

QUARTERLY

Vol: 03 Issue: 04

Oct-Dec 2015

# MINO-VIEW LAHORE

Voice of minorities and oppressed people in South Asian societies

## Caste Violence Rises in India as Dalits Assert Their Rights



**Concern Over India Intolerance, Rape and Narendra Modi's Cabinet Raised in UK Parliament**



**Diwali Celebration in Pakistan**

**- Bangladesh: Human Chain to End Violence Against Women**

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**- Dalit, Women And Poor Are Only Oppressed Group In India, By M Rajivlochan**

Produced by: Sir Ganga Ram Heritage Foundation, Lahore

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# EDITORAIL

The difference between developed and developing countries, especially in south Asian region is that, developed countries have laws and practicing it with their true sprits. In South Asian countries laws do exist but there is always a question mark on its implementation. Dalit are the most vulnerable population of the world and by their size more than 260 million in south Asia (largely in India) they can make a seventh populist country of the world. In India Provision of Atrocity Act (PoA), the law which brought in to safeguard the dalit rights and protect them against the atrocities and discrimination which they are facing in their daily life do not fulfill the purpose even after two and half decade, though it was passed by the Indian parliament in 1989. According to famous quote of Leo Tolstoy “Writing law is easy, but governing is difficult. The reason behind the PoA act is not effective over the period is (1) a weak political commitment (2) poor implementation by the institution who are directly involved (3) behavior of Indian society which they consider it, a law against their centuries long religious practice of caste System. Recently Indian parliament made an amendment in PoA act, which addresses not only the new areas but also strengthen the law regarding its implementation. But again for its better effectiveness and result, a strong and practical political will is required and most importantly acceptance by the society, it is essential that general masses should be aware of the law and strict enforcement of implementation should be ensured for the effectiveness of the amended PoA act. When you are writing laws you are testing words to find their utmost power like spells, they have to make things happens in the real world, and like spells, they only work if people believe in them. If this will not happen than good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws, as a result societies act traditionally as we highlights

in this issue of Mino-View that “*Caste violence in India rises as dalit assert their rights*” this highlighted that increasing dalit right assertions in India have unleashed a wave of backlash violence and abuse against dalits. 19 percent rise in crime against dalits including violence, rape and murder committed by dominant caste members. The story stresses that the PoA (SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act) is not being implemented. Often, the police connive with perpetrators to destroy evidence and intimate the victims into withdrawing the cases. Police are often unwilling to file a case under the PoA act and instead pressure SC/STs victims to file a case under the more lenient Indian Penal code, which among other things allows bail to the accused. Out on bail, the accused often file counter cases against SC/STs so that a compromised settlement can be reached. Manual scavenging is illegal, why Indian states continue to support the practice, concern over India’s intolerance, rape and Narendra Modi’s cabinet was raised in UK parliament, human chain to end violence against women in Bangladesh, UN member deeply concerned about caste discrimination and untouchability in Nepal, Christian required only as sweeper in Pakistan, dalit women and poor are the only oppressed group in India is also a part of the current issue of Mino-View. This current issue of Mino-View is a minor attempt to raise the voice for the cause of down trodden people. The main purpose of this magazine is to bring into limelight the brutal system i.e. oppression, atrocities and discrimination which low caste suffer. Through the platform of Mino-View we invite people all over that world to join hands and take positive step to end this inhuman system by showing global solidarity.

**EDITOR**

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# Pakistan



## Diwali Celebration in Pakistan

Diwali festival was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Krishna Mandar, Ravi road, Lahore. On this occasion Krishna Mandar and its adjacent buildings were decorated with colourful lights. The people of Hindu community celebrated the Diwali festival in their traditional way and offered religious rituals with zeal and fervor. Evacuee Trust Property Board Additional Secretary shrine Khalid Ali, Staff of Sir Ganga Ram Heritage Foundation,

Chairman Pakistan Hindu welfare Council Munawar Chand. Hindu minority leader MNA Kanji Ram, Mehboob Shah Secretary Hilal-e-Ahmar and their volunteers along with representative of other religion also participated. Munawar Chand hosted the programme and welcomed all the guests. The ceremony started with the recitation of Holy Quran and National anthem was also sung. Representatives of different religions read verses from their

sacred books i.e. Ramayan, Gurugranth, Bible etc which carried the message that there is interfaith harmony and all are brothers.

**Dr. Munawar chand** (*President Hindu Welfare Council*)

On behalf of Hindu community Dr Munawar Chand welcomed all the guests and briefly explained the background and history of Diwali (the festival of lights). Dewali



commemorate the return of Ram Chandar along with sita and Lakshaman from his 14 year long exile and after defeating Ravan. In joyous celebration of the return of Ram Chandar the people illuminated the kingdom (Auyudiah) with igniting earthen lamps (oil lamps) and burst crackers and distributed sweets.

**Sardar Baba Sham Singh**  
(President Pakistan Gurdawara Sikh Parband Committee)

Sardar Sham Singh President Pakistan gurdawara Sikh Parband Committee, said today is the day of rejoicing and celebrations to mark the return of Ram Chandar Jee and he wished the Hindu community a Happy Diwali. He said I want to convey to modi's government to see that in Pakistan people from all the religion and faith get together to celebrate Dewali festival. Mr modi you and your craziness have lost the Bihar election. Above all this Pakistan of Quid-e-Azam about which he said that all citizens are equal and all Pakistani will enjoy the freedom, rights and privilege and every person will play its rightful part in the affair of Pakistan. We respect

the religion and faith of every one. Hindu Sikh and Muslims living in India are worried at the hand of modi government and we pray that they all get rid of it i.e. modi government.

**Sohail Raza (Minhaj-ul-Quran)**

Sohail Raza from Minhaj-ul-Quran thanked Khalid Ali additional Secretary of Evacuee Trust property Board for the Diwali arrangements. He himself and on behalf of Tahir-ul-Qadri wished Happy Diwali to all the Hindu community living in Pakistan and across the border. He said in Pakistan people belonging to different religions enjoy freedom of their faith without any restrictions Muslim brothers share their joys and celebrations. The religious books of Muslims, Sihk's, Hindu's and Parsis gives message of brotherhood and no religion accept terrorism. He said I want to convey to all those who keep an eye on us that here is freedom happiness everywhere in Pakistan. Due to this interfaith harmony we will fight terrorism.

