 July - In Belthadi Gadag, alleged Hindu extremists stopped a prayer meeting, verbally abused the Christians, beat them up accusing them of forceful conversion.

22 July - In Muddebehal, Hindu extremists forcefully entered into the Sunday worship, beat up Pastor Manjappa Byadgi, tore up all the Bibles and Christian tracts lying in the church.

22 July - In Belthadi, Gadag, Hindu extremists forcefully entered a prayer meeting organized by Pastor Pandu Naik, accused him of forceful conversion, beat him up and other Christians.

5 August – In Gopi Shetty Koppa, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the prayer meeting of Gypsy Mission Church, falsely accused Pastor Ventakesh Naik of luring people to convert to Christianity, beat him up and tore his shirt.

20 August - In Beladhadi Thanda, alleged Hindu extremists beat up Christians from Gypsy church which resulted in four being admitted in a hospital.

5 September - In Sagar, Shimoga, Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Damodara and accused him of forceful conversion.

14 September - In Virajpet, Coorg, Hindu extremists ordered a Christian family to leave the village if they do not denounce Christ.

18 September - In Kelaginahatti, a mob of about 50 Hindu extremists' attack a prayer meeting held for HIV+ and the blind people and accused Pastor Raju of forceful conversion.

23 September - Hindu extremist ordered Pastor Munraju to discontinue Sunday Worship, physically assaulted him and forced him and his wife to walk for about a kilometer to the nearest temple and forced them to participate in a Hindu ritual.

24 September - In Bhadravathi, Shimoga, Hindu extremists forced Pastor Kumar Hanumantappa and members from Bethel Prarthanalaya to renounce their faith in Christ after they beat them up, burned Bibles and other Christian literature.

26 September - In Kattomalavadi, Hunsur, Mysore, four police constables allegedly set up by the Hindu extremists Bajrang Dal stopped the prayer meeting and questioned Pastor Venkatesh about his license to run a church.

1 October - In Sampigeahally, Anekal, Bangalore, Police ordered the manager of the Christian' Child Development Centre after Hindu extremists accused the centre of forceful conversion.

11 October - In Kannur, Kolar district Hindu extremists beat Pastor Samuel Kim unconscious after they accused him of forceful conversion.

21 October - In Coorg, Kulshanagar, Hindu extremists accused Pastor Abraham Koshy of forceful conversion and threatened to harm him if he continued to hold worship service on the next Sunday.

27 October - In Davanagere, police detained six Christians after armed Hindu extremists mounted an attack against a three day Christian fasting prayer meeting which resulted in the hospitalization of five Christians.

29 October - In Chikkamatti, Shimoga, police arrested two Christians identified only as Santosh and Naveen after Hindu extremists attacked Christians with wooden sticks and clubs injuring 9 Christians with two ending up in hospital.

12 November - In Coorg, Hindu extremists on 12 November beat up Pastor Abraham Koshy from the Indian Pentecostal Church, burned up Bibles and damaged the church door and windows.

20 November - In Chippagiri, Yellapura Taluk, Hindu extremists demolished Blessing Youth Mission Church.

23 November - In Kammadahalli, Hindu extremists accused Pastor Girish of forceful conversion, disrupted the dedication of a new prayer hall and forcefully installed Hindu idol inside the hall.

CHHATTISGARH

1 January - In Dudhawa village, Dhamtari district, alleged Hindu extremists forcefully entered Masihi Bhavan Church and disrupted the service. They pushed the congregation members out of the church and placed the pictures of Hindu deities inside the church building and locked it up.

19 January - In Polmi, Navapara, state police arrested, verbally abused and slapped Christians after Hindu extremists disrupted a worship service conducted by Pastor Victor Menon.

