

# **Report On Anti-Christian Violence In Indian State Of Orissa**

November 10, 2008

*Prepared by Christian Legal Association, a non-profit organisation  
registered in New Delhi under the Societies Registration Act*





## **Background Note**

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An unprecedented spate of attacks on Christians and their property and institutions began following the assassination of an icon of Hindu nationalism, Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, and four of his disciples on August 23 in the Kandhamal district of the eastern state of Orissa. Although Maoists (extreme Marxists) claimed responsibility for the murder, Hindu extremist groups blamed local Christians for it. In the violence that ensued in the name of retribution, at least 58 Christians were killed - mostly burned alive or hacked to death, thousands of houses and churches were burned or destroyed, and around 50,000 were rendered homeless. The Kandhamal district had witnessed a series of violent attacks eight months earlier also.

Orissa is ruled by a coalition of a local party, the *Biju Janata Dal*, and the Hindu nationalist *Bharatiya Janata Party* (BJP).

### ***Demography***

Kandhamal is a land-bounded district, which is situated in the middle of Orissa state. Of the Kandhamals population of 648,201, the number of tribal (aboriginal) people stands at 336,809 (52 percent). The number of Dalit (formerly known as “untouchables” due to their lowest position in the caste hierarchy in Hinduism) people is 109,506 (17 percent). There are about 118,000 Christians (18 percent).

### **December 2007 Violence**

A massive spate of attacks on the minority Christian community erupted in Kandhamal around the Christmas season of 2007. Hindu nationalist organisations opposed the erection of a makeshift gate for Christmas celebrations, although the Christians had obtained permission from the state government. This reportedly led to a clash between sections of the local Christian community and the Hindu nationalist protesters. Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, a leader of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) and supposedly the mastermind of the riot, alleged that he was attacked by Christians. Under this pretext, the entire district was thrown into the cauldron of communal riots within three hours. The violence continued for 15 days.

The violence affected about 8,000 families in 68 villages and caused murder of over six persons, burning of hundreds of houses, churches and educational institutions, hospitals, and molestation of several women including nuns. The violence also forced Christians to hide themselves inside forests for days together under severe cold weather conditions.

Hindu nationalist organisations have a high presence in Orissa state. Among the Hindu national groups operating in the state are the VHP, its youth wing *Bajrang Dal*, its women wing Durga Vahini, and the *Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh* (RSS, which leads the Hindu nationalist movement in India). The VHP, the Bajrang Dal and numerous other Hindu nationalist groups were started by the RSS.

A judicial panel, headed by Justice Panigrahi, was constituted to enquire into the violence. The panel is yet to present its report.

### **2008 Violence in Orissa**

The violence broke out for the second time in the space of nine months after the Hindu leader, Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, and his four associates were killed in Kandhamal district on August 23, 2008. The leader had for decades opposed Christian missionary activities and Hindus converting to Christianity. He had also been allegedly been involved in inciting violence against the Christian community in Kandhamal in December 2007.

Media reports quoted police official suspecting the handiwork of Maoists.<sup>1</sup> However Hindu nationalist organisations repeatedly insisted on blaming local Christians for the death of the Saraswati.<sup>2</sup>

Orissa VHP General Secretary Gauri Prasad Rath issued a statement to this effect on Sunday, 24 August 2008: “Christians have killed Swami. We would give a fitting reply to it very soon. We want a high level probe into the whole issue and a ban on churches working in the

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<sup>1</sup> Associated Press in a report dated Sept 12, 2008  
(<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iDVYqrQRIM5s2IZAHYRHLFRvgT2wD93565F00>)

See also NDTV report dated October 6, 2008  
<http://www.ndtv.com/convergence/ndtv/story.aspx?id=NEWEN20080067842>

<sup>2</sup> The Hindu, A national daily report dated October 3, 2008.  
(<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/001200810031849.htm>) See also  
<http://www.cbcnews.com/?q=node/5093>

district. We would be forced to opt for violent protest if action is not taken against the killers. As a mark of protest, we would shut down Orissa on Monday. We have called a 12-hour shut down on Monday protesting against the killing".

In the violence that erupted, at least 58 persons, almost all being Christians, were killed<sup>3</sup> and over 4,500 Christian houses, 100 churches, and 20 other Church institutions, including convents and presbyteries, were destroyed, as per CLA records. It is estimated that over 50,000 people were displaced by the violence, with over 20,000 living in over 14 relief camps set up by the state government. More details of the damage is given herewith and is marked as Annexure 1.

Although Kandhamal is the epicentre of the attacks, the violence has spread to over 14 districts of Orissa and a few other states.