**Maulana Shafiq Sahib (Shia Community)** Today after

participating in this Diwali festival one thing became clear that if someone wants to see the Pakistan of Quid-e-Azam, he should come to Krishana Mandir and see that how the people of different religions are together and one portraying the dream of Allama Iqbal and Quid-e-Azam. We want India to see that how we participate with Hindu's in their joys and celebrations.

**Priest Sardar chaman (Christian Council)**

Today on this Occasion of joy of Hindu's I wish them Happy Dewali. I have travelled throughout the world one thing which is noticeable in Pakistan is that all the people no matter to which faith they belong participate and share the happiness of each other.

**Mehboob Shah (Secretary Hilal-e-Ahmar)**

He wished Hindu community Happy Dewali and thanked Khalid Ali additional Secretary ETPB for the Dewali festival arrangements, which is a sign of love for Hindu's.



**Khalid Ali (Additional Secretary Shrine ETPB)**

He greeted people according to their religions and told Dewali is just like Eid and its lasts for three days. He told that one year before Siddique-ul-Farooq Chairman

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ETPB took charge and he took many constructive steps. One of them is the construction of 30 rooms hostel in Katas Raj with dining room and a big hall so that Hindu's coming from across the border feel comfortable. Planning is going on to install chairlift, apart from this tree plantation and construction of general washrooms is also going on. Katas Raj will be made an international park, the development work has started. 2500 Trees have been planted and our chairman has even better plans for Hindu's. He also mentioned that chairman twice visited Lok Raj Mandir in Baluchistan and promised to make arrangements for filtered water and about this negotiation with the government are going on. He further said that sadh Belo Mandir in sukhur is an ancient Mandir of Hindu's. The

annual grant of this Mandir has been increased from 10 lac's to 20 lac's. The meeting regarding approval of rehabilitation of Prahladpuri Mandir in Multan was held in 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in which renovation of the Mandir was planned. We are also planning to develop a Danish Type of school so that children of Hindu community can receive quality education. In Benazir School Hindi and Gurmukhi language classes have also started, so people can get the opportunity to learn these languages. Development and prosperity programmes in all the Mandir have started. Evacuee Trust Property Board is trying its utmost to make arrangements of all the Hindu festival by its own funding without any help of government and NGOs. Annual festivals like Holi, Dewali,

Dosehra, Shabratrri will be funded by ETPB. All the minorities living in Pakistan are safe and government and people of Pakistan safe guard them then he wished Happy Diwali on behalf of chairman ETBP.

### **Kanji Ram (PML, MNA)**

Kanji Ram PML (MNA) also participated in Diwali function and told that he has come to Lahore for Diwali on the instruction of PM Nawaz Sharif and wished all the Hindu community Happy Diwali.

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# INDIA

## Caste Violence in India Rises as Dalits Assert Their Rights



The PoA (SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act) is not being implemented. Often, the police connive with perpetrators to destroy evidence and intimidate the victims into withdrawing the case. SC/ST activists point out that police are often unwilling to file a case under the PoA Act and instead pressure SC/ST victims to file a case under the more lenient Indian Penal Code, which among other things allows bail to the accused. Out on bail, the accused often file 'counter cases' against SC/STs so that a 'compromise' settlement can be reached."

**Increasing Dalit rights assertions in India have unleashed a wave of backlash violence and abuse against Dalits. This has been evident in news reporting over the past year, and is now also reflected in official National crime statistics in India, showing a 19% rise in crimes against Dalits including violence, rape and murder committed by dominant caste members.**

In October, the burning to death of two small Dalit children, asleep in their house, grabbed international headlines. The children were reportedly victims of a dispute between Dalits and members of the dominant caste. This horrific incident is unfortunately by no means unique, as the past years have seen a rise in violence, rape and murder of Dalits. The violence and atrocities are often directly

related to Dalit assertion of basic rights including land rights, freedom of expression, access to justice, access to education, water, food, decent work and other services and equal participation in cultural and religious activities, to name a few.

Even seemingly minor signs of Dalit resistance have resulted in brutal retaliation by the dominant castes. Speaking to Livemint.com, Rajeshwar Paswan, Bihar state coordinator for the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, a non-governmental organization states,

"A Dalit boy's wrist was chopped off because he was wearing a watch; another was killed as he had a song on (social reformer) B.R. Ambedkar as his ringtone. I can reel off incidents like this

without even consulting news reports.” Speaking on the lack of justice in these types of cases Paswan continues, “It is very

difficult to get the police to cooperate with us. We often have to resort to protests and dharnas to even get a charge sheet filed. Sometimes, the victim is not aware that there is a special act for crimes committed against SC/STs.(Dalits and Adivasis)”

The rise in crimes against Dalits is seen despite tough legislation (The SC/ST prevention of atrocities act) being in place in India prohibiting discrimination against Dalits and offering tough sentences in relation to atrocity cases. However, conviction rates are low in cases filed under the SC/ST prevention of atrocities act and Dalits are often not able to access justice due to deeply entrenched discrimination in law enforcement and the judiciary.

Also in October a young Dalit boy died while in police custody, police torture is blamed. His crime, allegedly stealing two pigeons. A Dalit family including three small children were also stripped and put in jail for allegedly encroaching on the land of dominant castes. These are again not lone incidents of police negligence in India but everyday tales of the utter disregard for justice when it comes to Dalits in India.

Dalit rights NGO NACDOR has also released statistics showing the increasing violence against Dalits. Speaking to Indian news outlet DNA, Ashok Bharti, NACDOR Chairman, gives three key reasons underpinning these statistics,

“Successive governments in India have failed to take care of providing adequate resources to the members of the community ... even today, they are forced to work as bonded labourers because they have no land of their own,” Bharti says and highlights the, “absence of social conscience” and “absence of an effective mechanism and institutions which safeguard Dalit’s right to equality has only resulted in further oppression of community.”

Statistics released from the state of Karnataka are a startling example of this reality where it is found that out of 1633 cases booked under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, zero cases resulted in convictions.

