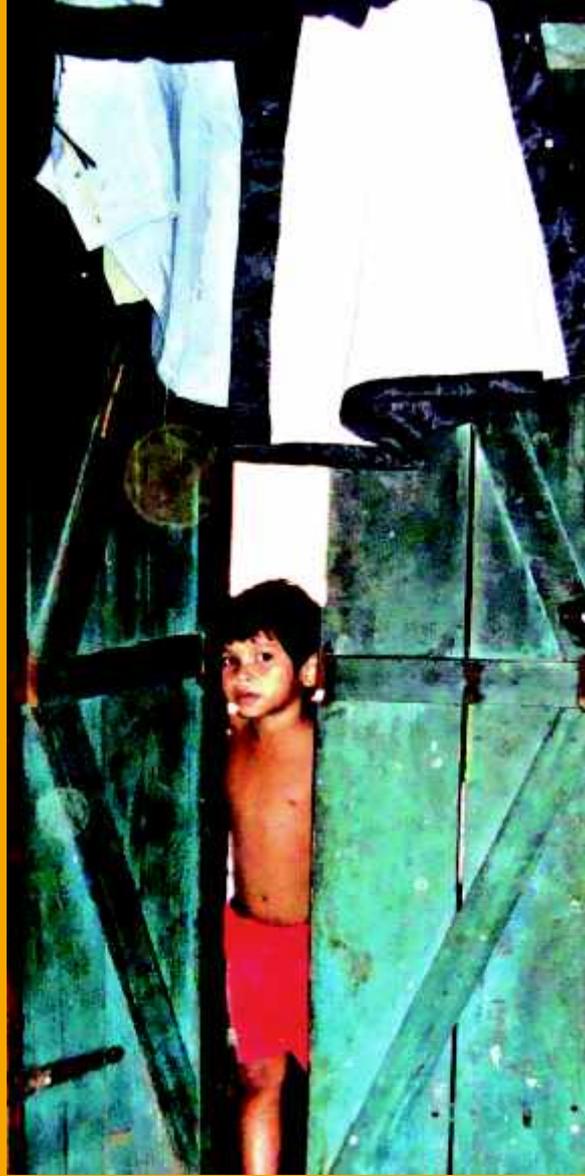


# HATE AND TARGETED VIOLENCE AGAINST **CHRISTIANS** IN INDIA



REPORT 2015



Cover picture by **Rev. Vijayesh Lal**

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*This is the challenge for every government including a majority government, even a majority government that has a 2/3rd majority in Parliament. It is—still pledged to safeguard and enhance minority rights.*

*Speech by  
**Hon'ble Shri Fali S. Nariman**  
on Occasion of National Commission for Minorities  
7th Annual Lecture on 12.09.2014.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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Religious minorities in India continue to live under the threat of physical violence, state harassment and repressive laws that severely curb Freedom of Religion and Belief though the country is a signatory to United Nations and other international declarations, covenants, and treaties on this most fundamental of human rights.

With 177 cases documented in 2015 after careful scrutiny, the Christian community which is a mere 2.3 per cent of the country's population [2011 Census], continues to be a major target of violence. The actual volume of violent persecution is not known. State agencies are reluctant to speak on this matter and governments do not keep records unless local police register formal cases under the Indian Penal and Criminal Procedure codes.

Frightening aspects of this violence is an increasing number of rapes, particularly of Catholic Nuns, and other gender violence. Recent months have seen an increasing trend to polarize the people in villages, leading to social exclusion, ostracisation and denial of employment and social services.

Topping the list are the States of Madhya Pradesh with 36 cases, and its neighbour, Chhattisgarh, 20 cases, both in Central India, and Uttar Pradesh, with 22 cases. While the Bharatiya Janata party has been in control, of the national government for 22 months only [it earlier ruled from 1998 to 2004], the party has been in control of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for three terms.

Physical violence, including assaults by mobs, beatings and torture, were the most common with 68 cases, followed by Stopping of worship in churches [18 cases] and attacks on churches [18 cases]. Arrests of pastors and their companions was a major issue with 18 cases, which does not include those who are rounded up by the police and let off after some time, and others who were in the custody of mobs for various lengths of time.

At least three cases of rape were recorded, including on Nuns.

Protests by Christian groups against persecution, especially in New Delhi have been brutally crushed. Agitators, including Nuns and other women, Clergy and professions have been cane-charged, dragged to police vans and detained in cases last year.

State impunity, political arrogance of the ruling groups in various States of the Union, and increasing complicity of local police and sometimes the media, aggravate the pressure on terrorized communities in remote villages and small towns.

In many cases, justice has been denied to those arrested on trumped-up charges – mostly pastors or their associates – and detained in police stations or their liberty curtailed in other manners.

Government organizations, including the National Commission of Minorities, have expressed their helplessness in the matter. Many government structures and functionaries, including in the State Minority and human rights organizations, are enmeshed in bureaucratic Red Tape. Most such organizations consist of political appointees reluctant to take affirmative action.

Human rights and Freedom of Faith organizations, including the Evangelical Fellowship of India, the Alliance Defending Freedom India and Christian Legal Association, have had to mobilise legal

assistance to ensure the freedom of the people, and the security of the pastors and members of churches. A National Helpline by the United Christian Forum backed by members of the EFI, ADF, CLA and others are an immediate channel of communication and assistance.

The persecution of Christians is also seen within the larger context of sustained violence and persecution of India's very large Muslim community – at more than 14 per cent of the population, the second largest in the world after Indonesia. The sustained hate campaign against Muslims by several Union Ministers and cadres of the ruling Bharatiya Janata party and its ideological group, the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh with its myriad specialised organizations known as the "Sangh Parivar", radicalizes people at all levels, and more so in rural areas. The cadres are a ready base for violence against Christians. Both Muslims and Christians have in recent months been also branded as "anti nationals", adding another layer of targeted hate.

Christians and Muslims have been named as "enemies of the nation" in the foundation documents of the RSS and the phrase is common in the public discourse in social media. Christian activists and others have been targeted and coerced on social media, some of them receiving death threats in 2015.

The persecution of Christians in India is also rooted in highly bigoted laws that have invited international scrutiny, including by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Belief of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The prime among them is Article 341 Part 3, which effectively criminalizes conversion of Indian citizens to Christianity and Islam, its punitive measures denying the country's 180 million Dalit population [once described as untouchables till the term was outlawed] all affirmative action including reservations in legislatures, government employment and institutions of higher learning.

Laws against conversions in 6 of the largest States of the Union not only rob Tribals and Dalits of their rights to Freedom of Faith, some of them have punitive measures against pastors connected with the people. Most dangerously, the anti conversion laws seem to provide a 'carte blanche', or license to non-state actors such as members of the larger "Sangh Parivar" and some other ideologically-aligned groups of the RSS but also the police and local governments to target Christians and their institutions.

The continuing and adverse government focus on National and International Civil Society and Human Rights organizations also nurtures the environment of hate against minority groups, especially the Christian community which has a large number of institutions at the grassroots in areas of health, education and the welfare of women and children. The Persecution list does not cover such laws being use against Christian not for profit and voluntary groups whose funds have been stopped, international funding curtailed or licenses cancelled. Licenses for accepting foreign donations under the Foreign Contribution regulation act are due for revalidation in 2016.



## RAPES, MOLESTATIONS, ASSAULTS AND DESECRATION MARK 2015 IN THE PERSECUTION LIST IN INDIA

Political silence State impunity, police complicity underpin targeted hate and violence'  
Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh top.

In a statement on March 17, 2015, Cardinal Mar Baselios Cleemis, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) and the National United Christian Forum, of which the Evangelical Fellowship of India is a member together with the CBCI and the National Council of Churches, said: "The cultural DNA of India of pluralism and diversity is being threatened. We are anxious about the implications of the fundamentalist political thesis that India is "one nation, one people and one culture". This, in a way, undertones the sentiment of religious minorities.

As many as 177 cases were documented in 2015 in a rigorous exercise, by the Evangelical Fellowship of India in association with many other groups such as the United Christian Forum which runs a national helpline. Topping the list are the States of Madhya Pradesh with 36 cases, and its neighbor, Chhattisgarh, 20 cases, both in Central India, and Uttar Pradesh, with 22 cases. The actual volume of violent persecution is not known. State agencies are reluctant to speak on this matter and governments do not keep records unless local police register formal cases under the Indian Penal and Criminal Procedure codes. While the Bharatiya Janata party has been in control, of the national government for 22 months only [it earlier ruled from 1998 to 2004], the party has been in control of these states for three terms.

Physical violence, including assaults by mobs, beatings and torture, were the most common with 68 cases, followed by stopping of worship in churches [18 cases] and attacks on churches [18 cases]. Arrests of pastors and their companions was a major issue with 18 cases, which does not include those who are rounded up by the police and let off after some time, and others who were in the custody of mobs for various lengths of time.

A frightening aspect of this violence is an increasing number of rapes, particularly of Catholic Nuns, and other gender violence. Recent months have seen an increasing trend to polarize the people in villages, leading to social exclusion, ostracisation and denial of employment and social services.

At least three cases of rape were recorded, including on Nuns.

Protests by Christian groups against persecution, especially in New Delhi have been brutally crushed. Agitators, including Nuns and other women, Clergy and professions have been cane-charged, dragged to police vans and detained in cases last year.

The Christian community has remained stagnant at 2.3 per cent [2011 census] of the country's 1.02 billion population for decades, though both the Hindus, at 80.05 per cent and Muslims at 13.4 per cent have shown a continuing growth.

The Cardinal's fears had come rapidly true as the months passed by. Throughout the year, Federal and State ministers, Members of Parliament and other politicians of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, and its ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh targeted the community in terms that have been described as amounting to hate. Towards the end of the year, government spokespersons said the administration will oppose in the Supreme Court, any move to grant Christians of Dalit origin the Scheduled Castes designation, that would enable them to access jobs in the government and political representation at federal Parliament and local legislature levels.

Christians not only continue to live under the threat of physical violence, but also state harassment and repressive laws that severely curb Freedom of Religion and Belief though the country is a signatory to United Nations and other international declarations, covenants, and treaties on this most fundamental of human rights.

They have, in fact, been further disempowered with the National Sample Survey Office reporting that unemployment among Christians nearly doubled in 2010-2011 compared to the previous two years. The report, Employment and Unemployment Situation Among Major Religious Groups in India, was released early this month based on data collected during the same period. It showed Christians who lived in villages were unemployed at a rate of 4.5 percent, while Christians in cities were at 5.9 percent, both substantial increases from the previous survey that showed a 3.9 rate for villages and 2.9 for cities. This increases the vulnerability of the smaller groups, and is a severe handicap in their access to justice.

A 48-year-old nun from Kerala, of the Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate order, was allegedly gang-raped at a nursing home in Pandari area Raipur city, the capital of Chhattisgarh state on 20 June. The victim, who worked at the nursing centre run by the missionaries, was sleeping when two masked men entered the building at around 1.30 am. The nun was tied up and raped by the two men. She was found gagged and tied to the bed by other nursing centre staff in the morning. Some reports claimed that the nun was found bleeding profusely and was in an unconscious state. The incident sparked protests across the city as local Christian community took out a rally to express their anguish. The police investigations into the gang rape have been criticized for shoddiness.

In West Bengal, a 71-year-old nun of a convent school was gang-raped on March 20, 2015 in Ranaghat town, some 80km from Kolkata. She was injured so badly that she had to undergo a surgery. Police blamed a gang of robbers and ruled out any motive behind the rape, which triggered protests and angry reactions from Christian leaders in the state that worships Mother Teresa as a saint.

In the neighboring state of Odisha [Orissa] the district Kandhamal, which had seen two major attacks on Christians in 2007-08 by armed groups of Hindu extremists, saw coercive violence on Christmas 2015. Gangs of religious extremists blocked the road with stones in major towns. A special target was Barakhama village, which is 13 kilometers from Balliguda sub divisional headquarters and scene of large-scale violence in 2007 Christmas and August 2008. The terror-stricken Christian leaders immediately informed the police personnel as well as Special Forces deputed for Christmas celebration. They cleared the road and did not allow them to come to Church.

State impunity, political arrogance of the ruling groups in various States of the Union, and increasing complicity of local police and sometimes the media, aggravate the pressure on terrorized communities in remote villages and small towns.

In many cases, justice has been denied to those arrested on trumped-up charges – mostly pastors or their associates – and detained in police stations or their liberty curtailed in other manners. Madhya Pradesh, the top state in our list where Christians have experienced the worst treatment, specializes in imprisoning children, some as young as eight months old on trumped up charges of conversions.

Government organizations, including the National Commission of Minorities, have expressed their helplessness in the matter. Many government structures and functionaries, including in the State Minority and human rights organizations, are enmeshed in bureaucratic Red Tape. Most such organizations consist of political appointees reluctant to take affirmative action.

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Churches, specially villages, and prayer houses continue to invite adverse attention from neighbours, as well as civil and police authorities. Even prayers in houses have come in for attack, especially in central India, but also in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. For instance, in Satyamangalam in Erode district of Tamil Nadu a Sub-Inspector of Police had questioned the occupants of a home where prayers were going on whether they had obtained requisite permissions to conduct such prayers. When they replied that they had no knowledge of the need for any such permission, they were told by the police officer that they cannot conduct such prayers again without obtaining permission from the District Collector. In several districts across the country, groups that meet in homes for worship and prayer are facing similar problems.

