



Date: July 10, 2024

To,

Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura

Hon'ble Chairperson

National Commission for Minorities

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Subject: Complaint against multiple hate crime incidents including lynchings reported in several states in the months of June-July, 2024.

We at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) Mumbai, a human rights movement dedicated to furthering the constitutional rights of all Indians, are deeply concerned about the recent hate crimes committed across the states of Orrisa, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh in the months of June-July 2024.

Hate crimes, by their very nature, aim to create animosity between different communities and disproportionately harms minorities. These hate crimes particularly target Muslims and other minority groups, fostering a climate of fear, mistrust, and division among different sections of society. This has led to increased tensions, violence, and social disharmony. It is pertinent to mention that many of these hate crime incidents result in loss of precious lives, and recurring lynchings of members from the weaker sections of the society has been routinised by sheer absence of effective action against the culprits.

Furthermore, the new criminal code, namely, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, **recognises mob lynching as a separate category of hate crime under subsection (2) of Section 103**. As a statutory body, the National Commission for Minorities under Section 9(d) of the NMC Act is entrusted with the function to “look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of the minorities and take up such matters with the appropriate authorities”. The below mentioned incidents of hate crime require your urgent attention and intervention as a statutory body whose firm responsibility is to protect the rights of the minorities.

Through this complaint, we wish to bring your attention the consistent trend of rising hate crime incidents and how it has a dire impact on the society as a whole. If such incidents go unchallenged, they have the potential to further incite violence against minority communities, making them vulnerable to marginalization, harassment, and violence.

Details of the hate crimes between June-July 2024

1. Date: July 1

Location: Koderma, Jharkhand

Details: As per journalist Meer Faisal, an Imam named Maulana Sahabuddin from Basramo Turkabad in the Barkatha area, was lynched by a mob in Koderma district on July 1st. A resident of Raghuniyadih, Sahabuddin was returning home on his bike when a mob surrounded him and accused him of hitting a woman on the road. After this accusation, they brutally beat him to death, hitting his viciously.

Video link: <https://x.com/meerfaisal001/status/1807914719808049392>

2. Date: June 30

Location: Sadulpur, Churu, Rajasthan (close to Lasedi village on NH52)

Details: A group of around 20 cow vigilantes brutally assaulted a driver and his companion in Sadulpur, late on Sunday night (June 30). The victims, identified as Sonu Bishnoi (29) and Sundar Bishnoi (35), were transporting lemons from Jaipur to Punjab when they were intercepted by vigilantes on suspicion of cattle smuggling. A video of the incident shows the mob armed with sticks thrashing the victims even as they lay on the ground, hitting them in the face with shoes and kicking their heads. Vigilantes even took away their mobile phones, rendering them helpless. The victims were initially taken to a local hospital in Churu and later referred to a private hospital in Haryana for better treatment. Sonu Banshiram sustained multiple fractures in both legs, while Sundar Singh suffered injuries to his arms and head. Reportedly, the victims heard the names Sonu, Sonia, Varun, and Dinesh during the attack.

Video link: https://x.com/zoo_bear/status/1808236272353530327

3. Date: June 19

Location: Chhota Chowk, Nahan, Himachal Pradesh

Details: On June 19, a mob of 400-500 people looted the textile shop of the Muslim man in Chhota Chowk, Nahan, Himachal Pradesh, over false allegations of cow slaughter. The shop was vandalised after the shopkeeper had shared a picture of an animal sacrifice on his WhatsApp status. Article 14 [reported](#) that even though there is a video of the men inciting the mob before the attack on Muslim shops, the police have not arrested them till date. After the attack, some of the Muslim shopkeepers fled from the area and have since

lost their livelihood and erstwhile home. A video of the incident shows the mob destroying and throwing out the contents of the shop as crowd cheers under police presence. After this, the crowd marched to the district collector's office, chanting slogans such as “*Goli maaro saalon ko*” and “*Jai Shri Ram*.” The threats of violence were further repeated at a gathering of people on 26 June.