An article in the Deccan Herald on the Karnataka findings stipulates that,

“The PoA (SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act) is not being implemented. Often, the police connive with perpetrators to destroy evidence and intimidate the victims into withdrawing the case. SC/ST activists point out that police are often unwilling to file a case under the PoA Act and instead pressure SC/ST victims to file a case under the more lenient Indian Penal Code, which among other things allows bail to the accused. Out on bail, the accused often file ‘counter cases’ against SC/STs so that a ‘compromise’ settlement can be reached.”

## A disturbing trend continues

Last years India chapter of the IDSN annual report started like this, “A Dalit college student fell in love with a woman from a different caste and ended up dead

in a well, body parts chopped up and his parents murdered. The goat of a young Dalit boy wandered into the field of a dominant caste man and the boy was burnt alive. A Dalit girl was gang-raped and subsequently refused admission to hospital. Two Dalit men tried to break out of slavery had their hands chopped off with an axe. An 8-year old Dalit boy enjoyed sweets offered by the local temple and the priest smashed the boys head into a pillar until it bled.

Killing in the name of inter-caste love, in the name of caste boundaries, in the name of caste domination, or just because you can get away with it. Whichever form it has taken, in 2014, India has witnessed an upsurge in reporting on caste-based atrocities and killings.

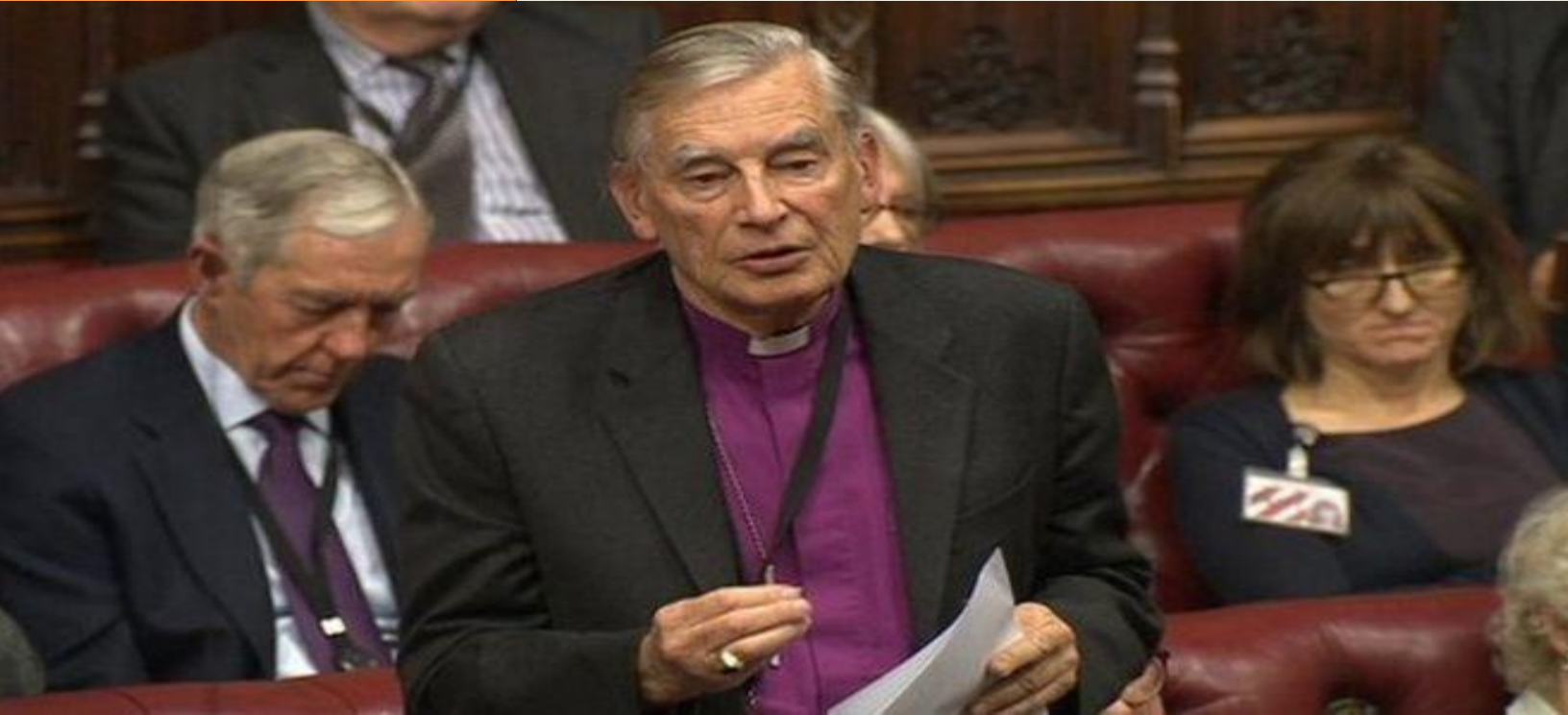
The cases mentioned here are just the tip of the 2014 caste atrocity iceberg, underpinned by extreme brutality, and a lack of protection and justice for the victims. Most frightening, is the seemingly direct correlation between Dalit rights assertions, and the escalation of violent retaliation against them, as well a rapidly shrinking space for parts of civil society, in particular human rights defenders. Most uplifting, is the spirit with which Dalits in India continue to fight for their rights, undeterred by the threat of increasingly brutal consequences.”

As only a few months remain of 2015 it seems that sadly this years chapter will be a repeat of last years – with fresh cases, more evidence and less justice.

*Source: International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)*

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# International



## Concerns Over India Intolerance, Rape and Narendra Modi's Cabinet Raised in UK Parliament

*Baroness Morgan of Ely and Shadow Spokesperson for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised the issue of "escalation in the number of rapes" in India. She also cited "several allegations made against ministers in the Modi cabinet against whom criminal cases are pending" and questioned whether Cameron had raised the issue of violence against women with Modi.*

British MPs raised the issue of human rights and intolerance in India in UK Parliament on 7 December. Lord Harries of Pentregarth was the first to raise the concern, after which a number of other MPs contributed their concerns to the discussion.

