CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF ARCHDIOCESE OF DELHI

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PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catholic Association of Archdiocese of Delhi (CAAD) Condemns Targeted Violence Against Christians in West Bengal; Demands Urgent State Intervention

NEW DELHI — The Catholic Association of Archdiocese of Delhi (CAAD) strongly condemns the recent, alarming escalation of targeted violence, intimidation, and forced religious conversions directed against the Christian community in West Bengal. In recent weeks, Christian families and peaceful prayer gatherings have been systematically targeted by fringe elements, subjected to physical assault, and forcefully pressured to abandon their faith.

The Christian community in India has historically lived in absolute peace, harmony, and mutual respect with fellow citizens of all faiths. To deliberately provoke and target a peaceful minority community without reason serves only to foster animosity, division, and hatred within society.

CAAD highlights several deeply disturbing incidents that have taken place recently:

October 26: A violent mob of approximately 30 individuals forcibly barged into the home of Parvati Hembram Soren in West Arjunda village, Panskura (Purba Medinipur district). Family members were brutally assaulted, sacred Bibles were desecrated, and the victims were forcefully demanded to renounce Christianity. An FIR was registered at the Panskura police station on October 28.

October 9: A Catholic prayer convention at the Divine Love Retreat Center in Jalal Khali (Nadia district) was violently disrupted. The attack resulted in the extensive damage of church property, the shattering of grotto glass panels, and physical injuries to six parishioners.

Mid-October: Three Christian families in Patlapur village, Chandrakona (Paschim Medinipur district), were subjected to a horrific three-day ordeal of assault, intimidation, sexual harassment, and forced participation in rituals at a Durga Puja pandal by individuals identifying as members of the Bajrang Dal. The severity of the threat forced the police to deploy a protective picket outside their homes on October 24.

Widespread Violence: Data compiled by the India Hate Lab documents a terrifying pattern of at least 60 targeted hate-crime incidents against Christians across 13 districts in West Bengal. This includes 52 separate raids on private prayer meetings, homes, and churches, alongside 8 distinct incidents involving severe physical assault or mob violence.

Catholic Association of Archdiocese of Delhi (CAAD) is deeply shaken by the systematic breakdown of law and order and the terror being inflicted upon innocent Christians in West Bengal. CAAD strongly condemns these heinous acts. We urgently appeal to the State Government to intervene immediately, enforce the law of the land strictly, and ensure that the perpetrators of this violence are arrested and prosecuted without delay.

The government must immediately restore a sense of security and send a clear reassurance to Christians living in deep fear that they are protected by the law, and that those who instigate violence will not be spared. Furthermore, immediate mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that those Christians who have been forced to flee their houses and seek shelter elsewhere out of fear are fully supported, encouraged, and protected to return to their homes to live in peace and dignity."

CAAD urges both state administration and civil society to stand against these divisive forces and uphold the constitutional right to freedom of religion and peaceful coexistence.

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