



IPPFoRB

International Panel of Parliamentarians
for Freedom of Religion or Belief

9 October 2017

The Honorable Sri Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Republic of India

Dear Chief Minister Adityanath:

We write today as a network of parliamentarians from around the world to congratulate you on your appointment as Chief Minister and to respectfully encourage you to advocate for freedom of religion or belief for all citizens of Uttar Pradesh. As members of diverse parliaments from different regions, parties and religions, we understand the importance of leaders like yourself in promoting religious tolerance and respect for religious minorities. We have engaged many world leaders on issues facing religious minorities in their countries, such as concerning Hindus in Pakistan, and we write to offer our engagement on issues of concern in your state.

As the chief minister of the most populous state in India, you are responsible for a daunting task of ensuring the wellbeing of 200 million people. As you know, if Uttar Pradesh were a country, it would be the fifth most populous in the world. While your state is majority Hindu, the large overall population means that while minority communities make up a small percentage overall, they are numerically larger than some countries elsewhere in the world.

India, like Uttar Pradesh, has a beautiful history of valuing religious pluralism and defending diversity. Unfortunately, we have become aware of vigilantes in your state acting violently against religious minorities. It is critical that police are directed to intervene to protect religious minorities from violence and that the perpetrators are quickly brought to justice. In addition, we hope that you will speak out forcefully about the rights of religious minorities in Uttar Pradesh and express a zero-tolerance policy towards vigilante violence. India's proud history as a civilization demonstrates that she has been strongest and most prosperous when tolerant and inclusive.

Mr. Chief Minister, the issues facing your state are not unique to India. All countries are grappling with rising intolerance towards the religious "other." It is imperative that people like ourselves in positions of authority are not silent and work to protect minorities from violence and discrimination. We know as well that your faith tradition speaks of tolerance, and we hope to work with you on these common challenges.

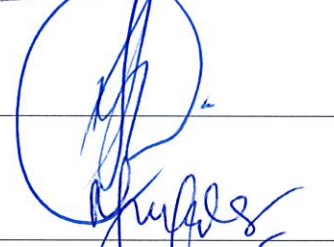
Sincerely,

The following parliamentarians support this letter in their personal capacity and not as a representative of their government, political party or any other body.

Mardi Seng Cambodia



Hgabaguzi Kwankwa South Africa

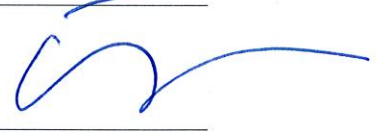


Mercy Chriesty Barende Indonesia

Eva Sundari Indonesia



CHARLES SANTHAN. Malaysia

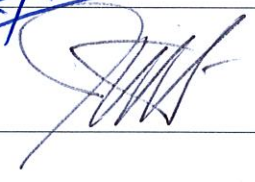


Lok Mani Dhekeel Nepal



TOM VILLARIN

PHILS

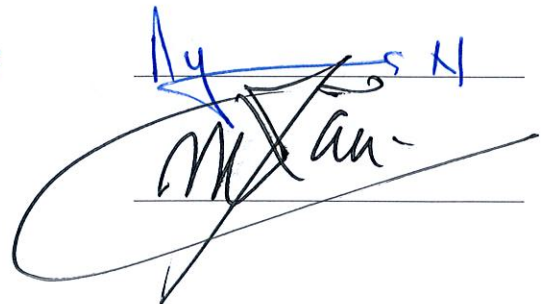


DR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAZZAQE BANGLADESH



Asiyah Nasir Pakistan

MUSAHLA BIN YUSOF



KASIT PIKOMYA (Thailand)

K. Piromya

DAVID ANDERSON CANADA

David Anderson

EDISON BROCE PANAMA

Edison Broce