Video link: <https://x.com/TheObserverPost/status/1803361865235673412>

4. Date: June 18

Location: Mamu Bhanja, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

Details: A 35-year-old Muslim man, named Mohammed Farid alias Aurangzeb, was lynched by a mob on the night of June 18. As per the police, he was beaten to death over suspicion of a theft attempt. However, Mohammed Zaki, the victim's brother, has stated that Farid was just coming back home from work when he was attacked by a mob in the locality. The incident reportedly took place around 10:15 PM on June 18. As per [Hindustan Times](#), the complaint alleges that the accused ‘gathered together’ with the intention to kill Farid as he was a Muslim, “They (accused) gathered with the intention of killing brother Aurangzeb. They had *lathi*, stick, hockey (stick) and iron rod in hand and attacked my brother after identifying him as a Muslim, they killed him,” the complainant has alleged in the FIR.” The family of the victim has demanded compensation and strict punishment for the accused.

Video link: <https://x.com/HateDetectors/status/1803436677794549970>

5. Date: June 16

Location: Khordha, Orrisa

Details: A mob arrived and forced their way into a house and seized meat from a fridge in the home on June 16. This incident had taken place only shortly after Eid al-Adha and a viral video has surfaced showing a group of cow vigilantes forcefully entering a Muslim household. The mob, chanting slogans of “*Jai Shri Ram*,” as they entered and raided the family's refrigerator, seizing all the meat and the refrigerator itself on mere suspicion that it contained beef.

Video link: <https://x.com/meerfaisal001/status/1803628527989796881>

6. Date: June 12

Location: Jagdalpur, Chattisgarh

Details: As per [Maktoob Media](#), on June 12, Christian families in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, were reportedly attacked by a Hindutva mob. They were also given an ultimatum to denounce their religion within 10 days. The violent incident took place in Bade Paroda village, under Badanji Police Station. Three victims were hospitalised after the incident. As per Maktoob Media, the lawyer of the injured has stated that all the attacks happening in the area since 2023 were aided by local police, and has also been forcing the families to

flee their village. One of the injured suffered a broken leg, according to the lawyer. Since 2023, Bade Paroda has been reportedly a tense area for violence against Christians, with Christian minorities often targeted by violence and intimidation.

7. Date: June 10

Location: Kaithal, Haryana

Details: In Haryana's Kaithal, a Sikh man was beaten by unknown people who also called him a Khalistani, as per [Times of India](#). The Haryana Police have so far arrested two people in connection with the assault. Following the incident on June 10, the Kaithal police created a five-member Special Investigation Team to investigate. The arrested men have been identified as Ishu who is a resident of Singwal village in Jind, and Sunil who is from Shergarh village, according to Superintendent of Police Upasana.

8. Date: June 7

Location: Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Details: In Raipur, Chhattisgarh, two Muslim men, Chand Miya and Guddu Khan, were [beaten to death](#) by cow vigilantes on June 7 while transporting buffaloes in a truck. Their bodies were found in the Mahanadi river. A third man, Saddam Khan was also critically injured and receiving treatment in a hospital, only to succumb to his injuries a short while later. The incident took place when a group of youths began following it, eventually surrounding it on the Mahanadi bridge. Reports indicate that the attackers laid spikes on the road to stop the truck, then forcefully pulled out the occupants and assaulted them. In a desperate attempt to escape, one of the victims jumped into the river.

These incidents are deeply problematic for several reasons:

1. **Mocking Religious Practices:** This type of incidents are divisive and disrespectful, undermining the spirit of mutual understanding and respect among different faiths.
2. **Disregard for Minority Status:** Such hate crimes undermine the principles of inclusivity and equal treatment.
3. **Promotion of Religious Supremacy:** Majoritarian Hindutva mobs by promoting the idea of religious supremacy, suggests that one particular faith should hold a dominant position in the country.
4. **Defiance of Authority:** Despite the Supreme Court judgement and guidelines issued in Tehseen Poonawalla case, recurring incidents of mob lynching goes on to show that states and police have failed to curb such instances and have further failed to ensure justice to the victims. Moreover, such incidents demonstrate a disregard for the authority of the highest judicial institution and a willingness to challenge legal mandates.
5. **Immediate Threat of Violence:** Such hate crimes often contain elements that can incite violence and hostility between communities. The communal appeal for violence against members of other cultural groups including minorities can quickly translate into real-world conflicts, endangering lives and property.



