

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **DELHI ARCHBISHOP STRONGLY CONDEMNS INCREASED NUMBER OF ATTACKS ON CHURCHES IN DELHI**

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

Delhi Archbishop Anil J.T. Couto has expressed his deep concern at growing number of attacks on Churches in Delhi, the national Capital. For instance, last some miscreants vandalised St. Alphonsa's Church, Vasant Kunj in Delhi.

"Another act of vandalism and targeted attack on our churches in Delhi is nothing but a reflection of hate campaign and false propaganda by groups whose sole aim is to break the religious harmony and social peace of this great nation. The attack within a week after celebration of Republic Day reflects a lot on the government and its failure to give protection to minorities and their religious structures", the Archbishop said.

The Archbishop said that the Christian community is known for peace and non-violence. As a miniscule minority we focus on serving the poor and the nation at large. But the growing number of attacks on churches and personnel in different parts of the country is aimed at creating a fear psychosis and tension among different communities.

The Central government must act swiftly and ensure that proper law and order is maintained in the national capital and religious harmony and social peace are upheld.

Archbishop Anil Couto also expressed his concern that the attacks are happening in the capital. Prime Minister Modi had said in a rally a couple of days ago that the way we present Delhi to the world would reflect on the country. The attacks on Churches in Delhi certainly would cause irreparable damage to country's reputation in the world as India is known for religious tolerance and unity in diversity.

*Issued By:*

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