Persecution Relief presents the monthly Intolerance Monitor, reporting hate crimes against Christians.

Church, let us be united in Prayer and as a member of the Body of Christ, make every effort to stand with the Persecuted Church. Let us forgive and pray for the Persecutors, just as Jesus Christ has commanded.

We wish to bring to the attention of the State and the Central Governments of India, to respond to this alarming crisis by taking strong and effective counter measures, to ensure religious freedom for all. While the Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and belief, the reality on the ground is often-untold.
Summary:

- At the end of August 2019, Persecution Relief recorded 58 incidents of hate crimes against Christians, the highest number in the last 8 months in 2019.
- Uttar Pradesh saw a significant spike in hate-crimes against Christians, perpetuating an atmosphere of fear and communal unrest in this State. It continues to lead the chart, recording 20 incidents in the month of August.
- 6 incidents of hate-crimes were recorded in Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu respectively.
- Sixteen (16) states out of 29 states of India are witnessing violence against Christians, which means Christians living in the region of over 55% territory of India are at risk to practice their faith freely as guaranteed under the Constitution of India.

Categorization of Persecution

- Over 60% of these incidents were threats, harassment & intimidation in the form of mob attacks disturbing the peaceful gathering of people for prayer meetings or worship service.
- Women and children were the worst affected during these attacks as they were the majority of the gathering.
- Physical violence like beating up of Pastors and Christians, including women and children, assembled for prayer service and Arrests, were over 12%.
We provided consistent and fervent Prayer support to all 58 cases through our Prayer Partners globally. We also provided Financial, Political & Judicial support in 13 cases.

Categorization of Media Stories related to Christians – 77 nos.
Top Media Stories

International:

- UN Puts India in 'Shameful' List of 38 Countries for Reprisals on Rights Activists / thewire.in
- The Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI), a US-based body claiming to represent India’s minority communities, including Dalits and Adivasis, living in America, has raised the alarm that the international wing of the RSS has penetrates government offices across America, citing how the "US affiliate of Indian paramilitary" has been busy hosting "events with police, fire, elected officials" / sabrangindia.in
- The Andaman and Nicobar police will request the Ministry of External Affairs to examine two American Nationals in connection with the killing of John Allen Chau on the Andaman and Nicobar’s North Sentinel Island / news18.com
- The RSS’s interest in the overseas Indian community is rooted in its overriding goal of pan-Hindu unification. The first overseas shakhas were started in Kenya and Myanmar in 1947 by emigrant Swayamsevak’s from India, who were also the catalysts for the further spread of the organisation overseas. As early as 1953, [MS] Golwalkar, in a lecture to state pracharaks, put the RSS’s interest in overseas Hindus in a philosophical context, saying that the RSS had a “world mission” to propagate the Hindu notion of the world as a single family. - scroll.in

India:

- Prime minister Narendra Modi’s statement during his Independence Day speech that "family planning is a form of patriotism" seems to have irked Kerala’s Catholic Church. Pro-Life Committee under the Kerala Catholic Bishop's Council has issued a communique expressing their opposition to PM Modi’s statement / ucanindia.in
- Former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said "unpleasant trends" of growing intolerance, communal polarization, and incidents of violent crimes propelled by hatred of certain groups will damage our polity / thehindu.com
- Prominent Christian leaders met the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ on Tuesday, to apprise him of the issues and objections raised by the religious minorities on the draft of the New Education Policy (DNEP), and said the central government may constitute a committee to consider the same / caravandaily.com
- The word 'Secular' is in the basic structure of the Constitution as it is in the Preamble. The basic structure of the Constitution cannot be amended. A 13-judge bench had said secularism is a basic structure, so it is difficult to change it, highlighted Justice Kurian Joseph / nationalheraldindia.com
- The Centre has quietly launched a drive to sensitize government institutions about the activities of what it calls "subversive" non-profit organisations (NGOs) operating in the
country. Top sources in the government said this move is being implemented on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and is based on a two-pronged strategy - to "counter those working against the nation's interest and protect the ones empowering the public and addressing social problems / dailyhunt.in

- The Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a Bill on Friday against conversion by force, inducement or through marriages solemnized for the “sole purpose” of adopting a new religion / thehindu.com

- N Ram, Chairman, THG Publishing Private Ltd, on Tuesday, said that the Hindu Rashtra ideology preached by the powers denied equality, fairness and justice to citizens of the country. “RSS is striking a blow at the secular concept of Indian citizenship and at the Constitution itself,” he said. /frontline.thehindu.com

- Sixty-four senior advocates of the Madras High Court on Wednesday petitioned Chief Justice Vijay Tahilramani, asking her not to post any cases relating to Christian missionaries, their institutions and women before Justice S Vaidyanathan / deccanherald.com

- The National Commission for Minorities has protested the Madras High Court’s statement that there was a general feeling that co-educational study in Christian educational institutions was “highly unsafe” for the future of girl children / newindianexpress.com

- Indian Christians of socially poor Dalit groups observed a “black day” to highlight what they call state discrimination that denies them statutory social benefits because of their Christian faith. Dalit leaders gathered in New Delhi to mark the 69th anniversary of then-president Rajendra Prasad signing a 1950 order that only Dalit people belonging to the Hindu religion should be considered Dalits / ucansews.com

- The secretary of the ultranationalist group Vishwa Hindu Parishad wants above all the closure of the "Divine Call Center" of Mulki. The militant accuses all Christian missionaries of converting poor children through deception. President of the Global Council of Indian Christians: "They want to divert attention from real problems". An ultra-nationalist Hindu radical from Karnataka is calling for the closure of all Christian prayer centers because they would carry out "forced conversions" of Hindu believers to Christianity / cruxnow.com

- Church upset as India’s pro-Hindu govt ignores Christians. Bishops say proposed National Education Policy takes no account of the 30,000 educational institutions run by the Church / ucansews.com

- Design to Undermine Role of Missionaries: NE Church leaders / sentinelassam.com

- Bill against forced religious conversions was introduced in Himachal Pradesh Assembly, where the proposed law prohibits conversion by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, inducement, marriage or any fraudulent means. It seeks to repeal the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2006, PTI reported / scroll.in
Minority related cases reported in the Media – 44 nos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public condemnation by civil society</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentalist strategies, Promoting Ideology</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposing hypocrisy &amp; double standards</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination against minorities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro-Secularism &amp; Freedom of religion</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Allegations with evil intent to incite hatred</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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