### ***Perpetrators of the Violence***

Most victims say they can identify those who attacked them. Among the attackers are Hindu neighbours, local traders, and Hindu nationalist activists. Although some media reports attribute the violence to Hindu mobs<sup>4</sup>, the chairman of the Government of India's National Commission for Minorities, Mohamed Shafi Qureshi, told the media that "We have sent three teams in all to the state so far. The VHP and the Bajrang Dal have been carrying out an anti-Christian tirade in a well-planned manner there"<sup>5</sup>

A pastor's wife Mahergetta Nayak from G. Udaygiri area in Kandhamal said: "They burnt our Church, our house, everything is destroyed. I have been a Christian from birth. Last time (in December 2007), the mob came with guns, axes and swords. This time on August 25, 2008 they came again and burnt everything. If we attempt to go back home they threaten to

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<sup>3</sup> In a fact finding report released by the Communist Party of India (Marxist Lenin) party it is stated that "The official figure for deaths has been reported to be 31, however, a senior Govt. official on the condition of anonymity informed that he himself consigned two hundred dead bodies - found from the jungle - to flames after getting them collected in a tractor. As per his estimates based on the intensity and pace of killings the number of those killed is over five hundred." The online version of the full report can be viewed at [http://www.cpiml.org/liberation/year\\_2008/november/update.html](http://www.cpiml.org/liberation/year_2008/november/update.html).

<sup>4</sup> See Tehelka Magazine's report of the Orissa violence In the name of God (Vol 5, Issue 36, Dated Sept 13, 2008) [http://www.tehelka.com/story\\_main40.asp?filename=Ne130908CoverStory.asp](http://www.tehelka.com/story_main40.asp?filename=Ne130908CoverStory.asp)

<sup>5</sup> Indian Express report dated October 6

kill us. We recognize them. They belong to the Bajrang Dal and the RSS. They said: ‘Stop being a Christian and become a Hindu.’”

Another Christian woman, Nomita Digal, was eight months pregnant when a mob attacked her house in Phiphudai village in Keonjhar district. She along with her husband fled the village. The mob comprising of around 60 Hindu extremists destroyed everything. The family stayed for five days in a forest before they could find their way to a relief camp in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa.

In an interim report published by a private rights group, the Concerned Citizens Independent Fact Finding Team, consisting of scholars, journalists and activists, reported a victim as saying, “This is the work of the RSS, the VHP and the BJP who provide moral support, petrol and kerosene. Innocent tribal people are not like them. He said 25 people related to the camp inmates had been killed.” At the Habak High School camp, victims named the local people who were involved in burning their homes after forcing them to convert to Hinduism in Kiriamaha village in Udayagiri area of Kandhamal.<sup>6</sup>

In another report released by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) on the violence in Kandhamal, it was noted that, “Practically everyone complained of the threats they had received that their return to their homes was predicated on their acceptance of the Hindu religion.” Members of the commission were even shown a letter addressed to a woman stating that the only way she could return to her home and property again was if she returned to the village as a Hindu.<sup>7</sup> .

Media reports indicated that in reports submitted to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on violence in Karnataka and Orissa, the NCM accused the Bajrang Dal with fanning communal violence there.

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<sup>6</sup> This report is available online at <http://www.mainstreamweekly.net/article965.html>

<sup>7</sup> A hard copy of the report can be made available on request.

The Commission in its report also criticised BJP government in Karnataka and BJD-BJP government in Orissa for failing to check the violence against minorities and asked for actions against the erring policemen in certain incidents.<sup>8</sup>

In a statement released to the press by Catholic Bishops Conference in India on behalf of Sr. Meena, a diocesan nun who was raped during the Orissa violence, the victim accused the Orissa police of failing to take action against the mob in spite of being present at the scene.

*“One of them tore my blouse and others my undergarments. Father Thomas Chellan protested but they beat him and pulled him out from there. They pulled out my saree and one of them stepped on my right hand and another on my left hand and then a third person raped me on the verandah mentioned above. When it was over, I managed to get up and put my petticoat and saree. The another young man whom I can identify caught me and took me to a room near the staircase. He opened his pants and was attempting to rape me when the crowd reached there. One man in the crowd told him not to do any further harm and so he left me. I will be able to identify the person who raped me and other three persons who stepped on my hands and tore my saree etc.*

*I hid myself under the staircase. The crowd was shouting 'where is that sister, come let us rape her, at least 100 people rape. They found me under the staircase and took me out to the road. There I saw Fr. Chellan was kneeling down and the crowd was beating him with hands and sticks. They were searching for a rope to tie both of us together to burn us in fire. Someone suggested to make us parade naked. They made us to walk on the road till Nuagaon market which was half a kilometer from there. They made us to fold our hands and walk. I was with petticoat and saree as they had already torn away my blouse and undergarments. They tried to strip even there but I resisted and they went on beating me with hands on my cheeks and head and with sticks on my back several times.*

*When we reached the market place a dozen of OSAP policemen were there. I went to them asking to protect me and I sat in between two policemen but they did not move. One from the crowd again pulled me out from there and they wanted to lock us in their temple mandap. The crowd led me and Fr. Thomas Chellan to the Nuagaon block building saying that they will*

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<sup>8</sup> For more details see media reports PTI report dated October 25, 2008 titled “ NCM Blames Bajrang Dal for Karnataka , Orissa Violence”

*hand us over to B.D.O. From there along with the block officer the mob took us to the police outpost, Nuagaon, other police men remained far.”<sup>9</sup>*

The statement goes on recount the apathy of the police in recording the statement of the victim.