6. Preventing Communal Clashes: Hate crimes can fuel communal clashes, further polarizing communities and causing instability. Swift action is essential to prevent the escalation of tensions that can lead to large-scale conflicts.
7. Erosion of Social Harmony: India's strength lies in its diverse cultural and religious landscape. Unabated hate crimes create divisive rhetoric threatens to erode the delicate balance of social harmony that has been nurtured over generations.
8. Upholding Rule of Law: Hate crimes and the propagation of violence-inciting activities are illegal and against the rule of law. Addressing these hate crimes promptly sends a message that such behaviour will not be tolerated and reinforces the importance of adhering to legal and ethical standards.
9. Long-Term Societal Impact: If left unchecked, these activities can shape societal attitudes and perceptions for years to come. The impact of such incidents can hinder efforts to bridge divides and promote understanding in the future.
10. Preserving National Unity: The unity of a diverse nation like India is a cornerstone of its strength. Majoritarian violence against minorities threatens this unity and needs to be curbed to ensure that citizens from various backgrounds can coexist peacefully.

Penal implications

Hate crimes such as these are bound to make things worse; to further generate communal disharmony or feelings of ill will, enmity and hatred between the supporters of different political parties. Such incidents are also prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different groups and is likely to disturb public tranquillity. Moreover, lynchings and intimidation only make the targeted group more vulnerable to violent acts. It is important to mention that hate speech also contribute to creating vicious and harmful environment, which can have real life implications on the lives of minorities groups, including encouraging physical attacks on minorities, who are the primary target of such hate speeches. Some of the aforementioned cases, however, represents the most extreme form of hate crime, i.e., mob lynching and killing of members of minority groups, even though these incidents were not preceded by any hate speech.

Such conduct that is illegal and unconstitutional violates the following provisions of the law:

Indian Penal Code (Old):

153- Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot—if rioting be committed—if not committed

153A- Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

153B- Imputation, assertions prejudicial to national-integration.

268- Public Nuisance

302 – Murder

425 - Mischief

503- Criminal intimidation

504. Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS):

103. (2) When a group of five or more persons acting in concert commits murder on the ground of race, caste or community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief or any other similar ground each member of such group shall be punished with death or with imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.

115. (1) Whoever does any act with the intention of thereby causing hurt to any person, or with the knowledge that he is likely thereby to cause hurt to any person, and does thereby cause hurt to any person, is said “voluntarily to cause hurt”.

(2) Whoever, except in the case provided for by sub-section (1) of section 122 voluntarily causes hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees, or with both.

117. (1) Whoever voluntarily causes hurt, if the hurt which he intends to cause or knows himself to be likely to cause is grievous hurt, and if the hurt which he causes is grievous hurt, is said “voluntarily to cause grievous hurt”.

(2) Whoever, except in the case provided for by sub-section (2) of section 122, voluntarily causes grievous hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

(3) Whoever commits an offence under sub-section (1) and in the course of such commission causes any hurt to a person which causes that person to be in permanent disability or in persistent vegetative state, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of that person’s natural life.

(4) When a group of five or more persons acting in concert, causes grievous hurt to a person on the ground of his race, caste or community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief or any other similar ground, each member of such group shall be guilty of the offence of causing grievous hurt, and shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

118. (1) Whoever, except in the case provided for by sub-section (1) of section 122, voluntarily causes hurt by means of any instrument for shooting, stabbing or cutting, or any instrument which, used as a weapon of offence, is likely to cause death, or by means of fire or any heated substance, or by means of any poison or any corrosive substance, or by means of any explosive substance, or by means of any substance which it is deleterious to the human body to inhale, to swallow, or to receive into the blood, or by means of any animal, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees, or with both.

(2) Whoever, except in the case provided for by sub-section (2) of section 122, voluntarily causes grievous hurt by any means referred to in sub-section (1), shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than one year but which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

131. Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any person otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation given by that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

324. (1) Whoever with intent to cause, or knowing that he is likely to cause, wrongful loss or damage to the public or to any person, causes the destruction of any property, or any such change in any property or in the situation thereof as destroys or diminishes its value or utility, or affects it injuriously, commits mischief.

