Christian Community Vulnerable to Violence in India

“The Christian community in India continue to suffer for the sake of their service and witness to Jesus Christ. With 140 major incidents of violence against the community in 2011, the crucial issues of the rights of minorities, and freedom faith are involved. The Church will continue to serve the nation and pray for those who are persecuting.”

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

The Evangelical Fellowship of India is deeply concerned at the continued hostility against the Christian minority community in the country. EFI recorded 140 instances of violence coupled with several instances of false accusations against the community. (See Chart Below)

**Frequency and Geographical location of Incidents**

The southern state of Karnataka recorded the most number of attacks against the community with 49 instances of violence and hostility. Another southern state of Andhra Pradesh witnessed 17 instances of violent attacks and discrimination against Christian groups, while the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh saw fourteen instances of violence. The state of Orissa recorded eleven incidents followed by the state of Kerala which recorded ten incidents of violence against the
Christians. The months of April and August were the most violent for Christians with 17 incidents being recorded in those months.

**Nature of Attacks**

In an outrageous attack against Christians in Jharkhand, the local villagers in the Palamu and Garwah district left several Christians, including one woman severely injured. One woman was abducted for a month by the attackers before she was finally released by the order of the local court. The police failed to arrest even a single person in connection with the incidents, inspite of repeated appeals from both local and national human rights agencies and the appeals from the victims, themselves.

Far from being an isolated incident, this is the norm, with several Christians being coerced by government agencies into accepting a compromise with the attackers and even submitting to demands such as leaving the village or area, or would not conduct worship services in their homes or paying a fine for practise their faith.

In most of the instances, after the preliminary disruption of church or worship services, Christians including women were abused and physically assaulted. Later the Christians were arrested on the charges of “forcible conversions”.

The blatant disregard for the law by alleged Hindutva proponents, coupled with the inaction and often bias of the police in favour of the attackers, has left the community vulnerable and helpless in the onslaught of violence.

**In a surprising development** the Sharia courts in Srinagar which does not have jurisdiction over Christian minority community has falsely accused local pastor of forceful conversions and issued statement which may encourage extremist elements to indulge in violence in the region which so urgently needs an environment of peace for its development and security.

---

1 Mala Devi, received severe injuries requiring hospitalization. (cover page photograph)  
2 Bullet point No. 10, Karnataka  
3 Bullet point No. 2, Karnataka, Bullet Point 3 Uttar Pradesh  
4 Bullet point No. 13, Karnataka
Recommendations

- EFI recommends that the State Governments, especially the government of Karnataka, take immediate steps to ensure the protection of the Christian minority community within the state.

- EFI recommends the Government of Karnataka withdraw false and malicious cases registered against Christians in the state and direct the police to investigate the motive and locus of the complainant before registering any complaint against Sections 153, 295 and 295A of the Indian Penal Code.


- EFI recommends the Jammu and Kashmir Government, religious leaders and civil society in the Kashmir valley to make sure that the rights of minorities are respected, their welfare assured, and communal harmony strengthened.

Report issued by -

Rev. Dr. Richard Howell
General Secretary,
The Evangelical Fellowship of India
(January 16, 2012)
LIST OF INCIDENTS RECORDED IN:

KARNATAKA

- **2 January** - In Davengere, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Isaac Samuel while he was conducting a prayer meeting and seriously injured him. The pastor was hospitalized and received dozen stitches to the wound.

- **23 January** - In Hirekerur, Haveri, alleged Hindu extremists stopped the worship meeting of Christ’s Discipleship Prayer Fellowship Church, took Bibles and verbally abused the Church members. The police detained the Christians for three hours and forced them to put down in writing that that they will not conduct future worship meetings in the homes of the villagers to convert them into Christianity.

- **25 January** – In Koppal, alleged Hindu extremists accused Pastor(s) Harris and Ravi of forceful conversion, disrupted the prayer meeting, locked them inside a room and beat them up, seriously injuring them. The police later detained the Christians at the Gangavati police station based on the complaint filed by the extremists.

- **28 January** - In Gangavati, Koppal, alleged Hindu extremists locked up five Christians and mercilessly beat them. The extremists demanded that the Christians either convert to Hinduism or migrate to some other place.

- **17 February** - In Kammanahali, Bangalore, police arrested 50 Christians after they staged a protest against the attack on Jesus and Mary statue by area Hindu extremists. The Christians lodged a police complaint but to their surprise, 50 Christians were arrested.

- **6 March** – In Gubbi, Tumkur, police arrested Pastors(s) Mathew and Jose from ‘Spirit Filled Church” for "forceful conversion" alleged Hindu extremists barged into the worship service, ransacked the church, took Bibles and other literature. The police detained the Christians in
the station till about 9 p.m. and charged them under Sections 295A/296/505/298 and 298A of the Indian Penal Code.

• **9 March** – In Mangalore, Nitin Poojary along with alleged Hindu extremists filed a false complaint against Julian Lobo of trying to force Poojary to convert to Christianity. With the intervention of area Christian leaders, the Christian was released without formal charges being lodged.

• **10 March** : In Mysore, miscreants defiled a Christian cemetery and desecrated the Cross and statue of Jesus Christ. The attackers damaged the tombstones, removed the Cross and pulled down the image of Jesus Christ. Mysore police registered a case against the unidentified assailants.

• **26 March** - In Madikere, Bangalore Rural, police arrested four Christians after alleged Hindu extremists accused Evangelist A.J Diwakar from Christ Fellowship Church of forceful conversion and beat him up with three Christian’s women. Police came to the site and took the Christians to the Madikeri Rural Police Station and arrested them under sections - 295 (A), 506, 447, and 448. The Christians were sent to Madikeri jail after they appeared before the Magistrate. The Christians were later released on bail.

• **1 April** –In Kodihalli, Bangalore, Karnataka Police arrested five Christians after Hindu nationalists registered false complaints of "conversion" against them. The Christians were released on bail on April 3.

• **3 April** - In Hosanagara, Shimago, police took Pastor Abraham K.G and Eerappa from Jehovah Nizzi Prayer Hall to the police station and forced them to put down in writing that they will stop future prayer meetings and ordered them to vacate the house church immediately.

• **6 April** - In UttaraKannada, alleged Hindu extremists threaten a pastor of dire consequences if he continued to conduct worship meetings and burned down his field. Police advised the pastor not to file a police complaint for the Christian community’s safety.

• **10 April** – In Mysore, Police arrested Pastor Vinod M.Chacko after alleged Hindu extremists barged into the worship meeting and attacked them. Some church property is also seized by the police.
• **11 April** – In Mysore, Bagarapete police detained Pastor(s) Timothy and Daniel Venkatappa after alleged Hindu extremists filed a complaint against them of forceful conversion. Later the Christians were released without charges after the police forced them to put down in writing that they will not conduct prayer meetings in future and imposed on them a fine of Rs 4000/- (rupees four thousand) which the Christians duly paid up.

• **22 April** - In Nandi Tavere, Davengere, alleged Hindu extremists attacked a pastor, tore Bibles and then locked the pastor in a room. The police rescued the pastor.

• **22 April** - In Bilagi, Bagalkot, Hindu extremists attacked a Good Friday worship meeting, tore Bibles, hymns books and beat up a physically challenged Pastor GurappaPowar, seriously injuring him and offer to give Rs. 10,000 if he leaves Christianity.

• **5 June** - In Bangalore, police disrupted the Indian Pentecostal Church Sunday worship service and detained Pastor Manjunath Naik after alleged Hindu extremists accused him of forceful conversion.

• **12 June** - In Bangalore, police arrested Henry Baptist Reuben from St. Rock Church and two leper patients after Hindu extremists verbally abused them and accused Reuben of forceful conversion.

• **21 June** - In Badragola, Virajpet Taluk Coorg, police arrested four tribal Christians after the Hindu extremists accused them of forceful conversion.

• **28 June** - In Shimoga, the state authority verbally ordered the cancellation of a Christian school, “Good Shepherd Community” after alleged local Hindu extremists asked the concerned authorities to cancel the permission for the running of the school, alleging forceful conversion.

