

His Excellency
The President of the Republic of India
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of bringing the fate of the incarcerated Protestant pastor, the Rev. Raju Manji, from Jiyanpur (Uttar Pradesh), to your attention.

This leader of a Christian congregation was kidnapped by extremists on September 7th 2021, and was then taken to a police station, where false accusations were made against him. The Rev. Manji was leading a prayer meeting in his church when he was arrested, and leading a prayer meeting can surely be no reason for an arrest.

This pastor had only made use of his internationally recognized right to publicly profess his Christian faith and to peacefully promote it. It is therefore reasonable to assume that interested groups are trying to set an example with the aim of pushing religious minorities, such as Christians, back into the private sphere.

In the long term, India's exemplary secularism and the guarantee of religious freedom is in true danger if anti-conversion laws are repeatedly used against members of religious minorities.

Most respectfully,