

12 Incidents: Congress supporting Christian conversion

On July 25, 2025, Sister Preeti Mary and Sister Vandana Francis, both Catholic nuns from Kerala, along with Sukaman Mandavi, were arrested in Chhattisgarh in a case related to religious conversion. The incident triggered strong reactions from the Congress party. Rahul Gandhi condemned the arrests, calling them “a blatant act of persecution against minorities under the BJP-RSS regime.

This report is a compilation of statements from 12 Congress leaders who voiced their support for the detained nuns between July 25 and July 29, 2025. These leaders raised concerns about the alleged mistreatment, questioned the grounds of the FIR, and called for immediate accountability from the authorities.

Serious Charges Under BNS 143

- Police have charged them under Section 143 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for trafficking and under Section 4 of the Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom Act, 1968. The charges carry penalties of up to 10 years in prison.

UDF Protests in Parliament:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi denounced the incident as “mob rule” under the BJP, calling it part of a dangerous pattern of minority persecution. The United Democratic Front also staged a protest in [Parliament](#), holding placards that read “Stop attacks on minorities” and “Govt’s silence is violence.” Political reactions remained sharply polarized. [Video](#)

Current Status:

- ✧ A local court remanded the nuns and Sukaman Mandavi in custody for 14 days, with the remand period expiring on August 8, 2025.

Timeline:

- ✧ On July 25, 2025, the group was arrested at Durg railway station after being stopped by the Train Ticket Examiner (TTE) for not having platform tickets.
- ✧ On July 26, 2025, families of the tribal women stated they were aware of the job placements, contradicting the trafficking allegations. The Kerala Catholic Bishops’ Council condemned the arrests on July 27, 2025, calling them baseless.
- ✧ On July 28, 2025, widespread protests occurred with political leaders like Rahul Gandhi and others criticized them.



- ❖ **12 Congress leaders** have publicly supported the nuns, emphasizing religious freedom and condemning the arrests as politically motivated.

S. No	Statements	Visuals & Source
1.	<p>Religious freedom under attack says Rahul Gandhi on nuns' arrest</p> <p>Date: July 28, 2025</p> <p>Name: Rahul Gandhi</p> <p>Statement: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi posted on X "Two Catholic nuns Sister Vandanha and Sister Preethi jailed in Chhattisgarh after being targeted for their faith this isn't justice, it's BJP-RSS mob rule. It reflects a dangerous pattern: systematic persecution of minorities under this regime. UDF MPs protested in Parliament today. We will not be silent. Religious freedom is a constitutional right. We demand their immediate release and accountability for this injustice."</p>	 <p>Post</p>
2.	<p>Priyanka Gandhi condemns Nagpur nuns' detention.</p> <p>Date: July 28, 2025</p> <p>Name: Priyanka Gandhi</p> <p>Statement: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi said "I strongly condemn the shocking incident at Durg Railway Station in Chhattisgarh on July 25, 2025. The detention of two Christian nuns Sister Vandanha and Sister Preethi along with others, without legal basis and on false allegations of conversion and trafficking, is a grave attack on minority rights. This is not an isolated incident under BJP rule, minorities are being systematically harassed and vilified. Mob justice and communal targeting have no place in our democracy. The rule of law must prevail."</p>	 <p>Post The Print</p>
3.	<p>AICC's K.C. Venugopal demands justice for nuns targeted in Chhattisgarh.</p> <p>Date: July 28, 2025</p> <p>Name: K.C. Venugopal</p> <p>Statement: All India Congress Committee general secretary KC Venugopal Asserted, "Attacks on minorities have seen a rampant increase under BJP-ruled states... The latest attacks by Bajrang Dal goons on two Catholic nuns in Durg, Chhattisgarh, point to a tacit support for such hate crimes from the ruling establishment." He accused the BJP of orchestrating and tolerating religious persecution and demanded immediate release of the nuns</p>	 <p>Indian Express</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Congress leader V.D. Satheesan condemns 'Mob Trial' of Malayali nuns</p> <p>Date: July 27, 2025</p> <p>Name: VD Satheesan</p> <p>Statement: VD Satheesan, leader of opposition in Kerala Assembly, also raised concerns, " In BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh, two Malayali nuns faced mob trial, police persecution & false charges. Amid threats, clergy told them to avoid habits in public. How terrifying is this? Persecution in the name of religion or caste is unacceptable. Release the arrested nuns now."</p>	 <p>X Post</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Congress MP Benny Behanan Condemns Arrest of Nuns in Chhattisgarh</p> <p>Date: July 27, 2025</p> <p>Name: Benny Behanan</p> <p>Statement: A senior leader of the Indian National Congress (INC) Benny Behanan strongly condemned the arrest, and said "We will first go to the prison and try to meet the nuns. Then, we will contact the officials concerned. Our aim is to get the nuns released at the earliest."</p>	 <p>The New Indian Express</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Shafi Parambil Slams BJP's 'Double Standards' Over Nun Arrests Amid Christmas Outreach</p> <p>Date: July 27, 2025</p> <p>Name: Shafi Parambil</p> <p>Statement: Congress MP Shafi Parambil told "The BJP in Kerala is already preparing Christmas cake mixes to distribute to bishops' houses. But they act as if nothing has happened after the arrest of two nuns in religious attire. The double standard is clear. This year, when they bring cakes, people will ask questions."</p>	 <p>The News Minute</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Congress Leader Francis George Condemns Nun Arrests.</p> <p>Date: July 27, 2025</p> <p>Name: Francis George</p> <p>Statement: Congress leader Francis George alleged that the arrest of the nuns undermined the fundamental principles, freedom of movement, and religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution.</p>	 <p>The New Indian Express</p>