• **28 June** - In Heggere, Hubli, Karnataka, police arrested two Christians after Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal accused Pastor M. Sandeep and brother Isaac of forceful conversion and attacked them as they were returning back home from a prayer meeting. The Christians were produced before the Magistrate and were later sent to Dharwad Jail.
• **3 July** - In Dakshin Kannada, a local Christian was arrested by the police on 2-7-11, after the Upponangadi police station filed the FIR against him accusing him of kidnapping and forcible conversion under Sections 295-A and 506 of IPC after he sheltered a runaway boy. A complaint was registered against Praveen by the boy’s parents.

• **4 July** – In Hubli, a mob of 50 persons allegedly from BJP activists lead by Basangouda Sidramani from M.K. Hubli, stormed into the St. Joseph’s Convent school premises abusing the teachers and the management, demanding admission for two of his friends' children. A complaint in this regard has been lodged with the police.

• **6 July** – In Bangalore, at approximately 11:00 am in the morning, one Munireddy and his friend Rajanna, along with about 20 Hindu fundamentalists, allegedly belonging to RSS and Bajrang Dal outfits, attacked a Christian, identified as Raju’s and mercilessly beat him up claiming that they are involved in conversion work in the surrounding villages through fraudulent means and threatened them with dire consequences. Subsequently the mob arrived at, another Christian’s house, identified as Poojappa’s residence address at approximately 9:00 in the night attacked him and his family, including his two year old child. Then they dragged the pastor to the Rajenkunte Police Station. After the intervention of the local Christians the pastor was released without any charges, however the following day the pastor was again called in for questioning.

• **14 August** – In Hassan, Basavanagudi, a Christian prayer meeting lead by a person identified as Brother Annaiah (28), was attacked with clubs and sticks by a mob of 30 villagers, allegedly under the leadership of two Hindu fundamentalists, Venkatesh and Annappa. The Christians suffered grievous injuries and required to be hospitalised. Police complaints were filed by both sides. The police helped both the parties to meet for a compromise meeting. the Christians agreed to withdraw their complaint and restrict their prayer gatherings to their homes. The members of the mob agreed to meet the medical expenses incurred by the Christians.

• **17 August** - In Chikmagalur, Kadur, the Police Sub Inspector Revanna of Kadur police station, issued a notice to the Pastor in charge of Jesus Comes Full Gospel Church, Murthyhal, Kadur Town, on 17-8-2011, with a demand that he should furnish the all details about his church at the earliest. Local Christian groups allege that the furnishing of such details though done in the guise of an attempt to provide better protection to the local Christian community, if part of the larger profiling of Christians being undertaken by the state.
• **21 August** – In Bagalkot, Mudhol, during the Sunday Worship service organised in the house of local Christian, Yellappa Hosamani was disrupted when at about, 11.30 am, approximately 20 Bajrang Dal activists attacked the congregation and desecrated the bread and wine which was being used for the worship. The extremists also beat up the pastor identified as Shadrak, who received severe injuries to his face and also lost one of his front teeth. The extremists then dragged the pastor out of the house and took him to the village and tied him to the tree, after which they sent for the police from the Lokapura police station. Later, Inspector Choudhary and other police officials arrived at the spot in a jeep and took Pastor Shadrak and some believers to the police station for further legal procedure but pastor Shadrak was produced before the magistrate at 9pm and send to Jamkotai sub jail and charged under sections 143, 147,323,324,341,507 and 295 of the Indian Penal Code.

• **22 August** - In Sira, Ranganathnagar, a rally to protest against the religious conversion by the Christian community was organised under the auspices of the Dalitha Samrakshana Samithi, (a Committee for the Protection of the Dalits), on August 22. The rally passed the Shri. Kambada Ranganathswamy Temple and culminated in front of Tahsidar’s office. The resultant effect of the rally has been a clamping down on Christian propagation activities in the region by the police. Local Christian allege that the police have threatened a local Christian pastor, Teekya Naik (33) and other Christians with dire consequences if they did not stop their ministry work in Sira.

• **30 August** – In Dakshin Kannada, the police arrested four Uppinangady Pentecostal Christians in Puttur Taluk (Dakshina Kannada district), accused of trying to convert by force a Dalit colony in Nidle Boodujalu. The Christians were beaten before being arrested. Praveen Boodujalu, a Hindu, denounced the four, accusing them of door to door proselytizing. Some local residents, including the Dalits, said that the group - Mary (60), her son Kunjimonu (30), his wife Lenny (23) and BT Sainu (34) - went to their homes every Sunday for a month, bringing books to help in the conversion to Christianity. According to the police report, the houses chosen by the Christian were only those of Hindu and Dalits.

• **8 September** – In Honnavar, Manki, two Christian youth, Bhasker Naik (20), and Hemanth Naik (22), were arrested after allegedly Bajrang Dal workers filed a false complaint against them for forcible conversions at the Honnavar Police Station. An FIR was filed against them, under Sections 295 A, 427 read with S. 34 of the Indian Penal Code. The Christian alleged that they
were beaten up mercilessly by the Bajrang Dal workers after they were found sharing about their new Christian faith to local villagers.

- **16 September** – In Hassan, Arkalgud, a Christian, Pastor Daniel Raghu (32), was arrested under section IPC 153-A by the police in Hassan District in Karnataka on the charges of allegedly engaging in forcible conversion on 16th September after a mob comprising of local Hindu fundamentalists groups surrounded the house and began shouting at the believers and the pastor that they were trying to forcibly convert people to Christianity. The pastor was visiting the house of a local Christian for a time of prayer and reflection at the time of the occurrence.

- **16 September** – In Belgaum, Athani, Pastor Santhosh V. Naganoor and his wife Smt. Shantha S. Naganoor were detained by the police from Kagwad police station acting allegedly on the instigation a mob comprising of Hindu fundamentalists. According to reports, a mob of about 40 Hindu fundamentalists from the Sangh Parivar disrupted a baptism service being conducted by the pastor of a house church, House of Praise Church in Ugarkhod village in AthaniTaluk in Belgaum District of Karnataka. The mob disrupted the baptism service and caught hold of Pastor Santhosh, and hurled abuse at him alleging that he was fraudulently and forcibly converting the Hindus to Christianity. They then sent for the police who detained the pastor and 6 other believers, including Mrs. Shantha Naganoor, Muthavva, Rani, a guest speaker, one Pastor P.C. Joseph and a couple of other believers. The Christian were released after the intervention of the Superintendent of Police, who took an undertaking from the Christians who would not do anything to provoke the members of other communities.

- **18 September** - In Chikmagalur, Mallikopa village, unidentified miscreants on Sunday September 18, sometime at midnight, set fire to the Immanuel Church in Mallikoppa Village in N.R. PuraTaluk of Chickmagalur District in Karnataka, after damaging church property. The miscreants also set fire to the pastor’s two-wheeler parked outside church. The pastor and his family were not at home at that time. The fire was noticed by the care takers and the children staying at the orphanage near the church premises.

- **25 September** – In Hassan, Bagesakleshpur, just as the Sunday worship service began at 11 a.m. about 50 persons allegedly belonging to the Bajrang Dal forcibly entered the House Church called End Times Full Harvest Church, manhandled the pastor, John Frederick D’Souza, and a few ladies who tried to intervene, forcibly pulled out the copies of the Bible from them.
and took them away. Then they telephoned to the police who instantly appeared on the scene and joined the Hindu fanatics in bullying the innocent believers. The Sub Inspector Rajiv ordered them to stop their worship service and close down the church. The house church also serves as the home for the pastor and his wife, Balzy D’Souza (30) and a son. About three weeks earlier, the Inspector of Police Ganesh, in charge of the Rural Sakleshpur Police Station, visited the church and questioned the pastor whether he has obtained a license and the necessary permission from the competent authority to run a church in his house. He also told him that there had been complaints against him that he had been involved in forcible and fraudulent conversions of Hindus to Christianity and that he must stop such illegal activities immediately.

- **25 September** – In Bangalore Rural, Hulimavu, sub Inspector Chandru along with Inspector Balram Gowda of the Hulimavu Police Station, on 25th September questioned Pastor Arunachala Paramashivam, pastor in charge of the Church of God Full Gospel India at Hulimavu near Bannerghatta in Bangalore Rural District about the legal permissions in place to run the church from his home. They also told him that several complaints had been received against the church on the groups of forcible and fraudulent conversions of Hindus to Christianity. According to reports, the pastor was threatened against continuing to hold church services in his home by the police. The pastor resides on the ground floor while the church hall is on the first floor of the same building. The church, which has a congregation of about 80 believers, been meeting at the venue for the past four years without any incident and conducts services in Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam.

