
HUNDREDS OF CHRISTIANS ARRESTED UNDER INDIA'S ANTI- CONVERSION LAWS

The recent anti-conversion laws in India have led to the arrests of hundreds of Christians, according to church sources.

UK-based Release International, which raises the voice of persecuted Christians worldwide, warns: "The persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in India increases dramatically with each passing month."

Twelve of India's 28 states have now passed anti-conversion laws, and momentum is building to

impose a national law across the whole of India. This would limit the freedom of religious minorities, including Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and Sikhs, from sharing their faith.

Police are arresting Christians under a law that is intended to prevent conversion by force, but in practise prevents any Christians from sharing their faith – even though their right to do so is enshrined in the Indian constitution.

UCA news report that nearly 400 Christians have been arrested in the state of Uttar Pradesh since the law was passed three years ago. They say most of the 398 Christians arrested are Protestant pastors and church members.

Uttar Pradesh is India's most populous state. It has long been a hotbed of 'Hindutva' – 'Hindu-ness' – which is championed by extreme Hindu nationalists who claim that to be Indian is to be Hindu. Observers warn that Hindutva religious nationalism is on the rise across the country.

India is set to hold national elections in 2024, raising the possibility of further gains for the Hindu nationalist BJP.

“Given the prevailing trend, the persecution of Christians in India is likely to increase,” warns Release International CEO Paul Robinson.

Last year in Manipur, ethnic/religious rioters

killed about 175 people, burned down 300 churches, and drove some 60,000 people from their homes.

Release International has launched an appeal to help Christians in India. For more details go to: [https://
releaseinternational.org/
campaign/thumleima/](https://releaseinternational.org/campaign/thumleima/)



"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."