Lord Harries noted the "human rights situation is extremely worrying" in India and placed emphasis on abuses against minority groups such as the Dalits. Other MPs voiced their concerns

over rape in the country, while Lord Singh of Wimbledon called on the UK government to ensure that human rights is respected everywhere, "without considerations of trade".

Every week 13 Dalits are murdered and five have had their homes burned, and every day three Dalit women are raped," said Lord Harries. "While legal mechanisms are in place, their enforcement and implementation are weak or non-existence. Will Her Majesty's

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Government encourage the Indian authorities to strengthen the whole



legal justice system so that perpetrators are charged and brought to justice?"

The discussion in Parliament came weeks after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UK. Modi faced widespread protests from the British-Indian community during his time in London as thousands took to the street to raise their voices about intolerance in India.

**Minister of State  
Baroness Anelay** responded



to the questions raised in

Parliament, noting India faces "numerous challenges" because of its size and social and economic

development. She said David Cameron has raised the issue of intolerance with Modi and welcomed the Indian prime minister's speech at Wembley Stadium, during which the Baroness said he displayed a "commitment to human rights".

However, Lord Singh dismissed Modi's speech as a sign of commitment, saying: "Reference to respect for human rights in a constitution does not necessarily guarantee those human rights, and there has been disturbing evidence of discrimination in particular against the Christian and Muslim communities since the coming in of Mr Modi's government."

When asked whether the UK government agreed that human rights should be respected without "considerations of trade", the minister of state replied: "We never allow issues about our economic relationship to get in the way of upholding international law."

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Baroness Anelay replied that a "wide range of human rights issues" had been discussed between the two prime ministers in November.

**Source: [ibtimes.co.uk](http://ibtimes.co.uk)**

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## INDIA



Maharashtra has more than 63,000 households dependent on manual scavenging, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Karnataka.

**Indian Railways are the largest employer of manual scavengers, with an unknown number on their rolls. Most of the sweepers", as they are called – thus making them hard to identify as scavengers**

## Manual Scavenging is Illegal, Why Do Indian States Continue to Support the Practice?

Hot water, sanitary pads and bottles are flung at them when they work in filthy, obscure Mumbai *gullies* (lanes), but although manual scavenging is illegal, Maharashtra employs 35% of 1,80,657 Indian families whose livelihood depends on unblocking excreta-packed sewers in those dank lanes. We save lives by doing our job but there is nobody to save us," a worker said, requesting anonymity for fear of official retribution. India does not officially recognize the employment of manual scavengers, almost all of whom are Dalits. They are officially hired as

"cleaners" in Maharashtra. The state does, however, acknowledge that thousands make their living doing manual scavenging. Maharashtra has more than 63,000 households dependent on manual scavenging, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Karnataka, according to a question answered by Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Vijay Sampla, in the Lok Sabha. Since they do not have a proper system of disposing of excreta, the Indian Railways are the largest employer of manual scavengers, with an unknown number on their rolls. Most of the

## States With Most Manual-Scavenging Households, 2011



“sweepers”, as they are called – thus making them hard to identify as scavengers – with the railways are employed through contractors, and they earn around Rs 200 per day. Although the workers get gloves, hygiene awareness is so low that they hardly use them. If they do use protective equipment, a new draft law says such workers can then no longer be classified as manual scavengers. In September, the Delhi high court ordered a survey in the capital to determine the extent of manual scavenging. The Ministry of Railways told the court that manual scavenging cannot be completely eradicated until stations get washable aprons and sealed toilet systems. “While the (railway) ministry

denies employing manual scavengers officially, the affidavits it has submitted in the court in the past nine years suggest that barring a few trains, the railways does not employ any technology to keep its 80,000 toilets and 1.15 lakh kilometers of tracks clean,”

according to Down To Earth magazine.

**On The Margins:** Progress for a people who come from the lowest

castes and whose jobs do not officially exist is slow, and protest is almost impossible. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation conservancy workers – an euphemism for manual scavengers who clean lanes – said that they started getting gloves recently. The BMC has also started giving them medical insurance up to Rs 5 lakh. Since the premium is deducted from their salary, more than half have not signed up. “There are four to five deaths every month,” a worker said. “Most of us suffer from tuberculosis. BMC owns a hospital but all we get is Rs 10 case-paper free.” That means the workers don’t have to pay consultation fees, but they must pay for their own medicines and wait six months for sonography tests, four months for x-rays. Almost all of Mumbai’s conservancy workers in BMC are Buddhists or neo-Buddhists, converts from Hinduism’s lowest castes. Kept to the margins, it is hard for them to break the status quo. One contractor said that machines now cleaned sewers and workers did not descend manholes. However, workers said contractors sent people down manholes almost

every night. Workers take turns entering manholes, lathering bare bodies with coconut oil to keep away the odours of the sewer. Why do they continue doing what they do?

### Housing and jobs

In Mumbai, one of the main reasons why manual scavengers continue doing their jobs is that they do not have the education to do much else. Working as a scavenger means that they get housing from the BMC and their jobs can be transferred to family members. Although their “official” income varies from Rs 7,000 to Rs 25,000, what they actually get in hand is Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000, after deductions for education and marriage loans – some taken from landlords – and insurance premia. A new law, The Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act, 2013, talks about rehabilitating conservancy workers by giving them one-time cash assistance of Rs 40,000. After talking to BMC workers, it was clear they had not heard of this. The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers was introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2007, and implementation supposedly began in November 2013. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have received cash assistance to rehabilitate scavengers identified by the government. Maharashtra has given no cash to manual scavengers it has identified.