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<sup>9</sup> For the full testimony, please refer to Annexure 3 of this document.

## **Government response**

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### ***Federal Government's Response***

On September 18, India's federal government, ruled by centre-left United Progressive Alliance (UPA) with the Indian National Congress as a leading party, implemented Article 355 of the Indian Constitution to issue a warning to halt the spread of violence against the Christian community specifically in the states of Orissa and Karnataka (a southern state). The government responded 20 days too late – after the worst was over.

### ***State Government's Response***

#### ***Funeral Procession allowed***

The state government allowed disciples of the slain Hindu leader to undertake a funeral procession from his religious centre in Jalespata area to another centre in Chakapada area, covering nearly 150 km, on August 24. More than 10,000 people reportedly accompanied the funeral procession. The police and other local administration accompanied the procession.

The funeral procession took a detour - through the areas of Jalespata, Tumudibandh, Paramapanka, Baataguda and reached Baliguda at 3 pm. It was supposed to go through Nuaagaan, Sarangagada, Phiringia, Bisipada Chhak and Tikabali to reach his Karmabhumi Chakapada.

The procession stopped in front of many churches, raising highly abusive and provocative slogans, attacking the churches, Christian institutions, breaking glasses, furniture, attacking people, while the police reportedly looked on.

Had the state machinery prevented the public funeral procession from taking place, it would have undoubtedly resulted in the violence being controlled. A leader of the ruling *Biju Janata Dal* party, B.J. Panda, admitted that the funeral procession aggravated the already tense situation.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Published on Mon, Sep 29, 2008 at 16:56 , Updated at Mon, Sep 29, 2008 at 17:46 Source : CNBC-TV18

### ***Judicial Probe ordered***

On August 24, the Chief Minister in a statement announced a judicial probe into the murder of into the killing of Laxamananda Saraswati and four others at Jaleshpatta Ashram in Orissa's Kandhamal district. On September 2, the state government said that Justice Sarat Chandra Mohapatra would head the inquiry commission.

According to the advertisement published in the front page of "*Sambada*", a leading Oriya daily, the commission would analyse the sequence of events and circumstances leading to the killing of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati 23 Aug and the incidents of violence in its aftermath.

The commission has also said that it will probe the role, conduct and responsibility of the individuals, organisations, groups and agencies in precipitating and committing the crimes.

It also said it will investigate whether the measures taken, the quantum of force used in handling the situation was adequate. The commission, in its advertisement, invited individual statements and affidavits relating to the matter on or before Nov 15.

The commission also said that people may appear before the commission Nov 28 in the commission's office.

Christian leaders have expressed their dissatisfaction against the appointment of the Justice Mahapatra without consulting the minority community and in the formal approach being adopted by the Commission.

In a statement released to the press, Archbishop R. Cheenath stated that the violence "is still underway," that many Christians are still "hiding in the forests," not knowing even "where their next meal is coming from." This means they do not have the time and tranquility necessary to present their charges. The attitude of Judge Mohapatra has prompted the bishop to say that "I have no faith" in the commission.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Deployment of Security Personnel***

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<sup>11</sup> As reported by AsiaNews.it on October 22, 2008.

Orissa received 53 companies (one company comprises 90 personnel) of federal paramilitary force. Of these, 20 companies have been given on a long-term basis. Media reports suggest that the federal government gave only one helicopter to Orissa state.<sup>12</sup>

Federal interior minister, Shivraj Patil, told the media that an MI-17 helicopter was positioned in Bhubaneswar from August 31 to September 11 even without a formal request from the state government to facilitate transportation of troops to control the situation and evacuate the injured.

