

## INDIA

### Protestants

#### A B ANTHONY

**Date and place of arrest:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016, in Kotar, Madhya Pradesh

**Charges:** Forcible conversion to Christianity

**Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Indian Penal Code, section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), Religious Conversion Act section 3 (Prohibits conversion by the use of force or by inducement or by any other fraudulent means, if a person is converted by unfair means they shall not be considered converted), and section 4 (Requires any person wishing to convert to another religion to give a prior notice of at least thirty days to district authorities, while exempting those 'converting back' to their 'own religion', failure to give notice shall be punishable with a fine of up to one-thousand rupees [approximately €13.68]).

**Place of detention:** Kotar Police Station

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside Prabha ANTHONY. The complainant, Prashant Gupta, said he was given a job and money by the pastor of the church, A B ANTHONY, after which he claims the three tried to force him and his two friends to convert to Christianity.

*Source:* <http://www.outlookindia.com/newswire/story/mp-christian-priest-among-three-held-for-forcible-conversion/940909>

#### Prabha ANTHONY

**Date and place of arrest:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016, in Kotar, Madhya Pradesh

**Charges:** Forcible conversion to Christianity

**Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Indian Penal Code, section 295 A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), Religious Conversion Act section 3 (Prohibits conversion by the use of force or by inducement or by any other fraudulent means, if a person is converted by unfair means they shall not be considered converted), and section 4 (Requires any person wishing to convert to another religion to give a prior notice of at least thirty days to district authorities, while exempting those 'converting back' to their 'own religion', failure to give notice shall be punishable with a fine of up to one-thousand rupees [approximately €13.68]).

**Place of detention:** Kotar Police Station

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside A B ANTHONY. The complainant, Prashant Gupta, said he was given a job and money by the pastor of the church, A B ANTHONY, after which he claims the three tried to force him and his two friends to convert to Christianity.

*Source:* <http://www.outlookindia.com/newswire/story/mp-christian-priest-among-three-held-for-forcible-conversion/940909>

## **Munda BADMAJHI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In October 2008

**Charges:** Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges, and Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder.

**Last court decision:** On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, Munda BADMAJHI was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

**Other information:** He was charged alongside Sanatana BADMAJHI, Gornath CHALANSETH, Budhadeb NAYAK, Bhaskar SUNAMAJHI, Durjo SUNAMAJHI, and Bijay Kr SUNSETH.

*Source:* <https://cruxnow.com/church/2016/03/06/remembering-indias-christian-martyrs-should-be-a-church-priority/> , <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Life-term-for-8-in-Lakshmanananda-murder-case/article11789067.ece> , <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa-pogroms:-Catholics-in-prayer-ahead-of-final-hearing-for-7-innocent-Christians-36317.html>

## **Sanatana BADMAJHI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**Charges:** Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges, and Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder.

**Last court decision:** On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, he was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

**Other information:** He was charged alongside Munda BADMAJHI, Gornath CHALANSETH, Budhadeb NAYAK, Bhaskar SUNAMAJHI, Durjo SUNAMAJHI, and Bijay Kr SUNSETH.

*Source:* <https://cruxnow.com/church/2016/03/06/remembering-indias-christian-martyrs-should-be-a-church-priority/> , <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Life-term-for-8-in-Lakshmanananda-murder-case/article11789067.ece> , <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa-pogroms:-Catholics-in-prayer-ahead-of-final-hearing-for-7-innocent-Christians-36317.html>

## **Mekh BAHADUR**

**Date and place of arrest:** In Tareen Bahadurganj, in January 2018

**Charges:** Spreading religious literature

**Articles of criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Indian Penal Code, Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and Section 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony).

**Statement of the defendant:** Defendant completely denies to have insulted Hindu gods, or even named them.

**Last court decision:** Imprisonment

**Other information:** Part of a Nepalese Christian trio arrest (Shukra RAI, Indra Bahadur TAMAD, and Mekh BAHADUR) who got into an argument with two lokal Hindu men, who claimed that these men had insulted Hindu gods

**Sources:** <http://bit.ly/2EoHLNI>  
<https://bit.ly/2G6fgp4>

## **Gornath CHALANSETH**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2008

**Charges:** Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges, and Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder.

**Last court decision:** On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, he was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

**Other information:** He was charged alongside Munda BADMAJHI, Sanatana BADMAJHI, Budhadeb NAYAK, Bhaskar SUNAMAJHI, Durjo SUNAMAJHI, and Bijay Kr SUNSETH.

*Source:* <https://cruxnow.com/church/2016/03/06/remembering-indias-christian-martyrs-should-be-a-church-priority/> , <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Life-term-for-8-in-Lakshmanananda-murder-case/article11789067.ece> , <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa-pogroms:-Catholics-in-prayer-ahead-of-final-hearing-for-7-innocent-Christians-36317.html>

## **Budhadeb NAYAK**

**Date and place of arrest:** According to his wife, police took him away in the middle of the night when he was asleep.

**Charges:** Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges, and Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder.