Although it does not strictly fit into the definition of “persecution”, the community is concerned at the persistent attempt by the RSS to put an end to the Minority Rights and to “Saffronise Education”, as it is called in political discourse in the country. Even as the Government is gearing up to introduce a new “National Education Policy”, the education scenario remains much the same as what it was, when the previous “NEP” (1968, 86, 92) were drawn up. In the meantime, RSS is demanding education based on Indian (Hindu) thoughts, introducing books/syllabus on Hindutva, getting key posts in Higher Education, Indianising science, and asking church authorities to install statues of Hindi deities in their schools and other institutions, specially in Chhattisgarh.



## Andhra Pradesh

**On March 16**, in Vishakhapatnam, Hindu fundamentalists opposed to the presence of the Church building in the area, stopped the construction of the Church. The 50 member independent church has been there for the last 20 years and has a small hut like structure, which was now being constructed into a proper building.

**On June 28**, in Adoni, Kurnool, Hindu extremists attacked the Christu Calvary Konda Church. According to reports, a crowd of around 30 people suspected to be from right wing Hindu organizations descended at the Church shouting Hindu slogans. They started pelting stones at the Church and also directed their attacks at the Pastor and his wife. The police reached in time and ensured the protection of the Pastor and his wife. However the police have not filed a complaint against the attackers.

**On October 7**, in Kurnool, Hindu fundamentalists destroyed Church property including a religious symbol. The Police had asked Pastor of the Kreestu Kalvari Konda (Christ

Calvary rock) prayer center to turn on the display light for the neon cross and to continue with worship services, after the Church met with opposition. However that very night, religious fundamentalists destroyed the electricity, cross and shed.

**On October 11**, in East Godavari, Hindu extremists burnt down houses of three Christian families of Yetapalli village. The families had locked up their homes and were away to another village 5 kms away for Christian worship. Some village elders under the guidance of Hindu fundamentalists, set fire to their houses. When they returned, nothing was left except ash. All that they had remaining were the clothes on their body and their Bibles. Village elders passed a rule that nobody should speak to them and everyone in the village deserted them.

**On December 2**, in Kurnool, a false case under Sec 295A, 298A and 3 (1) (x) of the SC ST POA Act was filed in the Adoni Police Station, against a Christian Pastor. The complainant alleged that the Pastor had verbally abused another person on the basis of his caste and incited religious hatred. Local Christian leaders refuted the allegations.

## Assam

**On February 9**, in Gohainjan, Jorhat, a mob opposed the construction of a church building in Bhagyolakhi village. A mob of over 100 Hindu fundamentalists threatened Raju\*, who had donated land for the Church, saying that he would have to leave the village if the Church was built. The Priest of the Gohainjan Believers Church was also warned of dire consequences if he started building the Church. No report was filed.

*\*name changed*

**On April 17**, in Amtola Village, Golpara, a mob of about 100 Hindu extremists armed with swords, bamboo sticks and stones attacked Christians who were eating after a worship service at 8 p.m. At least 15 Christians were injured, many of them wounded on their heads and upper bodies.

**On August 7**, in Guwahati, Assam, the statue of Don Bosco was vandalized and pushed into the adjacent river by Hindu fundamentalists. The Salesian congregation wanted to install a statue of their founder whose bicentenary year they are celebrating at Bharalumukh, Guwahati on August 7. The statue was set up late on August 6 and was to be unveiled by the Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi the next day. Early on that day, student union members of Cotton College Guwahati and members of the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) vandalised the statue, bringing it down and pushing it in the river. The Police arrested four persons the next day.

**On October 23**, in Guwahati, a Christian named Bishnu Vishwakarma was badly beaten and dragged from his house by 15 people including his family members. They were pressurizing him to leave Christianity and when he did not relent, they beat him up. Hindu groups were involved in the matter. He was later taken by force in a car to an undisclosed location near Arunachal Pradesh border. His whereabouts are unknown.

## Bihar

**On January 5**, in Lait Narayan Mitra village, Darbhanga, Bihar, mobs consisting of Hindu fundamentalists went to homes of 8 Christians who were recently baptized at the Agape Church and threatened them with dire consequences if they continue to remain Christian.

**On January 11**, in Madhav Nagar, Jahanabad, Bihar, a Church was attacked by a mob of over 60 people during the Sunday Worship Service. Pastor Kamlesh Kumar (36) was organizing the Sunday Service at the Prarthna Center where about 150 Christians had gathered. During the service, a mob of Hindu fundamentalists entered the

Church shouting slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram'. They started beating the Pastor along with elder of the Church Mr. Vijay Kumar (55). The other Christians were chased away while 3 persons got injured including Ps. Sohan. They tore bibles, broke the chairs, fans and PA system installed in the Church. They then forcefully took Pastor Kaushal's mobile, keys and Rs.7000 in cash. An FIR was lodged against the attackers after the SP's request since the local Police were not willing to file a complaint initially.

**On April 10**, in Hisua, Nawada, a mob of around 100 Hindu extremists beat up 3 pastors while accusing them of forceful conversions. The Pastors were then taken to the police station by the local police and questioned.

## Chhattisgarh

**On January 4**, in Kawanar Village near Kodanar, Chhattisgarh, a worship service was attacked by a mob of 24 Hindu fundamentalists. A local Christian was leading the Sunday service, as Pastors from outside the village have not been allowed in the village for some time. The local Christian leading the service along with other members were beaten and threatened for conducting the service. 8 Christian families were beaten up earlier in the same village some months ago.

### December 26, 2014.

On February 12, in Geedam, a Christian meeting for which permissions were already sought and granted was disrupted and forced to close down after Hindu fundamentalists protested against it.

**On February 13**, in Akaltara, Janjgir, Bilaspur, unidentified assailants set a Church on fire late evening. Rev. Fr. Yeswer Lahre had organized a fasting and prayer meeting in the Believers Church from 11am to 3pm. After the prayer meeting was over, Fr. Yeswer locked the church door and went back to his home. Around 6:30pm, he received a call that the Church doors were set on fire. By the time they had rushed and put off the fire, the main Church door was damaged. An FIR was filed.

**On February 24** in Pithora, two Christians were arrested after false allegation of conversion was filed against them. Rev. Tandi of the Church of North India and Ps. Das of the Believers Church were arrested and were kept under custody.

**On March 8**, in Jholapara, village Tarkaguda, Bastar, 3 Christians were beaten by their relatives because of their faith. Nirmal\*, and his two sons were attacked and badly beaten up by their own relatives who were instigated by Hindu fundamentalists at about 5 PM. The attackers forcibly took possession of the portion of agricultural field along with tress, belonging to Nirmal. A false FIR was filed



against Nirmal and two sons, accusing them of threatening and beating. The case was registered under IPC Sections 294, 323, 506 & 34. However when Nirmal and his sons approached the Badanji Police Station, the police refused to accept their complaint. Instead they were arrested and later released on bail.

*\*Name changed*

**On April 7, In Charama, Kanker,** four Christian families were publically boycotted and harassed, after the village head colluded with Hindu extremists and called a public meeting. The village head summoned the four Christian families to a public meeting where in he announced that they were being outcast for following Christianity. He warned to punish anyone who spoke with them or gave them water or sold them goods. The electricity connection from their homes was cut off. The situation for Christians remains tense in the area.

**On April 20, in Mokhpal Village, Dantewada,** it was reported that the Christians in the village have been receiving threats from Hindu fundamentalists for over two weeks. Hindu fundamentalists had also threatened to destroy the church property in the village causing much apprehension and fear. The Hindu extremists demanded that the name of Christ should not be mentioned in the village and anyone who continued to go to church will be banished, socially boycotted and that their agricultural lands will also be captured.

**On April 26,** in Kharsia, Raigarh, unidentified men falsely accused Pastors of conversion and distributed false information in the local media. A training program for Christian leaders was organised by a local Church from 19 April to 17 May 2015 with about 75 church leaders from other districts participating in the training. 2 unknown persons entered the meeting at about 10.30 AM on 26 April and took some photographs. The same photographs were then circulated through Whatsapp and on social media, as proof of conversion. Similar news was published in the newspaper Navabharat, Raigarh edition the

following day which resulted in the local police officer storming the venue at about 03.30 PM on 30 April for inquiry.

**On June 19, in Raipur,** 2 unidentified men raped a 47-year-old Nun from Kerala, belonging to the Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate. The nun was discovered on the morning of June 20, gagged and tied to her bed at the medical center in which she serves in the Pandri area of Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. The medical center "Khrist Sahay Kendra" (Christ help center) has been in the area for the last 60 years. According to the statement that the victim made at a press conference in Raipur on June 24, two men entered her room as she slept in the medical center on the night of June 19. Their faces were covered. She was awakened by the noise in the room. When she asked one of the assailants if they wanted money, they replied 'we want much more than money'. Then one of them caught her from behind while the other put some medicines in her mouth in order to make her unconscious and gagged her mouth with a cloth. They then tied her to the bed using her sari and took turns to rape her. When this incident was discovered in the morning by authorities they found money on the floor and 26000 rupees that lay unlocked in one of the shelves in the room and had not been taken away.

**On June 22, in Jagdalpur,** Police arrested Pastor Rajesh Habil, Pastor Gigi P Paul and Mr. Navneet Chand. They were arrested in a matter related to a protest by the Christian community on January 10, 2012, which took place after a Christian graveyard was demolished and desecrated by alleged Hindu extremists. The Kakrapal Christian graveyard was attacked and desecrated by 100 plus alleged members of Hindu extremist groups on January 8, 2012. The attackers demolished the boundary wall of the graveyard, shouted anti-Christian slogans and desecrated graves. When the Christians protested against this, the police refused to file an FIR. Following this Christians gathered en masse in protest due to which the national highway was interrupted for some time. This

resulted in filing of FIR against three people but at the same time the police registered an FIR against 6 Christians too on alleged trumped up charges. The three Christians that were arrested on June 22, 2015 were named in the FIR registered in 2012. They were later released on bail on June 27, 2015.

**On August 8, in Dhanora**, the small Christian community was targeted and beaten up by a mob of 500 villagers after they refused to renounce Christianity. The Christians had been summoned to a community meeting where they were accused of spreading Christianity and were pressured to renounce Christianity or face the consequences. The Christians were reportedly threatened with ouster from the village and were told that they will not be allowed to harvest the crop for their fields. However the Christians did not agree so they were beaten up. No FIR has been filed till date.

**On August 12, in Bhairamgarh**, Naxalites killed Sukhdev Negi, an influential Christian, in the view of his family members. The killers also beat up his neighbours when they protested Negi's killing. Local Christians have approached the police but no action has been taken till date. Earlier in 2013, Sahdev, Negi's brother had been kidnapped by Naxalites and at the time of release had been warned never to return to his own village or to speak about Christianity.

**On September 8, in Jagdalpur**, three Christians including two pastors were arrested and put in jail. Pastor Loknath Baghel, Pastor Suddu Baghel, and Tikaram Netam of Barpaguda village of Bastar district were arrested after they opposed the takeover of their village land. The land in question has been used as a graveyard in the past and now is marked by the government authorities that want to develop a pond there. A FIR was filed against the Pastors when the villagers opposed the takeover of land. The Sessions court has rejected the bail application for the Pastors twice.

**On September 8, in Bastar**, Christian villagers in Karmari village were brutally attacked by Hindu extremists following the passing of a resolution in the village banning all non-Hindu religious activities. A mob of over 50 Hindu radicals gathered and surrounded a Church building around 4 pm on September 8, 2015. Before any of the Christians could even ask what was happening, the radicals attacked, assaulting Christians with wooden clubs and sticks. When some women from the Church confronted the radicals, they too were brutally beaten with wooden clubs and fists. Two Christian women, Pulo Bhai and Ludri were seriously injured in the assault and lost consciousness. As Christians in Karmari village face a social boycott, life has become very difficult for them.

**On September 22, in Kondagaon**, Hindu extremists beat up two Christian siblings after they refused to renounce Christ. The extremists summoned Mankuram Singh and his brother to a Hindu temple and asked them to renounce Christ. However, the Christians refused and the mob thereafter started to beat them up, accused them of being involved in forceful conversions and proceeded to vandalize their home. The attackers later locked up their home and chased them out of the village. The brothers submitted a police complaint with the help of area Christian leaders, but the police did not register a case against the attackers.

**On October 13, in Dhamtari**, Pastor Ashok Kurre and Vijay were beaten by 10-15 members of the Hindu extremist group "Dharm Sena". They were later taken to local police station on late evening of 13 October 2015. The two stayed in jail for about two months before being bailed out and the case against them goes on. No case was registered on their attackers.

**On October 17, in Rajnandgaon**, members of Bajrang Dal attacked a prayer meeting and beat up the preacher Dev Kumar Sahu. The meeting was held at the house of Mr. Lalit Sahu and about 50 Christians were in attendance when more than 20 armed members of the Bajrang Dal trespassed into the private property of Mr. Lalit Sahu and started pushing people and beat up the preacher. The police carried the Christians to the police station for questioning and they were let off later.