(2) Whoever commits mischief shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

(3) Whoever commits mischief and thereby causes loss or damage to any property including the property of Government or Local Authority shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

(4) Whoever commits mischief and thereby causes loss or damage to the amount of twenty thousand rupees and more but less than one lakh rupees shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

(5) Whoever commits mischief and thereby causes loss or damage to the amount of one lakh rupees or upwards, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both.

196. (1) Whoever—

(a) by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or through electronic communication or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities; or

(b) commits any act which is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, and which disturbs or is likely to disturb the public tranquillity; or

(c) organises any exercise, movement, drill or other similar activity intending that the participants in such activity shall use or be trained to use criminal force or violence or knowing it to be likely that the participants in such activity will use or be trained to use criminal force or violence, or participates in such activity intending to use or be trained to use criminal force or violence or knowing it to be likely that the participants in such activity will use or be trained to use criminal force or violence, against any religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community and such activity for any reason whatsoever causes or is likely to cause fear or alarm or a feeling of insecurity amongst members of such religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community,

shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

(2) Whoever commits an offence specified in sub-section (1) in any place of worship or in any assembly engaged in the performance of religious worship or religious ceremonies, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine.

197. (1) Whoever, by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or through electronic communication or otherwise,—

(a) makes or publishes any imputation that any class of persons cannot, by reason of their being members of any religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community, bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established or uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India; or

(b) asserts, counsels, advises, propagates or publishes that any class of persons shall, by reason of their being members of any religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community, be denied, or deprived of their rights as citizens of India; or

(c) makes or publishes any assertion, counsel, plea or appeal concerning the obligation of any class of persons, by reason of their being members of any religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community, and such assertion, counsel, plea or appeal causes or is likely to cause disharmony or feelings of enmity or hatred or ill-will between such members and other persons; or

(d) makes or publishes false or misleading information, jeopardising the sovereignty, unity and integrity or security of India,

shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

(2) Whoever commits an offence specified in sub-section (1) in any place of worship or in any assembly engaged in the performance of religious worship or religious ceremonies, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine

351. (1) Whoever threatens another by any means, with any injury to his person, reputation or property, or to the person or reputation of any one in whom that person is interested, with intent to cause alarm to that person, or to cause that person to do any act which he is not legally bound to do, or to omit to do any act which that person is legally entitled to do, as the means of avoiding the execution of such threat, commits criminal intimidation.

(2) Whoever commits the offence of criminal intimidation shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

(3) Whoever commits the offence of criminal intimidation by threatening to cause death or grievous hurt, or to cause the destruction of any property by fire, or to cause an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, or to impute unchastity to a woman, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both.

352. Whoever intentionally insults in any manner, and thereby gives provocation to any person, intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation will cause him to break the public peace, or to commit any other offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

192. Whoever malignantly, or wantonly by doing anything which is illegal, gives provocation to any person intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation will cause the offence of rioting to be committed, shall, if the offence of rioting be committed in consequence of such provocation, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both; and if the offence of rioting be not committed, with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

189. (1) An assembly of five or more persons is designated an “unlawful assembly”, if the common object of the persons composing that assembly is— (a) to overawe by criminal

force, or show of criminal force, the Central Government or any State Government or Parliament or the Legislature of any State, or any public servant in the exercise of the lawful power of such public servant; or (b) to resist the execution of any law, or of any legal process; or **(c) to commit any mischief or criminal trespass, or other offence**; or (d) by means of criminal force, or show of criminal force, to any person, to take or obtain possession of any property, or to deprive any person of the enjoyment of a right of way, or of the use of water or other incorporeal right of which he is in possession or enjoyment, or to enforce any right or supposed right; or **(e) by means of criminal force, or show of criminal force, to compel any person to do what he is not legally bound to do, or to omit to do what he is legally entitled to do.** Explanation.—An assembly which was not unlawful when it assembled, may subsequently become an unlawful assembly. **(2) Whoever, being aware of facts which render any assembly an unlawful assembly, intentionally joins that assembly, or continues in it, is said to be a member of an unlawful assembly and such member shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.**

190. If an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly, or such as the members of that assembly knew to be likely to be committed in prosecution of that object, every person who, at the time of the committing of that offence, is a member of the same assembly, is guilty of that offence.