“The helicopter was again sent from September 17 to 26 at the request of the state government, he said, adding that the authorities did not use it even once for transportation of troops -- the primary purpose for which the state government had asked for retention of the aircraft.”<sup>13</sup>

The commandant of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF, a federal government agency), Darshan Lal Gola, told *The Indian Express* newspaper on Aug. 29 that there was “complete breakdown of the state’s law and order machinery.” He pointed out that the CRPF rounded up 75 rioters in Deegei village under the Raikia police station in Kandhamal, but local police refused to put them behind the bars.<sup>14</sup>

Director General of the Border Security Force, M.L. Kumawat, who also holds the post of Special Secretary (Internal Security), told the media, “We are not yet satisfied with the response of the state government. Much more needs to be done to quell the communal tensions.”<sup>15</sup>

### ***Arrests***

Media on October 5, 2008 quoted Orissa state home (interior) secretary T.K. Mishra as saying that as many as 900 people had been arrested in Kandhamal. He could not say how

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<sup>12</sup> The Hindu Dated September 15, 2008

<sup>13</sup> Press Trust of India Report Dated (October 3)

<sup>14</sup> Indian Express ( Bhubaneshwar Edition) dated August 29, 2008

<sup>15</sup> Indian Express Report on October 1, 2008 (<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/centre-deploys-more-crpf-in-orissa-delhi-maharashtra/368305/>)

many of those arrested were Christians or Hindus, but sources said at least two dozen workers of local VHP, Bajrang Dal and RSS were among those arrested.<sup>16</sup>

The Orissa government on 31st October, 2008 suspended five more policemen taking the total suspension to six, for dereliction of duty in reporting and investigating the rape of Sister Meena.<sup>17</sup>

### ***Fast Track Court***

The Supreme Court in a decision dated October 22, 2008 said that the cases arising out of it would be tried expeditiously by setting up fast-track courts. In pursuance to this direction of the court, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in review meeting decided to set up fast track courts. In a bid to expedite judgement in cases related to Kandhamal violence, the government also decided to appoint a special prosecutor to help riot victims in fast track court.<sup>18</sup>

The notification for the fast track court is yet to be issued.

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<sup>16</sup> Times of India, October 5, 2008

<sup>17</sup> For more details of this case, refer to Annexure 3 of the present document.

<sup>18</sup> As reported by The Hindu, a national daily, on October 25, 2008.

## **Recommendations**

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### ***For Federal Government:***

- Probe by the federal Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) should be ordered to investigate both the killing of Saraswati and the violence perpetrated on Christians after that.

### ***For State Government:***

- The state government should take all necessary steps to bring normalcy to the district of Kandhamal.
- Investigations into cases filed in police stations must be completed under a time bound programme and charge sheets filed in the court.
- Extra manpower at a sufficiently senior level must be deputed to Kandhamal to assist in investigation of cases and rehabilitation measures. (It will be impossible for the district administration to cope with this task by relying only on their limited resources.)
- Preventive arrests must be made and police complaints lodged so that the perpetrators can be brought to book and speedy trial initiated.
- Orissa must constitute the state chapter of the Minority Commission as soon as possible.
- The government officials should be booked for the dereliction of their duty and the willful negligence in protecting the victims and stopping the violence.
- The impunity being enjoyed by members of the Hindu nationalist groups should be cracked by proceeding legally against them.
- The state government should allow entry of civil society and human rights organisations into the Kandhamal district for assessment of the situation and help the victims.

- The relief camps should be kept going and improved in terms of providing adequate and nutritious meals to those who are housed there. Pregnant mothers and children in the camps should be given extra care in the camps. Sanitation and medical facilities should be improved in the camps. Free medical treatment should be provided to those who got injured during the attacks. Special classes should be conducted for children.
- Confidence building measures should be chalked out by the government before the victims return to their homes.
- Extensive and proper damage assessment should be done by the government with the help of civil society organisations and full compensation ensured.
- The damaged and burned houses and institutions should be rebuilt by the government.
- The government should ban the entry of the VHP, the Bajrang Dal and the RSS into the Kandhamal district.
- A long-term strategy should be worked out to render justice to the victims and to promote peace and secularism in Orissa.

## **Annexure 1: List of Deaths**

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### **List of violence in Orissa**

#### **Bargarh District**

##### **25<sup>th</sup> August**

Rajini Majhi of Khuntapalli

#### **Kandhamal District**

##### **24<sup>th</sup> August**

Rasananda Pradhan of Rupagaon village

##### **25<sup>th</sup> August**

Bikram Naik of Tiangia village

Dasaratha Pradhan of Tiangia village

Surendra Naik of Tiangia village

Jaka Naik of Budamaha village

Gapana Nayak of Budamaha village

Nanamati Naik of Bakingia village

Rajesh Digal of Bataguda village

##### **26<sup>th</sup> August**

Akbar Digal of Sulesaru village

Gunduri Nayak of Budamaha village

Bastina Mantry of Bhalipada village

Meri Digal of Barakhama village

Nabaghana Nayak of Paderkia village

Prafulla Nayak of Badimunda village

Sideshwar Digal of Sulesaru village

Pastor Samuel Naik(Nayak) of Bakingia village

##### **27<sup>th</sup> August**

Pastor Gayadhar Digal of Phiringia village

Pastor Dibya Sunder Digal of Sipaeju village

Pastor Daniel Nayak of Bakingia village

Bidyadhar Digal of Dugabadi village

Trinath Digal of Tiangia village

Sadananda Pradhan of Telapali village

Anthou Digal of Telapali village

Parikhita Nayak of Telapali village

Kasiben of Raikia burnt to death

Two children from the church of Pastor Ramesh Samal of Raikia died of starvation while hiding from the mobs

