Prayerfully. If you cherish your civil and religious liberty then join with us at the throne of Grace and ask the Lord to overrule and bring peace to Orissa and other parts of India. PRAY for a spirit of forgiveness towards the evildoers. PRAY for the success of these endeavours. PRAY for those who are working to bring help. PRAY for the persecuted people of Kandhamal in Orissa. PRAY especially that the Lord will comfort His children in their sorrow.

With these facts in mind The CLIO TRUST is sponsoring a "Petition" to be presented to the Prime Minister Mr Gordon Brown MP urging him to enter into dialogue with the Indian Government and seek to find a way of ending this tragic suffering. We trust that you will join with us by signing this "Petition" and giving your gift to provide much needed aid and thereby showing Compassion for Christians in Orissa.

Thank you for your kind attention and may God bless you.

Eric Johnston
THE CLIO TRUST

You can sign the "Petition" and "Donate" online by visiting our web site **www.cliotrust.org**

Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.
Matt 25/40.

CHRISTIAN LOVE FOR INDIA'S ORPHANS
384 Ballynahinch Road Hillsborough BT26 6BY
Registered Charity XR 53184

Clio Trust

COMPASSION FOR CHRISTIANS IN ORISSA

Dear Friends; In December 2007, Hindu fundamentalists physically attacked Christians in the Kandhamal district of Orissa state in India. The crowd, carrying sticks, swords, arrows and javelins, and armed with crude bombs, rampaged through village after village leaving a trail of devastation and heartbreak.

Churches, clinics, schools, homes and orphanages were wrecked and burned, and individual men, women and children were attacked, assaulted and in some cases murdered. The attacks were carried out by fundamentalist Hindus who objected to Christians celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the following months this tension between the two religions settled. However, in August 2008, a Maoist terrorist group attacked and murdered radical Hindu leader Lakshmananda Saraswati, and several of his followers, blaming Christians for the atrocity. Although Christians had nothing to do with these murders (indeed, they condemn them) Hindu extremists contrived to lay the blame at their feet and to make them suffer for it.

A government of Orissa statement said –
"Christians were not behind the killing of Lakshmananda Saraswati."

The prime minister of India also stated –
"Orissa violence is a national shame."

But that did not stop the bloodshed. Christians, whose homes and churches were destroyed, had to flee to the hills and the forests for shelter and for safety. They are now reduced to living in make-shift tents and to cooking in the outdoors with inadequate medical and sanitary facilities.

The mountainous region of Kandhamal is by no means hospitable, with its sub-tropical climate and temperatures ranging from blistering heat in the summer to almost freezing in winter.

Little is being done for many thousands of Christians still suffering persecution even in refugee camps. To add to their suffering the Orissa government now wants to close these camps and the occupants are being told to go home.

They can't go home, on pain of death, unless they are prepared to renounce Christianity and re-convert to Hinduism. This entails the revolting practice of eating cow dung and drinking cow urine. The whole purpose of this persecution is to stamp out Christianity, in every form, in this predominately Hindu region.

Suffering Christians are often afraid to be seen with relief workers because that makes them easily identifiable to their persecutors. And because the government is disinterested in this problem there is virtually no protection for relief workers either, making their task all the more difficult.

There is an urgent need for something to be done to bring succour to these beleaguered people.

Our latest information confirms that 120 believers have been murdered many in brutal circumstances, hundreds of homes have been destroyed, and many schools, orphanages and churches have been burned down. It is true as Christians we must pray for them that persecute us but it is also true that this cause is just and the need is great.

Politically. The CLIO TRUST has made representations to both the Northern Ireland Assembly and to Westminster. Christians in Orissa deserve an immediate restoration of law and order; improved conditions in Government camps; and implementation of the recommendations in the India Government's National Commission for Minorities Report 2008. It is hoped that both Parliaments will bring pressure on the Indian Government to achieve these basic objectives in Orissa State.

Practically. The CLIO TRUST, with your help and through our contacts in India can organise a relief plan to bring the basic essentials of food, water, clothing and medical supplies to helpless and neglected believers in Orissa as winter is now fast approaching.