**On October 21, in Dalli Rajhara**, a prayer meeting organized at the home of Mrs. Dhaneswari Sahu was disrupted by members of the Dharm Jagran Samiti along with some representatives of the Sahu community. According to reports, when the prayer meeting was going on, members of the Dharm Jagran Samiti and representatives of the Sahu community arrived at the house of Mrs. Dhaneswari Sahu in an inebriated state. They created a ruckus and stopped the prayer meeting. They accused the Christians of conversions and also charged them with scheming, alleging that the Christians wanted to demolish the nearby temple. The Christians have not reported the matter to the police.

**On October 25, in Bastar district**, Hindu extremists disrupted the Sunday worship service at the Kohkameta village, and beat up the Christians present injuring many in the process. During the attack the Pastor Mehtu Karma suffered head injuries and fell unconscious. The attackers then proceeded to force Christians to sign documents stating that they were renouncing Christianity. When some Christians protested they were beaten up. According to reports four Christian families renounced their faith due to fear. Many Christians who were injured had to be hospitalized where they were once again subject to pressure by the extremists who forced some of them to



sign affidavits stating that they renounce Christianity. The Christians approached the police but the Hindu extremists had also filed a complaint against the Christians.

**On December 1, in Rajnandgaon,** Hindu extremists threatened a family and warned them of dire consequences if they continued to attend worship services at Sundra village. Premlal Sahu and his family were at their home when suddenly a mob of 20 plus Bajrang Dal members barged into their home. The mob abused them in filthy language and warned them not to continue with their Christian faith. Local Christian leaders say that fear has seized this family after the incident and they are afraid to even report it to the police.

## Delhi

**On January 2, in Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi,** a Christmas crib placed on the side of the Church compound of Church of the Resurrection, was found burnt and damaged. Though the police suspected it to be a case of short-circuiting, the second camera of the CCTV showed inflammable substance being thrown into crib from above around 2:30 am. The Parishioners also suspected the use of inflammable material to set fire as it was raining in the area during the night and morning.

**On January 14 in Vikaspuri, New Delhi,** unidentified miscreants broke the Grotto and toppled down the statue of Mother Mary at the Lady of Graces Church in Vikaspuri, New Delhi at 4:30am. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed inside the church.

**On February 2, in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi,** a church was vandalized, making it the fifth such incident in the past two months in India's capital city. Unidentified miscreants broke in to the St. Alphonso's church in the wee hours and defiled the communion host. "The consecrated host was scattered on the altar and on the floor but the miscreants who broke in stole nothing of value as the three donation

boxes remained untouched," said Fr. Vincent Salvatore, the parish priest of the church.

**On February 12, in Vasant Vihar, South Delhi,** a convent school was robbed. Unidentified miscreants broke into Holy Child Auxilium school from the back gate, entered into the auditorium and thereafter broke the doors of the reception and the principal's office and took Rupees 8000/- from the donation boxes kept at the reception's desk.

**On July 18, in Nihal Vihar, Delhi,** Hindu extremists forcibly entered a private residence where prayer was going on and beat up three pastors and other people present alleging conversion. Local RSS leaders Mr. Uday Bhan Tiwari, Omprakash, and Praveen led about 25 other people and broke into the house of Mr. Adhya Prasad at Nihal Vihar area. Mr. Adhya Prasad had invited Pastor Harchand and a few others for prayer at his residence when the attack took place. The attackers broke windows, vandalized the place and even beat up women present. The police came after being informed and took the pastor and three others to the police station where they were questioned for long in the presence of the local RSS leaders. The pastors were finally released after the police forced them to accept a hastily drafted compromise. No FIR was registered till the next day when local Christian leaders held a protest outside the police station at Nihal Vihar. Later in the night on July 18, Pastor Rajan Gill, Mr. Rajender Masih and a few others, having heard of the report of the violence on Christians, reached the Nihal Vihar police station. By this time Pastor Harchand and the others had left the police station after the hurried compromise facilitated by the police. One of the policemen on duty informed the leaders of the RSS (who were coming out of the police station at that time) about the presence of Pastor Gill and others. As a result, the same attackers beat up Pastor Rajan Gill and Mr. Rajendra Masih, only this time in the presence of policemen and in front of the police station. The extremists attempted to damage the eye of Pastor Gill. Rajendra Masih was also

beaten up badly that has left his eardrum damaged for life. All this happened with the policemen being mere mute spectators.

**On September 7, in Narela,** the Pastors of the Navjeevan Church were threatened to stop conducting Sunday worship services, by a mob of over 15 Hindutva fundamentalists.

**On September 27, in Uttam Nagar,** Pastor Pradeep Kumar was manhandled and threatened by some of his neighbors who were led by local Hindu extremists. The attackers wanted to stop the Sunday Church service that was going on. No FIR was filed.

## Goa

**On February 22, in Navelim, Margao, Goa,** unidentified miscreants vandalised the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes by breaking the glass casket which was installed on a pedestal near the Holy Cross.

## Gujarat

**On October 12, in Dahod district,** Dasudi Ben Bhuriya (58), mother of Pastor Rajesh Bhuriya was attacked and pelted with stones by 6-7 Hindu extremists at Bilwani village. She was admitted at the Bilwani hospital as a result of the attack for treatment of her injuries.

**On November 28, in Valsad,** four Christian villagers belonging to Ranvihir Phalia of Vadoli Village, Kaprada Taluka, were physically attacked for completing the roof of the Church. The roof was pending completion for three years due to disruption by local Hindu extremists. One of the Christians, a lady, was hospitalized with severe injuries after being repeatedly kicked in the stomach by the attackers who then went and reportedly made a false complaint against the victims. The attackers continue to roam around freely and have threatened to break down the church building.

## Haryana

**On February 11, 2015 in Hisar,** Hindu fundamentalists attempted to destroy a cross in opposition to the Church that was being constructed in the area. The Believers Church building that was under construction was nearing completion when the incident occurred. When the cross was being put on the church building, about 20 Hindutva fundamentalists came and opposed saying that the Church could not be built there. The Police were informed, after which the issue was resolved.

**On March 6, in Paali, near Faridabad, Haryana,** a mob of Hindu fundamentalists disrupted the funeral ceremony of a Christian, prohibited the burial of the deceased and beat up and chased the Christians away from the cemetery. About 80 Christians had gathered at the Paali Christian cemetery when a group of Hindu fundamentalists in 12 bikes arrived at the site and announced that "the land soil cannot be used to bury a Christian." Soon, the mob swelled up to 700 and started beating up the Christians with sticks and chased them away from the spot. The mob also damaged vehicles of the Christians including the ambulance where the body of the deceased was laid. "The deceased was an old lady who was a faithful member of the church and we felt extremely sad that such a thing happened." Pastor Mahipal who conducted the funeral said. The police reached the spot and escorted Pastor Mahipal and three church members to another cemetery to bury the body. The Christians, under police protection, completed the burial ceremony.

**On March 8, in Faridabad, Haryana,** Hindu fundamentalists disrupted a prayer meeting, and threatened and beat up Christians. At about 9:30 a.m, when worship service was going on at the Bethania Church, two boys entered into the house church and summoned Pastor Virender Kumar to come out. However, the pastor told them that he would meet them after the meeting. The two boys, however, threatened him that if he did not comply they would hurl stones at the gathering. Once outside, a large mob of Hindu extremists swelled up near the church and started accusing Pastor Kumar of forcefully converting Hindu people into Christianity. The mob also manhandled him and pushed him and took him to the police. The police did not file any case against the pastor after they investigated the matter but told the pastor not to conduct Sunday worship meeting in his house for the time being.

**On March 8, in Jhajjar,** Hindu fundamentalists attacked a church and vandalized the church property. Though no one was hurt, damages to the Church property were reported. The Police later intervened and settled the matter between the Church and attackers. The Church was allowed to worship in its own premises after Section 144 was imposed following this incident.

**On March 9, in Farmana, Rohtaka** a Christian lost his job after Hindu extremists submitted a complaint against him alleging forceful conversion. The incident took place on the morning of March 9 when a mob of Hindu extremists surrounded the Primary Health Center and accused a Christian, Mukesh, of forceful conversion. The mob further threatened to harm Mukesh if he shares his faith with others or if he continues to go to the church and asked him to choose between his 'job' or 'Jesus'. Subsequently, on the next day, the Medical Officer told



Mukesh that he had been terminated from his job. Mukesh had been working as a cleaner on contractual basis in the local Primary Health Centre for over seven years.

**On March 14, in Hisar, Haryana,** an under-construction church in Kaimri village was found to be vandalized by a group and the cross, replaced, with an idol of Hanuman. Father Subhash Chand of Believers Church lodged a complaint against 14 people, following which a case was registered by police under sections 147 (Punishment for rioting), 153A (promoting enmity between groups), 295 (destroying, damaging a place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class of persons), 380 (theft in a building), 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC. Police said that on March 6, a group of youths entered the plot where the church was being built, and forcibly installed a Hanuman idol there. Earlier, on February 11, 2015, fundamentalists had attempted to destroy the cross installed on the Church Building that was under construction.

**On June 27, in Bhiwani,** Hindu extremists attacked a Baptist Church late in the evening. According to reports the Baptist Church situated in Naya Bazaar was targeted by a group of young men who arrived at the Church on motorcycles after 1 am in the morning. They started pelting the Church with stones and attempted to demolish the cross, breaking it in the process. Hearing the commotion a member of the Church who stays in the premises came out and was abused by the attackers in foul language. The attackers also threatened to kill him. Police were informed and as soon as they arrived, the attackers fled from the scene. The Church has been in the area since 20 years.

**On August 9, in Karnal,** three Christian evangelists Tinku Ram, Rajesh Singh and Karan Singh belonging to Bhaini Kalan village, were attacked and severely beaten by attackers carrying iron rods at around 6:30 pm. The Evangelists were returning to their village from Gharaunda

city also in Karnal District. According to Rajesh Kumar, the attackers struck him hard twice with iron rods at the back of his head resulting in him being unconscious. However according to Tinku Ram and Karan Singh, even after that the attackers did not stop kicking and thrashing Rajesh's unconscious body. He suffered 14 stitches on his head as a result of the beating. Karan Singh and Tinku Ram were also beaten up as a result of which, Karan Singh broke his leg and his forearms. The doctors later performed a surgery on Karan Singh and put steel plates to hold his hand in place. An FIR has been filed but no arrests have been made till date.

## Himachal Pradesh

**On January 23 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh,** Fr. P. M. Pardeshi reported that the CPWD wrote off the Shimla CNI Church as government property. The Church that was handed over in 1948 was not in possession till 1993 after which regular prayers have been conducted at the Church till date. The Father had also filed a petition in 2010 under the provisions of the Revision Petition of 2005 with regard to the use of places of worship.

**On 17 October, in Kangra district,** Hindu extremists attacked an elderly Christian woman in Samela village and made the incident to look like an accident. The woman is the mother of a local Pastor, Des Raj, staying at Kangra district. She had to undergo surgery on her left leg and had 10 stitches on her head as a result of the attack. Local police refused to file FIR against the perpetrators, pressurizing Pastor Des Raj to settle the matter out of court.

## Jharkhand

**On January 11, in Dhanbad,** a mob attacked an Independent House Church during their Sunday worship service and beat the Christians. A case was filed against 5 Christians accusing them of conversion. The Church was

being conducted in Ps. Subhish Kumar's home.

**On February 2,** a mob of Hindu fundamentalists attacked a mission school shouting anti-Christian slogans. The mob destroyed the school and church properties and alleged that a Christian teacher molested a student on 2nd February in Barhawa, Sahibganj, Jharkhand. According to reports from Barharwa, in an incident apparently motivated by the right wing groups, the mother of a girl student of class V of Holy Family school had filed a complaint against a teacher, Bhim Kujur, of molesting her child. She slapped him while he was teaching in a class. Simultaneously, an angry mob numbering more than a thousand people shouting 'Jai Shri Ram' swelled up outside the school building. The mob hurled stones and bricks at the school building and a church nearby, damaging some parts of the school building and the church. Slogans were raised against Christians calling them "Beef eaters" and the Christian community was told to leave the area. The school authorities questioned the students including the girl in question and reportedly found the charges to be false.

**On February 8, in Navardi, Chatra,** Hindu extremists attacked a prayer meeting, dragged four women out to the road, beat them and stripped one lady partially naked. About 11 extremists barged into the house of a Christian woman, Yasoda Dangi, while four ladies were praying at 4 p.m. and verbally abuse them for following Christ. Thereafter, the extremists dragged them out to the road, beat them up, took off the sari of Dangi and tore up her blouse as they accused her of being responsible for the ongoing prayer meetings in the village. The attack lasted for more than an hour with the extremists shouting obscenities at the four. They also threatened to impose a fine on them if they do not stop worshipping Christ. The Christians sustained bruises and abrasion on their faces and they received treatment in the local hospital.