- **27 September** – In Belgaum, Nagnure, a Christian pastor identified as Kashinath and one other evangelist were attacked by a group of unidentified assailants who tied them to a tree and beat them, in Nagnure, Belgaum District of Karnataka. On hearing of the incident, Christian youth from the nearby village rushed to the spot, leading to a scuffle between the assailants and the Christians. Police complaints were registered by both parties.

- **11 October** – In Coorg, Kushalnagar, six Christians identified as Appacchu, (30), s/o Mani from Kaikeri Village, Sharanu, (22), s/o Babu, also from Kaikeri Village; Ganesha, (22), s/o of Raju, from Ponnampete Village, Mani, (26), s/o Raju, also from Ponnampete Village; Raghu, (27), s/o Raju, and Mani, (45), s/o Kulia, both from Channaianakote, of Kushalnagar in Coorg District, were arrested by the Siddapura Police Station after a complaint was registered under section 295 (A) of Indian Penal Code against them for allegedly forcibly and fraudulently converting
people to Christianity. The complaint was registered allegedly after a group of angry Sangh Parivar activists forcibly entered the house of one of the Christians at about 7:00 pm in the evening and attacked them. The extremists also abused them using foul language and destroyed the cycles parked outside the house. The Christians arrested are coffee estate coolie workers and accepted Christ about five years earlier. They worship at the Full Gospel Church, a house church at a village called Pallipete.

• **17 October** – In Bangalore, Kadugodi, three Christians were allegedly harassed by local police officials after a young girl, Jyothi, a 15 year old orphan girl, went missing from the orphanage they were running. According to local reports, when the Pastor Joseph Victor (54), learnt that the girl had not returned from a tailoring class in a nearby Tailoring Training Institute, he went to the local police station at Kadugodi Police Station. However, instead of registering a missing persons report the police started questioning the Christians, if they had the necessary permission to run the orphanage. The pastor and the associate Pastor Thomas Panneerselvam and the office clerk Mr. Rajendran, made all the three sit in the police station till late into the evening, and not only they refused to accept their complaint, but forced them to give in writing that they themselves should search and find out the whereabouts of the missing girl. The police then also supposed to have demanded them to produce all the documents connected with the orphanage and the House Church. They also supposed to have seized Pastor Joseph Victor’s Passport.

• **17 October** - In Hassan, Arasikere, a Christian pastor, Sunder Raj, (60) of the St. Thomas Church, an independent church in Hassan District of Karnataka, was arrested after being falsely accused by Sangh Parivar supporters, of trying to demolish a part of the Hindu temple that was standing of disputed land. Earlier in 2004, the Arasikere Municipality pressurized by the Sangh Parivar activists, demolished the church, alleging that the church was an unauthorized construction, and then the Sangh Parivar activists forcibly built a temple on the same spot. The police had not registered any case in that particular incident. According to the Christians, Pastor Sunder Raj, purchased a piece of land measuring about 8 guntas, nearly quarter of an acre, and built a small house and a church. He has a congregation of about 75 believers, and he lives with his wife, Mrs. Padmavathi (50), and two children, a boy and a girl. The pastor was finally released on bail on 14-10-2011.
• 17 October – In DakshinKannad, Sulia, local police officials detained a Christian pastor, Rev. Moses V. in Sulia, South Kanara District in Karnataka after local villagers complained against the burial of the body of one of his church members. The local villagers were against the burial of mortal remains of Soosamma Anthony in a place called Jayanagar, where the pastor had purchased 10 cents of land from one Babu with the clear understanding that the land would be used for the specific purpose of a burial ground. Just after the Christians had completed the burial ceremony, the local Panchayat President Prakash Hegde along with about 100 villagers came to the spot and forced them to exhume the body, take it away and bury it somewhere else. They also complained to the Sullia police, alleging that the Christians were illegally and forcibly burying a dead body in that place. Due to protests by the villagers, the body was finally exhumed and buried at another location.

• 23 October - In Mangalore, Bendoor, three persons pleaded stones at the St Theresa's statue in the St. Theresa's School in Bendoor Karnataka in the early hours of October 23. The watchman at the school Subramanya heard the miscreants and stone pelting, but when he rushed to stop them, they fled the scene. A complaint has been filed in Kadri police station. Police commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh arrived on the spot and conducted preliminary investigation. This is the fourth such attack on the school. In 2007 the school was targeted twice, and once again in 2009.

• 12 November - In Hassan, Kushalnagar, five Christians were arrested by the police officials of the Harehally Police Station after allegedly being manhandled and assaulted by Bajrang Dal extremists and falsely accused of forcible conversions of Hindus to Christianity. The Christians, Ms. Mani, Ms. Gangamma, Ms. Padmavathy and her 4 year old child, Mr. Raju and Mr. Varun Chakravarthy were returning from Belur, about 15 KMs away from her house for a prayer meeting in another Christian’s home. At about 12 noon, about 10 Bajrang Dal activists pounced upon them and began tackling with all kinds of questions and abusing them alleging that they were all involved in forcible conversions of Hindus to Christianity. They also manhandled and beat up Raju and Varun, and then sent for the police from the Harehally Police Station. The police have filed the FIR and charge-sheeted them under section 295-A of Indian Penal Code. All, except Ms. Mani, are daily wage earners, working as labourers. The little child was also detained along with the Christians.
• **13 November**—In Hassan, Arkalgud, a mob of about 10 persons belonging seemingly from to the Bajrang Dal, barged into the church, Immanuel Prarthanalaya at Arkalgud in Hassan District of Karnataka, forcibly stopped the prayer service and tore the bibles and sent for the police from the Arkalgud Police Station. After the police arrived they took Pastor Nagaraj and believers Shivanna, Ravi and Chandrashekar to the Arkalgud police station for further inquiry. The Christians were finally released late at night. Immanuel Prarthanalaya, is a House Church and has a congregation of about 60 believers. Pastor Nagaraj has been sharing the gospel in the area for the last 10 years.

• **26 November**—In Hassan, Kushalnagar, the police arrested 68 yrs. Christian woman, Mrs. Janakiyamma, based on a complaint lodged against her by members of radical Sangh Parivar and Bajrang Dal at the Kushalnagar police station. On 26th November, Mrs. Janakiyamma, was visiting the home of a new convert when around 1.30pm in the afternoon, members of radical Sanghaparivar and Bajarang Dal came and accosted them, and then called the Kushalnagar police station. Sub-inspector Chickaswamy along with other police men came and took Mrs. Janakiyamma to the police station where they detained her for three hours before filing a case under Sections 34 and 295A of the Indian Penal Code.

• **16 December** - In Shimoga, ten Christians, including six women arrested on Friday evening, 16 December, in Jalahalli, a village in Bhadravathi, Shimoga District of Karnataka after they were falsely accused of forcibly converting Hindus to Christianity. The group of believers was repeatedly invited to have a prayer meeting in a new convert Venkatesh's home, and while at the prayer meeting, they were attacked by a mob allegedly belonging to the Hindu fundamentalists groups, who threatened them and also injured some of the believers. The Christian have been identified as Pastor Sagar Guntur, elders Prabhudas, Solomon Babu, Alwyn and Salomi, Deborah and Jaya. One Christian identified as George was declared as absconding by the police. The Christians were later released on bail.

• **25 December** - In Surathkal allegedly a mob of 20 persons on 25th December at about 8:30 pm., forcibly entered the house of one Adiveppa Kashennavar, where pastor Suresh, of New Life Church along with his family and a few other believers were invited for a Christmas dinner meal. The mob entered the house with big stones/sticks/clubs in their hands shouting abusive language and started assaulting all of them, including women and children, hitting them causing severe injuries to the head and chest. One person, identified only as Jason, was hit
with a club resulting in his leg being fractured. Another Christian identified as Deepak was hit in the face and his nose began to bleed. The pastor’s wife Latha was hit on her chest with wooden club and was wounded severely. Two other persons identified as Annamma and Roshini were also hit and were wounded on the head. Several others were also badly assaulted. The pastor was also beaten with clubs while trying to rescue others. The mob left the place shouting that they would kill the Christians. Though a police complaint was registered in the present case, the police official who came to investigate the incident, later allegedly was questioning the injured about when they become Christians and how many lakhs of rupees were paid to them for their conversion.