31 January - In Korba, alleged Hindu extremists accused Nirmala Convent School of forceful conversion, entered the school raising slogans and disrupted the inauguration ceremony after the school authorities questioned one student found carrying an idol of 'Saraswati' to perform 'pooja' in the class. The police officer ordered the principal to conduct the pooja. When she refused, a Hindu teacher was told to conduct the pooja. Thereafter a local cable TV channel for the next 48 hours telecast false news that the convent school desecrated the Hindu goddesses.

31 January - In Indira Nagar, Dongargarh, alleged Hindu extremists disrupted a gospel film screening, destroyed equipments and beat Pastor Pastor Rajendra Masih of Believer's Church and accused him of forceful conversion.

1 February - In Jorapara, Raipur, alleged Hindu extremists filed a false complaint against Pastor Harish Sahu and Mahendra Baghel from New Life Fellowship accusing them of false conversions. The believers were sent to the central jail, Raipur and were later released.

2 February - In Indira Nagar, Dongargarh Tehsil, alleged armed Hindu extremists attacked a gospel movie screening and accused Pastor Rajendra Masih from Gospel for Asia of forceful conversion, destroyed DVD Player and the speaker.

15 February - In Pandhi, near Bilaspur, alleged Hindu extremists attacked a prayer service organized by Bersheba church. Some Christians sustained severe injuries.

20 April - In Belgal, Kanker, alleged Hindu extremists attacked mourners and beat up Pastor Dhaniram Nag, his wife and the believers including children, women and the aged. About 10 believers got injured and received treatment.

13 May - In Kurud, Dhamtri, about 50 alleged Hindu extremists barged into the Sunday worship meeting conducted by Pastor Varghese Chako in Edwin Paul's house. They verbally abused, beat up the worshippers and damaged Paul's car. An FIR was on the other hand registered against Edwin Paul and his son Rakesh Paul.

19 May - In Patinaikras, alleged Hindu extremists attacked the Christians who were on their way to bury Dudhi Mandavi(45).They did not allow the burial in the village or nearby, demanding that it be exhumed. Some Christians sustained serious injuries due to the attacks.

3 June - In Beltokri, Gariyaband, alleged Hindu extremists disrupted the Sunday worship service conducted by Pastor Ankush Bariyekar in the house of Santosh Sahu. They verbally abused the worshippers and beat them up injuring the pastor and Ram Sahu.

6 June - In Bachel, Dakshin Bastar, alleged armed anti-Christian elements stormed a funeral service of Soni (19) daughter of Pastor Shankarlal Karma and beat the Christians. Nine were admitted in the hospital.

19 June - In Jawanga, Dakshin Bastar, alleged Hindu extremists summoned believers and took them to Pendevi Temple, forced them to worship tribal and Hindu deities and to participate in the rituals and beat them up. Christians were expelled from the village.

22 July - In Raipur, alleged Hindu extremists disrupted a prayer meeting and accused Pastor Kamlesh of proselytization, desecrating idols and defaming and blaspheming their gods and goddesses. They

ordered the Christians to chant Hindu hymns, further threatening the women that they will not hesitate to violate them if they continue to follow Jesus Christ..

30 August - In Pendridih, Mungeli, a dead body of Pastor Daniel Das (85) was exhumed after the Hindu extremists protested his burial, verbally abused the Christians and threatened to harm them.

2 September - In Bhanpuri, Balod, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Christians and chased them out from the village for their faith in Christ.

16 September - In Durgapur, Balrampur, alleged Hindu extremists disrupted a prayer meeting and accused Pastor Kapil Kerketta of forceful conversion.

12 October - In Pendra, Bilaspur, police arrested Rev Satish George from Bethel Full Gospel Church on 12 Oct under Sections 3 & 4 of the Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religion Act after he was accused of enticement.

17 October - In Sakti town, Jangir Champa, anti-Christian elements harassed Pastor Dinesh Malhotra, accused him of forceful conversion and told him to vacate his rented house.

30 November - In Machewa village, Mahasamund, Hindu extremists attack four Christians, accused them of forceful conversion and of arranging inter caste marriage for the three newly converted girls from the Sahu community.

