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Date:

The Prime Minister of the Republic of India
Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister's office, South Block,
Raisina Hill
New Delhi, 110011
India

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

In August last year communal violence erupted in Kandhamal district in Orissa, leaving more than a hundred dead and thousands homeless. I appreciate the efforts of both the Federal authorities and the State authorities of Orissa to protect the Christian minorities. Nevertheless, I would like to respectfully draw your attention to the thousands who are still suffering in the aftermath of violence, many of whom continue to fear for their lives.

Thousands of Christians have not been able to return to their homes. Thousands more have felt compelled to resettle elsewhere in Orissa or India, some are still living in refugee camps in the region and others reside in makeshift houses close to their properties as they are forbidden to return home by their fellow-villagers.

Many culprits involved in the communal violence still walk free. I would humbly ask, therefore, that you do all in your power to ensure that the perpetrators be tried and that justice be done on behalf of the victims. This should include a witness protection programme as, reportedly, several victims have been coerced not to testify against some of the main culprits of the violence.

I appreciate the effort of the Orissa authorities to investigate the communal violence in Kandhamal district. Local and national Christian leaders, however, expressed their reservations about the interim report of the Mohapatra Commission. In addition, Judge S.C. Mohapatra has announced that it could take his Commission another two years to publish a final report. For these reasons I ask that you entrust this investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

I respectfully request that you give priority to the continued protection of the Christian minority and to restoring peace and reconciliation so that Hindus, Christians and all other religious minorities can live again in a culture of multiculturalism, tolerance and respect.

Confident of your good will,

Yours sincerely,

[name, surname and country]

Cc. Shri Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Orissa

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Date:

The Chief Minister of Orissa
Shri. Naveen Patnaik
At-6R/3, Unit-6, Forest Park,
Bhubaneswar - 751006
Dist.-Khurda Pin
Orissa
India

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Original sent to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India