

To,

The Hon'ble Chief Minister
Goa

Subject : Preserving and propagating the true history of Goa - Inquisition of Goa
(The forgotten Genocide of Goans)

Dear Sir,

It is said that a nation that forgets its history has no future. It is our foremost duty to preserve and propagate historical events as they happened. However, it is often observed that under electoral pressure or due to political correctness, 'unpleasant' events are often glossed over in history books. Your party is an exception, as it has shown its commitment towards dissemination of true history. To that end, we also welcome your government's decision to rebuild temples that were destroyed by the Portuguese.

Goa has witnessed one of the most brutal genocides in the history of mankind - the Inquisition of Goa. While the world knows about the Spanish Inquisition, hardly anything is known about the Goan Inquisition. Children are not taught about this horrific chapter of Goan history. There is a real danger of future generations being taught to even deny that any such events took place in Goan history.

St Francis Xavier, the chief architect of the horrors that were inflicted on the poor Goans, is referred to as the 'Saviour of Goa' by people of all religions. This misconception has persisted due to lack of political will to correct it. We firmly believe that this epithet will quickly be forgotten if the true face of Francis Xavier is brought before the people. For example, this is what Francis Xavier had to say about Hindu Gods - 'I know not how to describe in words the joy that I feel before the spectacle of pulling down and destroying the idols by the very people who formerly worshipped them'. Not satisfied with the 'progress' in converting the 'heathens', this Francis Xavier requested the King of Portugal for an Inquisition to be set up in India. This barbaric inquisition which lasted 252 years (1560 to 1812), heaped untold horrors on the simpleminded Goans, irrespective of whether they were Hindus, Muslims or recent converts to Christianity. It is indeed sad that Goa, nay India, accords so much respect to Francis Xavier. With schools, institutions and festivals named after him, and not one bit of his brutalities being brought to the front, future generations may very well know him as a 'compassionate' priest and not as the architect of one of the most brutal mass murders that left millions of Goans dead.

It is, therefore, with this faith that we approach you with the plea to ensure that the barbaric history of the Inquisition of Goa, as well as that of its architect St. Francis Xavier, is brought to light. To this end, we plead that

1. The brutal history and facts of the Inquisition of Goa be taught in schools and colleges. This will help children understand the hardships that their ancestors had to undergo, while also appreciating the freedom that they enjoy in independent India.
2. The state government should set up a museum, akin to the Holocaust Memorials peppered across Europe, dedicated to the Inquisition of Goa. This must include the horrific instruments of torture that were used by the Christian priests as well as all the correspondence in which Francis Xavier details the various methods he used to convert Goans to Christianity.
3. Across Goa, there are numerous relics that are related to the Inquisition. For example the Haat katro khamb. These are in a state of acute disrepair. These relics should be preserved and treated with utmost respect. Currently there is no signage that gives any indication to their historical significance. The history of such relics should be researched independently and informative boards should be setup in their vicinity.
4. The state tourism department must include the above in its tour itineraries and encourage the tourists coming to Goa to learn about true Goan history.

Yours Faithfully,

Copy to,

1. The Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Goa, Shri. Rohan Khaunte
2. Director of Education, Goa, Shri. Bhushan K. Savaikar
3. Archaeological Survey of India, Goa Circle