9 December - In Tarra, Thana Rajim, Gariyaband, police registered a case against three Christians after Hindu extremists barged into the prayer meeting and accused them of forceful conversion and beat them up.

MADHYA PRADESH

18 January - In Terra Gowndi, Dhamtari, alleged Hindu extremists ostracized a Christian convert, Om Prakash Sahu and pressured him to leave the village, if he did not renounce Christ, and they also threatened his parents with harm if they did not bring him back to Hinduism.

19 January - In Modi, Thana Antagar, Kanker, alleged Hindu extremists stopped a Christian woman from joining her new job because of her faith in Christ. The Christians submitted a letter of complaint to the Sarpanch on February 18 but to no avail.

26 January - In Sabarmati, Dharamnagar, Hindu extremists used a bulldozer to destroy tombs in a Christian cemetery.

13 February - In Dudhada Chowki Thana, the parents of Mingaro Bhai along with community members, chased her from her home and village because she refused to renounce Christ.

28 February - In Tuthuly, Kanker, Dasrath Mandari forced his wife, Satwanti Mandari to leave home and their village after alleged Hindu extremists threatened him that they would ostracize the whole family if his wife continued to believe in Christ.

11 March - In Mutlai, Betul, police arrested a pastor and a believer after Hindu extremists disrupted the Sunday worship and accused Pastor Motilal Gujare of forceful conversion. The pastor and one believer Prakash Masih were arrested.

15 March - In Jabalpur, police detained eight Korean Christians after Hindu extremists filed a complaint against them of luring people to convert to Christianity. After police investigated the matter, the Christians were released without any charges.

24 March - In Chinchgaon, police arrested four Christians after alleged Hindu extremists barged into the house church meeting conducted by Pastor Harichand Varti, verbally abused and manhandled the participants and ordered them to stop the worship meeting.

21 June - In Pati, Bhalwani, police took hold of two Christians, Pastor Arjun and a local church member Rakesh while they were leading a prayer meeting and took the duo into custody without giving any reason.

27 July - In Dhanpuri, Shahdol, Police warned pastors not to indulge in forceful conversion or force anyone to attend prayer meetings after a mob of alleged Hindu extremists forcefully entered into a gospel meeting and accused them of forceful conversion.

8 August - In Satna, a group of anti-Christian people severely beat Bro Stephen and forced him to declare the name of a Hindu god.

7 September - In Birmalwal, Ratlam, police arrested Pastor John Pargy after Hindu extremists harassed him and stopped him from distributing gospel tracts.

12 September- In Kithoda, Gwalior, Hindu extremists threatened to shoot Pastor Giri Babu with a gun if he continues to worship Christ in the area.

28 September - In Gurra, Shahdol, alleged Hindu extremists disrupted a worship service and accused Pastor Bhimsen Prajapati and Evangelist Kushal Singh Armo of conversion by fraudulent means and threatened to harm them.

20 October - In Badh Tehsil, Dhar, police arrested Pastor Sigarjamre after the Hindu extremists beat him up and accused him of forceful conversion.

7 November - In Ujjain, police arrested Pastor R.K Badodiya after Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal shouting anti-Christians slogans barged into a prayer meeting, beat up the Christians and accused Pastor Badodiya of forceful conversion.

25 November - In Chindwada, alleged Hindu extremists beat up Pastor(s) Rajkumar and Nanaswor and accused them of forceful conversion.

30 November - In Boothpada, Ratlam, Hindu extremists beat up Pastor(s) Govind Meida and Sharad Pargi, seriously injuring the latter.

ANDHRA PRADESH

17 January – In Yadagirgutta, Nalgonda, alleged Hindu extremists attacked and accused Pastor Kiran of forceful conversion as he and the church members went to visit one Christian's home.

12 February – In Sutari Gudem village, near Medchal, alleged Hindu extremists threatened a church during a worship service.