##### **29<sup>th</sup> August**

An Adventist believer of Digi village beheaded

**30<sup>th</sup> August**

Pastor Samuel Naik's wife of Bakingia village committed suicide  
Romani Naik of Bakingia village; mother of Samuel Naik burnt alive  
Daniel Naik of Bakingia village  
Michael Naik of Bakingia village

**31<sup>st</sup> August**

Baxi Bandhu of Lumungia beheaded

**9<sup>th</sup> September**

Mathew Naik of Sarangada village  
Purander Mallick of Nilungia village

**12<sup>th</sup> September**

Unknown persons killed (Village unknown)

**14<sup>th</sup> September**

Sua Nayak of Budringia village died in Tatamaha Relief Camp in Raikia  
Kasipatra Digal of Tatamaha village died in Tatamaha Relief Camp in Raikia  
Unidentified bodies found (Village unknown)

**20<sup>th</sup> September**

Iswar Digal of Gatringia village

**30<sup>th</sup> September**

Meghanath Digal of Bisipada village  
Priyatamma Digal of Bisipada village

**28<sup>th</sup> October**

Father Bernard Digal of Sulesaru village

**Date/Name unknown**

Sidhewar Pradhan of Sulesaru village  
Ajuba Naik of Barakhama village  
Gopan Naik of Mondakia village  
Gullu of Kanbagiri village  
Janamati Nayak of Bakingia village  
Jacob Digal of Petapanga village  
Kamolini Nayak of Mondakia village  
12 year old girl died in a relief camp in K.Nuagaon

**Gajapati District****26<sup>th</sup> August**

Mukunda Burdhan of Mukundapure  
Kumuda Bardhan of Mukundapure village  
Unknown person from Parlakhemundi village

**Nawarangpur****25<sup>th</sup> August**

Unknown person killed from Papahandi village

**Nayagarh**

**31<sup>st</sup> August**

Abhimonyu Nayak of Barapalli village

**Rayagada District**

**30<sup>th</sup> August**

Ramakant of Ramannaguda village

Balu of Ramannaguda village

## **Annexure 2**

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### **Number of districts affected**

- Boudh
- Bhadrak
- Bargarh
- Cuttack
- Gajapati
- Ganjam
- Koraput
- Kandhmal
- Kalahandi
- Naupada
- Narbarangapur
- Nayagarh
- Sambalpur
- Rayagada

### **NGOs affected (Total-9)**

#### **Balasore District**

##### **25<sup>th</sup> August**

- Balasore Social Service Society (official social wing of the Balasore diocese) attacked three times

#### **Bhadrak District**

##### **24<sup>th</sup> August**

- Discipleship Centre Orissa in Tihidi was attacked

#### **Kandhamal District**

##### **24<sup>th</sup> August**

- Arch Diocese's Pastoral centre (Divya Jyoti) and Jana Vikas attacked in K. Nuagaon

##### **25<sup>th</sup> August**

- Gramya Pragati in Baliguda was attacked
- An NGO, Pallishree, at Paburia was destroyed completely

#### **Kalahandi District**

##### **Date unknown**

- World Vision India office in Bhwanipatna attacked

#### **Koraput District**

##### **25<sup>th</sup> August**

- Christian social welfare institute called "SEARCH" in Baipariguda attacked

#### **Khurda District**

**Date Unknown**

- Action Ministries in Bhubaneswar attacked
- Office of the Compassion East India (NGO) in Bhubaneswar attacked

**Churches attacked****Balangir District****25<sup>th</sup> August**

Church burnt in Manahira village

**26<sup>th</sup> August**

Church burnt in Pandarani village

**27<sup>th</sup> August**

CNI Church in Murshingaon and Deogaon burnt

**28<sup>th</sup> August**

A church at Kantamal village vandalized

**31<sup>st</sup> August**

Four churches burnt

**Bhanjanagar District****27<sup>th</sup> August**

Durgaprasad Church burnt

**1<sup>st</sup> September**

Bhanjanagar Catholic Church at Chadiapally ransacked and burnt

**Bargarh District****25<sup>th</sup> August**

Churches ransacked in the district

**26<sup>th</sup> August**

Village church in Chichida burnt

**Date unknown**

Madhupur Catholic Church attacked

**Boudh District****25<sup>th</sup> August**

Catholic Parish Church attacked

**30<sup>th</sup> August**

JEL Church, Parabeda Church, Bamuniput Church in Gochhapada burnt

**Cuttack District****Date unknown**

Church in Bidanasi ransacked

### **Deogarh District**

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

Church in Kaaralaga village burnt and destroyed

### **Deogarh District**

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

Bagibahal village church burnt

Main Baptist Church attacked and stoned

### **Gajapati District**

**27<sup>th</sup> August**

Baptist Church in Malliva village destroyed

At Mandalisahi, K.K Singh, Puttar, Khamarisahi, Bankasahi and Bolaraguma Churches were damaged