• **28 December** – In Haleyangadi, at about 8.20 p.m., about ten persons entered the Hebron Full Gospel Assembly Church, on the Mangalore-Udupi Highway and damaged the premises while the pastor’s wife, his two children and his mother, his brother-in-law and one more family friend were praying inside the prayer hall. The attackers first broke all the windows panes of the prayer hall and then entered the kitchen in the pastor’s home and started breaking all the lights and window panes in the room. When the pastor’s wife rushed to the living room, the intruders broke open the living room also. The intruders also broke the refrigerator, overturning utensils in which the family meal had been prepared, before they finally left. The attackers were allegedly shouting threats against the church and said that they would not let the church continue at the place. The pastor, Pastor I.D. Prasanna, was not at home at the time of the incident. The police are yet to register an FIR in the incident.

• **31 December** - In Bantwal- Mangalore, a nativity scene put by local Christian believers at Maripalla, ThumbeDharkas Village in BantwalTaluk was burnt allegedly by Hindu radicals. The police, who visited the place and conducted the necessary inquiry, arrested two persons, who seemingly informed the police that they suspected forceful conversion during the Christmas celebration and hence they set fire to the crib.

• **31 December** - In North Kanara, Sangh Parivar activists led by two persons identified as Biju Nair and Venkatesh, stopped New Year Eve Prayer service organised by Pastor P.R. Jose is in charge of Karnataka Calvary Fellowship Church in Ganeshgudi, Joyida Taluk. The mob also complained to Ramnagar Police Station. According to the reports, the police joined the mob in harassing and threatening the Christians with dire consequences if they continued with their conversion work. After forcing the believers to stop the prayer service, the police allegedly ordered the pastor to come to the police station the next morning. However, the following
morning, the pastor and some believers lodged a complaint against members of the mob and the two police constables for trespassing into the church and for their high-handed behavior. The Sub Inspector Babu Madar gave the two constables a severe dressing down, and advised the pastor and the believers to go ahead with their prayer services without any fear.

**CHHATTISGARH**

- **12 January** - In Sirisguda, Jagdalpur, alleged Hindu extremists beat up a follower of Christ, ItuVeko from Obedient Life Church and seriously injured him for his faith in Christ.

- **16 January** - In Odisa, Konta, Hindu extremists allegedly from the Bajrang Dal beat up Christians amid their prayer meeting and seriously injured them. The members includes followers of Christ from Hindu and tribal backgrounds.

- **23 February** - In Murliguda, alleged Hindu extremists beat up BhadanHonta and MarkariSomal for following Christ. The extremists damaged Honda’s ear drums, and Soma was beaten till he fell unconscious. The Christians filed a police complaint but no action was taken.

- **13 March** - In Raipur, alleged Hindu extremists try to stop the worship meeting conducted by Pastor Peter Singh from Church of Christ, accusing him of forceful conversion. The church members and the local people defended the pastor and chased the extremists away.

- **20 May** - In Jangir, Champa, alleged Hindu extremists attack a convert Christian Tarzan, beat him up and destroyed his house because of his faith in Christ. The Christian was also restricted from using the village pond.

- **19 June** - In Gurur, Durg, alleged Hindu extremists from the Bajrang Dal disrupted the worship meeting and threatened the Christians not to conduct future worship meetings or face harm. The Christians were also warned to leave the area.

- **2 July** - In Dhantulsi, Hindu extremists attacked a Christian's wedding reception and subsequent worship service, beating those at the gatherings and leaving their food in ruins. About 60 extremists beat several guest at the wedding including, women and children, after barging into the wedding reception. They also burned the Christians vehicles. The Christians submitted a complaint at Kanker police station, but the extremists continued threatening...
them, telling them to either stop Christian activities or leave the area. Sources said police pressured the Christians to withdraw their complaint and refused to take any action on their behalf.

- **3 July** - In Pali, Korba, a mob disrupted the Sunday worship of a Believers Church, tearing up Bibles and gospel literature and beating Pastor Sunil Masih as they accused him of forceful conversion. The extremists, allegedly from the Bharatiya Janata Party forcefully entered the worship meeting at about 11:30 a.m. and took the pastor and church members to a police station. The church members told the police that they had not been converted by force or fraud and attended church services willingly however inspite of the claims of the Christians, the police detained the pastor for about six hours. After the intervention of the local area Christian leaders’ intervention, he was released without charges.

- **28 July** – In Kawardha, Pandaria, an FIR was lodged against Pastor Diwakar Kumar under section 295(A) of the Indian Penal Code for deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings or any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs and under Sections 3 and 4 of the Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religious Act, after local advocates forced the father of a young girl who has accepted Christianity in the area to lodged a complaint against the pastor. The girl, Rani Matle, wanted to join a seminary and required an affidavit to show her religious belief for the same. However, local advocates created a furore when approached and pressurized her father to register a false complaint against the pastor who was associated with the seminary. The pastor was detained in the police station. His bail application was rejected by the Lower Court of Pandaria on 30th July.

- **6 August** – In Dhamtari, Panchpeedi village, a local congregation, Grace Church, was shut down after local district administrative officials claimed that local villagers had complained against the worship should be stopped in the area. The district officials also claimed that there would be a serious threat to the law and order situation, for which the Christians would be held responsible, if the church continued to meet in the area. The church met in the house of local Christian, Rohit Sahu.

- **27 August** - In Jashpur, eight people, including 2 women were arrested on grounds of forcefully converting Hindus to Christianity in Jashpur after allegedly an RSS activist reported to the local police station that a group of Christians had gathered at a house and were forcibly converting
Hindus. According to the Christians, those arrested were meeting in the house of a relative where they spent some time in prayer. The police arrested Mr. Jaikant Baraik and five men and two women who had gathered for the dinner.

- **18 September** – In Surguja, Sankargarh, Pastor Biswanath Tirkey was beaten up by a mob of four people led by village secretary Ambuja Yadav, while returning from a worship service. Pastor reported to EFI that at about 6 pm, the mob sudden stopped him and started beating him. Later, someone from the mob called to the police. Then police, from Sankargarh police station reached to the spot and took the pastor into custody. Police later released the pastor after warning the Christians and summoned them on next day. Next day Pastor along with 20 Christians went to the police station at about 9:00 am. But later at about 3:00 pm they were released without any charged.

- **6 November** - In Raipur, Parsada, a mob of about 200 Hindu radicals disrupted a worship service and attacked Pastor Naresh Sahu on November 6th at about 11 am in Parsada village, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. While the Sunday worship service was being conducted, a large group of Hindu fundamentalist gathered in front of the house of pastor Sahu and forcibly stopped the worship service. The miscreants verbally abused the pastor and later dragged him out of his house and beat him up brutally. The mob then tore the Bibles, destroyed all the church materials and threw it into a nearby pond. According to Inspector Anup, Police in-charge of Abhanpur Police Station the pastor was sent to Abhanpur Hospital for treatment by the police officials and a complaint has been filed by both the parties. Pastor Naresh filed complaint against Komal Sahu, Dinesh Sahu, Laltu Sahu, Manglu Nisad, Nathu Nisad and Hira Sahu. Later, Pastor Naresh met the former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Shri Ajit Jogi and submitted a letter stating all the happenings. However, with the intervention of Shri Ajit Jogi, police went to the village and issued a notice to both the parties to resolve the rising dispute.

- **22 November**: In Pandariya town, Kawardha in Chhattisgarh, three pastors belonging to the Grace Church of God Welfare Society along with two missionaries were falsely accused of forcible conversion and were arrested. A mob of around 25 Hindu radicals led by one Raghu Pathak along with the Block officer Uttam Singh reached the venue at about 6 pm where the worship service was about to be conducted. The fundamentalist disrupted the service and accused the pastor Jivan Tigga (57), Leku Sahu and Madhav and missionaries Santosh and Itwari Lal of forcible conversions. Later, the police came at the venue and arrested the pastors.
under section 295A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Presently, the pastors have been released on bail.