12 April - In Kakinada, East Godavari, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the house of Pastor Ratnababu and pounced on his son Madhu, sprinkled chilli powder in his eyes and slashed his body. They also beat up the pastor and his wife.

16 April - In Dharmapuri, Pastor Ahron along with one church member were distributing pocket calendars when alleged Hindu extremists started verbally abusing them and accused them of forceful conversion. They took them to the Police station and filed a complaint on the basis of G.O 746 and G.O747.

19 April – In Mahadevapura, alleged Hindu extremists staged a protest in front of Hebron Church demanding action against Pastor Victor Babu for alleged attempts to forcibly convert school children. Police inspected the church premises and illegally confiscated Vacation Bible School materials, including hymnbooks.

22 April – In Saroornagar, Hyderabad, alleged Hindu extremists stopped a Sunday Worship conducted by Pastor Sreekanth alleging that the church is built illegally and harassed the pastor though he produced the necessary documents for the construction.

24 May - In Shelanagar, Vizag, unidentified miscreants completely burned down the "Sevonu Praethana Mandhiram Church". The fire also damaged the power supply line of the adjacent orphanage. Local Christians said that two weeks before the incident took place, a group of people led by Narendra Babu threatened the Christians and put a fence around the church to forcibly claim over the land.

6 August - In L.B Nagar, Hyderabad, Hindu extremists disturbed a Sunday worship service of Emmanuel Mandiram after they accused the Church of being a nuisance and menacing center and of causing disturbance in the neighborhood.

27 September - In Sarroornagar, Hyderabad, Hindu extremists banged the church doors and windows of Penuelu Prarthana Mandira with lathis and damaged the premises with firecrackers.

13 October - In Suranam, Hindu extremists disrupted a prayer meeting conducted by Pastor Jeremiah.

1 November - In Pitlam, Nizamabad, Hindu extremists accused Evangelist Elish of forceful conversion while he was distributing gospel tracts.

27 November - In Huzurabad, Karimnagar, police remand Pastor Abraham, after Hindu extremists falsely accused him of 'rape, while he was distributing gospel tracts.

18 December - In Premnagar, Narayanaguda, Hyderabad, Police men beat up a group of Christians belonging to Baptist Church, who were having Christmas carols.

TAMIL NADU

21 February - In Kanhagad, Kasargod, alleged Hindu extremists in Kanhagad, Kasargod verbally abused Pastor Titus Ignatius Kapan and his children and damaged his car because of their faith in Christ.

2 April - In Akkarapettai, Nagapattinam, anti-Christian group tore up Bibles and gospel literature in the homes of children attending Scriptures Union's Centre and asked one Christian family to vacate the house after they admitted they believe in Christ. The anti-Christian group have also locked 12 Christian houses for three days.

11 April - In Emapur, Villupuram, alleged Hindu extremists led by Balaji beat up Pastor Caleb when he was on his way to preach the gospel. They further pressurized the pastor's landlord to vacate the room as the Christians have been conducting the worship service in the house.

12 April - In Dalmiya Puram, Trichy, an intruder disrupted a prayer meeting led by Pastor Y.S. John of the Indian Pentecostal Church and stabbed a Christian, John Britto who tried to calm the intruder and severely injured him.

21 April - In Paganeri, alleged Hindu extremists beat Christians, burned their Bibles and tracts, seized their vehicle key and destroyed their megaphone.

30 April - In Banglawmedu, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the VBS class conducted by Pastor V. Neethirajan from the church of God Ministry, manhandled them and ordered them to stop the VBS immediately. The Bible School was cancelled.

20 June - In Kesavan, Puthur, alleged Kanyakumari, Hindu extremists barged into Bethel Prayer House, beat up the worshippers, destroyed furnitures and equipments. Pastor David and Assistant Pastor Babu were hospitalised for five days in Thakkli Government hospital.

23 June - In Vanagiri Sirkali, Nagapattinam, alleged armed Hindu extremists burnt and plundered four buildings of the Christians. 15 people were injured, including two in critical condition.

