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**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Written statement* submitted by Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia

Violence against religious minorities is not a new phenomenon in Hindutva-driven India. After Muslims, Indian Christians are the new target of Modi's Hindutva. The Indian government turned blind as churches and statues were vandalised. The acts of violence include arson of churches, conversion of Christians by force, physical violence, sexual assaults, murders, rapes, and destruction of Christian schools, colleges, and cemeteries. Christians in India are increasingly coming under attack by right-wing groups.

On 25 December 2021 when Christians all around the world were celebrating Christmas Day at the same time in Ambala city in the northern state of Haryana, a holy statue of Christ was destroyed. Across the country on Christmas day, seven anti-Christian demonstrations and rallies took place, led by Hindu nationalist groups whose right-wing ideology is known as Hindutva. In two states at least, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh, the rallies were led by Hindu priests who called for Muslims and Christians to be killed. Over the last year, the number of violent incidents against Christians jumped to 486, from 279 in 2020. According to the United Christian Forum, "The recent move to target NGOs, including Mother Teresa's charity ban near Christmas day, perpetuates this shameful pattern of intolerance and abuse by authorities".

"Fuelled by religious nationalism, targeted attacks against Christians have escalated in both frequency and intensity alarmingly and meet with a terrifying silence from the central government,"

Christians in India are living in the shadow of tension and fear. Across India, Christians are wondering if the state will protect them or not. We request this council to ask the Indian government to change its anti-Christian policies and ensure their safety and give them the right to exercise their religious obligations freely.
