

Example of Data Coding: India

Pew Forum coders examined the primary sources to determine whether reported incidents were connected to a specific time, place and perpetrator and to clarify the extent and range of the problems. Looking at data from India helps illustrate this.

The table below details incidents used to document whether any level of government in India used force toward religious groups that resulted in individuals being imprisoned or detained (GRI Question No. 19). The coding was done as much as possible at the provincial level, which not only forced the coding to focus on specific events and situations but also makes it possible to determine whether the actions or policies were geographically widespread. The primary source that provided the information is listed in parentheses. “IRF” stands for the State Department’s annual report on International Religious Freedom.

Incidents of Government Force Toward Religious Groups Resulting in Individuals Being Imprisoned or Detained

Andhra Pradesh

INCIDENT: On April 5, 2007, authorities in Andhra Pradesh arrested three pastors and filed cases under IPC 295A and 298 for hurting religious sentiments. Local residents alleged that the pastors led 26 foreign tourists, including several Americans, into the Chikadpally slum in Hyderabad where they engaged in conversions, and made derogatory remarks against Hindu Gods. (IRF 2007)

Chhattisgarh

INCIDENT: According to reports, in December 2006 the Bajrang Dal allegedly assaulted a pastor and 20 other Christians in Chhattisgarh who were singing Christmas carols. Five individuals were seriously injured. The pastor and 10 others were subsequently arrested for forcibly converting others. (IRF 2007)

Gujarat

INCIDENT: According to religious media, on September 21, 2006, a day after the Gujarat State Assembly passed an amendment to the 2003 “anti-conversion law,” a group of extremists attacked eight Christians belonging to the Indian Missionary Society. The Christians filed a complaint against nine attackers and the police sub-inspector for physical abuse. Subsequently, authorities arrested the attacked on charges of engaging in forced conversions and carrying weapons. (IRF 2007)

Karnataka

INCIDENT: On March 20, 2007, Bangalore police arrested two Christian missionaries, including one American citizen, for allegedly making slanderous statements ridiculing Hindu deities. Both missionaries were released on bail the next day. (IRF 2007)

Madhya Pradesh

INCIDENT: There were 11 reported arrests under the Madhya Pradesh “anti-conversion” law. This compares with 20 arrested during the previous reporting period... On March 31, 2007, a Hindu leader Snehlata Kedia reportedly claimed in a public lecture in Bhopal that Christian priests have sex with young Hindu girls under the pretext of hearing confessions. On March 16, 2007, two independent pastors were arrested by police in Chenapur, Khargone district, after local residents complained that the pastors were hurting their religious feelings. (IRF 2007)

Maharashtra

INCIDENT: In April 2007 after a Hindu female minor eloped with a Muslim man in Gujarat, the VHP announced that it would conduct a door-to-door survey of out-of-state migrant youths to “protect” Hindu girls. The Mumbai police subsequently arrested and charged the man with kidnapping and sent the girl to a home for minors. (IRF 2007)

While the information cited above was taken primarily from the 2007 State Department report on International Religious Freedom, other sources were checked for supporting details and corroboration.

Example of Data Coding: India (*cont.*)

A similar coding process was used to create the Social Hostilities Index. Seven questions involving social hostilities are shown in the table below.

Questions Related to Social Hostilities Involving Religion	
QUESTION	ANSWER
Were there acts of sectarian or communal violence between religious groups?	Yes
Were hate crimes committed against religious groups or individuals?	Yes
Did individuals or groups in society use force or the threat of force to oblige adherence to religious norms within larger society?	Yes
Were individuals abused or displaced for breaking religious norms or converting to another religion?	Yes
Did religious groups make any attempt to prevent other religious groups from being able to operate?	Yes
Were there tensions between religious groups, (including harassment of religious groups by social groups)?	Yes
Which religious groups have allegedly been harassed by social groups?	Jains, Muslims, Pandits, Hindus and Christians

To answer the questions above, the coders were asked to provide detailed information on specific incidents. The table below shows an abbreviated version of the incident report the coders used to determine the number of people who were physically abused for religious reasons in India during the two-year period covered by the study (one of the six components used to answer SHI Question No. 1).