**On April 21, in Hazaribagh,** two Christian schools were threatened to close down and were vandalized. Holy Cross and St. Xavier's, both CBSE-affiliated schools, were attacked because they kept the school open while the fundamentalists called for an education bandh (closure). The Holy Cross School had to end teaching for the day and send students home. The fundamentalists kicked open doors, broke flowerpots and demanded that the school be emptied in 15 minutes. After forcing Holy Cross shut, the mob of about 60 men travelled down the road to St. Xavier's, where it demanded to meet the Principal who refused to close for the day despite the the fundamentalists' demands. Later the mob was lathi-charged by Police outside St. Xavier's school after they refused to leave peacefully.

**On June 4, in Kullu village, Ranchi district,** Five tribal

Christian families were forced to flee from their home following threats and extreme pressure from local Hindu radicals. The exodus of the families started from June 4, 2015, when 4 families were banished from the village. The banished families have been Christians for more than 20 years and are part of the North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**On June 13, in Kullu Village, Chanho Block, Ranchi,** the Pastor of the New West Gossner Evangelical Church was forcefully chased out of his house. The attackers threw all his belongings outside his house and threatened to kill him. Earlier, on June 4, 2015 at five Christian families were banished from their village and a Christian woman and her daughter were brutally beaten too for going to Church and attending its worship services.

**On August 23, in Chaibasa,** 4 Tribal Christian families from Lupungi Masasai, Jagnathpur, were summoned by the village council and threatened with boycott and ouster from the village if they did not renounce Christianity. The meeting allegedly was organized to discuss village issues and Christians were invited without informing them of the agenda of the council. The village along with the Christian families were instructed during this meeting to not let the Christian families take water from the village well and to not let the animals owned by the Christians graze in the village meadow. The Christians were also informed that their tribal certificates will be cancelled and they would be sent out of the village in a few days if they did not renounce their Christian faith.

**On August 28, in Chaibasa,** seven Christian families from Sagarkatta village, Chaibasa, Jharkhand were expelled from their village because they are Christians. This decision was conveyed to the Christians at a village meeting called on August 28, 2015 by one Gomiya Biruwa. The Christians were told that their tribal certificates would be cancelled, their animals would not be allowed on the village pastures, they would not be allowed to take water from the village well and are not to use the village pond. The villagers were instructed in the presence of Christians in this meeting that on September 9, 2015, all property belonging to the seven Christian families is to be destroyed / taken over. The Christians approached the local police station but no action was taken. Similar reports also came from the nearby Bichaburu village in which 31 Christian families have been targeted in the same way.

**On September 4, in Palamu,** Hindu extremists attacked a Christian prayer meeting at Hutugdug village. The incident took place around 11 am when about 35 Christians were gathered and praying. Suddenly around 15 Hindu extremists armed with weapons attacked the meeting and started beating the Christians. Four Christians who have

been seriously injured are admitted in the hospital even at the time of writing this report. No FIR has been filed.

**On October 13, in Jharkhand,** Pastor Chamu Hasda Purty of the Pentecostal Church at Sandih, Khunti district was killed as unidentified people opened gunfire at him after entering his house. The murder took place in the late evening of October 13. Pastor Chamu Hasda Purty was well respected and valued by the local community.

**On December 20, in Jharkhand,** unidentified persons kidnapped Pastor Kalyan Hembrom and two Christian believers.

## Karnataka

**On January 30, 2015 in Gowdahalli, Mudigere Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District,** about 10 Hindu fundamentalists surrounded Pastor Michael and some other Christians and verbally abused them and beat them. They also damaged Pastor's car. A report was filed at the Gonibeedu Police Station.

**In January 31, 2015 in Hoskote, Bangalore, Karnataka,** Pastor M. P. Samuel was threatened and asked to stop prayer meetings by the local police. He said that he was not able to feel safe since the police themselves were harassing him.

**On February 20, in Gowdahalli, Mudigere Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District,** 3 pastors were attacked while returning back after praying for a Christian family in the village. Hindu fundamentalists surrounded the car that Pastor Michael, Pastor Joseph, Walter and Abraham were travelling in and forcefully took the key, records, ATM cards, Bible, camera and Rupees 30,000 from them. They verbally abused them, brutally kicked them and beat them up. A report was filed at the Gonibeedu Police Station.

**On February 24, in Mangalore,** unidentified miscreants vandalized the St. Joseph's Church. Its windowpanes and door were damaged, though the statues within remained untouched. A report was filed.

**On March 15, in Hosunagara, of Shimoga District,** Christians from the Brethren Church were attacked inside their Church during worship by a mob of Hindu radicals. The attack took place around 10:30 am while the worship service at the Church was going on. A mob of 60-70 Bajrang Dal activists stormed into the Church and started to beat up Christians assembled for prayers. The attackers were armed and used wooden clubs to beat up people. They also kicked and punched the Christians causing internal injuries. Pastor Wilson and Mr. Ashok, elders of the Church, were also beaten up severely causing Mr. Ashok's spine to be damaged. The Police later arrived and

took the Christians to the police station. The attackers surrounded the police station and did not allow the injured Christians to be taken from the police station to the hospital until 10.30 in the night. No hospital was also willing to take in the injured Christians because of pressure from Hindu groups. The police have filed an FIR using nominal sections while Christians of the region are shocked over the inhuman incident and are very worried over the grim situation for minorities in the state of Karnataka.

**On September 7, in Belgaum,** a cemetery was found vandalized when a group of people went to bury their dead. According to reports in the media, the vandals had uprooted more than a dozen crosses, broke up some gravestones and dug up some graves. The incident happened at Bharatnagar of Shahapur area, which is about 2kms from Belgaum city.

## Kerala

**On January 19 in Mannanthala, Trivandrum, Kerala,** 6 persons attacked a prayer meeting of the Indian Evangelical Lutheran Church and beat up the pastor and 3 other Christians. An FIR has been lodged at the Trivandrum Medical College Police Station.

**On March 26, in Kunnankulam, Thrissur, Kerala,** Hindu extremists partially burned up Church of God and also two motor bikes and the car of the Pastor in the wee hours of the morning. The incident took place after the pastor distributed leaflets for conducting Vacation Bible School on April 6.

**On March 30, in Chingavanam, Kottayam,** fundamentalists objected to a prayer meeting and attacked a Christian at the meeting. The incident occurred while the prayer meeting of the Hebron Ministry Prayer House was going on. A father and son duo barged into the house and attacked Suresh who led the prayer and asked him to stop the same. Such prayer meetings have been conducted at the house for over 2 years.

**On May 19, in Kodanadu Village, Ernakulam,** a Church construction was stopped by Hindu fundamentalists. The Highland Immanuel Fellowship commenced the construction of the prayer hall on April 13, 2015, which was halted by the Hindu Aikya Vedi. They threatened to kill the pastor if he dared to go ahead with the construction. After the High court of Kerala granted the Church an interim order on May 15, they resumed the construction work on May 19 based on the order of the honourable high court. About 50 Hindu Aikya Vedi activists blocked the access road to the property and stopped the work by threatening the workers and the Pastors. Moreover, the



Hindu Aikya Vedi called for a Bandh the next day in the Koovapady panchayat.

**On June 14, in Attingal,** RSS members attacked a Christian prayer meeting. Eight Christians sustained injuries after a mob of 50 plus people belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) attacked the weekly prayer meet organized by 'Reaching the world with love ministry' at the Municipal library hall of Attingal. According to reports received the attack took place without any provocation. The attackers targeted not only the worshippers but also the Pastor present. Shouting "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" (Victory to Mother India), they broke the furniture, musical instruments, fans and scattered the eatables. The police later registered an FIR and arrested 5 people in connection with the attack.

**On June 22, in Kollam city,** a Catholic shrine was found desecrated in the early morning hours. The colonial period shrine is attached to the Holy Cross Parish Church in the Anglo Indian enclave of Tangasseri in Kollam city. This was thought to be the work of vandals and was discovered by people who were on their way to attend the early morning mass. Posters against Christianity and Christian clergy in particular, written in derogatory manner and language were found pasted inside the shrine. The posters also warned of an upcoming attack against the Bishop Jerome Nagar commercial complex, a shopping mall developed by the Kollam diocese. The warning said that the commercial complex would be attacked with bombs. Also found at site were computer printouts containing messages and photos of Mata Amritanandamayi, the Hindu saint.

## Madhya Pradesh

**On February 13, in Bhopal,** local Hindu fundamentalists threatened a pastor and forced him to discontinue his Church in the area. Ps. Ravi\* Rana has been under continuous threat from Hindu fundamentalists earlier too. On November 4, 2014, the pastor and six Christians were

attacked by the mob of over 250 people. They had entered their homes, stripped them naked and stole away goods worth Rupees 2 lakh. An FIR was filed Bikhiriya Police Station the same day. The pastor is still receiving continuous threats from the fundamentalists. No action has been taken till now. *\*name changed*

**On March 1, in Rampura, Alirajpur,** Hindu extremists broke into a worship service shouting anti-Christian slogans and accused the pastor of luring people to convert to Christianity by offering them monetary benefit. About 300 people were worshipping in Philadelphia Church when about a dozen extremists shouting anti-Christian slogans entered the church premises. As the extremists shouted against the Christians and hovered around the church premises, some church members called up the police who later reached the spot. The police advised the believers to go back to the church and the Christians thereafter continued the worship.

**On March 4, in Haldad, Barwani,** police arrested a pastor and another Christian after Hindu extremists accused them of forceful conversion. The extremists belonging to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal stormed into the house prayer meeting conducted by Pastor Lal Singh in the house of Indram Chauhan. The extremists manhandled the Christians, accused them of fraudulently converting poor tribal people into Christianity and took them to the Rajpur police station. However, after investigation, the police released the duo without filing any charges against them as the charge of conversion was found to be false.

**On March 7, 2015 in Barwani,** Pastor Lalsingh was arrested near Julwania Police Station at 3:30 pm on false allegations of conversion during a prayer meeting. The local villagers had opposed the prayer and had informed the Police. The Police then attempted to transfer him to Rajpur Police Station fearing that the mob would attack them but Hindu fundamentalists surrounded the Julwania Police Station to stop the Police from doing so.

**On March 16, in Multai,** Police detained four pastors for two days citing it as a preventive measure to save the Christians from a violent mob. Hindu extremists had earlier stopped a prayer meeting, accusing Christians of forceful conversion and had dragged them to the police station.

**On March 20, in Jabalpur,** Hindu fundamentalists attacked a church and a church-run school. The mob vandalized the Cathedral Church and St. Thomas School premises where a Christian convention was being held. At least 200 Christians were present at the convention. The mob created a ruckus, smashed flowerpots, broke furniture, and accused the Christians of conversion.

**On May 10, in Dewas,** police detained a pastor and about 40 church members after Hindu extremists manhandled, verbally abused and accused them of forceful conversion. A mob led by the local leaders of the RSS stormed the Sunday worship meeting conducted by Pastor Ronald Sinclair, verbally abused him and the church members for their faith in Christ and manhandled them. The police who accompanied the extremists took Pastor Sinclair and 40 church members to the police station for questioning and detained them till midnight. In the meantime, the extremists beat up other local pastors who arrived at the police station, to extend their help to the Christians. The police asked Pastor Sinclair to submit the church membership list and thereafter released him and the church members later in the night.

**On May 12, in Indore,** Hindu extremists attacked Three Churches as a reaction against the supposed inauguration of a new orphanage run by Christian missionaries. The attackers pelted stones, destroyed the crosses, vandalized various items of the church and attempted to set fire to one of the churches in the area. It was reported that the leaders of the orphanage had invited the opposition leader, Sonia Gandhi to inaugurate the new home. Subsequently, the extremists carried out these attacks to stop Gandhi from opening the home. The Sanskritik Jagran Manch, a local right-wing Hindu organisation, has come under suspicion for what happened after it threatened "direct action" against Gandhi if she actually opened the facility, according to media reports. Similarly, the extremists attacked St. Paul's Anglican Church and destroyed furniture, a crucifix, holy vessels and the microphone. The attackers also tried to set fire to a Protestant church, throwing burning rags inside. Police were able to douse the fire before it spread further. In a similar incident, extremists pelted stones at another protestant church and broke glass panels and windows.

**On May 12 in Pipaldhar, Barwani,** suspected Hindu extremists attacked a hostel for mentally challenged

children and damaged the roof of the hostel. The attack took place at about 3:15 a.m. and the attackers pelted stones at the church and damaged the roof made of asbestos sheets. At the time of the attack, there were three nuns in the hostel. The nuns were relocated for safety measures. The Christians have submitted a police complaint.

**On July 2, in Petlawad, Jhabua,** Christians were forced to demolish their own Church building under orders from the local SDM and the Police, who were allegedly acting under the influence of Hindu groups. The Church was being constructed on the land owned by the Pastor after obtaining legal permissions but the police deemed the construction illegal.

**On July 4, in Sagar,** a Christian burial was disrupted by Hindu organizations and the administration and the deceased who was a Christian was then cremated according to Hindu rituals. According to reports published in Dainik Bhaskar (Newspaper), 45 year old Rajesh Yadav, a converted Christian, passed away after a long illness on July 4. As soon as he died, the extended family members of Rajesh Yadav, who are still Hindus, had a dispute with Rosalin Yadav, wife of Rajesh Yadav over the planned burial of Rajesh. Rosalin and Rajesh had been married for over 27 years and have a 20-year-old son, Akash. Rajesh had converted to Christianity in 2007 and also had given an affidavit to this effect. Following this he had been baptized at the Jyoti Bhavan Church in Sagar and was a regular Church member. Rosalin showed the papers and certificates pertaining to Rajesh's conversion but none of her arguments were sufficient for the administration and Hindu groups like Shiv Sena, whose leader Pappu Tiwari claimed that Rajesh was still a Hindu. The administration, local BJP ward members and the police eventually convinced Rosalin to give Rajesh's body to his relatives who then cremated him according to Hindu customs. Akash, Rajesh's son could not attend the last rites of his father.