ANDHRA PRADESH

- **14 January** - In Kamareddy, Nizamabad, suspected Hindu extremists beat Pastor Swamidas and several other Christians including his wife and other two believers as the Christians were returning back home from a prayer meeting. The Christians filed a police complaint but no case was registered.

- **26 January** - In Secunderabad, alleged Hindu extremists kidnapped Pastor Jonathan D and forced him to worship idols at a Hindu temple. However, the pastor was able to escape on 28th night while the assailants were fast asleep.

- **5 March** - In Gudur, Khammam, Koya tribal Christians were prevented by alleged Hindu extremists from burying a dead body. The Hindu extremists brutally attacked the Christians, seriously injuring three.

- **3 April** - In Nizamabad, Narendra Goud beat up Pastor Joseph Manda and his son Sunny Manda as Goud allegedly wanted to take back the land he donated to the church. Police were informed and took Narendra into custody with the charge of attempt to murder.

- **28 June** - In Bollepally, Bhongir Mandal, a 50 year old pastor, Rev. Johnny Lazarus, was beaten up by alleged Hindu extremist, Malla Reddy, who opposed to the ministry of the pastor and accused him of performing witchcrafts against him.

- **3 July** - In Nalgonda, Pastor G.N. Paul was brutally attacked by four fundamentalists on 3rd July 11, while returning after the Sunday worship service. The pastor sustained serious stab injuries on his head and intestines and lost a lot of blood. The pastor had been warned on three prior occasions of dire consequences if he continued to conduct the prayer service and worship Jesus Christ at Imperthi village. A case was filed at Munugodu Police Station. D.S.P. Shri. Vijayakumar is investigating the case.
• **4 August** - In Karimnagar, seven Christians were arrested after they were charged under section 153 (A), 143 read with S. 149 of Indian Penal Code after an altercation with locals for writing Christian slogans near a local temple. A mob, made the Christian team, (comprised of out of town persons) clean up the rocks where the slogans were written. Furthermore, they took the cell phones of the members and verbally and physically abused them. The police also arrested the pastor Isaiah of Elakalapalli gate colony of Godavari Khani who had invited the team and an onlooker who was reading the slogans.

• **9 August** - In Nalgonda, Narketapally, local Christian, Pastor Jaya Raju (aged about 40 years old) suffered injuries to his hands and face after he was attacked by 10 to 12 masked men on the 9th August at approximately midnight. The miscreants also attacked another Christian who came to his rescue. The pastor had been warned against organising revival meetings in his church which were attended by persons from different faith backgrounds. An FIR (145/2011) was registered by police under section 147,149 & 324 against unknown assailants.

• **12 August** – In West Godavari, Perampeta village, the VHP has organized a conversion ceremony for about 150 Dalit Christians in Perampeta Village near Janga Reddy Gudem of West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. The people were allegedly taken to Ramalayam Temple in Perampeta Village and were forcibly made to recite mantras and were converted to Hinduism. The police had no information about the incident.

• **25 August** – In Secunderabad, unidentified vandals on Thursday set fire to the altar of the Mother Mary Malankara Catholic Church and burnt copies of the Bible, Cross, hymn books, clothes and other holy ornaments. They also set alight the sound system of the church, which was established in 1996 near Krupanand Hall in Ganesh Colony, Picket, Secunderabad. Earlier, about four years ago, the church had witnessed a similar incident when Bajrang Dal activists had then attacked the priest and damaged property. A police complaint has been registered in the present case.

• **21 September** - Girmapur, Medchal, alleged Shiv Sena activists disrupted a prayer meeting in the house of a Christian identified as Mrs. Padma in Girmapur, Medchal. The activists led by one Malla Reddy forcibly entered Padma’s house while members of a local church led by the pastor identified only as Steven were having a prayer meeting. The Shiv Sena activists comprised of fifty people, who barged into the meeting and verbally abused the pastor.
However, Padma confronted the mob and told them to leave as it is her right to choose to worship God of her choice. Several of the Christians who met for prayer then went to the Panchayat Sarpanch, Mr. Raghupati Reddy to lodge a complaint, however according to media reports he did not want to get involved in the matter. A police complaint was also registered in the matter.

- **23 September** – In Karimnagar, Dharmapuri, eight Christian evangelists identified as Ephraim, M. Premanandam, P. Kalebu, K. Gideon and four others were arrested after a person named Adepu Venugopal filed a complaint against them for allegedly forcing him to believe in Christianity, so that he can be healed. The police filed the complained against the evangelists after Adepu Venugopal along with a about 100 persons allegedly comprised of the RSS supporters came to the police station to demand the arrest of the evangelists. An FIR was filed under section 153(A) of the Indian Penal Code.

- **2 October** – In Karimnagar, Jogitiyal Town, a drunken mob lead by one person identified as Goli Suman, broke into the *Yesu Raktham Pradhana Mandiram* at Govindupally Jagitiyal town in karimnagar District. The mob threatened Pastor Badugu Lazarus and the members of the Church who present for a prayer meeting in the church at the time. The group disrupted the prayers and creating a nuisance. A police complaint was registered in the matter and the police also visited the church assuring the Christians of their support and assistance.

- **15 October** – In Karimnagar, Ramagundam, a group of Christian youth including the Pastor Suresh Rajashekar of the Glorious Ministries were attacked by a mob of about 100 persons. The mob first attacked a small group of Christians who were out doing some publicity work for upcoming meetings being held in the city. The news was reported to the local police who arrived at the scene and arrested some of the people involved in the incident. The Pastor was summoned to the police station but just as he was about to reach the police station a large mob of about 100 people gathered around the Pastor’s vehicle, who then damaged the car and beat up the pastor. Police intervened to separate the mob and a case has been filed at NTPC police station, Karimnagar District.

- **28 October** - In New Paloncha, Khamman District, a Christian was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for accidentally pasting a poster over another religious poster during a campaign for an evangelical crusade that was to take place in October. Mr.Burgula Prasad, a zealous
Christian believer from Seetharampatnam village, Khamman District (AP), wanted to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to his village and made arrangements to organise a Crusade inviting eminent evangelist and speaker Dr. John Manga Charyulu. The Crusade was to take place from the 3rd of October to the 5th of October. In order to create awareness about the crusade, Mr. Prasad and his team went about placing posters on various public locations in and around the village. While doing this they accidentally placed a poster over another poster in Indranagar Colony in New Paloncha. This created a stir among the locals who started protest and created a road block. Mr. Prasad was called in by the New Paloncha town police where he apologised to the police and the demonstrators. Mr. Prasad was then left free but after a month, on the 28th of October he was summoned by the police who informed him about an FIR filed against his name. The local pastors then went and met local politician and former Minister requesting him to close the cases on Pastor Prasad and asked forgiveness for accidentally placing a poster over another poster in Indranagar Colony in New Paloncha.

- **6 November** – In East Godavari, Kakikana, a church building was vandalised by miscreants after Christians, complained to the police about the Hindu group’s attempt to illegally construct a temple over property belonging to a pastor. A month earlier, a small group lead by one Mr. Cheduluri Gouraiah placed a picture of an Hindu idol on a property belonging to Pastor P. Ratna Babu, member of “Kresstu Aseenudu Ministries.” Later on 6th of November, the same group led by Mr. Gouraiah entered the Pastor’s property again with construction materials in a bid to build a temple. Noticing this activity, the pastor immediately filed a complaint to the police who arrived at the scene and chased the group away. Later that night a group of people came to the church premises and vandalised church property.

- **11 December** – In Nalgonda, the pastor of the New Fellowship Gospel Church, Pastor Bangaraiah, was attacked by five masked persons who entered the church premises and started pelting stones at the pastor. As the congregation members started shouting, the masked men ran away. Pastor Bangaraiah was seriously injured and profusely bleeding and required to be taken to the Government Hospital in Nalgonda where he received 14 stitches on his head and face for the wounds.
MADHYA PRADESH

• **24 March** – In Jhabua, suspected Hindu extremists destroyed Catholic statues worth Rs.20,000/- and attack the driver and two people of the vehicle carrying the statues to Jhapadra.

• **7 April** – In Sagar, police arrested Pastor Phillip and his son Jason after alleged Hindu extremists disrupted their prayer meeting and accused them of forceful conversion and they were sent to the central jail.