Incidents of Physical Abuse Motivated by Religious Hatred or Bias in Society	
India (province not identified) INCIDENT: On December 17, 2006, around 50 DRS activists assaulted Pastor Philip Jagdella as he was returning from teaching Sunday school. He was accused of conversion by allurement and of distributing candy to Sunday school attendees. (IRF 2007) Andhra Pradesh INCIDENTS: Religious media reported that there were 20 reported acts of violence committed against Christians in Andhra Pradesh during the reporting period. According to these reports, the Bajrang Dal and other Hindu extremist organizations physically assaulted pastors and congregants, destroyed and vandalized churches, attacked schools and accused Christians of engaging in unethical conversion activities and proselytizing.... On April 11, 2007, Hindu extremists attacked Evangelical Christians in Chittor, Andhra Pradesh, physically assaulting some of the congregants, removing Christian literature and alleging that the Christians were engaged in unethical conversions. (IRF 2007)	Chhattisgarh INCIDENTS: During the reporting period, faith-based media outlets reported at least 14 separate incidents of attacks on Christian prayer meetings or Christian individuals by Hindu extremists in Chhattisgarh... On April 30, 2007, eight extremists attacked a U.S. businessman, in Raipur, Chhattisgarh accusing him of engaging in forced conversion and missionary activities in the area. He suffered serious injuries. Police attempted to arrest the perpetrators (IRF, 2007)... In February 2007, about 100 members of an extremist group attacked a pastors' conference in the Raipur district of Chhattisgarh state, severely beating 30 persons. (USCIRF 244)

Example of Data Coding: India (*cont.*)

Incidents of Physical Abuse (*cont.*)

Karnataka

INCIDENTS: On January 20-22, 2007, riots erupted in Bangalore after Muslim youth allegedly pulled down banners put up by Hindu activists. Clashes left a young boy dead, 31 individuals (mostly Muslims) injured, and at least 15 vehicles damaged...

According to religious media, there were at least 40 reported acts of violence against Christians in the state of Karnataka, a considerable increase from the 6 incidents reported during the previous reporting period. Religious press reported injuries to pastors and congregants (males and females), threats and intimidation and destruction of property and places of worship. Attackers disrupted prayer meetings and Church services.

On June 8, 2007, media reported that a mob of Hindu extremists, allegedly led by the Bajrang Dal, the youth wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, disrupted a Christian service in a suburb of Bangalore. Local police arrived but the pastor said he did not want to press charges.

On March 28, 2007, Catholics in Mangalore protested against a series of attacks on the community by activists belonging to the RSS.

On January 7, 2007, Hindu activists attacked a pastor and two of his parishioners in a Bangalore suburb. This was followed by another attack by the same activists on a prayer meeting conducted by a different pastor. Both pastors complained that the local police have been lax in dealing with their case.

On November 30, 2006, approximately 50 members of the Bajrang Dal and VHP attacked the Avila Convent Catholic Girls' High School in Misore, Karnataka, physically assaulting staff and vandalizing property. Extremists also accused the headmistress of engaging in unethical conversion during school hours. Allegedly, the police issued a warning to the headmistress... (IRF 2007)

In January 2007, in the state of Karnataka, members of the Bajrang Dal, a Hindu nationalist group, attacked a Christian pastor and his wife in a village near Bangalore. (USCIRF, 2007)

Karnataka (*cont.*)

Despite government measures, the practice of dedicating Devadasis reportedly continued in several southern states, including Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Devadasis are young, generally prepubescent girls who are dedicated to a Hindu deity or temple as "servants of god." They may not marry, must live apart from their families, and are required to provide sexual services to priests and others. Reportedly, many Devadasis eventually are sold to urban brothels. The Devadasi tradition is linked, to some degree, to both trafficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Since Devadasis are by custom required to be sexually available to higher caste men, it reportedly is difficult for them to obtain justice from the legal system if they are raped. Estimates of Devadasis in the country varied; in Karnataka, media sources reported as few as 23,000 and as many as 100,000. The Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of Karnataka, estimates 15,000-20,000 Devadasis in the state. (IRF 2007)

