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Association Pour L'intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi

Minority Forum

(12th SESSION)

We are thankful to the office of the High Commissioner for human rights, for their extensive work in the minority rights domain. Despite the presence of UN mechanisms, some states like India are evading obligations and distracting attention to hide the grave violations of basic human rights including the right to education for the minorities who continue to form the lowest and poorest strata of Indian society.

Mob attacks on minorities in India are rising with every passing day. Indian minorities are facing grave incidents of violence at the hands of high caste Hindu's. Women from minority communities like the Christians and Muslims in India are subjected to rape and so called honour killings.

India must understand that it can only fight these injustices by implementing recommendations of UN experts and international civil society. It is also a serious concern that India has not submitted various reports to the international human rights mechanisms which are due since years as per various covenants and conventions. India has not responded to any of the communications from UN mandate holders since years. So we request the OHCHR to urge India to respect the mechanisms, treaty bodies and procedures of this United Nations and to follow them strictly.

Thank you

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I would like to draw the attention of the international community towards the persecution of Christians in India. It's deplorable that Christians are being targeted by extremist elements in India just because of their faith. In some incidents, the Christians were beaten up by mobs on suspicion of eating beef. In certain cases, even churches have been set on fire if a local Christian boy happened to marry a Hindu girl. Hate crimes on basis of religion must be detested and condemned.

I would urge the international community to support the Christians in India in protecting their freedom of religion. Freedom of religion is essential part of our basic human rights and the Christian community in India deserve this right as well. Extremist elements must be discouraged everywhere in the world including India. I would also call upon India to protect the minorities in India.

Thank you