*Source: Scroll In*

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# Nepal



## Nepal – UN Members Deeply Concerned About Caste Discrimination and Untouchability



**We are demanding a national action plan to eliminate caste discrimination and an effective coordinating mechanism to oversee its implementation**

*Bhakta Bishwakarma*



Seventeen United Nations member states raised their concerns and recommendations on caste discrimination at the United Nations Periodic Review of Nepal, urging the Government, in particular, to ensure effective implementation of the Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability Act of 2011. Member states noted the weak implementation of the law, poor case investigation, and continued widespread caste discrimination, urging the Government in particular to ensure effective implementation of the Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability Act of 2011. They recommended that Nepal sets in place

effective measures and a concrete strategy to implement the law on caste-based discrimination. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kamal Thapa pointed to the “zero tolerance against discrimination” guaranteed with the newly adopted Constitution (adopted on 20 September 2015). He underlined that all forms of discrimination based on caste, religion and gender are punishable by law. He recognized that these social practices continue, but emphasized that with strong legislation and infrastructure in place he believed “the social evil will come to an end”. Members states also raised concern over the continued

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widespread practices of caste discrimination and called on Nepal to strengthen its efforts and effectively implement existing laws and policies aimed at ending and preventing all forms of discrimination, in particular against women and Dalits, and to take concrete steps to translate anti-discrimination efforts into concrete practice on the ground. The situation of violence against women in Nepal, concern at the level of trafficking in persons especially Dalit women and girls, and the numerous reports of caste-based violence and discrimination call for specific action member states said. States commended the government for promulgation of the Constitution and also urged the adoption of public policies to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including against Dalits, women, indigenous peoples



*Bhakta Bishwakarma, National President of Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO)*

and minorities. States raised particular concerns of equal access to education for Dalits and reports on discrimination of Dalits in the relief and rehabilitation after the earthquake prompted recommendations on ensuring non-discriminatory access in relief efforts. In its response to the recommendations, the Government noted that Dalit access to justice is a

priority and referred to the development of an integrated action plan. Commenting on the review, Bhakta Bishwakarma, National President of Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO) said, “We acknowledge that the Government has taken strides over the past years to ensure Dalit rights through legislative measures. However, we are demanding a national action plan to eliminate caste discrimination and an effective coordinating mechanism to oversee its implementation. There is also a need for state led public campaigns and institutional reform, as we have noted with deep concern that the state is yet to fulfil its strong commitment for inclusive and non-discriminatory institutions.”

*Source: International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)*

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# INDIA



## Dalits, Women and Poor Are the Only Oppressed Groups in India



By: M Rajivlochan

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It has become quite boring – this talk of minorities being oppressed in India and living in fear. Those who talk like this, are the ones who have absolutely no clue of what is happening in India and how. Or maybe they are taking the flow of rhetorical information on the Internet too seriously. There are only three segments that are oppressed in India today: Dalits; women and the poor. They are oppressed alright. Some are doubly and trebly oppressed for being Dalit and woman or Dalit and woman and poor or merely being woman and poor or Dalit and poor. Look at those charged with cleaning up our streets. All are from one particular Dalit segment.

All are pressed down enough that in village India and the small towns they cannot even refuse to manually pick up the shit of people and carry away that gooey, dripping, stinking mess on their heads. Refusal is not an option for them. They are so oppressed that they cannot refuse the policemen who insist that they handle rotting dead bodies with bare hands. Even in the modern metropolises of India, where people say free economic activity is dissolving caste bonds, they are so oppressed that they cannot refuse the contractor from ordering them to wade into a pool of poisonous sludge in order to dislodge whatever is blocking the sewage

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system of their great city. All this they have to do without the sundry protections mandated for them by the law. The contractor, by the way, is one of their own caste; someone who has made it big enough to hire others to do the dirty. Senior officers who are supposed to ensure that the contractor does not violate laws are only too happy to turn a blind eye in return for a free daily cleaner for their own homes. Poverty and caste might force them to do these tasks. But they certainly don't live in fear. Rather, they are fighting back with great vim and vigour. Look at the repeated strikes by sanitation workers in various cities demanding proper wages. City dwellers complain that the sanitation workers shirk work.

No one notices that the contractor routinely hires only about half the number of workers contracted while charging the full amount from the government. Or that many workers are simply put on duty in the homes and offices of government officers and elected representatives. That leaves less than half of the mandated numbers to do the actual cleaning up of the streets. The big question then is: how do such a low number of workers even manage to ensure a modicum of cleanliness for the city? But instead of appreciating the work being done, residents merely complain. Then, when sanitation workers go on strike and in a few days, entire cities turn into stinking dumps. Perhaps that is the time when Indians get some idea of how important is the task of even the sanitation workers. The only reason why do we not hear of

strikes by sanitation workers from the village and small town is that they are too few in numbers. In the village they might be the only family of their caste. The women of India too have stopped taking things silently. Till recently young men from Upper Castes, especially from the villages, would revel listeners with stories of how they forcibly 'had' some Dalit girl, often in a group. Did you notice how the numerous stories of 'gang-rape' from village India never feature an Upper Caste girl? Except that now women have begun to strike back. Today there are numerous stories of Dalit girls refusing to take back cases against the young men who have had this perverse kind of fun with them.

The classic responses from Upper Caste sympathisers of such criminals have ranged from Mulayam Singh Yadav claiming the criminals to be misguided youth, to the Karnataka Home Minister saying forced sex by just two men wasn't 'gang rape'. The women, however, are not having any of this nonsense anymore. Day after day we hear of them refusing to compromise with their rapists despite the best efforts of the local police, politicians and society wise-men. If someone is still letting these gutsy women down it is our tardy system of justice that simply refuses to get out of its self-imposed inertia. To say that these women who are fighting back are scared would be most unfair. As for the sundry religious groups, whether Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, or whatever: within each there is a small number who speak nonsense in the name of their religion and

traditions and all of such people are marginal within their own group, unheard by the majority of the group and often considered to be weirdoes. Enough people from each group condemn the weirdoes publicly and privately. However, when the weirdoes break the law by attacking someone it is the dysfunctional state machinery of India that lets them get away. The mainstream Indian media contributes its bit by stereotyping these deviants as representatives of their community. Think of the numerous times when an opinion of a Muslim *alim* or scholar is bandied about with much tut-tutting as The Authentic Muslim Voice. That opinion is called a 'fatwa'. It is mostly given in response to a specific question from someone on what might be the Prophet-sanctioned way of doing things. You don't even have to be a Muslim to ask the question.

The answer is merely an opinion, not a belief or an actual practice. Yet it gets projected as the voice of the Muslim people. The one thing that does divide some Indians strongly is this business of eating and drinking. Veg / Non-veg. Alcohol / No-alcohol. The veg people simply do not show any tolerance towards those who are non-veg. Drinking of alcohol is frowned upon in many places by many people. When they can manage to do so, the abstainers even practice intolerance towards the non-vegetarians and drunks. Does that amount to 'oppression' of some sort?

