



CHURCH IN CHAINS

AN IRISH VOICE FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

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Mrs. Vijay Thakur Singh
Ambassador
Embassy of India
6 Leeson Park
DUBLIN 6

24 November 2017

Your Excellency,

I write on behalf of Christians in Ireland to express our deep concern at the fact that Christians in various states of India face violent attacks from Hindu extremists on an ongoing basis. Over 400 incidents of attacks, harassment and threats on Christians were reported in the first six months of 2017.

Church in Chains reflects the views of Christians in Ireland and is a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade NGO Standing Committee on Human Rights. Our organisation is disturbed that such widespread sectarian violence can be allowed to continue.

I would draw your attention to the most recent outrage in which a mob of extremists from the Hindu nationalist organisation *Hindu Jagran Manch* entered a railway carriage at Indore Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh and assaulted a group of Christians (four adults and seven children), forced them off the train, subjected them to violent intimidation in front of media reporters whom they had summoned to the scene and dragged them to the police station. We are especially outraged at the inaction of the police in stopping the violence and intimidation and dealing with the aggressors, and the subsequent actions of the police in arresting two of the adult Christians and unilaterally removing the children from their parents' custody and sending them away to children's homes for a week (I have enclosed a full report of the shocking incident).

We are also concerned that the lack of any effective action to deal with this violence suggests strongly that police, state and federal authorities in India tacitly, or in some cases openly, approve of such religiously-motivated violence.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the situation with you and to hear from you about the Indian government's policies and actions on this issue. I would be grateful if one of your officials could contact me to make an arrangement for a meeting.

Yours respectfully,

David Turner
(Director)