

36th Session of the Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 6: UPR Adoption – Indoneissa
Oral Statement of Franciscans International
Delivered by: Manoj Kumar Nayak

21 September 2017

Thank you Mr President,

We appreciate the Government of India's acceptance and commitment to ensure that laws are fully and consistently enforced to provide adequate protections for members of religious minorities and other vulnerable populations in its response to proposed UPR recommendations.

However, we observe the environment of intolerance and fears among the religious minorities; as well as practioners of freedom of expressions, belief, thoughts and assembly in the country. Despite the commitment to implement the recommendations from first and second UPR, the Government of India has not formulated a comprehensive law to prevent communal violence against the religious minorities.

The Government of India fails to prevent the adoption anti-conversion acts prevail in states such as Odisha, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand and Gujarat that restricts the rights of minorities to practice, propagate and profess their religion.

In addition we document the increasing of criminalization of minorities, dalits and adivasis for eating beef and withdraw cow slaughter acts that are in one form or others almost in many states of India. Similarly, we also document the increase of hate speech delivered by State officials (Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers and other persons holding constitutional positions) which leads to the incitement of violence and discrimmination against minorities, in contrary to their responsibility to protect the minorities.

We urge the Government of India to take appropriate and visible actions against incidents of mob-lynching of minorities and the human rights defenders. The Indian government needs to ensure stringent action against all those who deliver hate speech with the intention of inciting violence and hatred against religious minorities.

It should facilitate to reopen 315 cases and ensure criminal justice delivery system functioned by reopening closed cases without any convictions and enhance appropriate compensations in the anti-christian violence, Odisha in 2007-08. It must take all the necessary measures to stop alarming trends of discriminations, xenophobia and related intolerance and create confidence among all the persons in the Country.

Finally, Indian government should delete paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Presidential Order 1950 because it does not include affirmative action for Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims.

Thank you.