**29<sup>th</sup> August**

Seventh Day Adventist Church in Devdala village, near Parlakhamudi attacked

Date unknown

Brethren church in Gosaninuagaon, Berhampur attacked

### **Kandhamal District**

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

Sankarakhole Parish church and presbytery set fire and ransacked

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

Village church in Penagaberi burnt

Peserama Pentecostal church in Raikia attacked

Catholic Church in Phulbani destroyed

Churches razed to the ground at Adaskupa and Sulesaru

Church burnt in Lahabadi

Church and Pastor's house destroyed in Kambaguda

Tengedapadar village Church totally destroyed in Tikabali.

Katima Church under Sankarakhole parish burnt

**27<sup>th</sup> August**

Churches at Kalisiguda, Sinaguda, Arangamala, Gumupadar, Masakapanga villages burnt

Gudrikia village church under Gadingia destroyed

**29<sup>th</sup> August**

Around 55 Parish churches and chapels destroyed, attacked and partly burnt down in Kandhmal district

Khariapada Church at G.Udayagiri destroyed

**30<sup>th</sup> August**

The Seventh Day Adventist Campus at Bamanigaon attacked

**1<sup>st</sup> September**

Mondasore Parish church in Bhaliapada village attacked

100 year old Catholic Parish Church in Mondasore attacked and burnt  
Catholic Church and Baptist Church at Baliguda ransacked, vandalized and burnt

**2<sup>nd</sup> September**

Catholic Church at Kakadabadi village attacked

**3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Padunbadi church under Mondasore Parish vandalized and destroyed  
Didrabadi church under Mondasore Parish attacked

**4<sup>th</sup> September**

R.C Church and Baptist Church of Murdikupda village destroyed

**13<sup>th</sup> September**

Church in Mugupanga burnt  
1 church in Bakingia burnt

**Date unknown**

A Catholic church attacked in Phulbani Baptist church attacked in Phulbani  
GFA church destroyed in Phulbani  
India Every Home Crusade attacked

**Kalahandi District**

**28<sup>th</sup> August**

A Church at Kunda Village of Dharmagarh attacked and ransacked A church in Dharmagada burnt

**Khurda District**

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

Independent Church in a slum behind Mayfair Hotel burnt  
A small Believers Church at BDA, Chandrasekharpur, Siyon Sramika Slum ransacked

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

Attempts made to attack Catholic Church in Bhubaneswar

**Date unknown**

Baptist Church in Akamra Jila in Bhubaneswar damaged  
Mission India Church at Jayadev Bihar burnt

**Koraput District**

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

Two churches called JEL Church and Fellowship Church in Narayanapatna burnt  
3 churches in Bariniput, Kaligaon and Dhanpur villages burnt

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

2 Churches of Pastor Choudhury burnt in Jeypore

**28<sup>th</sup> August**

A church attacked in Pottangi

**29<sup>th</sup> August**

Churches attacked and vandalized in Jeypore  
Six churches burnt in Baipariguda

**30<sup>th</sup> August**

Churches in Baipariguda burnt  
Nine church buildings destroyed in Kundra  
New Life Church building burnt in Jeypore  
JEL church in Jeypore damaged partly  
Six churches destroyed in Baipariguda  
New Life Power Gospel Fellowship in Pondoil village attacked

**1<sup>st</sup> September**

Bible mission church burnt  
OMM Church Jeypore, Ambaguda outpost attacked  
11 churches in Koraput burnt  
Seventh Day Adventist Church in Jamguda burnt  
Seventh Day Adventist Church in Tolla burnt

**2<sup>nd</sup> September**

A church in Daulagaon burnt  
A church in Kodulipadar burnt  
A church in Nilabari was torched

**3<sup>rd</sup> September**

A church was burnt down completely in Khotda  
Church in Nokera was burnt down completely  
Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church was burnt down

**Date unknown**

The Assembly Of God Church and the Philadelphia Church in Kakriguma damaged  
Church attacked in Jeypore

**Malkangiri District****25<sup>th</sup> August**

Lutheran Church in Malkangiri, Padua and Gunupur were destroyed

**Nawarangpur District****30<sup>th</sup> August**

OMM Church building attacked and badly damaged at Phupugam

**31<sup>st</sup> August**

Pentecostal Churches burnt in Borigumma or Biriguda

**Date unknown**

A church in Bhimaguda was attacked

**Nayagarh District****25<sup>th</sup> August**

Temporary church Talcher near Jadumathpur burnt

**1<sup>st</sup> September**

Durgaprasada Baptist Church attacked and burnt

**Sundergarh District**

**23<sup>rd</sup> August**

Prayer Chapel burnt in Tentuliapadar

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

GEL Church and two nearby prayer houses at Talsara, Tentulijharia burnt

**26<sup>th</sup> August**

JEL Church at Panasapada burnt

**Schools/Orphanages/Institutions/Hostels affected(Total-26)**

**Bargarh District**

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

Khuntapali Orphanage centre burnt

**Date unknown**

School and hostel in Madupur and Sohela attacked

**Bhadrak District**

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

Jyoti Public School's assets damaged

Carmel School of Ichhapur was attacked

**Kandhamal District**

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

Mt. Carmel School Baliguda attacked

St. Anne's Convent attacked in Padangi

St. Joseph Convent attacked in Sankarakhole

St. Anne's Convent in Pobingia attacked

**27<sup>th</sup> August**

Shisu Bhawan Orphanage fully damaged in Mandsose

A Girls' Hostel, Assisi Bhawan run by nuns destroyed

**28<sup>th</sup> August**

Children home was attacked in G.Udayagiri

**13<sup>th</sup> September**

One Mission Hostel in Mugupanga burnt

**Khurda**

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

Loyola School at Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar attacked and damaged

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

St. Arnold's School in Kalinga Bihar attacked

**Date unknown**

William Carey School in Jatni attacked

**Koraput District**

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

Convent damaged in Govindapally close to Boipariguda

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

Jyoti Niketan hostel of Baipariguda attacked

Jeypore Adventist School in Jeypore attacked

**29<sup>th</sup> August**

Jeypore Adventist School attacked

**30<sup>th</sup> August**

New Life Power Gospel Fellowship Hostel and office destroyed in Pondoil village

B.D College Jeypore vandalized

The Emmanuel School in Jeypore attacked and properties damaged

Stephen School in Jeypore damaged.

**Rayagada District**

**Date unknown**

Two schools and hostels in Muniguda were attacked and burnt

**Sambalpur District**

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

In Sambalpur-strike Missionary girls' hostel was destroyed

**Relief Camps attacked (Total-5)**

**Kandhamal District**

**28<sup>th</sup> August**

Relief camp in G.Udayagiri bombed

Relief Camp at Hatpada U.P.School at G.Udayagiri was bombed by petrol bomb

**2<sup>nd</sup> September**

An attempt to poison the drinking water source of the relief camp in Habaq High School at G. Udayagiri foiled

**3<sup>rd</sup> September**

In a relief camp in Raikia water was poisoned

**4<sup>th</sup> September**

A group of about 2500 Hindutva extremists barged into the Relief Camp at Tikabali Govt. High School and took away supplies meant for the Christian refugees

## **Reconversion/Forced conversions (Total-178)**

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### **Jajpur District**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> September**

13 Hindu turned Christians of Brajapalli village reconverted to Hinduism after 11 years

### **Kandhamal District**

#### **27<sup>th</sup> August**

20 Christian houses in Kritangia village forcefully converted to Hinduism

10 Christian houses in Gudrikiya village forcefully converted to Hinduism

10 Christian houses in Drepana village forcefully converted to Hinduism

20 houses in Bandabaju village forcefully converted to Hinduism

#### **28<sup>th</sup> August**

20 families reconverted to Hinduism in Sankarakhole

#### **30<sup>th</sup> August**

Around 20 families of two villages viz. Totapadar and Dhoumi Kohar, 20 kms away from Phulbani forced to break coconut, burn Bibles and literatures

Five families forcefully reconverted in Adaskupa

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> September**

Forced Conversions in Padangi village

#### **11<sup>th</sup> September**

30 Christian families from Damba village forcefully converted to Hinduism

10 families from Patapanga village forcefully converted to Hinduism

20 families from Tatamaha village forcefully converted to Hinduism

Christian wife of Mr. Nagarjuna Pradhan, an MLA from Patapanga village was also forcefully converted to Hinduism

### **Annexure 3**

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#### **Testimony to gang rape: a nun recounts her ordeal**

*Sr. Meena - a Catholic nun of India who was gang-raped by Hindu extremists - says "I will be able to identify the person who raped me." Catholic priest also beaten.*

*Full text of statement is below:*

On 24th August, around 4.30 pm, hearing the shouting of a large crowd, at the gate of Divya Jyoti Pastoral Centre, I ran out through the back door and escaped to the forest along with others. We saw our house going up in flames. Around 8.30 p.m. we came out of the forest and went to the house of a Hindu gentleman who gave us shelter.