• **4 May** – In Dhindori, police arrested Shivraj Maravi, based on the complaint filed by alleged Hindu extremists that he was constructing a house church. The Christian stopped the construction work and he was charged under Section 151 of Indian Penal Code.

• **28 May** - In Mahendikheda, Jhabua, police arrested evangelist Kamlesh Tahed after the village filed a false complaint against him implicating him in murder which took place one year earlier in the village (2009).

• **8 June** - In Raghatgar, Sagar, police detained Pastor Daniel Masih after alleged Hindu extremists filed a case against him of forceful conversion and later told him to leave the area. The pastor refused to leave the area.

• **1 September** – In Khargone, alleged Hindu extremists led by Narendra Singh Chauhan and the village head, Mahendra S. Khirare barged into the prayer meeting of Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB) conducted by Pastor (s) D. Wilson and Jebraj Bardhan and accused the Christians of forceful conversion. After the extremists verbally abused the Christians for an hour, the village head informed the police who took Pastor Wilson and his wife, Pastor Bardhan and his wife and their child along with 20 church members to the police station. The police questioned the church members whether any forceful conversion is taking place in the church. All the believers told the police that they have decided to follow Jesus willingly and that no one has forced them to accept the faith. The police finally released the Christians without charges at about midnight and the police dropped them in their respective homes.

• **12 September** – In Dewas, Mainashree colony, a mob allegedly comprising of extremists from the RSS accompanied by police officials raided the home of a Christian, Manish Tiwari, where a
prayer meeting a baptism ceremony was being conducted alleging that forcible conversions were being conducted in the home. The police officials allegedly manhandled Manish Tiwari and detained for several hours Pastor Ramesh, his wife Sumantri, Pastor Balu, Pastor Ashok, Manish Tiwari and the 11 Christians Converts who were about to be baptized, to the City KotwaliDewas police station. All the 11 new converts alleged that thought they gave a statement that they were being baptised on their own volition without any force, they were being pressurised by the RSS members present to falsely register a case against the other Christians at the gathering.

- **2 December** - In Barwani, a pastor of the Indian Pentecostal Church, identified as Titus and few other Christians were arrested after being charged under Section 3 and 4 of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act after a complaint was registered against them by local villagers in the Sendwa in Badhwani District of Madhya Pradesh on December 2, 2011. While they were in the Police Station about 20 men from radical Hindu organisation barged into the police station demanding arrest of the pastor. Pastor Titus and the other Christians were released, after bail was posted by local Christians on their behalf. The police also seized the vehicle they were using along with some CD’s and Bibles.

- **9 December** – In Jhabua, about a 100 person strong mob, allegedly RSS and VHP extremists surrounded the house of Mrs. Indira Vasunia, a local Christian who was organising a day long prayer and fasting in her home. The mob pelted the house with stones and then forcibly entered the house, burnt three Bibles and tore all the Christian literature. They also tore images of Jesus Christ and broke a wooden cross and a coloured television set. They then also opened Pastor Ramesh and his wife’s personal cupboard and stole silver and gold chains worth about Rs.30,000/-.

The mob also attacked Pastor Ramesh and another Christian identified as Babu Vasunia (30) while he was returning home on hearing about the incident, on his motor cycle. About 20 RSS and VHP workers waiting for them at the village entrance attacked them and beat them up alleging that they were forcibly and fraudulently converting Hindus to Christianity and trying to bring in a foreign religion into their village. Both of them were beaten so badly that they began bleeding all over and the pastor also fell unconscious. However, they still continued to beat them with stones, with their fists and also kicking them at their stomachs. They also dragged the pastor on the road tearing his clothes. Babu Vasunia was also beaten badly causing serious
head injuries. Later, Pastor Ramesh along with Babu Vasunia went to the Antarwailiya Police Station to register an police complaint, the police failed to register the FIR.

**MAHARASTRA**

- **6 January** - In Kolhapur, Pastor Thomas George and two evangelists received hospital treatment after they were beaten up by alleged Hindu extremists. The Christians also lost their bicycles, the essentials they bought for one month and their personal belongings.

- **21 April** - In Vasai, Palghar, police arrested six Christians arrested under Sections 295 A and 34 of the Indian Penal Code after Hindu extremists filed a police complaint against them of forceful conversion.

- **24 April** - In Dasturipada, Palgha, a group of alleged Hindu extremists barged into the Easter celebrations and attacked the Christians with sticks. The church was given police protection.

- **2 May** - In Manglidhar, Kalwan Taluk, alleged Hindu extremists opposed the church construction of Manglidhar District Church and imposed a socio-economic boycott on Christians. The extremists ordered the Christians to leave the village and threatened them they will not allow the Christian children to study in the village school.

- **10 May** - In Parva, Parbhani, a team of young girls working with Operation Mobilisation were threatened by the Hindu extremists allegedly from the Shiv Sena, warning the Christians not to enter their village again.

- **15 August** – In Pune, Warimalwadi, early in the morning, some miscreants broke into St. Mary’s Malankara Catholic Church and desecrated the Church. The altar was vandalized, religious paintings of Jesus, Mother Mary and other saints were defaced with chalk and destroyed. The words “Shaitan dev” meaning “Satan God” were scribbled on the walls of the Church. The front part of the tabernacle where the consecrated Body of Jesus Christ is preserved was burned. Copies of the Bible and other prayer books were torn and scattered around. The crosses were thrown about and bended. Some decoration from the altar, too, were pulled off and destroyed.
• **10 October** – In Virla, Sirja, Dhule district, Maharashtra, Christians have come under repeated attacks from alleged Hindu extremist identified as Gupsingh Raya Paurane, Dev Das and Sai Singh. The first incident took place on July where the extremists verbally abused the Christians for their faith in Christ, accusing them of having more money than them after they have decided to follow Christ.

Again on Sept 2, the same extremist group barged into the Christian prayer meeting, verbally abused the Christians for their faith in Christ and hit one Christian, Raju Narayan, causing severe injury to his head. A compromise was reached between the two parties after the intervention of the village head with the Christians, subsequently, not filing any complaint against the assailants. Later on Sept 7, the village head summoned the Christians for a meeting where the Christians were forced to kneel down before the idols and worship them. They were also told in clear terms that they cannot continue to follow Christ.

"The extremists continued to attack us whenever they found opportunities", reported area Christian, Ram Balli. Again on Oct 8, at about 9:30, while the Christians were getting ready to sleep, the extremists stormed on them and started throwing stones at their houses, where one Christian woman, Meena Raju received severe injury on her head. She was admitted in a local hospital the next day. Later that night, all the Christians in fear left the area and walked all the way to Shirpur police station which is 35 kms away from the village and filed a police complaint against the attackers.

On Oct 10, the enraged extremists, after learning that the Christians filed a police complaint against them went to houses of Balli and other Christians and started verbally abusing them. GupsinghPaurane threatened the Christians that he will kill all of them and cut them off from the society if they continue to believe in Christ. Balli ran to the police station for his life and other Christians family members also ran to hide themselves in the field. In the meantime, the extremists destroyed the houses of the Christians, destroying the roots, the doors and the windows. The Maharashtra police registered a case against three people.

**KERALA**

• **23 March** – In Poddivatuvalia, miscreants burned St Mary’s Malankar Church and completely destroyed the holy attire and other belongings in Poddivatuvalia, Kerala. A Police investigation was undertaken.
• 31 March - In Kodungallur, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor N. V. Eliya and Pastor Milton George of New India Church of God as they were returning home along with their families from a house dedication prayer service. Pastor N. V. Eliyas sustained injuries on his head and ear and was hospitalized. The police arrested 35 Hindu extremists allegedly belonging to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

• 20 April - In Mudakolly, alleged Hindu extremists verbally abused the Christians, beat them up and tore up their clothes for distributing New Testaments and gospel tracts.

• 30 April - In Kakkunadu, two Christians were attacked by a group of Muslims radicals while showing a Christian film outdoors, warning them not to show gospel movies in the area again.

• 13 June - In Thrikkunnappuzha, three U.S citizens, along with two unidentified men were detained by the Alappuzha police after alleged Hindu extremist group filed a complaint against them of forcible conversion. The Christians were released without charges.

