

Her Excellency
The President of the Republic of India
Ms. Draupadi Murmu
c/o Botschaft der Republik Indien
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of bringing the fate of the incarcerated Indian Christian, Ramesh Vasuniya, to your attention. On December 5, 2021, local police interrupted the service of a house church in Padalya village (Jhabua district), where Vasuniya is a pastor.

The police arrested him in front of the worshipers and led him away. A villager had reported the pastor to the authorities, claiming that he had used material incentives to encourage people to convert to Christianity. There are, however, no indications whatsoever that this claim is true.

Your Excellency, I therefore humbly beseech you to do everything in your power to advocate the release of this pastor. India's exemplary secularism, along with freedom of religion, could be in lasting jeopardy if anti-conversion laws are especially used against members of religious minorities.

I would most respectfully remind you, Madam President, that India ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1979, which includes freedom of religion.

Most respectfully,