**Last court decision:** On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, he was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

**Other information:** He was charged alongside Munda BADMAJHI, Sanatana BADMAJHI, Gornath CHALANSETH, Bhaskar SUNAMAJHI, Durjo SUNAMAJHI, and Bijay Kr SUNSETH.

*Source:* <https://cruxnow.com/church/2016/03/06/remembering-indias-christian-martyrs-should-be-a-church-priority/> , <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Life-term-for-8-in-Lakshmanananda-murder-case/article11789067.ece> , <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa-pogroms:-Catholics-in-prayer-ahead-of-final-hearing-for-7-innocent-Christians-36317.html>

## **Sukra RAI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In Tareen Bahadurganj, in January 2018

**Charges:** Spreading religious literature

**Articles of criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Indian Penal Code, Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and Section 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony).

**Statement of the defendant:** Defendant completely denies to have insulted Hindu gods, or even named them.

**Last court decision:** Imprisonment

**Other information:** Part of a Nepalese Christian trio arrest (Shukra RAI, Indra Bahadur TAMAD, and Mekh BAHADUR) who got into an argument with two lokal Hindu men, who claimed that these men had insulted Hindu gods

**Sources:** <http://bit.ly/2EoHLNI>  
<https://bit.ly/2G6fgp4>

## **Bhaskar SUNAMAJHI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In Mid-December 2008, Sunamajhi was playing cards with friends when police told him to take money and clothing and go with them.

**Charges:** Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges, and Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder.

**Last court decision:** On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, he was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

**Other information:** He was charged alongside Munda BADMAJHI, Sanatana BADMAJHI, Gornath CHALANSETH, Budhadeb NAYAK, Durjo SUNAMAJHI, and Bijay Kr SUNSETH.

*Source:* <https://cruxnow.com/church/2016/03/06/remembering-indias-christian-martyrs-should-be-a-church-priority/> , <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Life-term-for-8-in-Lakshmanananda-murder-case/article11789067.ece> , <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa-pogroms:-Catholics-in-prayer-ahead-of-final-hearing-for-7-innocent-Christians-36317.html>

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## **Durjo SUNAMAJHI**

**Date and place of arrest:** In October 2008

**Charges:** Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati.

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges, and Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder.

**Last court decision:** On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, he was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

**Other information:** He was charged alongside Munda BADMAJHI, Sanatana BADMAJHI, Gornath CHALANSETH, Budhadeb NAYAK, Bhaskar SUNAMAJHI, and Bijay Kr SUNSETH.

*Source:* <https://cruxnow.com/church/2016/03/06/remembering-indias-christian-martyrs-should-be-a-church-priority/> , <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Life-term-for-8-in-Lakshmanananda-murder-case/article11789067.ece> , <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa-pogroms:-Catholics-in-prayer-ahead-of-final-hearing-for-7-innocent-Christians-36317.html>

## **Bijay Kr SUNSETH**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2008

**Charges:** Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges, and Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder.

**Last court decision:** On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, he was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

**Other information:** He was charged alongside Munda BADMAJHI, Sanatana BADMAJHI, Gornath CHALANSETH, Budhadeb NAYAK, Bhaskar SUNAMAJHI, and Durjo SUNAMAJHI. After two weeks of parole, Bijay was sent back to prison on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

*Source:* <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa:-seven-innocent-Christians-still-in-prison-after-four-years-26673.html> , <https://cruxnow.com/church/2016/03/06/remembering-indias-christian-martyrs-should-be-a-church-priority/> , <https://www.portesouvertes.ch/pdf/prisonnier-e.pdf> , <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Life-term-for-8-in-Lakshmanananda-murder-case/article11789067.ece> , <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa-pogroms:-Catholics-in-prayer-ahead-of-final-hearing-for-7-innocent-Christians-36317.html>

## **Indra Bahadur TAMAD**

**Date and place of arrest:** In Tareen Bahadurganj, in January 2018

**Charges:** Spreading religious literature

**Articles of criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Indian Penal Code, Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and Section 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony).

**Statement of the defendant:** Defendant completely denies to have insulted Hindu gods, or even named them.

**Last court decision:** Imprisonment

**Other information:** Part of a Nepalese Christian trio arrest (Shukra RAI, Indra Bahadur TAMAD, and Mekh BAHADUR) who got into an argument with two lokal Hindu men, who claimed that these men had insulted Hindu gods

**Sources:** <http://bit.ly/2EoHLNI>

<https://bit.ly/2G6fgp4>

## Muslims

### Abdul QURESHI

**Place of residence:** Mumbai

**Date and place of arrest:** On 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016, in Mumbai

**Charges:** Hurting religious sentiment

**Articles of criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Indian Penal Code, Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and Section 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony).

**Place of detention:** Judicial custody, Bhopal

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside Ali SHEIKH. The two were charged for creating and sharing an image deemed to be insulting to the Goddess Kali on Facebook. A far-right group in Madhya Pradesh state threatened a backlash if the two were not arrested. They were arrested in Mumbai and sent to Madhya Pradesh to stand trial.