• 20 July – In Pazhuthara, 5 km from SulthanBathery, Wayanad at around 4:00 PM, seven Christians were attacked by four persons allegedly from the RSS as they returned from visiting an old lady who is the member of Grace Gospel Assembly. The Christians identified as Pastor Francis (45), Brothers Raju (75), Shinto, Pastor and Raju and Shinto were attacked the mob, and beaten with an iron rod also. The mob also verbally abused the Christian women present identified only as Sindhu, Mini, Mercy, and Shiji. The mob also attempted to burn the vehicle in which the Christians where travelling. The Christians were warned by the mob against entering that area again.

• 14 August - In Alappuzha, Vashicherry, the glass encasement of Jesus Christ in the St. Anthony’s Forane Church’s was broken by unknown persons in Vashicherry, Alapuzha (Kerala). The wire net cover outside the glass panel was found broken with a sharp object. The glass panes are shattered thereafter. The desecration was noticed on 13th early morning by the believers. One and a half month earlier a similar attempt had been made, unsuccessfully

• 20 August: In Wayanad, two Christians, Robin and Sam D Thomas narrowly escape a possible attack after they were accosted by two persons allegedly belonging to the RSS. The men threatened the Christians as they returned from a prayer meeting and directed someone over
the phone that “only two are there and coming in your direction – be ready”. When the Christians overhead this telephone conversation, they hid themselves in the field nearby from where they saw a mob waiting with sticks and a sword. The mob searched for them, however, could not find them.

- **4 September** – In Kollam, Chavara, unidentified masked miscreants broke open the locked gates of the church and after entering it, desecrated the church. The miscreants had vandalised the altar, confession cubicle and damaged all lights display. The miscreants also snatched a gold chain from Susi Antony, a family lives in the neighbourhood.

- **2 November** – In Malorkkunu, nearly 100 people, mostly Hindus, in Thamarassery diocese in Kerala protested the construction of a proposed Catholic cemetery in the area Nov. 2, saying it posed a danger to the environment. The protesters, who have formed the Anti-Cemetery Action Committee, held a rally outside the Kozhikode collectorate in the southern Indian diocese. Fr Jose Manimalatharappil, the parish priest, was quoted in local media as saying that complaints about the environmental risks of the cemetery were baseless and misleading. “People are resisting because of ignorance. We are creating concrete vaults that will never cause any pollution.” The church has purchased four-and-a-half acres of land in the village to build a cemetery, school, old age home, hostel and self-employment centre. The cemetery will be built on 40 percent of the land. At present, the parish uses a cemetery located five kilometres away. Even now Hindus cremate their dead ones in their house compound.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

- **28 February** - In Digpalpur, Unnoa, alleged Hindu extremist from the Bajrang Dal barged into the prayer meeting conducted by Pastor Ganesh Kumar, ordered the Christians to stop the prayer meeting, abused them verbally and threatened them with dire consequences if they failed to obey their orders. The village head and local leaders arrived at the spot and explained to the extremists that the Christians are not involved in any illegal activity. After the talk, peace was restored between the two parties.

- **20 March** - In Lonianpurawa, Balrampur, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the threatening the Christians with dire consequences if they conduct future worship meetings.
• **8 May** - In Baskeria, Sonbhadra, alleged Hindu extremists from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh threatened to beat a pastor if he conducts future worship meetings in the area. The police told the pastor to leave the area immediately and that if anything happen to him and his family, they will not be responsible.

• **19 May** - In Khopura, Sahidabad, alleged Hindu extremists threatened Pastor Sanju Mahananda to stop constructing the pastor's quarter immediately or face harm. Thereafter, the pastor stopped the construction work.

• **3 July** - In Mainpuri, an angry mob accused Pastor John C.V Samuel from Assembly of God's Church (AGC) of forceful conversion, beat him up and his wife in Manpuri, Uttar Pradesh. The incident took place when Pastor Samuel, his wife and some believers went to attend the burial service of Anil Saxena, who attended Pastor Samuel's church for the past two years. Saxena committed suicide on Saturday night after he had an argument with his father, reported our correspondent. The angry mob suddenly rushed on the pastor and his wife, mercilessly beat them up and falsely accused them of forceful conversion and of being the cause of Saxena's death. Saxena's wife intervened and told the mob that they went to the church by their own free will and nobody has forced them. The pastor’s wife called the police by phone. The police arrived at the scene and rescued the couple from the angry mob and took them to the Pushpanjali Hospital, Agra where they were admitted. Area Christian leaders submitted a police complaint but no actions have been taken at press time.

• **14 July** – In Unnao, police arrested pastors Om Prakash, Ganga Prasad, Premshankar, Desh Kumar and a person identified only as Vinod of the New India Church of God for leading a prayer meeting in Prakash's home. Allegedly Hindu radicals ordered Prakash and his family to give up their faith in Christ and stop the services in their home. Police along with the Hindu extremists had earlier threatened Prakash’s wife, Uma, and her three grown daughters if they continued in their faith. The church subsequently stopped Christian activities in the area.

• **25 October** – In Agra, Nagla Mehdi, at around 12 pm the camp in Nagla Mehdi, Sohalla in Naripur village was disrupted by a mob of 150 strong Bajrang Dal activists alleging that the medical team was carrying out conversion in grab of medical treatment. The extremists were identified as Digvijay Nath Tiwari, Bhola and Sanjay Malhotra. The activists locked up the team of doctors on the top floor of the building. The organizer of the camp Shri Prabhat Kashyap was
dragged by the activists and refused to let him go. Finally, the police was called in and he was taken to Thana Sahaganj, where a case was registered against the activists. On 25th Shri Digvijay was arrested by the police u/s 147,342 and 504 of Indian Penal Code. On the next day he was released on bail. But other two were not taken into police custody.

**ORISSA**

- **11 January** - In Pakala, Kandhamal, the body of Saul Pradhan, a 45-year-old independent pastor whose house was burned by Hindu fundamentalists two years ago, was found dead near a pond. His body bore marks of assault but the police claimed that his death was due to cold.

- **March 08** - In Malkangiri, about 60 assailants from the Hindu extremist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on 23 February damaged the eardrums of a christian identified as BhadanHontal and beat another Christian, Markari Soma, until he fell unconscious. This latest attack was part of a series of attacks since 8 December, 2010 against the Koya tribal Christians living in different villages in Malkangiri. Over 10 attacks were recorded by the Malkangiri District Christian Manch (MDCM) in a space of one month.

- **29 March** - In Mayurbhanj, Orissa, 15 Christians including two pastors were arrested on charge of forceful conversion. The two pastors, one tribal Christian, 12 newly convert Christians were produced before a court and were later sent to jail and later released on bail.

- **13 April** – In Kandhamal alleged Hindu extremists held Christian families captive and ostracized them for helping their Christian neighbours in rebuilding their houses which were burned in the 2008 anti-Christians violence. The extremists imposed fine to shopkeepers who sold wares to them and truck owners refused to ferry goods for Christians for fear of the extremists’ attacks.

- **27 July** - In Baliguda, Kandhamal District, the body of Michael Digal, a 43 year old believer, was found in a decomposed condition on July 27th Mdikia, a village coming under the Baliguda Block of Kandhamal District in Orissa. According to his relatives, Michael was called from home on a pretext three days before his body was found, and was not seen alive after that. His relatives believed that the reason for Michael’s death was that he had testified in court in a case related to the 2008 anti-Christian pogroms in Kandhamal District.
• **18 August** – In Kandhamal, Nandagiri, a local Christian leader, Krisant Mallick was issued a show cause notice by the Tehsildar seeking information why the church building being constructed should not be demolished. Vernal assurances had been given for permission to build the church from the previous Collector. The notice of the Tehsildar was subsequently withdrawn.

• **23 August** - In Kandhamal, another Christian church was given a show cause notice against proceeding with construction of a church building in the area. Local Christian alleged that the notice has been given under pressure for Hindu fundamentalists groups.

• **2 September** - In Kandhamal, a Christian couple, Satyaban Nayak and Sarojini, were assaulted by local villager after they were instigated by the former’s mother, for following Christ. The villagers forced the couple to the village square and asked them to give up Christianity, and when they refused to deny Christ and Christianity, they manhandled them and verbally abused them. The villagers also demanded that the couple leave the village immediately. However, as the Christians kept praying for forgiveness for their attackers, the villagers finally relented and moved away. The police were informed about the incident, and a peace meeting was organized quite successfully. It was further decided that no FIR should be filed about the incident.

