



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 8

### Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

## Written statement\* submitted by Platform for Youth Integration and Volunteerism, 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 January 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Hate Campaigns and Attacks against Minorities in India**

Targeted attacks and hate campaigns incites violence and intolerance. The devastating effect of hatred is sadly nothing new. However, its scale and impact is now amplified by new communication technologies. The United Nations has a long history of mobilizing the world against hatred of all kinds to defend human rights and advance the rule of law. My organization wants to bring council attention towards India under agenda item 4 where the Targeted attacks and hate campaigns is on rise under the umbrella of BJP, the Indian ruling party and RSS.

In India, RSS, the ideological arm of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that promotes a Hindu nationalist agenda, has used its influence to polarise Indian society since the BJP came to power in 2014 by relentlessly dividing communities based on religious grounds, leaving religious minorities unsettled about their future. Prime Minister Modi remained largely silent on the wide-spread use of hate campaigns, threats, intimidation, violence, and attacks against religious minorities. Violence and targeting of religion or belief minorities in India has continued unabated, fuelled by hate speech. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other communal violence is linked to inflammatory remarks made by BJP officials. The perpetrators of communal violence in Gujarat in 2002, in Kandhamal in 2008, in Muzaffarnagar in 2013 and Delhi riots 2020 have neither been penalised, nor is appropriate justice and reparations made to the victims and their families.

My organization concerned that statements made by Indian public officials have led to xenophobia and discrimination of religious minorities. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, has called for forced sterilisation of Muslims and Christians, for Hindus to fight back against the perceived attack from Muslims and Christians, for Muslim voting rights to be revoked, and asserting that India is facing a battle between demons and gods. In December 2021, a “religious parliament” (Dharam Sansad) of Hindu groups called for mass violence against Muslims. Muslims are often subjected to hate speech with incitement to violence. Muslim communities frequently face socio-economic boycotts and vigilantism and targeted violence for alleged cow slaughter and many other elligations. A Muslim Auto driver was brutally beaten by a group of Hindu nationalists in the Vasna, Gupta Nagar area of Gujarat’s Ahmedabad district on 14 January. On 10 September 2023, Hassan, a 31-year-old civil engineer, left his home for the Isha prayers at a nearby mosque, who was killed after a Hindu mob attacked a mosque in Pusesavali village in Maharashtra’s Satara district.. A video of the girls being harassed also went viral on social media.

My organization is concerned by the ongoing violations experienced by Christians in India, including false accusations and arrests, forced conversion to Hinduism, hate campaigns, assault, murder, illegal occupation of churches, forced displacement, public humiliation, disruption of religious gatherings. Three churches in the village of Amdi, India, were forced to close 2nd weekend of January 2024 after a mob of right-wing radicals stormed their regular Sunday morning services. The attackers ransacked the homes where congregants were gathered and warned them of further consequences should they continue to meet for worship. Christians in the village were left in a state of fear and intimidation, further worsened by the refusal of police to register a report against the attackers. On 1January 2024, Christian woman was brutally attacked and murdered by Hindu Mob at the St. Mary’s Cathedral Church compound in Varanasi, India, marking the second murder in that city this year, raising concerns among the community. We urge this council to ask Indian government to prosecute those responsible for perpetrating hate speech against religion or belief minorities and introduce legislation to address it, maintaining protection and enhancement of freedom of expression.

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