



GUJJAR PEOPLE DEMAND RIGHTS

MORE THAN 20 KILLED IN CLASHES WITH GOVERNMENT

Tribal farmers in India known as the Gujjars want affirmative action rights. They want rights so badly that they're clashing with the government and other tribes to get this status. More than 20 people have died in the violence.

A Christian worker in the area expressed deep concern. "Basically the government's trying to keep a lid on it. However, it is very, very serious, and it's actually starting to spill over into other states. This is a very, very serious situation. It could really blow up."

This unrest, coupled with the large number of Dalits turning to Christ, angers Hindu nationalists, said the Christian worker. "That's the whole part of why the church is being persecuted. They're turning to Christ by the tens of thousands. It basically takes [Dalits] out of the Hindu faith, and therefore the caste system starts to deteriorate, which actually is a fundamental part of the Hindu belief system."

Gujars (also Gujjar, Gurjar, or Gurjara), are members of one of the many groups, or castes, of the subcontinent, mainly inhabiting Punjab (Pakistan), Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab (India) and Gujarat, with some groups in Rajasthan and Haryana. Gurjars belong to the Kshatriya castes.