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# Latest: 10 Christians Jailed in Uttar Pradesh Over Conversion Allegations After Prayer Meeting

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

**KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY**

*"A totally false complaint made with mala fide intention"*

*(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

Ten Christians, including four women, were arrested in Amethi district, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday 23 November and remanded to judicial custody under the state's anti-conversion law, after police raided a house where 20 to 25 people had gathered for a two-day prayer programme. They have not been convicted of anything: "jailed" here means a local court sent them to judicial custody while the case proceeds.

The raid fell on an ordinary prayer meeting in Sindurwa village, in the Kamrauli police station area. The house belonged to Rajkumar, also known as Joel, 50, and his wife Suryakala, also known as Martha, 47.

People had come to pray together for two days. By the end of the day, ten of them were in custody.

Pastor Joy Mathew, who tracks conversion cases across the state, says the arrests rest on a complaint that was never properly checked. He told UCA News the arrests appear based on "a totally false complaint made with mala fide intention" - and that police acted "without conducting a preliminary probe or gathering any evidence, facts or figures as required by law".

That denial sits at the heart of this story, because everything the police allege is still only an allegation.

### Amethi Arrests: The Ten Christians Named

The ten people in custody are three couples, a father and daughter, and two others. They are Rajkumar, alias Joel, and Suryakala, alias Martha; Kanhaiya Bind, alias Samson, 46, from Azamgarh; Srinivasan Daniel, 58, and his daughter Divya Daniel, 30; Royal Rodrigues, 53, and his wife Rita Rodrigues, 50; Mahipal Singh Bind, alias William, 45, and his wife Elvina Williams, 40; and Prakash Rao, 42, from Odisha.

They are charged under Sections 3 and 5(1) of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021 - the state's stringent anti-conversion law. UCA News reports they were produced before a local court the same day, which sent them to judicial custody.

Who complained is itself disputed. UCA News says the complaint came from local Hindu activist Ashwini Pandey.

The PTI news agency's account says it followed a complaint by village residents. Both versions are on the record, and neither has been settled.

## The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- 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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