**On July 7, in Ashoknagar,** local RSS members forced their way into a Christian school and assaulted the Principal, a Nun, and beat up a Priest during their attack on the institution. The members of the RSS forcefully barged into the Jeevan Jyoti Convent School demanding documents of the school's recognition and documents supporting permission of RTE (Right to Education). When the Principal, Sister Sudha John, told them the all the documents were with school administrator and could be presented to everybody, the RSS members started to verbally abuse her and started behaving indecently. According to reports, one of the aggressors even held her hand and pulled her towards himself allegedly with bad intentions which made her run out of her own office screaming for help. As they followed Sister Sudha John,

the RSS members found Fr. Ajjo, also working in the school, entered his office and beat him up brutally. A First Information Report has been filed.

**On July 17, in Leela Tola Motor Stand, Rajendragram, Anuppur,** two Christians were attacked and beaten up by Hindu fundamentalists in broad daylight. Bacchudas and Tirath Singh were verbally abused, beat them brutally, after which the fundamentalists took their ATM cards, bank passbooks, and the Bible. A complaint was filed the next day at the local police station.

**On August 9, in Padlava, Jhabua,** Hindu radicals targeted a community of Christians and the Pastor Ramesh Vasuniya was beaten and arrested on false charges levelled by Hindu group. The Church led by Pastor Vasuniya was pelted with stones while the Church service was going on. Soon the police arrived and arrested Pastor Vasuniya even while the Church service was in progress. He was falsely charged with throwing stones at the "Kanwariyas" (Hindu people going to pilgrimage) and charged with a case of forced conversion under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act. He was also charged under section 295 A of the Indian Penal Code. Local media amplified the false charge against the Pastor and it is with great difficulty that he was finally bailed out.

**On August 23, in Navegaon village, Junnardeo, Chhindwara,** a Christian meeting was attacked and disrupted by Hindu extremists. According to reports, around 30 members of Bajrang Dal attacked the Christian worship meeting held at the house of Mohan Masadkar. The attackers who were accompanied by the police, beat up the Christians gathered for the meeting, abused them in filthy language and manhandled the congregation, which included women and children. The Police arrested four Christians including a woman Basanti Mahobe and the owner of the house Mohan Masadkar. They were charged under sections 3 and 4 of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act and Section 295 A of the Indian Penal Code. The Christians were bailed out after an ordeal that lasted 5 days.

**On August 27, in Pipariya village,** the police arrested Pastor Thanuram Yadav on false charges of conversion. He was picked up from his house and was brought to the Sohagpur police station and was locked up there. This happened without any proper investigation by the local police inspector. Pastor Yadav was also charged under Section 153 of the Indian Penal Code. He was later bailed out.

**On September 5, in Dhar,** Pastor Paras Bilwal and two local Christians were mobbed and taken to the police station on charges of forced conversion at Amjhera village. The incident took place when Pastor Paras Bilwal and two

other Christians identified as Raju and Roopsingh were visiting Christians in a hamlet called Nankhodara. Hindu groups came to know about their visit and soon over 60 people surrounded the three and started questioning them. The Christians were threatened, pushed around and taken to the local police outpost in Kesvi where they were arrested under Section 295 A of the Indian Penal Code and under Sections 3 and 4 of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act.

**On September 6, in Seoni district,** two Christians, Sunny Oman and John Alexander were arrested and detained at the Barghat police station on charges of forced conversion. The Christians, both members of the Church of North India at Seoni, were invited to visit by Kapoor Chand Gedam, a local resident of Kesla Kala village after Sunday worship on September 6. Kesla Kala village is about 25 kilometres from Seoni city. During their visit, around 100 people mobbed the two Christians. The mob manhandled them, questioned them and then took them over to the police station at Barghat, where the Christians were charged under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act on complaint from one Devendra Thakur.

**On September 6, in Dhar,** the police arrested 14 Christians on charges of disrupting peace at Tanda village, Bagh Block. The Christians were holding a peaceful prayer service. Earlier the Pastor of the congregation Suresh Mandloi and some evangelists were threatened by local Hindu extremists under the influence of the village head and were told not to hold prayer meetings at Tanda village. The pastor had approached the police for protection but found out that the radicals had already submitted a complaint against him with the police, so he decided not to conduct the prayer service. The Church members however gathered and were praying in the absence of the Pastor when they were attacked by a mob of over 150 people. The mob manhandled Christians and even women and children present were roughed up. Fourteen Christians were taken to the Tanda Police Station and were charged under section 151 of the Indian Penal Code.

**On September 10, in Jhabua,** Hindu extremists pelted stones and attacked a prayer meeting going on at Fattiguda at 11 am. The prayer meeting was going on at the home of Illiya Vasunia, who is a Church elder. Pastor Ajmer Singh Damor who was preaching at the meeting was attacked and severely beaten up by the attackers who were about 25 in number. This resulted in serious head injuries for the Pastor. A goat belonging to Illiya Vasunia, which was tied in front of his house was cut and killed by a sword. Women and children present at the meeting were manhandled as well. Pastor Ajmer's wife Renita was also beaten up, as was another local Christian called Dillu Bhai. Pastor Ajmer was unconscious for about 5 hours due to the beating. He was taken to Dahod for further treatment.

Dillu Bhai also received stitches on his head due to the beating. The local police station was approached for filing of an FIR but the police initially did not cooperate. It was only when Christian leaders approached higher authorities was an FIR filed.

**On September 11, in Shahdol,** Pastor Thanuram Yadav from Pipariya village was injured in an incident made to look like an accident. He was severely injured and admitted in the hospital. According to him, Hindu fundamentalists were behind this incident. Hindu radicals had earlier attacked him.

**On September 18, in Umria,** Pastor Gaya Prasad Dharwiya and his wife, were apprehended and threatened by a local RSS leader who was accompanied by the police. The Pastor and his wife were returning from a friend's house at Chandia town of Umria District, Madhya Pradesh. The RSS leader and the policemen forcibly took the couple to the Chandia Police Station without assigning any reason and detained them there for more than eleven hours before letting them go late in the night. The Superintendent of Police, Umria District ordered Pastor Dharviya and his wife to be present at the Chandia Police Station next morning at 10:00AM.

**On October 3, in Satna,** police arrested three evangelists accusing them of proselytizing and forced conversions. The arrest took place at a school located at Majhgawan, a small town in Satna district. The three Stephen Rajkumar, 40; Harilal 20; and Anil Kumar were charged under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act. The police also confiscated Bibles, books, CDs and projectors that were with them.

**On October 3, in Betul,** Suraj Sariyam, a Christian from Chattarpur, Ghoda Dongri, was threatened and harassed by local Hindu leader Kailash Sariyam alias Gabba. Gabba not only stopped Suraj from entering his own paddy field but also did not allow him to take water for next two days from the village river. The village has 26 Christian families. On October 5, 2015 the village council summoned all the Christian families for a hearing. Orders were also issued to the villagers to boycott all the Christian families. Villagers were told not to provide basic facilities like water etc. to the Christians. The Christians in the village are still getting threats from Hindu extremists and are living in danger.

**On October 5,** a group of 15 Hindu extremists trespassed into the home of a Christian family at Motwa village in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh and threatened them. The extremists were pressurizing the family to do a 'Ghar Wapsi' (homecoming). This family had accepted Christianity 5 years ago. The extremists threatened the family and warned them not to partake in Christian worship service.

**On October 17, in Betul,** two Christians, Yuvraj and Kumar Singh were taken to the Bhimpur Police station in Betul district for questioning after local Hindu extremists complained against them alleging religious conversions. Christians at Bhimpur village are getting regular threats from local Hindu groups to close down the Church and move out of the village for more than a year now.

**On October 25, in Kanhiwada,** a Christian woman and a man were arrested by the police from a private prayer meeting at Bhatekhari village after a local Hindu leader complained against them alleging conversions through allurements. Mrs. Anjana Jharia and Mr. Manish Yadav were speaking at a private prayer meeting organized at the house of a Christian, when the police arrested them on the complaint of one Ashok Baghel. There is no evidence of Mr. Ashok Baghel even being present in the meeting according to local Christians. They were charged with sections 3 and 4 of the MP Freedom of Religion Act and under sections 506 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code. They were later bailed out.

**On October 25, in Junnardeo,** at least 8 Christians plus two children were arrested from Silvada, Junnardeo on cooked up charges of forced conversion and of hurting religious sentiments this included a family from Bhopal who had come down to Junnardeo for their vacations. Pastor A J Thomas, his wife, and two children, John (14) and Kezia (12) were among the people arrested. Pastor Thomas and his wife were later put in a jail in Junnardeo while their children were taken to Chhindwara, which is 50 kilometres away. Later the children were separated and while Kezia was sent to Shahdol (421 Kilometres away), John was sent to Narsinghpur (125 Kilometres away). The family was bailed out a few days later after being separated in this manner.

**On November 6, in Khargone,** Pastor Rajesh Morne and Saga Singh were beaten up by Hindu extremists and handed over to the police at Sendhwa. The attack took place without any provocation on the part of the Christians. The two pastors who work with the Indian Evangelical Team were visiting a group of Christians for fellowship and prayer. The Christians, who were eating their meal in peace were suddenly attacked by local Hindu extremists, who alleged that the Christians were involved in forced conversions. According to reports received the mob dragged Pastor Morne and Singh, beat them up, took them to police station and filed a criminal complaint against them under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion act. The pastors were later bailed out.

**On November 19, in Seoni,** Police arrested Pastor Rajendra Baghel and three other Christians on charges of hurting religious feelings. According to reports received, the local police inspector at the Seoni police station had



summoned Pastor Rajendra Baghel and three other Christians for questioning. They were then arrested and put inside the lock up. The Christians including Pastor Baghel were later bailed out and their case continues.

**On October 28, in Barwani,** Pastor Hate Singh Rawat was arrested under section 151 of the Indian Penal Code. Pastor Singh along with a few other Pastors had gone earlier in the day to meet Mr. Chunnihal, Sarpanch (village-head) of the nearby Badgaon village, to seek his permission for a Christmas program at Badgaon. Badgaon is 3 kilometres away from Badwani where Pastor Hate Singh stays. The delegation of pastors were abused and turned away by Sarpanch Chunnihal who alleged that Christians are spoiling the culture of the village by spreading a western religion. Later that day, Pastor Hate Singh was summoned by the local police station on the pretext of questioning. When he got there, he was arrested and put behind bars.

**On December 4, in Thandla,** Hindu extremists manhandled and threatened two Christian families at Julwaniya, Jhabua district. The families have been receiving threats for some time now. Hindu extremists are pressurizing each family to pay five thousand rupees in the village to contribute to the village temple. However the Christian families are poor and are unable to afford 5000 Rupees. This provoked a violent reaction against them.

**On December 27, in Rajpur,** three Pastors, Kailash Chouhan, Diwan Singh More and Suresh More were arrested on false charges of conversion. They were taken to the Rajpur Police Station. The Pastors were returning after conducting a prayer meeting when they were arrested.

## Maharashtra

**On January 18, 2015 in Chinchwad, Pune,** Hindu extremists came and threatened a community of

Christians who were praying together on a Sunday morning in a rented premise. The Christians were threatened saying that they would not be allowed to pray and gather as a Church from the following Sunday. A report was filed at the Chinchwad Police station.

**On January 21 in Navapur, Dulia Sakri,** it was reported that local villagers stopped the construction of a school and a hospital by Alpha Ministries, under the influence of local Hindu fundamentalists. An FIR and Police Complaint was filed.

**On January 25, in Nala Sopara near Mumbai in Palghar District, Maharashtra,** Mr. Pramod was threatened and attacked for displaying a picture of Jesus in his garage. He is a mechanic who runs his garage shop for welding, and spray painting. A group of men objected him for putting up the picture in the garage and threatened to kill him if he put up the picture again or reported the attack to the authorities.

**On March 21, in New Panvel, Navi Mumbai,** the St George Catholic Church was attacked in the early hours as unidentified men hurled stones inside the church and damaged the glass enclosure of the statue. According to the CCTV footage, the attack was carried out by two persons who were riding pillion on a motorcycle at around 1:30 am when they hurled stones at the Church located near a bridge in the area. In the incident, the covering glass outside the statue of Saint George got damaged.

