

Re: Reported violence against Christian minority- laid

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): There is increase in targeted violence and hostility against the Christian minority. It started off as incidents of hate speech, but now it has grown into widespread attacks across the Country. People of the community are targeted by hate groups and in many cases, disruption of worship, desecration of churches, vandalism of property and even physical attack on worshipers are reported. Many State Governments are arresting preachers and priests, for exercising their right of propagating their faith. The arrest of a preacher and his wife at Ghaziabad this month has led to widespread outrage. These actions are meant to have a chilling effect on religious freedom and the fundamental right to faith and worship enshrined in the Constitution.

During 2022, a total of 1,198 incidents of violence against Christians were reported till December, 2022. There is a consistent pattern to all these cases. In almost all incidents reported across the states, the pattern is of threats, coercion and aggression by vigilante mobs comprising religious extremists. I urge upon the Government to take immediate action and protect the fundamental right to practise and freely propagate their religion for the Christian minority.