Source: ABP News Network Pvt Ltd.

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October-December 2015

# Bangladesh



## Bangladesh: Human Chain to End Violence Against Women

Dalit women and girls are often become the victim of violence and atrocity. They are discriminated and abused in the family, society and state. Insecurity, uncertainty, deprivation, rape, murder, physical torture and abduction are the cruel destiny for many of the Dalit women and girls in the country

The Bangladesh Dalit Women Federation and Nagorik Uddyog jointly organized a human chain on 9th December to form part of the global campaign 'Orange the World: End Violence against Women and Girls', launched by

UN Women. The organisations are putting specific focus on the situation of Dalit women and girls. Speeches at the march highlighted both the vulnerability of those at the cross-section of gender and caste discrimination as well as their struggle for rights.

Dalit women and girls are often become the victim of violence and atrocity. They are discriminated and abused in the family, society and state. Insecurity, uncertainty, deprivation, rape, murder, physical torture and abduction are the cruel destiny for many of the Dalit women and girls in the country.”

Speakers at the event included Ms. Moni Rani Das, Chairperson, BDWF; Sunil Kumar Mridha, President, BDERM; Mukul Ranjan Shikder, President, Minority Rights Forum; Mr. Bibhutoh Roy, General Secretary, BDERM; and Ms. Banani Biswas, General Secretary, BDWF along with the representatives from the Dalit community. The speakers urged for all citizens to commit to ending violence against women and girls and take action to address the intersecting discrimination faced by Dalit women and girls in Bangladesh.

*Source: International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)*

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## DALIT WATCH

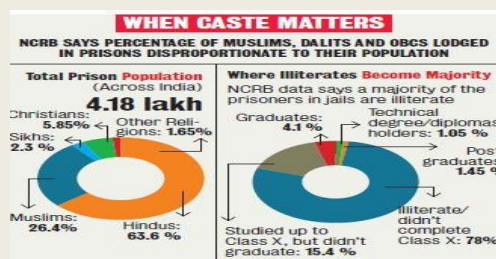
### More Muslims, Dalits in Prison, Says NCRB Data

**Tamil Nadu**

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

**Coimbatore:** The percentage of Muslims, Dalits and OBCs lodged in prisons in India is disproportionate to their population, if one were to go by the data of prisoners compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau and the latest Census figures. While the NCRB report reveals that 26.4% of the prisoners in the country were Muslims, the total population of Muslims in the country is lesser at 14.2% as per the Census data. Likewise, 60.3% of the jail inmates belonged to Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes/Tribes. Also, 38.1% of the detainees in prisons were OBCs and STs. 'Detenues' are persons detained in prison on the orders of a competent authority under relevant preventative detention laws. "While Muslims constitute around 30% of all prisoners, in the 'pre-trial phase', the proportion of convicted Muslim prisoners stands at only 16.4%," said an activist. National Confederation of Human Rights Organisations chairperson A Marx alleged that these figures reflected that the criminal justice system was inherently prejudiced against members of the backward classes and Muslims. "Since 1980, Muslim men are being detained unjustly by the

police. There have been demands to establish fast track courts to deal with Muslim under-trial prisoners and award compensation to the wronged and punish police officers who



wrongfully detained them," he added. Manithaneya Makkal Katchi leader and legislator M H Jawahirullah alleged that every time there is a terror attack invariably Muslim youth get picked up by the police. To substantiate this, he cited the Malegaon blast in 2008 where action based on suspicions of involvement of Muslims backfired. "Just because the statistics show that more Muslims are in prison it does not necessarily mean that members of the community are prone to be criminals. Muslims are also the targets of biased police officers," he charged. **Source: The Hans India**

### 2 children of Dalit family burnt alive, parents injured in Faridabad

**New Delhi**

21 October 2015

**Faridabad:** A nine-month-old girl and her toddler brother from a Dalit family were burnt alive in

Faridabad after their house was set on fire early on Tuesday, allegedly by upper-caste Rajput men over a long-standing caste feud, triggering tensions in the area. Jitender Kumar, the victims' father, said over half a dozen Rajput men barged into their house at 3am, poured petrol through a window inside the room where he and his wife were sleeping with the two children, and set it ablaze. The ensuing fire charred to death Divya and her two-and-a-half-year-old brother, Vaibhav, the latest in a string of similar caste-related atrocities in the country. The parents also suffered injuries and doctors said the 25-year-old mother's condition was critical while Jitender suffered burns on his hands. "The mother has been admitted to the intensive care unit. She had suffered 25% burns and is in a critical condition. However, there are chances that she will recover," said Dr Poonam Dhanda, spokesperson for Safdarjung Hospital. The rest of the family was away at a Jagran and rushed to the house when they heard the victims' cries. By evening, police arrested three people and the government announced a compensation of Rs10 lakh, in an effort to calm inflamed passions. As hundreds of people and political



workers descended on the small Ballabhgarh town, several police contingents were deployed in the area, the second time this year after hundreds of Muslims were driven

October-December 2015

## MINO-VIEW

away from their homes in riots in Atalli village in May. Union home minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and asked him to ensure such incidents didn't happen again. The home ministry sought a factual report from the state administration as Khattar expressed shock and grief over the incident. Officials said the incident could be a continuation of a long-standing caste dispute in the area, which peaked last year with the murder of three Rajputs, a case in which 11 Dalit people have been arrested. "The community members who were the victim last year are the accused now. The victims in today's case have named some people and we have registered a case against them," said Subhash Yadav, the commissioner of police of Faridabad. He said seven policemen deployed in the village have been suspended. Local administration has ordered a probe to find out how such an incident occurred despite heightened security in the area. The victims' family alleged they were being constantly threatened by the Rajputs but the police did nothing despite several complaints against the accused. India banned caste-based discrimination in its Constitution but such atrocities continue unabated against the 20-crore-strong Dalit community in several parts of the country. Historically oppressed by upper-caste communities, the Dalits allege crimes committed against them are considered a low priority by police and the administration. Earlier this month, a 90-year-old Dalit man was hacked with an axe and burnt alive when he tried to enter a temple in Uttar Pradesh. Days later, a Dalit family in Greater Noida's Dankaur allegedly stripped naked after the police and administration did nothing to stop harassment at the hands of an upper-caste family, which reportedly