## Odisha

**On February 6, in Malkangiri,** Hindu fundamentalists launched a series of attacks against the Christians in Tigam, Malkangiri that led to the believers fleeing their homes and some sustaining serious injuries. The first attack took place on 6th February where Erral Gunjam, a Christian, was beaten up by his brother and the villagers for his faith in Christ. "They told him to renounce his faith

but when he refused, they started to beat him up." reported a local leader. Again, on the next day, the Hindu fundamentalists summoned the Christian families to a public meeting where they were told to leave Christianity and worship Hindu deities alone. When the Christians refused, they beat them up with sticks and forced them to worship Hindu idols and forcefully made them take a dip in the river as a form of Hindu rituals. The incidents of beating and targeting of Christians continued till February 10 and many Christians were forced to flee the area for safety. The police arranged for a peace talk between the Christians and the Hindu fundamentalists on February 10. However, the Hindu fundamentalists declined to have any kind of dialogue and maintained, "everyone in the village should worship Hindu gods or leave."

**On June 15, in Kandragunda village, Tentulikhunti, Nabarangapur,** a Christian prayer meeting was forcefully stopped and the Pastor arrested. Pastor Siluan Saroj Kumar Nayak was leading a prayer meeting at the Kandragunda village when four men belonging to right wing Hindu groups barged in and forced the Pastor to stop the meeting. The Pastor was later arrested and a FIR was filed against him under sections 295A/294/ 506 of the Indian Penal Code and RW Sec 5 of Odisha Freedom of Religious Act 1967. Pastor Nayak has been charged with hurting the sentiments of other religions (295A / 294), violating the Odisha Freedom of Religion Act 1967 and criminal intimidation (506).

**On July 26, in Kandhamal,** Security forces killed a Christian couple who had gone uphill at Dudimaha hills to make phone calls as they were unable to get mobile network in their nearby village. They were calling their son Rahul who studies in Kerala.

**On August 17, in Malkangiri,** Pastor Gurumurthy Madi was killed by a group of Naxalites. He was 29 years old and it is believed that he was killed because he refused to hand over a fellow pastor who was a former Naxalite. He leaves behind his wife and three children aged 8, 6 and 2.

## Punjab

**On April 1, in Dhangusara, Pathankot,** the Pastor of the Tarmal Prayer Tower was attacked by Hindu fundamentalists for starting a Church in the area.

**On August 23, in Batala,** Pastor Rani Gill was attacked in a gruesome manner by high caste Jatt Sikhs who opposed her presence and work of preaching in the area. The attackers, who were armed with spears and iron rods, beat up Pastor Rani Gill on the head with iron rods and pushed a spear in her left breast resulting in severe injuries. A Church member who tried to protect Pastor Gill was also attacked with a sharp knife, which resulted in his head

getting a sharp cut down to his neck. He was hospitalized in a serious condition. This is not the first time that Pastor Rani Gill has had to face opposition. According to reports, the same group of attackers have been creating trouble for her for the last 6 years. There have been multiple attacks on the Church members who come for worship and once the attackers even climbed the Church roof and urinated on the Cross. An FIR has been filed with the local police.

**On October 8, in Kapurthala,** Pastor Arvinder Singh and his family were brutally beaten up to the point of death by a mob that included his neighbours in Phagwara city of Kapurthala district, Punjab. Pastor Arvinder was hit with an iron object on his head, which made him unconscious for a couple of hours. His wife, who was seven months pregnant, was manhandled and struck many times over on her stomach by the mob. The couple's 11-month baby boy was also thrown at pile of bricks, which caused him serious internal injuries. No FIR has been registered.

**On November 6, in Punjab,** a Christian man, Ninder Singh from Paddi Khalsa village, Phillaur tehsil, Jalandhar district, was killed in an altercation with his extended family members who were pressuring him to renounce his faith. Ninder Singh had low blood level and was not well when the altercation took place as his relatives forcefully tried to take him to a local Hindu priest. He is survived by his wife and three children aged 10,8, and 6 years.

**On December 8, in Amritsar,** Hindu Extremists stopped a Church building construction at Gurbaksh Nagar. The extremists were protesting Christian presence in the area.

## Rajasthan

**On January 23 in Jaipur, Rajasthan,** it was reported that the priest of the Jodhpur Methodist Church was arrested on false allegations of rape. Though he is based in Jodhpur, he is presently in the Jaipur Central Jail. No allegations were proved to be true till report time.

**On February 25, in Jaipur,** the Mansarovar Police station indulged blatantly in the custodial violence of the 20 members from the Hebron Church of Hyderabad who had come to Jaipur. The police carried out this action at the behest of the Hindu fundamentalists who hurled abuses and barged into the house in Shanti Nagar, Gurjar ki Thadi, where the Christians were staying. The attackers pushed these 20 Christians in 2 jeeps and kicked them and beat them on reaching the police station. They were made to spread their palms and were hit with a belts and clubs. At least 6 people were seriously injured including one whose wristwatch was damaged.

**On July 19, in Nakhnool village, Alwar,** Hindu extremists forcefully placed a Hindu idol and conducted prayers in

front of a Christian house. According to reports, the attackers dragged the Christian man, who was not at home at the time of the incident, forcefully to his house along with 50 other Christians who were subsequently forced to worship the idol.

## Tamil Nadu

**On January 21 in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu,** Hindu Munnani members threw Bibles over the road in front of the Office of the District Collector. This was an act to incite violence against Christians. A petition was submitted to the authorities.

**On January 23 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu,** The Tamil Nadu government directed one of its IAS officers, Mr. Umashankar, not to go ahead with "preaching and propagating" his faith as it is against service rules and could create communal disharmony.

**On February 7, 2015 in Theni,** the Worship service of the Church run by Rhema Revival Ministries, Diocese of Cumbam Valley was disrupted by a mob of Hindutva fundamentalists. They threatened the Church leaders to not to continue the worship services at the Church in Bumiakoundampatti. Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Gnanaprahasam, the Bishop of the diocese condemned the same and filed a report at the Allinagaram Police Station following the incident.

**On February 10, 2015 in Gudiyattam, Vellore,** two women were arrested on false allegations of forced conversions in the Gudiyattam Government Hospital. The police arrested Radha Krishnan (65) and H Anitha (39), who are cousins and residents of Melalathur. According to police officials, Anitha's husband Henry Pula was a pastor in a church in Melalathur. He died 40 days ago due to a chronic disease. So, Anitha gave loaves of bread and Bibles to 60 patients in the government hospital as a form of ritual in Gudiyattam on Tuesday. A case was registered under section 447 (Punishment for criminal trespass) and 153 (A) (Promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) in Gudiyattam town police station.

**On February 22, in Swaminathapuram, Kanyakumari,** Hindu fundamentalists objected to the repairs that were being made to a Church. The incident occurred when the New Life Assembly of God Church had begun to repair their Church's roof and a mob came to stop the work. They objected to the Church's presence in the area. A report was filed in the local police station.

**On February 22, in Palnamkuppam, Tirupattur, Vellore,** Ps. Raj\* of the Revival Prayer House was beaten by a mob

for conducting a Church service in the area. The local Panchayat had agreed to intervene in the incident however no report was filed. *\*name changed*

**On February 28, in Nagercoil,** Hindu fundamentalists attacked a Church and ripped apart the door from its walls. The new doors were installed on February 26 at the Newman Missionary Society Church's building that was being constructed and nearing completion.

**On March 2, in Nagapalli Anai (Dam) area, Pennagaram Taluk,** it was reported that Pastor Mani\* of the Holy Bible Revival Church was denied permission to conduct Church service in the area. The local Tehsildar (Officer) issued a statement to him denying entry into the area without citing any explanation. Earlier, the Church was stopped in January 2015 as local groups opposed the same.

*\*name changed*

**On April 13, in Vaylu, Coimbatore** the local Panchayat passed orders to ban the Church in the village. The Apostolic Church with a congregation of about 15 Christians has been in the village for over 4 years. Hindu fundamentalists had stopped services in the Church in November 2014 and then passed the order by word to ban the Church.

**On June 15, in Coimbatore,** unknown miscreants vandalized several statues of Jesus Christ, Mother Mary and St. Joseph at a prayer house. Garfield Jansen, who set up the prayer house on 1497 Trichy Road, stores and distributes freely religious articles. The articles that were destroyed in the Prayer House were collected from various Catholic pilgrim centers around the world. Articles like sacred relics, medals, statues, souvenirs, mementos, etc., which have been blessed by even Pope Francis, have all been reduced to rubble.

**On 8th September, in Theni district of Tamil Nadu,** Hindu fundamentalists, attacked a Pastor, violently assaulted him physically and gave him death threats,.

**On November 2, in Nagercoil,** Noah and Rathnakumar, both volunteers with the Jesus Redeems ministry were beaten up by Sub Inspector Ravichandran stationed at Asaripallam. According to reports received, both the volunteers were on their way home after placing flex boards for an upcoming Christian meeting at Nagercoil when they were intercepted by the police and carried to the Asaripallam police station. There the Sub Inspector Ravichandran beat them up while also continuing to abuse their Christian faith. The volunteers who are both under graduate students were severely injured and were admitted in the government hospital.

## Telangana

**On January 16, in Tadur, Mahabubnagar, Telangana,** unknown assailants torched a Church. The incident took place in the evening and the burning reduced more than half of the structure of the Church to ashes. The articles inside the Church were also completely burnt. Hindu extremists had been threatening the Pastor for some time and had told him not to conduct worship services. Mahabubnagar district has reportedly seen over dozen anti-Christian attacks in the past few months, the onslaught attacks ranging from physical attacks to setting fire to the Churches and booking false cases on Pastors, by Hindu extremists.

**On January 21 in Malkajgiri near Secunderabad,** the permission to conduct the Sunday Services of the Church led by Pastor Sudhakar Reddy was denied by the local authorities after being influenced by Hindutva fundamentalists. The Church has been seeking and receiving permissions for all such meetings at various venues in the past.

**On January 31, 2015** two Christian families were threatened by a mob of Hindu radicals at Kuntluru, Telangana. Hindu radicals forcibly entered the homes of Mrs. Nirmala and Mrs. Kalavathi and harassed and verbally abused the entire family for being Christians. They threatened the families with death if they continue to remain Christians. The Christians filed a police complaint and the police arrested eight people who were part of the mob. The families continue to live in fear and are still receiving threats.

**On February 7, 2015 in Barangpet Village, Hyderabad,** 7 Hindu fundamentalists came and threatened Pastor Lata and her husband forcing them to close the Shalom Church of the Victory Ministries. They raised slogans saying that the Church land does not belong to them. The Pastor had bought the land and has been working in the village since 2002. The fundamentalists had earlier come on January 26, 2015 after which the pastor had gone to report the incident at Meerpet Police Station. Police refused to file the report on both occasions.

**On February 18, in Neredmet, Secunderabad,** a Cross, built in the center of a land that belonged to the Neredmet Pastorate, Diocese of Gadag, Church of South India, was dismantled by unidentified persons. A complaint was lodged at the Neredmet Police Station.

**On February 28, in Chellapally, Mandal, Rangareddy, Telangana,** a mob of 30 fundamentalists came and attacked the Chellapally Baptist Church and beat up 3 persons. The Church was hosting the month-end prayer in the evening when the attack took place and a mob came

and attacked the Christians who were gathered for prayer.

**On March 5, in Balanagar of Mahabubnagar district,** unknown people destroyed window glasses of a Church. The attackers were suspected to be members of the RSS as per the Pastor C H Prabhudas, in charge of the Emmanuel Prardhana Mandira. On the midnight of 5th March 2015, which also happened to be a Hindu festival day, 'Holi', neighbours, who are living close to the Church building, heard the loud noise coming from the Church. Hearing the loud noise when they came out of their house to see what was going on, by then almost all the window glasses were already destroyed. The neighbours saw people using long wooden bamboo sticks to break the window glasses, and also damaging other things in the Church. When the attackers saw the crowd they fled from the scene.

**On April 5, in Makthal Mandhal, Mahabubnagar,** Hindu extremists attacked Easter Sunday worship service, hoisted saffron flags inside the church premises and harassed a pastor. Pastor Christopher Meesaul and members of Bethel Church found two saffron flags tied at one of the poles inside the Church premises when they returned from the Easter sunrise Service at about 8:30 a.m. Subsequently, the Christians took off the flag as it was an illegal encroachment of the church premises. However, at about 9:30 a.m., Hindu extremists massed up near the church and questioned the pastor about the removal of the flag. They verbally abused the pastor and tied a new saffron flag on one pole inside the church premises. The extremists threw a flag in a nearby drain, took picture of the same and instantly accused the pastor of throwing the flag into the drain. Thereafter, at about 11:00 a.m, the extremists continued to disturb the main worship service as they swelled up near the church, yelled at the pastor to stop the service and told him to meet the local Hindu leaders at the temple. The pastor stopped the meeting and proceeded to meet the Hindu leaders at the temple where he was pushed, slapped and kicked even as Hindu extremists continued to abuse him verbally and shouted slogans against Christianity.

**On April 8, in Pebbair, Mahabubnagar,** a mob of Hindu extremists shouting Hindu slogans stormed a Gospel Meeting. The mob beat up Christians and damaged furniture and electrical lights. Four pastors sustaining serious injuries as a result of the beating. Pastor Sudhakar's left leg was broken and his body was blue and black from the beating, Pastor Pratap received severe cut on his upper lips, Pastor Timothy's hands were fractured and Pastor Yesu Tidam's hands were also fractured besides of all them sustained abrasions all over their body. The police registered a case against five attackers only after the state home minister instructed them to make the arrests.

