

INDIA

Christians

A B ANTHONY, P ANTHONY, Prabha ANTHONY

Date and place of arrest: 22nd May 2016, 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) and Religious Conversion Act, section 3/4.

Place of detention: Kotar Police Station

Other information: The complainant, Prashant Gupta, was given a job and money by the priest 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: October 2008

Charges: Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati.

Statement of the defendant: Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder, which means he is innocent.

First court decision: On 1st October 2013, Munda Badmajhi was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

Other information: Munda Badmajhi was charged alongside Sanatana Badmajhi, Gornath Chalanseth, Budhadeb Nayak, Bhaskar Sunamajhi, Durjo Sunamajhi, and Bijay Kr Sunseth.

Sanatana BADMAJHI

Date and place of arrest: On 4th October 2008

Charges: Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati.

Statement of the defendant: Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder, which means he is innocent.

First court decision: On 1st October 2013, Munda Badmajhi was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

Other information: Sanatana Badmajhi was charged alongside Munda Badmajhi, Gornath Chalanseth, Budhadeb Nayak, Bhaskar Sunamajhi, Durjo Sunamajhi, and Bijay Kr Sunseth.

Gornath CHALANSETH

Date and place of arrest: 13th December 2008

Charges: Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati.

Statement of the defendant: Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder, which means he is innocent.

First court decision: On 1st October 2013, Munda Badmajhi was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

Other information: Gornath Chalanseth was charged alongside Munda Badmajhi, Sanatana Badmajhi, Budhadeb Nayak, Bhaskar Sunamajhi, Durjo Sunamajhi, and Bijay Kr Sunseth.

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: Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder, which means he is innocent.

First court decision: On 1st October 2013, Munda Badmajhi was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

Other information: Budhadeb Nayak was charged alongside Munda Badmajhi, Sanatana Badmajhi, Gornath Chalanseth, Bhaskar Sunamajhi, Durjo Sunamajhi, and Bijay Kr Sunseth.

Bhaskar SUNAMAJHI

Date and place of arrest: Mid-December 2008, Sunamajhi was playing cards with friends when police told him to take money and clothing and go with them. Having done this before, Sunamajhi complied. However, this time, the police took him away.

Charges: Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati.

Statement of the defendant: Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder, which means he is innocent.

First court decision: On 1st October 2013, Munda Badmajhi was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

Other information: Bhaskar Sunamajhi was charged alongside Munda Badmajhi, Sanatana Badmajhi, Gornath Chalanseth, Budhadeb Nayak, Durjo Sunamajhi, and Bijay Kr Sunseth.

Durjo SUNAMAJHI

Date and place of arrest: In October 2008

Charges: Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati.

Statement of the defendant: Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder, which means he is innocent.

First court decision: On 1st October 2013, Munda Badmajhi was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

Other information: Durjo Sunamajhi was charged alongside Munda Badmajhi, Sanatana Badmajhi, Gornath Chalanseth, Budhadeb Nayak, Bhaskar Sunamajhi, and Bijay Kr Sunseth.

Bijay Kr SUNSETH

Date and place of arrest: On 13th December 2008

Charges: Murder of the Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati.

Statement of the defendant: Maoists have always claimed the responsibility of the murder, which means he is innocent.

First court decision: On 1st October 2013, Munda Badmajhi was sentenced to life in prison by the district court of Phulbani in Orissa.

Other information: Sunseth was charged alongside Munda Badmajhi, Sanatana Badmajhi, Gornath Chalanseth Budhadeb Nayak, Bhaskar Sunamajhi, and Durjo Sunamajhi.

Sources:

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa:-seven-innocent-Christians-still-in-prison-after-four-years-26673.html>

<https://www.portesouvertes.ch/pdf/prisonnier-e.pdf>

Muslims

Ali SHEIKH and Abdul QURESHI

Place of residence: Mumbai

Date and place of arrest: 28th May 2016, Mumbai

Charges: Hurting religious sentiment

Articles 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) 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: 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/> and <http://www.india.com/news/india/two-muslim-youths-from-mumbai-arrested-for-insulting-goddess-kali-in-facebook-1219941/>