had encroached on their land. **Source: Hindustan Times**

### Systematic denial of justice to Dalits is genocidal hate

#### Maharashtra

1<sup>st</sup> November 2015

**Mumbai:** Questioning the pattern of acquittals in cases of caste massacres and atrocities on Dalits, Meena Kandasamy, writer and activist, drive home the "compromised nature" of the justice-delivery mechanism in our country. The author of *The Gypsy Goddess*, a book based on a massacre at Kilvenmani in Tamil Nadu in 1968,



was speaking at the seventh Anuradha Ghandy Memorial Lecture, "No one killed the Dalits", here on Friday evening. Citing the incidents of caste violence in Kilvenmani, Villupuram, Tsundur, Dharmapuri, Bathani Tola and Laxmanpur Bathe, Ms. Kandasamy said, "The judgments were as merciless as the massacres themselves. There is a large element of victim blaming, dismissing the evidence of witnesses and denial of the caste element, denial of the case element and reducing the entire case into compensation as if Dalit lives can be purchased. Systematic denial of justice to Dalits is genocidal hate." She said the idea of "unreliable witness" was a steady feature of the judgments, which systematically acquitted the accused. "Testimonies of Dalits are found to be faulty and unreliable." In the case of Bathani, prosecution witnesses were dismissed and in the case of Bathe, the accused were given the benefit of doubt. There was also a lack of judicial intervention when witnesses turned hostile. Furthermore, courts viewed technical aspects such as delay in filing the complaint as "lack of merit" in cases. This weighed heavily against the Dalit

victims, who in the Tsundur incident, for instance, had to go into hiding as they were chased by the attackers, she pointed out.

**'Paper tigers'** The "caste-Hindu and feudal" nature of the judiciary made it an "important aspect of the bourgeois democratic State", which functioned only to protect the interests of the ruling dominant castes. "Though the judiciary expressed the occasional anger, one has to look closer to understand its true face," Ms. Kandasamy said. With reference to the recent burning of two Dalit children in Faridabad and the 2002 carnage in Gujarat, she said, "The killing of children is a caste-Hindu specialty." Ms. Kandasamy termed judicial commissions "paper tigers", and said that if the civil society had raised the voice against the acquittals in the Kilvenmani case, in which 44 Dalits were killed, the fate of other massacres would have been different.

**Source: The Hindu**

### Attacks on Dalits on the rise since formation of Telangana

#### Telangana

November 24, 2015

**Hyderabad:** Contrary to the fact that Telangana State is striving to achieve golden era, the new state has witnessed attacks on Dalits, which have been increased by four-fold since its formation. While 688 cases were registered between January 2014 and June 2014, after the formation of the state a total of 2,879 cases were reported under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocity Act. What is more interesting is that Hyderabad, which is considered to be a global city, tops the list with 706 cases followed by Karimnagar district 489, Nalgonda 409, Mahbubnagar 378, Khammam 224, Warangal 205, Adilabad 176, Medak 145, Nizamabad 104 and 92 cases in Rangareddy district. According to the information obtained

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MINO-VIEW

under the Right to Information Act by Batthula Ram Prasad, president, Mala Hakkula Sankshema Sangham, a State-Level High Power Vigilance and Monitoring Committee which is chaired by the Chief Minister, has not been formed so far. As per Rule 16(2) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989, the committee has to meet in January and July every year. According to information gathered by RTI plea, while the state-level committee is yet to be formed, the district-level vigilance committees under the chairmanship of District Collectors have been formed. But during the last 15 months, they held only 17 meetings though they should have met once every three months to monitor the cases booked under the Act. When asked about the government's reaction to the spurt in number of cases registered under the SC/ST Atrocities Act, Deputy Chief Minister Kadiyam Srihari refused to react stating that he wanted to first study the statistics before commenting on the issue. Even Balka Suman MP refused to make any comment saying that he was not aware of the facts. Meanwhile, Ram Prasad, of Mala Hakkula Sankshema Sangham alleged that the TRS government was deliberately ignoring attacks on Dalits. He said according to the act, the government has to organise Civil Rights Day in every village on 30th of every month to create awareness of

the Act among Dalits. But since it was not implementing the Act in true spirit, attacks on Dalits have been increasing, he added. However, a deeper probe is required to ascertain the fact that the increase in number of cases is genuine. Whatever the case might be, the steep increase in the number of registered cases is a matter of concern. **Source: The Hans India**

20 Dalits, including pregnant woman, injured in attack

Karanatka

27<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Raichur:** A group of 50 'upper caste' men, equipped with rods and sharp weapons, barged into the Dalit colony and attacked the residents, leaving three persons, including a pregnant woman, seriously injured in Turvihah village of Sindhanur taluk on Friday.



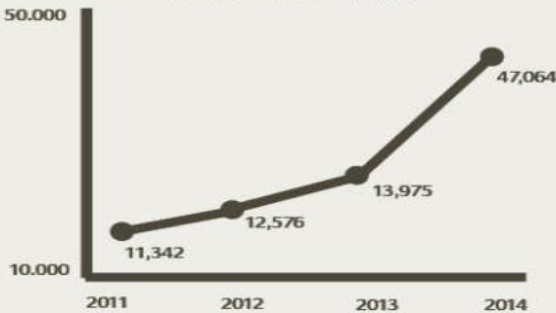
Another 25 persons sustained minor injuries. The pregnant woman, Huligemma, was rushed to Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences in Ballari after she started bleeding and was later shifted to a hospital in Sindhanur where two injured persons are being treated. Following a complaint lodged by Huligemma's husband Shivaputrappa, Turvihah police booked 29 persons under Sections 307 (attempt to

murder), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 148 (rioting), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), of Indian Penal Code and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Superintendent of Police Chetan Singh Rathore told *The Hindu* that no arrests had been made so far in the case. As per the information provided by Turvihah police and residents, an 'upper caste' youth accidentally rammed his vegetable-laden goods carrier against a Dalit youth organisation's signboard that carried B.R. Ambedkar's photo on Thursday. Next day, some Dalit youth associated with the organisation picked up an argument alleging that the act was deliberate. Enraged by this, 50 men attacked the Dalits. The victims alleged that the attackers had warned that they would not allow them to live in the village. Meanwhile, the Karnataka Janashakti organisation demanded that the police arrest the accused at the earliest. The organisation also sought police protection for Dalits in the village apart from demanding Rs. 5 lakh compensation for the three persons, who were seriously injured.