**On April 19, in Muccherla Pally, Mahabubnagar,** Police detained a pastor after Hindu extremists belonging to the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad beat him up. Pastor Shalem Raj of Hebron Church was distributing gospel tracts when Hindu extremists charged in, accused him of forceful conversion and mercilessly beat him up. The extremists thereafter took the pastor to the police station where he was detained for more than nine hours. He was released at midnight on the condition to report at the police station the next morning.

**On May 21 in Wanaparthy, Mahabubnagar, Telangana,** a group of fundamentalists forcibly stopped the Church construction work of the Gethsamne prayer hall. Hindu fundamentalists descended on the spot where the Church was being constructed and created a scene. They raised objection to the construction work and the presence of the Church. This was followed by a visit from the local Deputy Superintendent of Police who visited the Church site and ordered the Church officials to stop the construction work.

**On November 20, in Mahbubnagar,** Hindu extremists attacked a Christian meeting alleging conversions. The attackers beat up the Christians present and while many Christians were severely injured, a 25 year old Christian woman lost her 4-month pregnancy as a result of the injuries received.

## Uttar Pradesh

**On January 18, in Abhay Khand 1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad,** the Amarpali School authorities, under the influence of local Hindutva groups, refused the Church members to gather for Sunday worship services. The Church was being conducted in the same premises since 2010.

**On January 25 in Gyanpur, Bhadohi,** a mob beat up Ps. Jomon Scaria and his wife Jaya at his house. They kicked his wife on the stomach. Tensions had prevailed in the area for the past three days, and the Pastor had called off the Sunday worship service after taking advice from the local police. In spite of taking precautions, the mob came to the Pastor's house and brutally beat him and his wife.

**On January 31, 2015 in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh,** it was reported that a Pastor had been stopped from conducting Christian prayer meetings in his house for over a month. Ps. Shankar Verma had been conducting Christian prayer meetings in his house in Palendar ki Bagiya, Tharagjeet Nagar every Sunday for the past 5 years without any disturbance. The police allegedly stopped Christmas celebrations and forced him to leave a letter in writing saying that he would not conduct any prayer meetings in his house without permission.



**On February 2, in Khetalpur, Bhadohi,** a group of Hindu fundamentalists came and threatened staff of the Khetalpur Vishwavani Church to stop all prayers and church services immediately. They said that they would beat up the Pastor if he conducted the Church the following Sunday. The Church has been in the area for the past 17 years. The incident was reported at the Aurahi Police Station and the police provided the Church with protection on the following Sunday.

**On February 7, 2015 in Jagapur, Bhadohi,** a pastor was threatened to stop the Church worship service that he was leading. Hindu fundamentalists threatened the Pastor and asked him to stop prayers in the area.

**On March 25, in Agra,** a mob attacked a prayer meeting and beat up the Christians present in the house. The Pastor and 3 Christians were beaten badly by the mob made up of Hindu fundamentalists. Even the women were not spared and were beaten and pushed around. The meeting was being held at a Christian's home. Later the Police took the Christians including 4 women to the Sadar Police station after which the fundamentalists surrounded the Police Station demanding police action against the Christians.

**On March 25, in Belwaghat Village, Maharajganj,** 15 Christians were attacked by a mob during a prayer

meeting. While Pastor Nikhil and other Christians were praying in a Christians' house, a mob of about 20 persons rushed into the house and brutally beat them. They falsely accused them of conversions. A FIR was filed later in the Kothibhar Police Station.

**On March 28, in Swar Tehsil, Rampur,** Hindu fundamentalists objected to the Church services and asked the congregation to leave the village. The incident occurred when the leader of the Maswasi Village along with Hindu fundamentalists came to The Salvation for Asia Church and asked them to vacate the premises that they had hired for Church services. The Church still has two more years left according to the lease deed.

**On April 10, in Bulandshahr, Haryana,** the foundation stone that was laid for the Church to be built was vandalized and broken by unidentified assailants. The Foundation Stone was laid in 1989 at the Methodist Episcopal Church compound, now known as Bulandshahr Methodist Church, which presently houses a school, and ladies hostel. A complaint was filed the next day, April 11 with the Inspector in Charge of the Avas Vikash Bulandshahr Police Station.

**On April 12, in Rampur,** Hindu extremists attacked and beat up Christians. The Hindu extremists had in the past repeatedly attacked the Christians and even blocked the recent Good Friday Service on April 8 forcing the Christians to move out of the area. The on-going campaign against the Church saw the local BJP leaders threatening to burn the Church, and even to terminate jobs of Christians who continue to worship there. The Christians, on being beaten up on April 12, ran to the police station, however, the police refused to take any action.

**On April 16, in Pratabpura, Rakabganj, Agra,** unidentified miscreants damaged four statues of Mother Mary and wrapped a dog chain around one of the broken statues. The attack against the 90-year-old St. Mary's Church took place at about 3:30 a.m. when the head priest of the church, Father Moon Lazarus was awakened by the car's alarm going off after the car was damaged. Thereafter, Father Lazarus along with another priest found the damaged statues of Mother Mary, baby Jesus statue and the glass case broken.

**On June 11, in Devasaha, Kushinagar,** Pastor Peter was arrested and put behind bars by the Police while he was praying along with other believers at his home. The Police detained him in response to the complaint filed against the Pastor falsely accusing him of conversion.

**On July 24, in Raispatti, Varanasi,** Pastor Chandrama Masih and his family were brutally attacked by Hindu fundamentalists. Pastor Masih's family was busy in the

construction of their home when they were attacked. The attackers wanted them to flee the area. His wife, daughter and Pastor Masih himself sustained injuries as a result of the attack and were hospitalized for 2 days. His wife received deep cuts on her head.

**On August 2, in Ghazipur,** Hindu extremists disrupted Sunday worship at a local house Church. Pastor Nandlal was leading the worship service when Hindu radicals stormed in and disrupted the same. They ordered the Christians to stop worshipping and threatened Pastor Nandlal of dire consequences if he did not leave the area.

**On August 15, in Unchahar, Raebareli,** the police detained 10 Pastors after accusing them of forced conversion. According to reports, the police halted the on-going prayer convention on the second day, after Hindu fundamentalists complained to the local police that conversions were taking place in the convention. The Pastors were then taken to the police station and questioned. After due investigations and questioning of those gathered for the convention, the allegations were proved to be false. The pastors were released later in the evening.

**On August 16, in Raebareli,** Hindu fundamentalists barged into the Sunday worship of Assembly of Believers Church, chased away women and brutally beat up the men and the Pastor at the Church.

**On August 23, in Sadpur, Ghazipur,** Pastor Dinesh Yadav was attacked and beaten up by Hindu extremists. According to reports the attack took place without provocation and was so severe that Pastor Dinesh Yadav still bleeds from his ears due to internal injuries. The attackers later took Pastor Yadav to the Khanpur Police Station where he was arrested and charged with forced conversion.

**On August 27,** a peaceful prayer meeting of Christians in their private property was interrupted and two Christians were threatened and told that they needed prior permission from authorities to hold such prayer meetings in the future.

**On September 13, in Lakhimpur Kheri,** Pastor Durgesh Yadav of Palian Kalanwas threatened by a mob of around 200-250 people led by local RSS and BJP leaders during Sunday worship service at around 11:00 am. The mob wanted him to stop conducting worship in the area. The house Church of about 100 members has stopped worship as of now because of the threats received. Pastor Yadav has filed a complaint to the Palia Kalan police station but the police have not yet lodged the FIR against the local leaders.

**On November 4, in Ghazipur,** Hindu extremists disturbed a Christian prayer meeting and manhandled the Christians present at village Todarpur, Shadiabad, District. According to reports received, a team from Hallelujah mission, a Christian ministry based in Hyderabad, was visiting local Christians in the area and was participating in the prayer meeting organized by them. Members of the Hindu Mahasabha, Hindu Yuva Vahini and local BJP leaders disrupted the prayer meeting alleging forced conversions. They raised slogans and beat the Christians and the visiting team, which included women. The police soon intervened and detained the Christians for their safety. The Christian men who were detained were charged with disrupting peace while the police let off the women. The police also made the Christians give a commitment in writing that such meetings will not happen in the future.

**On November 27, in Mahoba,** members of the Shiv Sena attacked at Church meeting and attempted to manhandle the people present. A meeting was being held at the 100 plus year old Church at Mahoba, when suddenly members of the Shiv Sena trespassed into the Church premises and disrupted the prayer meeting. They beat up the Chairman of the Church, Mr. Pradeep Lal and raised slogans against Christianity and the Church. Soon the police arrived and took Mr. Pradeep Lal in custody. He was later released.

**On December 8, in Meerut,** Police officials summoned Christians from Mawana area when they started construction of a Church building. The police questioned them even as the Church received warnings from Hindu groups.

## West Bengal

**On March 10 in Rayapara, Dankuni, Hooghly,** a pastor and 4 other Christians were attacked and beaten by a mob. Hindu fundamentalists attacked the Pastor along with his mother in law and three other women. The prayer was organized in a Christian family's house that attended the Agape In Action Church. A mob of about 200 people came and took the pastor along with other Christians to a nearby temple and forced them to perform Hindu rituals. When they refused to comply with their demands, they started beating them. The women who had accompanied the mob beat up the Christian women as well.

**On March 15, 2015 at Rayapara, Dankuni, Hooghly,** 11 families were forcibly asked to leave the village by Hindu fundamentalists. Out of 11 families, 10 families own a house in the village whereas one family who had a rented accommodation moved out of the village and had to stay with the Pastor of Agape In Action Church. Earlier, on March 10, 2015, a mob had attacked the Christians in the village during a prayer.

**On March 15, in Ranaghat,** a 71-year-old nun of a convent school was gang-raped. She was injured so badly that she had to undergo a surgery. The attackers not only assaulted the elderly nun was assaulted but also raided and desecrated the Chapel in the Convent of Jesus and Mary and reportedly stole more than Rs. 8 lakhs.

**On June 3, in Madhyamgram,** North 24 Paraganas, unidentified persons attacked the Believers Church missionary school, creating panic among the Christian community in the area. The decade old School is located at Abdalpur in Madhyamgram, around 4 km from the Kolkata Airport. The attackers not only ransacked classrooms but also damaged educational and official equipment. They also destroyed furniture, looted food and contaminated the water filtration system by pouring phenyl into it. After the attack objectionable graffiti was also found written on the premises walls.

**On June 20, in Kolkata,** a crude bomb exploded injuring one person at the playground of the Assembly of God school. The school is located in the Dum Dum Cantonment area and is run by the Assemblies of God Church. The incident took place on a Saturday otherwise the fatalities could have been more. The Police say that crude explosives had been stuffed inside a ball and had been sealed with tape and probably miscreants had placed the same in the school compound.

**On July 10, in Taherpur, Nadia district,** miscreants vandalized the Saint Thomas Catholic Church in the early morning. The glass decoration on the door of the hall in the church was smashed with bricks, and one of the items used during the prayer was removed from its place and thrown on the yard of the church. "The box containing materials of prayer was broken by the miscreants and its contents were thrown in the yard," Dipak Mondal, a member of the governing body of the church told the media.

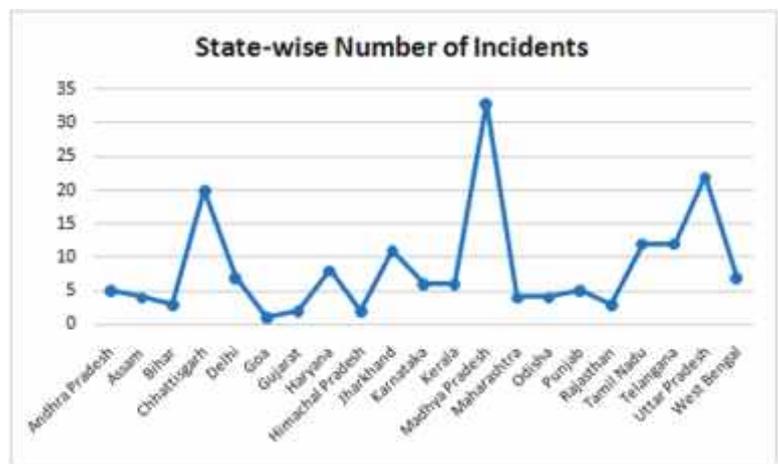
**On September 24, in West Medinapur,** Pastor Jacob Soren from Debra village was threatened by village people and asked to stop the Sunday worship service. After Police intervention, however the Church started to continue the Sunday worship service again.



# PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS 2015 STATISTICS

State	# incidents
Andhra Pradesh	5
Assam	4
Bihar	3
Chhattisgarh	20
Delhi	7
Goa	1
Gujarat	2
Haryana	8
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jharkhand	11
Karnataka	6
Kerala	6
Madhya Pradesh	33
Maharashtra	4
Odisha	4
Punjab	7
Rajasthan	3
Tamil Nadu	12
Telangana	12
Uttar Pradesh	22
West Bengal	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>177</b>

## STATE WISE - Number of Incidents



## Month wise - Number of incidents

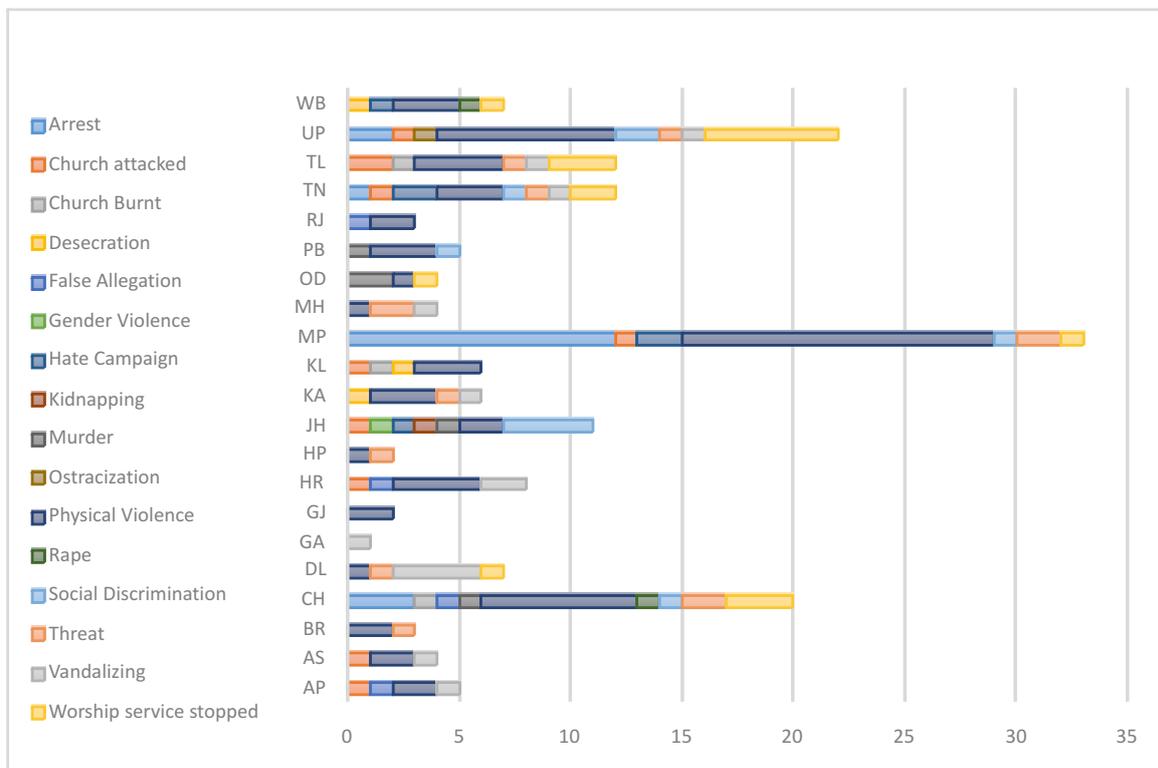
Month	# of incidents
Jan 15	22
Feb 15	25
Mar 15	24
Apr 15	14
May 15	5
Jun 15	13
Jul 15	9
Aug 15	16
Sep 15	16
Oct 15	17
Nov 15	9
Dec 15	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>178</b>



# PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS 2015 STATISTICS

## TYPE OF VIOLENCE ACROSS STATES IN 2015

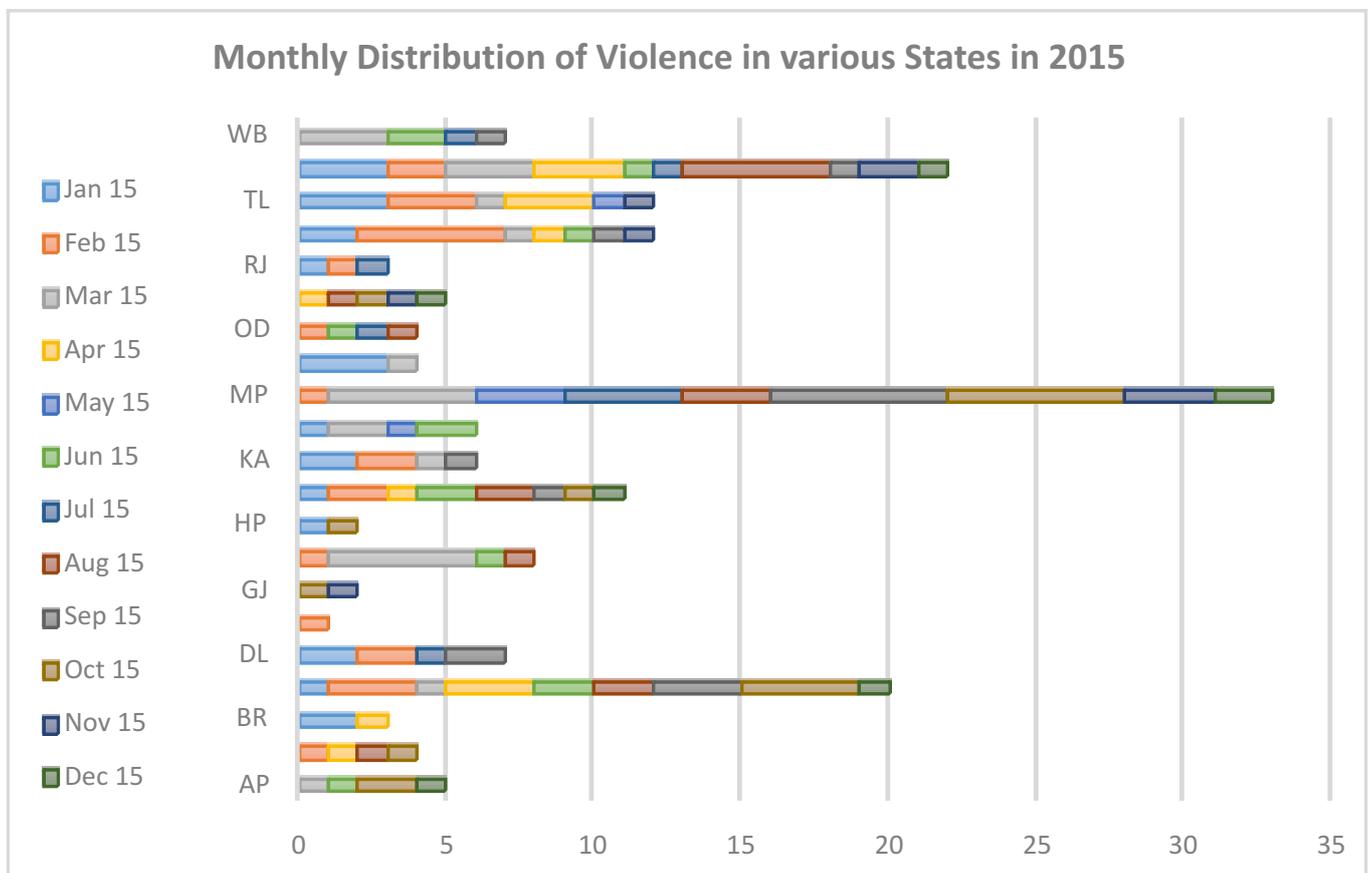
Type of Violence	AP	AS	BR	CH	DL	GA	GJ	HR	HP	JH	KA	KL	MP	MH	OD	PB	RJ	TN	TL	UP	WB	Total	
Arrest				3									12					1		2		18	
Church attacked	1	1						1		1		1	1						1	2	1		10
Church Burnt				1									1							1			3
Desecration											1	1										1	3
False Allegation	1			1				1									1						4
Gender Violence										1													1
Hate Campaign										1			2						2			1	6
Kidnapping										1													1
Murder				1						1					2	1							5
Ostracization																					1		1
Physical Violence	2	2	2	7	1		2	4	1	2	3	3	14	1	1	3	2	3	4	8	3		68
Rape				1																		1	2
Social Discrimination				1						4			1			1		1		2			10
Threat			1	2	1				1		1		2	2					1	1	1		13
Vandalizing	1	1		4	1			2			1			1					1	1	1		14
Worship service stopped				3	1								1		1				2	3	6	1	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>177</b>	



# PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS 2015 STATISTICS

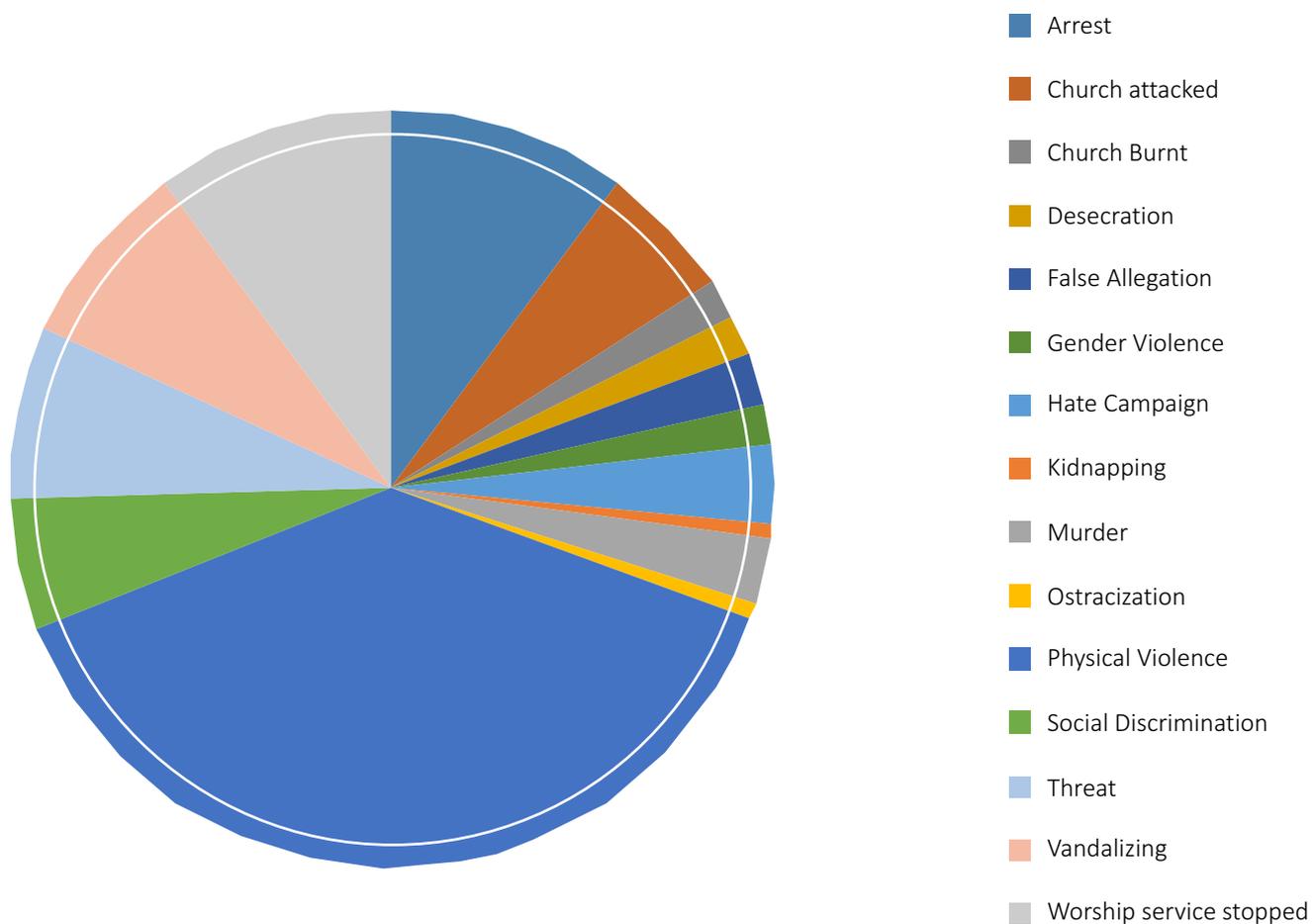
## Monthly Distribution of Violence in various States 2015

Months	AP	AS	BR	CH	DL	GA	GJ	HR	HP	JH	KA	KL	MP	MH	OD	PB	RJ	TN	TL	UP	WB	Grand Total
Jan 15			2	1	2				1	1	2	1		3			1	2	3	3		22
Feb 15		1		3	2	1		1		2	2		1		1		1	5	3	2		25
Mar 15	1			1				5			1	2	5	1				1	1	3	3	24
Apr 15		1	1	3						1						1		1	3	3		14
May 15												1	3						1			5
Jun 15	1			2				1		2		2			1			1		1	2	13
Jul 15					1								4		1		1			1	1	9
Aug 15		1		2				1		2			3		1	1				5		16
Sep 15				3	2					1	1		6					1		1	1	16
Oct 15	2	1		4			1		1	1			6			1						17
Nov 15							1						3			1		1	1	2		9
Dec 15	1			1						1			2			1				1		7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>177</b>



## CATEGORY WISE INCIDENTS IN 2015

Type of Violence	# of Incidents
Arrest	18
Church attacked	10
Church Burnt	3
Desecration	3
False Allegation	4
Gender Violence	3
Hate Campaign	6
Kidnapping	1
Murder	5
Ostracization	1
Physical Violence	68
Social Discrimination	10
Threat	13
Vandalizing	14
Worship service stopped	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>177</b>





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