Madhya Pradesh

INCIDENTS: In February 2007 nine persons were injured in Hindu-Muslim clashes during the Moharrum procession in Indore, Madhya Pradesh... The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Madhya Pradesh stated that between July 2006 and April 2007, it received reports of more than 55 attacks on Christians by various Hindu groups such as the Dharam Sena. Of these 55 incidents, 34 were in Jabalpur... [Elsewhere]

On April 1, 2007, 30 Hindus led by Yogesh Agarwal of the Dharam Sena attacked Palm Sunday prayers at St. Paul's Church in Gokulpur, Jabalpur. Seven Christians were treated in a hospital for injuries; two Dharam Sena activists were also injured... On the same day, Hindu extremists attacked a Christian Palm Sunday procession in Damoh District. According to the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI), two Christians received severe head injuries and were treated at a mission hospital...

Example of Data Coding: India (*cont.*)

Incidents of Physical Abuse (*cont.*)

Madhya Pradesh (*cont.*)

INCIDENTS: On March 31, 2007, a Hindu leader Snehlata Kedia reportedly claimed in a public lecture in Bhopal that Christian priests have sex with young Hindu girls under the pretext of hearing confessions.

On March 16, 2007, two independent pastors were arrested by police in Chenapur, Khargone district, after local residents complained that the pastors were hurting their religious feelings. The pastors were distributing religious literature.

On March 6, 2007, Hindu extremists also attacked Pastor Binoy Kuriakose and 10 of his team while they were distributing religious materials near Ratlam town.

Also in March 2007, Hindu extremists attacked a Christian prayer meeting and assaulted Independent Church Pastor Avinash Kanchan and some of his followers. According to reports, Police stated that no one filed a complaint. (IRF 2007)

Maharashtra

INCIDENTS: In July 2006 in Bhiwandi, while dispersing a rioting mob of Muslim protestors, Maharashtra police killed two Muslims. Two Hindu policemen were subsequently lynched by rioters in a dispute between a Muslim organization and the police over the construction of a police station adjacent to a Muslim cemetery. The mob burned several buses of a local public transport company and 18 people were injured, including 12 policemen...

According to media reports, on March 12, 2007, unidentified individuals allegedly chopped the hair and shaved the beard of a Sikh youth in Pune, Maharashtra, who was reported missing by his family several days earlier. The Sikh youth was found unconscious along the track near the Jagadhri railway station in Haryana. Although the police initiated an investigation, the case remains unresolved...

In September 2006 minor Hindu-Muslim skirmishes occurred in Rabodi (Thane city) and Osmanabad in Maharashtra during immersion processions of the Hindu deity Ganesha. Police acted promptly and brought the violence under control. (IRF 2007)

Orissa

INCIDENTS: According to religious media, there were nine reported acts of violence against Christians in Orissa... [Elsewhere]

On February 28, 2007, a group of Hindus attacked the Believers' Church Bible College campus at Jharsuguda, Orissa. According to the AICC (Orissa Chapter), the attackers entered the premises, beat up students and staff, and ransacked property. (IRF, 2007)

Rajasthan

INCIDENTS: Religious media reported eight acts of violence against Christians in Rajasthan during the reporting period. The same sources reported numerous incidents of severe attacks against Christian property or persons during the previous period.

In May 2007 media reported on a trend in Rajasthan in which Christians were threatened, followed by violence. For example, on April 29, 2007, a national television channel filmed the attack of independent pastor Walter Masih at his home in Nandipuri. The assailants were reportedly associated with the VHP and its youth wing Bajrang Dal. Police arrested seven people, including government employee and VHP officer Virendra Singh.

According to religious press outlets, on May 12, 2007, approximately 15 individuals attacked the home of a Catholic priest, ordering him to leave the premises and accusing him of engaging in unethical conversions.

On April 29, 2007, members of the VHP and Bajrang Dal allegedly attacked a church service held in the house of Pastor Walter Massey, physically assaulting him and vandalizing his property. Television channels and the national press reported the attack. Police arrested five individuals. (IRF, 2007)