**Source: The Hindu**

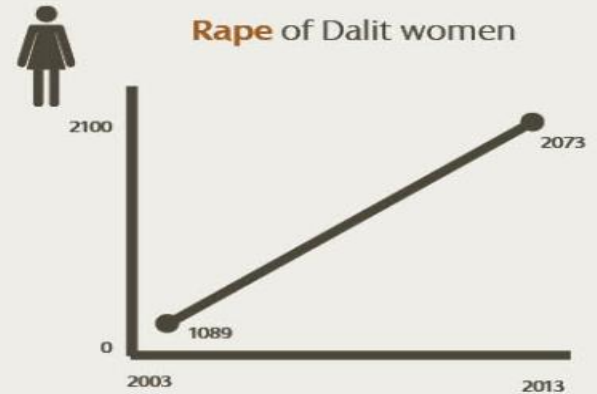
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## INDIA

Rising **atrocities** against DalitsRising **atrocities** against Dalits and Adivasis

The graph shows the amount of cases registered under the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities act.

Rape of Dalit women



The graph shows the cases of rape of Dalit women registered in 2003 and the cases of rape of Dalit women registered in 2013. A 47.5% increase

Violence and atrocities against Dalits are rising in India and there is an urgent need to step up efforts to ensure justice for victims, finds a new report on access to justice released by the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), supported by Christian Aid and the European Union.

## Atrocities Against Dalits Rising, Access to Justice is Not

According to National Crimes Statistics presented in the report there has been a 19.4% increase in crimes against Dalits from the previous year. The number of cases registered under the Scheduled Caste (Dalits) and Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis) Prevention of Atrocities act has also risen every year since 2011, taking a leap in 2014 to 47,064 cases against 13,975 cases in 2013.

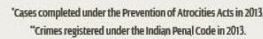
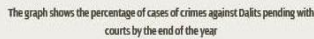
The report concludes that dominant castes in India are using violence against Dalits to reinforce the hierarchical caste related power structures and suppress Dalit rights assertions and claims.

The report also analyses the rising violence against Dalit women,

highlighting that rape cases registered against Dalit women have increased with over 47% since the previous decade. The report states that the data on Dalit women exemplifies how they are key victims of both systemic and structural discrimination and subjected to violence from dominant castes. Despite this reality, the report states that convictions in cases of violence against Dalit women are alarmingly low with one of the smaller studies cited finding the rate to be under 1%.

At the same time access to justice for Dalits is dismally low, for example, the report states that according to Government crime statistics, at the end of 2014, 85%

## Access to Justice



crimes against Dalits filed under the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act (SC/ST PoA Act) were pending trial, while pending trial investigation is 25 % across the country. Convictions were awarded in only 28% of cases in 2014 that completed trial. Dalit human rights defenders, attempting to help victims of injustice, are found to suffer police violence and

torture, intimidation, harassment and in some cases murder. The report stresses that the protection of Dalit human rights defenders is deeply lacking. number of key recommendations for turning these alarming figures around are offered in the report. These recommendations include crucial amendments to the existing legislation, ensuring budget allocations for implementation of

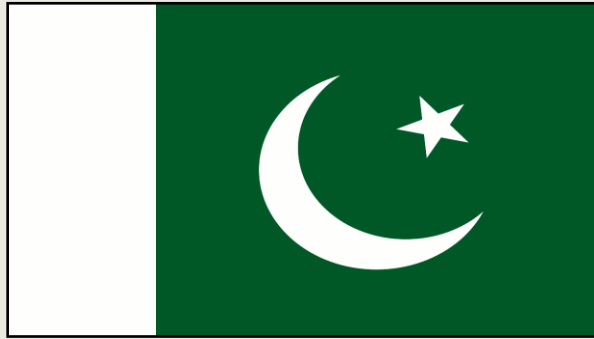
“Dalit rights assertions in India have unleashed a wave of backlash violence and atrocities against Dalits. Violence is used as a tool to subjugate them and crush any form of resistance to protect and assert their dignity because as per the caste system, they were meant to only serve the communities placed on the so-called higher rungs of the caste hierarchy,”

*says Ramesh Nathan, General Secretary of the National Dalit Movement For Justice (NDMJ)-NCDHR*

the legislation to protect Dalits, and the Government taking targeted and committed action to demand that the law enforcement and judiciary live up to their duties and enforce the law.

*Source: International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)*

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## ***We Remind the Nation***

The importance Pakistani nation gives to its minorities can be measured by public announcement of the founder of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, which he made just three days before the declaration of the partition of India. He said in his historical speech delivered in parliament on September 11, 1947 that: There would be complete freedom to the minorities in Pakistan for spending their lives according to their faith and life style. They will be absolutely free to go to their temple, churches, and other worship places for performing their religious practices.

It was not just the word of ordinary assurance after the formation of Pakistan when a three Member committee had been constituted under convenorship of Syed Ameer Hussain Qudwai, for designing the national flag of newly born nations, the committee followed Quaid's approach towards the minorities in the region by considering minorities as essential part of the nation, our First national assembly approved the proposed national flag, where, color white was suggested as the symbols of minorities. By adopting this two colored flag we gave message to the whole international community that minorities are essential section of Pakistani nation. Although minorities at large in Pakistan are satisfied, as they themselves and the people outside the country recognized this fact. Now when election campaign is going to start, Sir Ganga Ram Heritage foundation remind the nation Particularly all political parties that chalking their election program they should keep in mind Quaid's and people's commitment with our friendly and patriotic minorities as Pakistani Muslim majority is religiously and morally bound to protect the interests and right of the minorities of the country.

**SIR GANGA RAM  
HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
LAHORE**