News 24 November 2026 | English article

Authorities Demolish Beersheba Church in Odisha India One Day After Hindu Mob Attacked It

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"A deeply condemnable and an alarming display of administrative apathy,"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Local authorities demolished the Pentecostal Beersheba Church in Patraguda village, Koraput district, Odisha, on Sunday 22 November 2026 - one day after a Hindu mob attacked the same church. The demolition team, led by the tehsildar, the top revenue officer of the sub-district, arrived at about 10 a.M. With heavy equipment and worked under police protection. Christians had been assured by police that the seven men named in their first information report would be arrested; instead, they watched their church razed to the ground.

Picture a small whitewashed church at the end of a dusty village path, its cross standing against the morning sky. The people who worshipped there had already survived a frightening day. On Saturday, men armed with pickaxes and hammers had pulled down the cross and part of a wall while the Christians filmed the attack. They went to the police, they gave names, and they were promised arrests. Then Sunday morning came, and the machines arrived.

The mob attack on 21 November was not a quiet incident. The attackers came armed with pickaxes and hammers, pulled down the cross, and broke part of a wall of the church, which had been built five years ago. The Christians recorded what happened on camera. About 40 local pastors marched to the police station that same day, demanding that the culprits be arrested. The police took the complaint and assured the Christians that the seven men named in it would be taken into custody.

That promise did not hold. The next morning, instead of arrests, the Christians of Patraguda saw a demolition team. The tehsildar led the operation, heavy equipment tore the building down, and police stood guard while it happened. For a congregation that had just filed a complaint as victims, the sight of the authorities finishing what the mob had started must have felt like a second attack - this time with official backing.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment a complaint withdrawn under threat -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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