26 July - In Midiakia, Baliguda, Kanhhmal, miscreants desecrated a Christian cemetery. The cross on each of the grave has been removed.

5 August - In Marthandam, Kanyakumari, Hindu extremists beat Pastor Robinson Thankamani as he was going to his church to conduct a prayer meeting.

26 August - In Nadaikavu, Kanyakumari, alleged Hindu extremists killed a Christian, Edwin Raj, 35 years old, after barging into the worship meeting of Church of South India (CSI).

ASSAM

22 May – In Tulsibari village, Kamrup district, alleged Hindu extremists dragged the Christians out of their homes to a public meeting and threatened to expel them from their homes – or kill them – if they did not leave Christianity and beat two Christians, including an unidentified widow, and tried to force them to sign a blank paper with pledges that would supposedly reconvert them back to Hinduism.

23 May - In Loharghat, alleged Hindu extremists dragged Christians from their homes and took them to their office quarters, where they verbally abused and slapped them and threatened greater harm if they did not renounce Christ.

9 June - In Deopani, South Kamrup, alleged armed Hindu extremists attacked Christians Michael Rabha, Prashanto Rabha and Mala Rabha and tried to forcibly reconvert them to Hinduism in Deopani village. The three Christians were hospitalised with serious injuries.

8 June - In Narayanpur village, South Kamrup, alleged Hindu extremists beat Bharat Rabha, Srimanto Rabha, Batiram Rabha, Matiram Rabha, Jyotish Rabha and Rubul Rabha on the street after dragging them from their homes. The frightened Christians were told to renounce Christianity and to forget about Jesus.

6 June - In Deopani village, Kamrup, alleged Hindu extremists demolished three houses belonging to Christians, as well as a place of worship and threw Bhageswarn Rabha, Rana Rabha and Motiram Rabha out of their homes and destroyed the structures. The extremists also cut down their vegetation and looted their grains, cattle and poultry. The Christians fled the area in fear.

MAHARASTRA

16 June - In Yavatmal, Ankur English Medium School stopped functioning after 20 people forcefully entered and beat up the staff. The Christians alleged that a former member of parliament, Jambuwanttrao Dhote, instigated the attackers by accusing the NGO of converting Pardhi children to Christianity.

15 July - In Thavalpada, Mokhada Taluka, a mob assaulted about 50 Christians who were worshipping Christ.

26 Oct - In Malvan Sindhugurh, police arrested 13 Christians after Hindu extremists shouting anti-Christian slogans barged into a prayer meeting, beat them up and filed a case against them of forceful conversion.

2 Dec - In Malvan, Sindhugurh, a mob of about 200 Hindu extremists locked the door of a hall where New Life Fellowship church was meeting.

30 Dec – In Tamsai, Thane, Hindu extremists attacked Christians because they refused to honor a tribal deity which resulted in many Christians to flee their homes

JAMMU & KASHMIR

19 January - The court, which has no legal authority, found the Rev. Chander Mani Khanna, pastor of All Saints Church in Srinagar, Dutch Catholic missionary Jim Borst and Christian worker Gayoor Messaih guilty of “luring the valley Muslims to Christianity.” The three had left the region apparently due to rising tensions.

17 April - In Bandipora town, police arrested Rev.Mafford Maharaj Singh,his wife,Kusum Singh and a local girl Sammena Bano after alleged Hindu extremists attacked them and alleged that the Christians were sharing their faith and distributed some pamphlets in Urdu.

23 May - In Jammu & Kashmir, while the guard was away some unidentified miscreants threw petrol and burned a 119 year old Catholic Church, the Holy Family Church.