8.	<p>Bhupesh Baghel Slams Denial of Access to Jailed Nuns, Warns of Sit-In Protest</p> <p>Date: July 27, 2025</p> <p>Name: Bhupesh Baghel</p> <p>Statement: Senior Congress leader and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said, "A delegation of MPs and MLAs from Kerala had come to meet them, but they were told to come tomorrow because a BJP delegation is in Raipur, so they were not allowed to meet. I told the DG that they should be allowed to meet; otherwise, we will stage a sit-in here... now their meeting has happened," he added.</p>	 <p>Etv Bharat</p>
9.	<p>Congress MLA Sunny Joseph Visits Families of Arrested Nuns in Kannur.</p> <p>Date: July 27, 2025</p> <p>Name: Sunny Joseph</p> <p>Statement: Congress MLA Sunny Joseph, visited the homes of the arrested nuns in Kannur district</p>	 <p>Etv Bharat</p>
10.	<p>Congress MP K. Suresh Blames Right-Wing for Orchestrating Arrest of Nuns in Chhattisgarh</p> <p>Date: July 30, 2025</p> <p>Name: K. Suresh</p> <p>Statement: Congress MP K. Suresh blamed right-wing elements for orchestrating the incident. "Two days ago, two girls came with consent to join the Nuns for work. But the Bajrang Dal decided that these nuns had taken two girls for conversion from Hinduism to Christianity. So they attacked the nuns. After that, the Chhattisgarh Police filed an FIR. The two innocent nuns and those girls are in jail.</p>	 <p>Etv Bharat</p>
11.	<p>Congress leader Annie Peter alleges mistreatment of detained nuns at durg police station.</p> <p>Date: July 29, 2025</p> <p>Name: Annie Peter</p> <p>Statement: Annie Peter, a Congress leader from Durg, said she had reached the police station soon after she learnt about the detention on Tuesday. "There were a lot of people that morning. In the evening, we learnt that an FIR had been registered. I asked them to allow me to meet the two nuns. They were unable to speak,"</p>	 <p>Indian Express</p>