• **6 October** – In Raikia, on Dussera day, a prominent Hindu festival, a mob of approximately 400 fundamentalists attempted to hoist a saffron flag on the construction site of Catholic Church at Bakingia, one of the largest Christian settlements in Kandhamal district of Orissa. The church was being rebuilt after being razed to the ground by Hindu fundamentalists in the 2008 communal violence in the eastern Indian state. The reconstruction of the church was opposed by Hindu fundamentalists, whose leader Bhaskar Pradhan claimed that the land belonged to their forefathers. The local administration called the two parties together for negotiations but has failed to resolve the issue.

• **6 November** - In Narsingpur, Jaidamdarpur, a Christian youth was found murdered in Cuttack, Orissa allegedly by Hindu fanatics. The deceased, Mr. Ganga Pallia (22), son of Sanga Pallia from Jaidamdarpur Block, Narshinpur District, Cuttack was a member of Friends Missionary Prayer Band. He was murdered by Hindu fanatics in the region. Police are currently conducting an enquiry in the village.
• **December 23** – In Kandhamal district, the *KuiSamajSevaSamity* (*Kui* social service society) have called for the shut down during December 24-27 to protest what it said was government neglecting the district while allocating welfare funds. According to media reports, quoted the strike call Bipra Charan Nayak, convener of the Survivors’ Associations of Communal Violence as saying, “has caused panic among Christians who are planning to celebrate Christmas after four years.” The same tribal outfit had called for a similar strike in December 2007 that led to killing of five Christians in the Christmas week. Hundreds of houses were also torched. The district saw anti-Christian violence again in August 2008 that killed more than 90 people and rendered some 50,000 people homeless.

**JHARKHAND**

• **28 May** - In Laherbanjari, Palamu, Hindu extremists beat up five Christian families for their faith in Christ. One woman, Mala Devi suffered internal injuries and was hospitalized in Sadar Hospital. Kalavati Devi, a mother of three was abducted for a month. The Christians fled from their homes in fear. No arrest was made by the police.

• **30 May** - In Korwadih, Garwah, Jharkhand, alleged Hindu extremists threatened two convert Christian families to stop following Christ or face severe harm. The extremists threatened to take the Christians to the Hindu holy river, Ganges in Banaras city to reconvert them to Hinduism.

**RAJASTHAN**

• **1 Feb** - In Peepal Khoont, alleged Hindu extremists attacked evangelist Harish Ninama (65) while he was praying for a sick girl, stripped him of his clothes and paraded him naked in a procession.

• **8 June** - In Panthol, Peepal Khoont, Pratapgarh, alleged Hindu extremists attacked Pastor Shantilal Ninama and his family for their faith in Christ, beat up his 65 year old father till he fell unconscious.

**TAMIL NADU**

• **17 April** - In Agastheswaram, Kanyakumari, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the worship service of Grace Good News Church, filed a complaint against the pastor of forceful conversion and burn down his church.
• **12 June** - In Karaikal, Puducherry, Pastor Robinson and members from Church of Jesus were threatened by alleged armed Hindu extremists not to conduct future worship meetings or face harm.

• **13 August** – In Thiruvarur, Ramantha Kovil, a large group of BJP activists have attacked a Christian prayer house, Bethel Prayer House, in Ramanatha Kovil in the District of Thiruvarur in Tamil Nadu, beat up the pastor, Williams Ramados, his wife and some of the believers who were present at the church, and demolished the church shed. The mob also destroyed two motor cycles parked near the church and took away six cycles, a camera, and cell phone belonging to the pastor and the believers. The mob also claimed that the pastor and some believers were involved in forcibly converting local Hindus to Christianity. The police arrested the Christians and they were subsequently released after six days. The police refused to register any complaint against the mob.

• **3 December** – In Krishnagiri, Hosur, Christu Sabha, an independent church was razed to the ground allegedly by Hindu radicals. The police did not file a First Information Report in the case. Previously in 2007, the pastor of the church, Paul B. Chinnaswamy, had been brutally attacked by Hindutva extremists who beat him up and also stabbed him with a huge screw driver in the leg with the intent of maiming him. They had also threatened to abduct all his four daughters and harm his son, if he persisted with his work of spreading Christianity in the village.

**UTTARAKHAND**

• **28 March** - In Phullaiya, Khatima, alleged Hindu extremists barged into the Believer’s Church, “Community Development Programme” inaugural meeting, accused the Christians of forceful conversion and beat them up.

• **12 June** – On 12 June in Bellparao, Nainital, an angry mob barged into the marriage reception of a follower of Christ from a Sikh background, Suresh Chand, accused him and his family of not following Sikh rituals and damaged properties worth about rupees 60,000/-.

• **31 July** – In Makhdumpur, a mob of about 300 persons gathered around a hall where a church service was being conducted and verbally and physically abused the church congregation including the children and women. The mob was allegedly agitating against the church’s
involvement in forcefully converting people to Christianity and wanted to stop all church activities in the region.

DELHI

• 9 April – In Bhajanpura, East Delhi, an angry mob of about 150 Hindu extremists attack a Christian worship meeting "Festival of Deliverance", indiscriminately beat up Christians including children and women, destroyed furniture and vehicles. Two Christians sustained head injuries and received hospital treatment. Police registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the attackers and two extremists were arrested.

HARYANA

• 17 April - In Gandhi Colony, Samalkha, Haryana, alleged Hindu extremists accused Pastor Satyam from Sacred Assembly Fellowship of luring people to convert to Christianity, summoned him out from the church and threatened him to close the church or face harm.

“‘They grasped my arm, shook me and accused me of luring people to convert to Christianity but the church members told them in unequivocal term that there is no case of allurements.'

- Pastor Satyam, victim of communal violence in Haryana

HIMACHAL PRADESH

• 17 March - In Rekong Peo, Kinnur, allegedly Hindu extremists boycotted Christians and did not allow them to use the public road, collect drinking water, and use of forest resources, for their faith in Christ.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

• 19 February - In Srinagar, a mob comprising seemingly if Hindu extremists burned a Christian school, damaging eight class rooms which worth about Rs.60 lakhs. Prior to the incident, the Principal of the school, Grace Paljor was threatened verbally a number of times by some group of people for being a Christian.

• 19 November - In Srinagar, police arrested Rev. Channa Mani Khanna, Anglican pastor of All Saints Church in Kashmir, after being accused by the Grand Mufti of the region of having forced the conversion of young Muslims to Christianity in exchange for money. He was charged under Sections 153A and 295A of the penal code. A few days prior to his arrest, on 19 November, the
Grand Mufti Bashir-ud-Din had called the Rev. Khanna before a sharia court, to answer charges of forced conversion.

**WEST BENGAL**

- **4 August** - In Murshidabad, Motijhil village, a prayer services being attended by some Christian women was disrupted allegedly by few radical Muslims along with other villagers. The mob trespassed into the home of a Christian woman identified as Selina and threatened the women from attending prayer meetings in the future. Most the women gather were new converts. The Christians registered a criminal complaint in the matter.

**GUJARAT**

- **11 October** – In Bhumel Village, miscreants on 11th October, vandalize a statue of Christ and a cross at a Christian memorial site in Gujarat. The miscreants entered the *Isu Smaraka* Memorial and threw the statue into the hall. A cross was also removed from the building and thrown into the street. A family living near the site, woke up during the night and heard the smashing of the cross in the street, and raised the alarm.

**Acknowledgement**

This report was compiled by Tehmina Arora, Mahruaii Sailo David, Aashima Samuel, Sara Chong and Deepak Narula, based on desk and field research, supported by various EFI staff namely, Akhilesh Edgar, Noel Kotian, Subhash Dongardive, Madhusudan Das, Smeeta Pramanik, Issac Dutta and James Kaiser. Evangelical Fellowship of India would like to thank the local activists and organizations who facilitated our research and for their untiring pursuit for justice. In particular, we thank Light Foundation, All India Christian Council, Dr. John Dayal, Global Council of Indian Christians and CSF.