ORISSA

25 January - In Adigar, Phulbani, Kandhamal district , alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Patiba Mohan Kota, harassed his family and shouted “You Christians must not live here – it is not your land; the last time your houses were only damaged, this time all of you will be buried here.” Pradhan was booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

15 June - In Mitrapur, Makhapada,Balasore, alleged armed Hindu extremists attacked an evangelist Baidhar while he was returning home from a prayer meeting, seriously wounding him. Baidhar was bleeding heavily when rescued by the Christians and he was taken to a nearby hospital. When the radicals learned that the evangelist had been rescued, about 50 Hindu extremists mounted an attack on 12 Christian families, seriously injuring about 20 of them.

2 October - In In Kanthapada, Balasore, a group of Hindu extremists broke into a middle of a baptism service, beat Pastor Jayaram Marandi and the believers on 2 October accusing them of forceful conversion.

WEST BENGAL

9 March - In Nutangram, Murshidabad, Islamic extremists drove 22-year-old Rekha Khatoon out of her village because she dared to give thanks for healing in Christ’s name and her parents helped the Islamists to beat her nearly unconscious.

15 March - In Asansol, Branpur, police arrested seven Christians after anti-Christians elements attacked them as they opposed to their activities.

30 March - In Nutangram, Mursidabad, alleged Muslim radicals forcefully entered into the prayer meeting and beat up Christians including women, chased the Christians including children with knives, threatening to murder them all.

UTTAR PRADESH

7 April - In Maharajganj, alleged armed Hindu extremists disrupted a spiritual meeting conducted by Maharajganj Baptist Church, accused them of forceful conversion, beat them up and injured Pastor Ram Chander, Vish Prasad and his wife Ambika and some believers. The Police arrested four attackers but they were released on the same day without any charges.

24 March - In Chadidha, Rampur police along with alleged Hindu extremists disrupted the Yesu Mahatsava Convention after the extremists filed a complaint of forceful conversion against the organizers and accused the Christian workers of converting people by enticing them with money.

30 Sept - In Ambednagar, police arrested Pastor Pannalal and 10 other Christians from Philadelphia Church after Hindu extremists disrupted a prayer service, beat them up and falsely accused them of stealing.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

15 March - In Mandi, alleged Hindu extremists attacked the gospel movie screening of Pastor Sunny Eapan and two Christians from the True Friends Ministry in a college and filed a police complaint against them of forceful conversion, of luring people to convert to Christianity by offering monetary benefits, of making derogative remarks against Hinduism.

24 May - In Ghumarwin, alleged Hindu extremists stormed the prayer meeting conducted by Pastor Jai Masih Topno from the AGAPE Ministry, verbally abused the Christians and physically attack a Church member, ordered the pastor to vacate his house within two days and confiscated his ministry identity card.

DELHI

12 March - In Kalkaji, New Delhi, alleged Hindu extremists attacked a prayer meeting conducted by Jagdish Dey from the Apostolic Faith Church in the heart of the national and threatened Christians of dire consequences if they continued prayer meetings in future. They accused the Christians of desecrating idols and make derogative remarks about their gods and goddess. Police took in writing from Dey that he will stop conducting house prayer in future.

14 October - In Narela, armed Hindu extremists beat up Pastor Lal Mani and his family at their house. Lal Mani sustained 18 stitches on his head.

JHARKHAND

29 January - In Chaibasa district, alleged armed Hindu extremists attacked Christians, destroyed their houses, crops and slaughtered their animals. No arrests have been made.

CHANDIGARH

14 July - In Patil Dabar, alleged Hindu extremists opposing the construction of a church tore down the partially built structure and one building under construction and forcefully stopped all work.

HARYANA

14 July - Hindu extremists opposing the construction of a church tore down the partially built structure of a church under construction at Patil Dabar village and forcefully stopped all work at the site.

PONDICHERRY

30 September - Hindu extremist threatened to close down six Churches and disrupted worship service on Sunday in Karaikal.

RAJASTHAN

30 October - In Jawar, Jaipur, Hindu extremists shouting anti-Christians slogans stopped the prayer meeting of Emmanuel Church and hurled verbal abused against the Christian women.

Issued by

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