

Orissa Anti-Christian Attacks 2008

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We updated this page until early 2009 with the latest information about the situation in Orissa. Below you'll see past press statements, updates, as well as stories from the mainstream India press. If you find a broken website link, please Contact Us.

Note that, while the Christmas 2007 attacks were a combination of caste-discrimination and religious persecution, the 2008 violence was mostly religiously motivated violence. (View reports from Christmas 2007 and the recovery effort at <http://indianchristians.in/news/content/view/1947/45>.) Also, the Christmas violence was confined to the Kandhamal District and destroyed about 105 churches, 730 Christmas homes, dozens of Christian-owned businesses, and 4 confirmed deaths. But the 2008 (Aug.-Oct.) violence spread across 14 districts of Orissa and the total devastation was beyond the December statistics. We estimated, based on reliable sources, 315 villages were affected, 4,640 Christian houses burnt, 54,000 Christians homeless, 70 deaths and another 50 people missing and presumed dead (of these, 6 Protestant pastors and one Catholic priest killed), 18,000 Christians injured, 2 women (including a nun) gang-raped, at least 149 churches destroyed, and 13 Christian schools and colleges damaged

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