*Source:* <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/two-held-in-mumbai-for-insulting-kali-on-facebook-2822828/> , <http://www.india.com/news/india/two-muslim-youths-from-mumbai-arrested-for-insulting-goddess-kali-in-facebook-1219941/>

### Ali SHEIKH

**Place of residence:** Mumbai

**Date and place of arrest:** On 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016, in Mumbai

**Charges:** Hurting religious sentiment

**Articles of criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** Indian Penal Code, Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and Section 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony).

**Place of detention:** Judicial custody, Bhopal

**Other information:** He was arrested alongside Abdul QURESHI. The two were charged for creating and sharing an image deemed to be insulting to the Goddess Kali on Facebook. A far-right group in Madhya Pradesh state threatened a backlash if the two were not arrested. They were arrested in Mumbai and sent to Madhya Pradesh to stand trial.

*Source:* <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/two-held-in-mumbai-for-insulting-kali-on-facebook-2822828/> , <http://www.india.com/news/india/two-muslim-youths-from-mumbai-arrested-for-insulting-goddess-kali-in-facebook-1219941/>

### **Unknown Faith**

#### **Ajay CHAPRANA**

**Place of residence:** Faridabad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Charges:** Using inappropriate language, fanning communal hatred, making abusive comments against a community, and uploading the abusive video to various social media

**Articles of criminal/civil/administrative codes:** Sections 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 298 (uttering words, etc., with intent to wound religious feelings), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) of the Indian Penal Code. Section 66A of the IT Act (using abusive language against a particular community with the intent to disturb communal peace and harmony)

**Other information:** He was arrested with Mukesh YADAV, Prakash DUBEY, and Nakul NAGAR. They allegedly hurt the sentiments of a community by uploading an objectionable video on WhatsApp which went viral on the messenger.

*Source:* <http://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/4-arrested-for-uploading-objectionable-video-on-whatsapp/1005988> , <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ghaziabad/four-held-for-making-offensive-video-in-ghaziabad/articleshow/57609313.cms>

#### **Prakash DUBEY**

**Place of residence:** Faridabad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Charges:** Using inappropriate language, fanning communal hatred, making abusive comments against a community, and uploading the abusive video to various social media

**Articles of criminal/civil/administrative codes:** Sections 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 298 (uttering words, etc., with intent to wound religious feelings), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) of the Indian Penal



Code. Section 66A of the IT Act (using abusive language against a particular community with the intent to disturb communal peace and harmony)

**Other information:** He was arrested with Mukesh YADAV, Ajay CHAPRANA, and Nakul NAGAR. They allegedly hurt the sentiments of a community by uploading an objectionable video on WhatsApp which went viral on the messenger.

*Source:* <http://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/4-arrested-for-uploading-objectionable-video-on-whatsapp/1005988> , <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ghaziabad/four-held-for-making-offensive-video-in-ghaziabad/articleshow/57609313.cms>

## **Nakul NAGAR**

**Place of residence:** MMG Hospital Campus, Kotwali, Ghazaibad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Charges:** Using inappropriate language, fanning communal hatred, making abusive comments against a community, and uploading the abusive video to various social media

**Articles of criminal/civil/administrative codes:** Sections 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 298 (uttering words, etc., with intent to wound religious feelings), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) of the Indian Penal Code. Section 66A of the IT Act (using abusive language against a particular community with the intent to disturb communal peace and harmony)

**Other information:** He was arrested with Mukesh YADAV, Prakash DUBEY, and Ajay CHAPRANA. They allegedly hurt the sentiments of a community by uploading an objectionable video on WhatsApp which went viral on the messenger.

*Source:* <http://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/4-arrested-for-uploading-objectionable-video-on-whatsapp/1005988> , <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ghaziabad/four-held-for-making-offensive-video-in-ghaziabad/articleshow/57609313.cms>

## **Abdul RAZZAK (alias Badshah)**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the Ghazipur district

**Charges:** He allegedly posted and circulated morphed and objectionable photographs of Yogi Adityanath on his Facebook page and several WhatsApp groups, which went viral through the message.

**Articles of criminal/civil/administrative code:** Sections 499 (—Whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of such person, is said, except in the cases hereinafter excepted, to defame that person.) and 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of Indian Penal Code.

*Source:* <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/youth-arrested-for-circulating-yogi-adityanaths-morphed-photographs/articleshow/57737911.cms>



## **Mukesh YADAV**

**Place of residence:** Faridabad

**Date and place of arrest:** On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Charges:** Using inappropriate language, fanning communal hatred, making abusive comments against a community, and uploading the abusive video to various social media

**Articles of criminal/civil/administrative codes:** Sections 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 298 (uttering words, etc., with intent to wound religious feelings), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) of the Indian Penal Code. Section 66A of the IT Act (using abusive language against a particular community with the intent to disturb communal peace and harmony)

**Other information:** He was arrested with Ajay CHAPRANA, Prakash DUBEY, and Nakul NAGAR. They allegedly hurt the sentiments of a community by uploading an objectionable video on WhatsApp which went viral on the messenger.

*Source:* <http://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/4-arrested-for-uploading-objectionable-video-on-whatsapp/1005988> , <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ghaziabad/four-held-for-making-offensive-video-in-ghaziabad/articleshow/57609313.cms>