329. (1) Whoever enters into or upon property in the possession of another with intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult or annoy any person in possession of such property or having lawfully entered into or upon such property, unlawfully remains there with intent thereby to intimidate, insult or annoy any such person or with intent to commit an offence is said to commit criminal trespass.

3) Whoever commits criminal trespass shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or with both.

(4) Whoever commits house-trespass shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or with both.

331. (1) Whoever commits lurking house-trespass or house-breaking, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Judicial precedents against Hate Crimes and Mob Lynching:

In *Firoz Iqbal Khan vs Union of India* [W.P (Civ.) No. 956 of 2020], the Supreme Court had held: “..the edifice of a democratic society committed to the rule of law under a regime of constitutional rights, values and duties is founded on the co-existence of communities. India is a melting pot of civilizations, cultures, religions and languages. Any attempt to vilify a religious community must be viewed with grave disfavour by this Court as the custodian of constitutional values.” (Para 11)

In *Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan vs Union of India*, (Ref: AIR 2014 SC 1591), the Supreme Court has unambiguously stated that “hate speech is an effort to marginalise individuals based on their membership to a group, that can have a social impact. Moreover, the Court stated that hate speech lays the groundwork for broad attacks on the vulnerable that can range from discrimination, to

ostracism, deportation, violence, and even to genocide. Therefore, the aforementioned news items are tantamount to the perpetration of genocide, and must be considered to be in violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.” (Para 7)

In *Tehseen Poonawalla vs Union of India* (WP (Civil) No. 754 of 2016), the Supreme Court categorically said that “The horrendous acts of mobocracy cannot be permitted to inundate the law of the land. Earnest action and concrete steps have to be taken to protect the citizens from the recurrent pattern of violence which cannot be allowed to become “the new normal”... The exigencies of the situation require us to sound a clarion call for earnest action to strengthen our inclusive and all-embracing social order which would, in turn, reaffirm the constitutional faith. We expect nothing more and nothing less.”

Under International Law:

Article 20 (2) of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states “Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.” India has both signed and ratified the Convention, making it a binding piece of document.

Article 4(a) of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, which is both signed and ratified by India states, provides that parties to the Convention condemn all propaganda and all organizations which are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin, or which attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination and, to this end, with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of this Convention, inter alia:

(a) Shall declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof

(b) Shall not permit public authorities or public institutions, national or local, to promote or incite racial discrimination.

Prayer

The extent of hate and anti-minority sentiment is on the rise all over the country, where majoritarian mobs openly target certain groups. We, at CJP, thus urge this Hon’ble Commission to:

1. Take cognisance of this complaint under section 9(1)(d) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992;
2. To direct the attendance of requisite persons before your commission to examine such allegations under section 9(4)(a) of the Act, 1992;
3. Keep a close eye on the investigation and call for the discovery and production of any document, receive affidavits, requisition any public record or copy thereof from any court or office, issue commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents under section 9(4) (b) to (e) under the Act;
4. To direct the police officials or any other appropriate authority to investigate the matter thoroughly, register FIRs against such blatant hate crimes ensuring that all relevant sections of the Indian Criminal law and Police Acts are included in the said criminal complaint;

5. To direct police officials or any other appropriate authority to investigate the individual violent incidents with a view to also probing the actors/groups involved therein;
6. Issue directions to the Police of all the above-mentioned states to submit an Action Taken Report and give updates to this Commission regarding progress in investigation in the case;
7. Issue any other directions to Police of the above-mentioned states as the Commission may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case;
8. CJP also takes the liberty of suggesting to the NCM a statutory body to seek consistent action taken reports (ATRs) from state governments on Judicial Directives issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Tehseen Poonawalla case, especially with relation to incidents of mob lynching and taking preventive measures against such targeted violence and publish the same ATRs on the Website of the NCM.
9. Undertake any other action as the Commission may deem fit.

In anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary