

Her Excellency
President Droupadi Murmu
c/o Embassy of the Republic of India
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Your Excellency,

Please allow me to address you out of deep concern for seven imprisoned Christians and their families. The men concerned, aged between 20 and 49, are: Chhot Singh Dhurve, Sanjay Markam, Santosh Paraste, Amit Kumar, Pramod Singh, Karan Singh Maravi, and Jeet Singh. On 12 June 2026, each of them was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh, for allegedly violating the so-called anti-conversion law. In addition, they were each fined the equivalent of more than 900 Euros.

The Christians came to the attention of the authorities following an altercation on the margins of a family celebration on 27 April 2024. They are accused of having promoted the Christian faith among the guests or even pressured them to change their religion. The host of the gathering, in particular, disputes this account, while the person who filed the complaint had not even been invited to the event. There are strong indications that, in this case, the law has been misused as an instrument of personal retaliation and that the court failed to take this into account.

Regrettably, the equality guaranteed by the Indian Constitution has yet to be fully realised, particularly in rural areas. We respectfully urge you to do everything within your power to secure the release of these Christians, for whom, moreover, an unaffordable amount of bail has been set.

With highest regards,