On 25th August, around 1.30 p.m., the mob entered the room where I was staying in Prahald's house, one of them slapped me on my face, caught my hair and pulled me out of the house. Two of them were holding my neck to cut off my head. Others told them to take me out to the road, I saw Fr. Thomas Chellan also being taken out and being beaten. The mob consisting of 40-50 men was armed with lathis, axes, spades, crowbars, iron rods, sickles etc. They took both of us to the main road. Then they led us to the burnt down Jan Vikas building saying that they were going to throw us into the smoldering fire.

When we reached the Jan Vikas building, they threw us to the verandah on the way to the dinning room, which was full of ashes and broken glass pieces. One of them tore my blouse and others my undergarments. Father Thomas Chellan protested but they beat him and pulled him out from there. They pulled out my saree and one of them stepped on my right hand and another on my left hand and then a third person raped me on the verandah mentioned above. When it was over, I managed to get up and put my petticoat and saree. The another young man whom I can identify caught me and took me to a room near the staircase. He opened his pants and was attempting to rape me when the crowd reached there. One man in the crowd told him not to do any further harm and so he left me. I will be able to identify the person who raped me and other three persons who stepped on my hands and tore my saree etc.

I hid myself under the staircase. The crowd was shouting 'where is that sister, come let us rape her, at least 100 people rape. They found me under the staircase and took me out to the

road. There I saw Fr. Chellan was kneeling down and the crowd was beating him with hands and sticks. They were searching for a rope to tie both of us together to burn us in fire. Someone suggested to make us parade naked. They made us to walk on the road till Nwagaon market which was half a kilometer from there. They made us to fold our hands and walk. I was with petticoat and saree as they had already torn away my blouse and undergarments. They tried to strip even there but I resisted and they went on beating me with hands on my cheeks and head and with sticks on my back several times.

When we reached the market place a dozen of OSAP policemen were there. I went to them asking to protect me and I sat in between two policemen but they did not move. One from the crowd again pulled me out from there and they wanted to lock us in their temple mandap. The crowd led me and Fr. Thomas Chellan to the Nuagaon block building saying that they will hand us over to B.D.O. From there along with the block officer the mob took us to the police outpost, Nuagaon, other police men remained far.

The mob said that they will come back after eating and one of them who attacked me remained back in the police outpost. Policemen then came to police outpost. They were talking very friendly with the man who had attacked me and stayed back . In police outpost we remained until the inspector incharge of Balliguda with his police team came and took us to Balliguda. They were afraid to take us straight to the police station and they kept us sometime in jeep in the garage, from there they brought us to the station. The inspector incharge and other two government officers took me privately and asked whatever happened to me. I narrated every thing in detail to the police, how I was attacked, raped, taken away from policemen, paraded half naked and how the police men did not help me when I asked for help while weeping bitterly. I saw the inspector writing down. The inspector asked me "are you interested in filing FIR?" Do you now what will be the consequence? At about 10.00 p.m., I was taken for medical check up accompanied by a lady police officer to Balliguda Hospital. They were afraid to keep us in police station, saying that the mob may attack police station. So the police took us to the IB (inspection bungalow) where CRP men were camping.

On 26/08/08 around 9.00 a.m. we were taken to Baliguda Police Station. When I was writing the FIR, the Inspector In-Charge (IIC) asked me to hurry up and not to write in detail. When I started writing about the police, the I.I.C told me this is not the way to write FIR, make it

short. So I re-wrote it for the third time in one and half page. I filed the FIR, but I was not given a copy of it.

At around 4.00 pm the inspector in charge of Balliguda police station along with some other government officers put us in the OSRTC bus to Bhubaneswar along with other stranded passengers. Police were there till Rangamati where all passengers had their supper. After that I did not see the police. We got down near Nayagarh and traveled in private vehicle and reached Bhubaneswar around 2.00 am on 27th August.

State police failed to stop the crimes, failed to protect me from the attackers, they were friendly with the attackers, and they tried their best that I did not register an FIR, not make complaints against police, police did not take down my statement as I narrated in detail and they abandoned me half of the way. I was raped and now I don't want to be victimized by the Orissa Police. I want C.B.I enquiry. God bless India, God bless you all.

SD/-  
Sr. Meena

**For more details contact:**

Christian Legal Association

805/92, Deepali Building, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019

Tel: +91.11.26431133 : Fax: +91.11.26285350

Email: [cla@efionline.org](mailto:cla@efionline.org) : website: [claindia.org](http://claindia.org)