



NORTH EAST CATHOLIC RESEARCH FORUM
C/O NEIRBC Secretariat, Inspiration Building,
Joypur, Kharguli, Guwahati - 781004 (Assam)
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Date: March 8, 2024

Dear President,

Greetings to you, and members of the Catholic Laity of Tripura (CLT), in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, from the North East Catholic Research Forum.

You are aware that in many states of North East India, the Christian community is being targeted systematically at the instance of organizations that do not want Christians to enjoy the religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution of India. A concerted effort is afoot to put pressure on the Christian community to discourage even simple worships, leave alone take up any tangible action plans to serve the public through education and social services, particularly in states where Christians are minorities. Recent developments in Assam and Tripura, so also the ongoing violence against Christians in Manipur, and the attempts to instigate intra-tribal differences within tribal communities in Arunachal Pradesh are some examples. In our assessment, this developing trend is most likely to increase in times to come. The Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024, is nothing, but one aimed towards criminalizing Christian worships and prayer services on false allegations of trying to convert people.

In view of these disturbing trends, we feel that the time is ripe for all Christian Communities to come together and start speaking up in one voice in order safeguard our interests. It is our humble suggestion that you may consider using your good offices to reach out to your Christian counterparts of Tripura to consider taking necessary steps to show our concerns as Christians. As peace loving citizens, we strongly feel that not speaking the truth would amount to encouraging conflicts between communities.

Warm regards,

Sd/-

(John S. Shilshi)

On behalf of NECARF

To
Dr. Jahar Debbarma,
President, Catholic Laity of Tripura (CLT),
Agartala.