



UNITED CHRISTIAN FORUM

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

To: The Editor

New Delhi – 24 January 2025

For Immediate Release

UCF SAYS UNCHECKED PERSECUTION AND CONTINUING GOVERNMENT SILENCE WILL THREATEN CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

The findings of the latest United Christian Forum (UCF) Report of 2024 are disturbing. If the trend is not stopped immediately by political will and concerted government action, it will threaten the identity and existence of the Indian Christian community in their motherland much before 2050.

The numbers of attacks against Christians have increased dramatically, from 127 in 2014 to 834 by December 2024. Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have become the hotspots of viral hate, brutal mob violence, rampant social Ostracization in which elements of the law and justice apparatus is complicit, UCF office bearers said.

The 209 and 165 cases in the 2024 in Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh merely scratch the surface. Across the country, the crimes that come to our notice maybe from trice to ten times at the grassroots. Many attacks go unreported for fear of retribution in the environment of impunity and political patronage.

Fear dominates the discourse – fear of the cultural “police” which define who is an Indian, who is a loyal citizen, and who is an alien, to be identified, isolated, and eliminated. There is fear of the establishment borne out of the experience of the past decade where the guilty go free and innocent pastors, their wives and on occasions their children, have been pushed into jails. More than a hundred innocent still remain in captivity, with bail repeatedly denied. The justice process has become the punishment.

This is a crisis brewing in plain sight. Bharat’s international prestige and standing as a democratic country which guarantees rule of law and a bill of rights is at stake, UCF fears.

“The Christian community, which has long been a peaceful and integral part of India’s diverse society, is now living in fear”, said Dr Michael Williams, President of UCF. Attacks against the community have become more frequent, brutal, and systematic. These are not just numbers; they are the stories of real people, families torn apart, communities destroyed, and lives shattered as a result of their faith. This tragedy is unfolding even as Hon’ble the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, and his team periodically reach out to the Christian community through its religious leaders in Kerala, New Delhi and elsewhere.



UNITED CHRISTIAN FORUM

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

In a criminal template, the violence seemed to peak during the Christmas season of 2024, with 14 separate attacks on Christian gatherings across the country.

Shocked by this escalation in violence against the community, and specially its weakest and most separated elements, over 400 senior Christian leaders and 30 Church groups submitted an urgent appeal to President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 31st December 2024, appealing to the nation's conscience end to call a halt to the persecution.

The UCF annual report for 2024 docketed 834 incidents. But 392 complaints were accepted as First Information Reports. It is the prerogative of the police officer in charge to decide which complaint will be converted into an FIR for further investigation by the police and subsequent trial in a court.

The data reveals specific effects on vulnerable communities, with incidents involving 154 women, 342 Dalits, and 354 Tribals being affected.

A detailed categorization of violence reveals a substantial number of reported incidents, including:

- 149 physical assaults
- 209 property damage incidents
- 798 intimidation, threats, and harassment cases
- 331 religious assembly restrictions reported

The UCF demands transparent enforcement of laws protecting religious freedom and minority rights. Only such transparency and official integrity will ensure an unbiased investigation, court trial, and fixing culpability of those found responsible.

For further information, please contact:

National Coordinator: Mr A C Michael +91-9818155290 | acmichael60@gmail.com

Or The UCF Spokesman: Dr John Dayal +91-9811021072 | john.dayal@gmail.com

The office bearers are available to the national and international media by appointment.