



NORTH EAST CATHOLIC RESEARCH FORUM
C/O NEIRBC Secretariat, Inspiration Building,
Joypur, Kharguli, Guwahati - 781004 (Assam)
web:www.necarf.org, Email:info@necarf.org

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Year 2023-24 has been an engaging year for NECARF, with attack on Christians in Manipur, and also with several instances of anti-Christian activities in the region. As a Think Tank group, NECARF responded to the developments it considered were against Christian interest. Some of the significant steps taken by NECARF from April 2023 to March 2024 are enumerated below for record:

1. On May 6, 2023, NECARF, in a Press Release, condemned the attacks on Christians and on a particular community in Manipur. The Press Release was widely covered by the media in the region, and elsewhere.
2. On May 16, 2023, even as the violence in Manipur continued unabated, NECARF appealed for peace in Manipur, again by issuing a Press Release.
3. On May 26, 2023, NECARF convened an emergency meeting in Guwahati to discuss action plans in the light of the violence in Manipur, and possible spillover to other sensitive states of the region. Details of the discussion could be seen on the website by visiting, www.necarf.org/home/reports/ The meeting was guided by the warm presence of Archbishop Emeritus, Thomas Menamparampil.
4. On December 28, 2023, NECARF condemned a Statement issued by Prakash Singh Uikey, President, Janjati Dharam Suraksha Manch, who alleged that Christians in Tripura state was destroying the culture and identity of the indigenous people of Tripura. NECARF strongly countered this allegation as false, misleading and mischievous, and reminded Prakash Singh and others how the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on record in acknowledging the contributions of Christians in India.
5. Responding to the government of India's proposal to switch over to "One nation One election", NECARF submitted an eight-point Objection to the proposal to the High Level Committee (HLC), on January 16, 2024. The Objection was submitted via the official email of the HLC. For points of objection, see www.necarf.org/home/reports/
6. Following the Kutumba Surkashya Parishad, a local pro-RSS organization of Assam giving ultimatum to Christian institutes to shun some of Christian practices, NECARF submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Assam, citing series of anti-Christian activities that took place in the state of Assam and requested him to reign in such elements and their sinister activities. The full text of the memorandum may be read on the website, www.necarf.org/home/reports/ The memorandum was



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submitted on March 3, 2024, and the content was widely carried in the print media of north east region, including the Sentinel Assam.

7. On March 8, 2024, NECARF also wrote to Catholic Lay organizations of different states of the region to raise the issue through appropriate channels. Catholic Associations/Unions favorably reciprocated to the request and voiced their concerns.
8. From July 2023, a three-member team of NECARF visited the Dioceses of Aizawl, Agartala, Itanagar, Miao and Dibrugarh, and had fruitful interaction with Lay Catholic leaders. The last visit was to the Diocese of Dibrugarh in February 2024. In all these visits, the NECARF team were well received by the Bishops, who expressed deep appreciation to NECARF for sensitizing the Lay leaders on the developing socio-political situation in the country. Plans are afoot to continue the visits to other Dioceses.

Sd/-
(James Pochury)
Convenor